NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

I-287/I-78, I-287/US 202/206 Interchange Improvements Project
Bridgewater and Bedminster Township, Somerset County

Public Information Center
July 22, 2015 from 4: 00 – 7: 00 pm

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance transportation needs, the environment, community concerns and cost, will hold a **Public Information Center** to inform local residents and businesses of the proposed **I-287/I-78, I-287/US 202/206 Interchange Improvements Project located in Bridgewater and Bedminster Township, Somerset County**. You are encouraged to actively participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail, or by e-mail.

The Meeting

The Public Information Center will be held at the **Bedminster Town Hall, 1 Miller Lane, Bedminster Township, NJ 07921, on July 22, 2015 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm**. Please plan to attend at a time that is convenient for you. You will have an opportunity to review exhibits of the proposed project, ask questions and discuss any concerns with NJDOT staff and representatives.

Background

The overall purpose of this project is to enhance safety and improve traffic operations within the existing interchanges of I-287 with I-78 (Interchange 21) and I-287 with US Routes 202-206 (Interchange 22). The project involves relocating the existing ramp from I-78 Eastbound to I-287 Northbound from a left side entry, as it currently exists, to a right side entry in order to eliminate the downstream weave condition and reduce vehicle conflicts and driver decisions on I-287 Northbound between Interchanges 21 and 22.

The project also includes realigning the existing ramp from I-287 Northbound to US 202/206 Southbound and eliminating a stop condition at the ramp terminal to provide for continuous flow of ramp traffic onto US-202/206 Southbound while reducing potential queuing of traffic on the ramp (and onto I-287) and to reduce vehicle conflicts and maneuvering upon joining the US-202/206 Southbound roadway.

Proposed Project

The proposed project consists of the following:

- A new flyover ramp from I-78 Eastbound which connects with a right side entry to I-287 Northbound by means of a new loop. This new ramp will eliminate the existing ramp along with its left side entry to I-287 Northbound.
- The new flyover ramp will require construction of two new bridges spanning over the existing I-287 Northbound to I-78 Westbound ramp and over the I-287 Southbound roadway.
- The existing ramp from I-287 Northbound to I-78 Eastbound will be shifted further to the south to provide room to construct the new loop ramp.
- The mainline lanes of I-287 Northbound will be realigned within the existing highway footprint such that the fourth Northbound through lane originates on the right side of the roadway at the new loop ramp entry (as opposed to the left side entry as now exists).
- Realignment of the existing I-287 Northbound ramp to Route US 202/206 Southbound and provision of an auxiliary lane along Route US 202/206 Southbound.

Proposed Reforestation Plan

The NJDOT is required by the New Jersey No Net Loss Reforestation Act to hold a public forum when one or more acres of deforestation occurs in an area owned or maintained by a state entity to present to the public the deforestation and reforestation plans for that project. Construction of this project will deforest approximately 11.72 acres of trees according to the methodology outlined in the No Net Loss (NNL) Program Guidelines. Opportunity for public comment on the plans will be provided.

Environmental Review

The environmental review and analysis was performed in accordance with federal laws and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, in conformance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and pursuant to National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The purpose of this analysis was to evaluate the proposed project with respect to the positive and negative social, economic, and environmental impacts. FHWA approved the project as a Categorical Exclusion. Application will be made to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for Freshwater Wetlands and Flood Hazard Area permit approvals.

Estimated Project Schedule

Estimated Construction Start:	Spring 2016
Estimated Construction Completion:	Spring 2018

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