

BERGEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Route 17 Bottleneck Project
Essex Street (MP 10.19) to Garden State Plaza (MP 12.04)
Maywood, Rochelle Park and Paramus, Bergen County

Public Information Center
Maywood Public Library, Maywood, NJ
April 20, 2010, 4:00 – 7:00 pm

The Bergen County Department of Planning and Economic Development (BCDPED), working in coordination with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), is committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance the transportation needs, the environment, community concerns, and cost. Toward this end, Bergen County and the New Jersey Department of Transportation will host a Public Information Center (PIC) to inform local residents, officials, and the business community about the improvements to the Route 17 Bottleneck section between Essex Street (MP 10.19) and Garden State Plaza (MP 12.04). The project area includes the municipalities of Maywood, Rochelle Park, and Paramus, with restriping extending into Lodi immediately south of Essex Street. 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 **Maywood Public Library, located at 459 Maywood Avenue (one block south of Passaic Street) on April 20, 2010, 4:00 to 7:00 pm**. Please come at a time that is convenient for you. You will have an opportunity to review exhibits of the proposed project, ask questions, and discuss issues with Bergen County, NJDOT, and consultant team staff members. Property owners with rental units are advised that tenants are invited and encouraged to participate in this process.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but are interested in learning more about the project, or if you are physically challenged and require additional assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Farouk Ahmad, P.E. of Bergen County at the address and telephone number listed below.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the Route 17 Bottleneck Project is to improve mobility, safety, and reliability of the infrastructure and operations along Route 17 between Milepost 10.19 (Essex Street interchange) and Milepost 12.04 (vicinity of the entry to Route 17 southbound from Garden State Plaza). The Bottleneck exists where the six-lane Route 17 Principal Arterial (three lanes in each direction) is reduced to four lanes (two in each direction) within these limits.

The Route 17 Bottleneck section traverses a commercial and industrial corridor centrally located in Bergen County, with residential streets abutting Route 17 to the west.

Project Need

Four particular Project Needs have been identified:

- ***Alleviate traffic congestion and improve operational reliability along the Route 17 corridor between these limits.*** This section of Route 17 is heavily congested during weekday peak periods and on most Saturdays due to the reduced number of through lanes in the section, as well as numerous geometric limitations that create corridor disruptions. NJDOT Bureau of System Planning data has identified this section of Route 17 as within the single most congested commuter corridor within the entire state of New Jersey. The section has been deemed to be a "High Priority" location by the NJDOT and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA).
- ***Restore the appropriate functional hierarchy and balance between Route 17 and parallel local and county streets.*** Chronic congestion along this corridor leads to diversions of regional traffic to other routes not properly suited to meet these demands. Conversely, the numerous driveways and minor cross street intersections along Route 17 provide local connectivity for short commercial- and residential-generated trips that are better suited to other roadways already congested by Route 17 overflow.
- ***Improve safety in the project corridor.*** This section of the Route 17 corridor has crash rates over 50% greater than the Statewide Average for comparable facilities during the latest available three-year period, averaging two crashes every three days.
- ***Improve the condition and reliability of the existing corridor infrastructure, including structures, pavements, drainage, and related features.*** These features are in an advanced state of deterioration, are functionally obsolete or structurally deficient, or fail to meet current design or environmental standards.

Dennis McNerney, County Executive



Farouk Ahmad, Director of Planning

Purpose of this Public Information Center (PIC)

Route 17 is a key commuter, truck, and commercial route linking northern Bergen County and New York State to the NJ/NY metropolitan core. The BCDPED is serving as the Lead Agency for the advancing of Alternatives Analysis and Preliminary Engineering for this project. These efforts include the preparation of environmental documentation meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). In recognition of the acute congestion and physical constraints of the existing corridor and adjoining areas, the Initial Screening Process recommended the advancement of one alignment alternative with three cross sectional variations through the constrained area between Central Avenue and Passaic Street. The County's design team has advanced the technical studies needed to determine the environmental impacts associated with each variation. Bergen County and NJDOT seek public comment about the three variations and other corridor issues. Input received at this meeting will be used in the selection of the "Initially Preferred Alternative" to be evaluated as part of the environmental documentation. Summary results of these studies, including right-of-way, traffic, and environmental impacts, will be presented at this PIC. Another Public Information Center will be held upon completion of the environmental documentation and selection of the "Initially Preferred Alternative" to be advanced into design.

Estimated Schedule

This project is in the Alternatives Assessment / Preliminary Engineering Phase. Construction Start date to be determined.

For further information contact:

Farouk Ahmad, P.E.

Director - Department of Planning and Economic Development
Bergen County

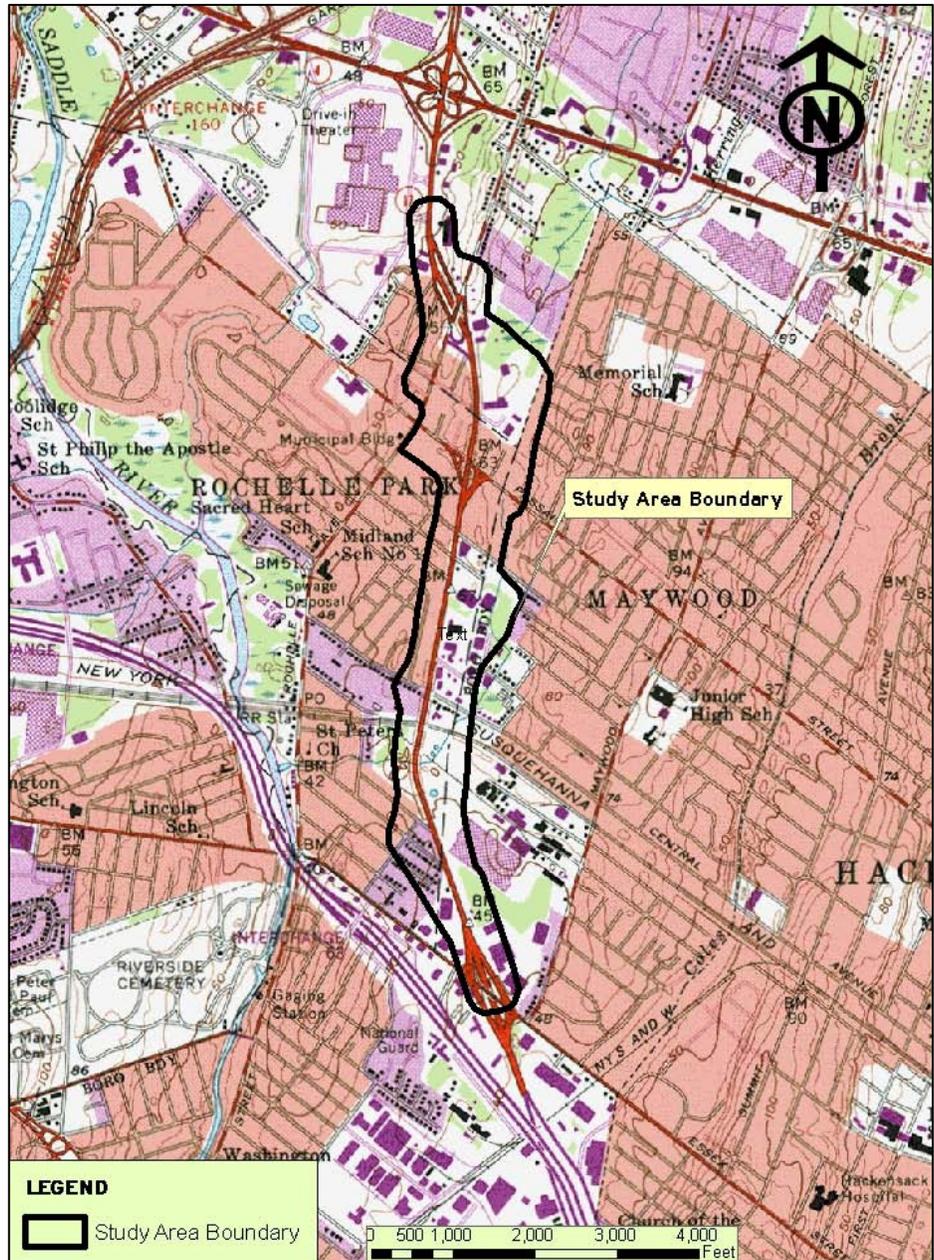
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**ROUTE 17 BOTTLENECK PROJECT
SITE LOCATION MAP**



Dennis McNerney, County Executive



Farouk Ahmad, Director of Planning

Bergen County Department of Planning & Economic Development

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