



MONMOUTH COUNTY
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor
Roadway Improvements between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ

PROJECT INFORMATION

Monmouth County is advancing the design for operational and safety improvements to the Monmouth County Route 537 corridor (CR 537) between Sentinel Road (MP 49.35) and U.S. Route 9 Interchange (MP 51.3) in Freehold Township.

CR 537 is a major east-west transportation corridor serving regional travel needs between Burlington, Ocean, and Monmouth Counties. The roadway serves as a connector between several regional routes, namely U.S. Route 9, 33 Freeway, 33 Business, and Routes 34, 79, and I-195. The corridor has several substandard design elements, a history of safety concerns, and suffers from traffic congestion and delays due to inadequate roadway capacity for which conceptual solutions were developed to improve safety and reduce congestion while still taking into account practical measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts to the built and natural environment.

The Project Background

A Local Concept Development (LCD) Study for corridor improvements was completed in 2013/2014 through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) using federal funding, with Monmouth County as the project sponsor. During the LCD phase, a Purpose and Need Statement was developed focusing on the need to improve safety and operational movements in the corridor. A number of sensible and practical conceptual alternatives were developed to meet the goals and objectives. In coordination with the NJTPA, the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration and with input from local officials, community stakeholders, and the general public, it was agreed, upon completion of an alternatives analysis, that the preferred course of action as a Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) was to address safety and traffic operational deficiencies and provide corridor roadway improvements. The improvements are intended to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists as well as the vehicular traffic.

The project limits were modified to eliminate the portion of the corridor within Freehold Borough due to lack of support from Freehold Borough for Route 5637 roadway improvements within their jurisdiction. Resolutions of Support were passed by the Township of Freehold on April 9, 2013 and Monmouth County Board of Freeholders on November 14, 2013 for the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) for Route 537 roadway improvements between Sentinel Road and the U.S. Route 9 Interchange.

Local Preliminary Engineering Phase

The current phase of this project is Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE). The LPE Phase involves performing engineering and environmental tasks and documentation in order to obtain National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance for the project. Based on the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA), a number of activities are simultaneously set in motion: community involvement (meetings with affected property owners, business owners and residents), agency consultation, environmental documentation, design level mapping and design services. To inform and to encourage community consensus, a public information center meeting is conducted, which may lead to some minor adjustments to the PPA. For the selected, refined alternative (PPA), the Township of Freehold will be asked to maintain a Resolution of Support.



The tasks conducted during the LPE Phase consist of, but are not limited to:

- Technical Environmental Studies (including Section 106 and Section 4(f) Evaluation)
- NEPA Document (Categorical Exclusion)
- Development of design level base plans for improvements
- Utility discovery and verification
- Geotechnical studies (soil boring and analysis) for foundation and pavement design
- Preliminary drainage work
- Structural studies that document the structural selection process and the recommended structure and aesthetic treatments for cantilevered sidewalk along Route 537 bridge over Route 33 by-pass
- Access impact evaluation
- Development of property acquisition cost estimates and project cost estimates

Local Preliminary Engineering Project Schedule (Major Milestones)

Environmental Documentation Completed	Fall 2017
Submission of Preliminary Engineering Report	Fall 2017
Completion of Preliminary Engineering Phase	Winter 2018

Anticipated Community Involvement Schedule

Local Officials Meeting No. 1	February 9, 2016
Local Officials Meeting No. 2	February 1, 2017
Community Stakeholders Meeting	February 15, 2017
Public Information Center Meeting	September 19, 2017
Local Officials Meeting No. 3 – Resolution of Support	Fall 2017

For additional project information, please visit the Monmouth County project web site: www.visitmonmouth.com, click 'County Bridge & Road Projects' from right side box, and select 'Freehold - West Main Street (CR537)' from list of projects.

Contact Information

Daria Jakimowska, P.E.
 Chief Engineer, Traffic Design
 Monmouth County Division of Engineering
 Hall of Records Annex, 1 East Main Street, 3rd Floor
 Freehold, NJ 07728
 732-431-7760 x7768
daria.jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us

