



MIDDLESEX COUNTY

# Forrestal Road to Aaron Road Project

Community Advisory Committee

## ROUTE 1 FORRESTAL ROAD TO AARON ROAD PROJECT Townships of South Brunswick, North Brunswick and Plainsboro Middlesex County, NJ

### COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 1 MEETING REPORT

DATE: Wednesday, December 9, 2009

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: South Brunswick Township Utility Building, Monmouth Junction, NJ

#### ATTENDEES:

First Name	Last Name	Representing	Phone	Email
<b>NJDOT</b>				
Meredith	Hammond	NJDOT, Community Relations	609-530-4555	meredith.hammond@dot.state.nj.us
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<b>Consultant Team</b>				
Martine	Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485	maculbertson@verizon.net
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Julia	Steponanko	Greenman – Pedersen, Inc.	908-236-9001	jsteponanko@gpinet.com
Kerri	Tyerman,	Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc.	973-780-9353	kyerman@dewberry.com
<b>CAC Members</b>				
Morteza	Ansari	Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc.	732-745-2326	mansari@kmm.org
Bryan	Bidlack	S. Brunswick Planning	732-329-4000	bbidlack@sbtnj.net
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Jesse	Buerk	DVRPC	215-238-2948	jbuerk@dvrpc.org
Tom	Clark	NJ TRANSIT	973-491-8080	tclark@njtransit.com
Joseph	Dell Beni	Plainsboro Police Department	609-799-2333	jdellbeni@plainsboronj.com
Walter	Endler	North Brunswick OEM	732-247-0922	wendler@northbrunswickonline.com
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Marc	Fournier	Westin Princeton Forrestal Village	609-452-7900	marc.fournier@princetonwestin.com
Anthony	Gambilonghi	Middlesex County Planning Dept.	732-745-3013	anthony.gambilonghi@co.middlesex.nj.us
Pam	Hersh	Princeton Healthcare System	609-430-7106	phersh@princetonhcs.org
Pam	Horner	Tyco International Ltd.	609-720-4207	phorner@tyco.com
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Mary Ann	Kowalchek	Homewood Suites, Princeton	609-720-0550	mkowalchek@alliancehospitality.com
Mike	Kruimer	NJ Committee of ECGA (Cyclists)	732-287-9447	kliner54@optonline.net
Lou	Luczu	Middlesex County Engineering	732-745-3283	engineering@co.middlesex.nj.us
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Tom	Marchwinski	NJ TRANSIT	973-491-7751	tmarchwinski@njtransit.com
John	Migneco	Tyco International Ltd.	609-720-4207	jmigneco@tyco.com
Raymond	Olsen	S. Brunswick Public Works	732-329-4000	rolsen@sbtnj.net
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Jim	Rust	Sarnoff Corporation	609-734-2000	jrust@sarnoff.com
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Lester	Varga,	Plainsboro, Planning and Zoning	609-799-0909	lvarga@plainsboronj.com
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Mike	Viscardi	NJ TRANSIT	973-491-7183	mviscardi@njtransit.com

## PURPOSE OF MEETING

To present the project; to discuss the study process and schedule; and to identify transportation related issues on Route 1, from Forrestal Road to Aaron Road that need to be addressed. (See attached Agenda)

## MEETING SUMMARY

1. Meredith Hammond, NJDOT Community Relations Regional Manager, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. After introductions, Meredith noted the importance of input on this project and to encourage early and active participation by the community and businesses along Route 1. She is working on numerous projects within Middlesex County and other transportation improvement related projects within the region.

2. Gary Leach, NJDOT Project Manager, presented a brief introduction to the project.

(a) The project is in the Concept Development phase.

(b) It is important to reach consensus on project needs to move forward with improvements. The CAC can help in the process to provide input on why improvements are needed. The process requires not only what to do but why to do it is essential in establishing the Purpose and Need for this project.

(c) NJDOT welcomes comments to integrate solutions to be developed which meet the defined purpose and need of the project.

3. Craig Johnson, Dewberry Project Manager, presented the project overview and a description of the existing roadway (see Power Point presentation posted to the project Website).

(a) A Project Fact Sheet and Portfolio were distributed at the meeting with project information and traffic data.

(b) The Goal of the Project: To develop a smart, sustainable, permittable, multi-modal solution that enhances quality of life and supports economic growth.

(c) The Objectives:

- Integrate Studies into a Congestion Relief & Mobility Package
- Define Optimal Cost Effective Solutions
- Develop Complementary Strategies

(d) Other key projects occurring within the corridor which will be taken into consideration in developing concepts for this project:

- NJDOT Route 1 Regional Growth Strategy
- NJ TRANSIT Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study program
- Development at former Johnson & Johnson site - North Brunswick TOD
- Proposed improvements at Finnegan's Lane
- Other NJDOT, Middlesex County and local roadway improvement projects

(e) The project area is 8+miles of Route 1 with 13 traffic signals, commercial driveways and has adjacent residential areas.

(f) There is an environmental process to be completed in coordination with the development of transportation improvements. The project is in the Concept Development Phase which began in May 2009 and will continue until December 2010. The Purpose and Needs Statement is to be developed by April 2010 and alternatives developed by June 2010. The next CAC meeting in April will be to present the Purpose and Need Statement.

4. Julia Stepanonanko, Traffic Engineer, presented traffic and accident data, which is currently under study.

- (a) The Project Handout contains diagrams of the intersections with in the study area.
- (b) The data indicates that a number of the intersections have failing levels of services, which indicates a problem to be addressed.
- (c) The Route 1 Crash data reveals higher than state averages at certain locations.

5. Martine Culbertson, CAC Facilitator, presented the community outreach process.

(a) A project specific Website has been developed to maximize information dissemination on the project. Beyond the project description and images, the project schedule and meeting reports will be posted on the site.

(b) To access information on transportation projects, go to: [www.njcommuter.com](http://www.njcommuter.com) This NJDOT site has information on construction projects and those under study and design.

(c) For this project, select the top menu option: "In the Works" and then select from the menu: "Our Projects & the Environment"

Click from the list: [Route 1, Forrestal Road to Aaron Road](#)

OR enter and save the following web address direct link:

<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/works/studies/rte1forrestaltaaron/>

(d) A public open house meeting will be held at the appropriate time to present the project, answer questions and obtain input from the general public to develop concepts and later a Public Information Center meeting will be held to present results of the study and a preferred alternative to move forward to Preliminary Engineering.

(e) This Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has been established to identify community interests and discuss concepts with representation from the three municipalities, Middlesex County, regional organizations businesses and civic groups.

(g) Each CAC member was given a Project Portfolio at the meeting containing project team contact information, the CAC Charter and CAC structure. Members are expected to bring the Portfolio to future meetings. The meeting reports will be distributed via email and posted on the project web site. Martine encouraged members and alternates to review the information in their Portfolios and provide comments if interested in any revisions to the Charter or structure.

(f) The next CAC Meeting will be scheduled in March/April 2010 and a final CAC meeting will be held in September 2010. Meeting notifications will be sent by email.

6. A set of questions were distributed to attendees to open the meeting to input discussion of key issues and transportation interests. The following comments were noted:

- Potential Penns Neck area impacts – traffic volumes, access to hospital (southbound Route 1). Hospital will open in 2011.
- East of Route 1, Trenton, New Brunswick traffic which services hospital - go through Princeton - ambulances.
- Ridge Road – severe bottleneck.
- Dow & Wyeth closing and being redeveloped as 65 & older development.
- Just north of Adams Lane - pre-emptive traffic signals - 3 options to consider.
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) buses - plan is to use shoulder, could also allow for emergency vehicles and possible private shuttle bus service.
- Important to examine cross trips - study traffic (vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists) where there are high points of volume crossing Route 1 which could help improve main flow on Route 1 if ease of access for those making cross trips.
- Franklin & Somerset Townships and Greater Mercer TMA should be included on the CAC - given regional traffic flow patterns, consider sharing information with the surrounding Counties.
- Look for improvements on small scale that may offer substantial congestion relief to traffic - example with Ridge Road improvement connection to local road (Heathcote & Route 1) CR 518/206 - Rock Quarry Bypass improved traffic flow greatly; roundabout at Alexander Bridge works well to move traffic and drivers behave better improving safety.
- Recommended improvements should support Land Use as part of Project Need Statement and be supported by local community Master Plans.
- Maintain on-going relationship with BRT efforts, but enhance with additional solutions to help with traffic flow.
- Cyclists are traveling up and down various roadways, and prefer not to ride directly on Route 1 (too dangerous) however there is a need to cross the highway at various points, which should be identified and develop safe and efficient pedestrian and cyclist crossings at key locations so to enhance safety and minimize delays on the Route 1 roadway..

- Trucking concern - which is the third lane at intersections where cars cut down the right side, outside the view for truck drivers causing safety issue.
- Take into consideration the growing senior population in the area, which has difficulty driving and more options to aid with communal transportation.
- Pedestrian issue to have ample, safe and efficient access to the bus connections.
- Consider Park-n-Ride lots to tie into Route 1 (existing and to be developed).
- Route 9 in Old Bridge has a bus priority lane by NJ TRANSIT - study safety & access issues.
- Plans for the BRT in the area of the study would be: 1 or 2 routes in corridor - municipal shuttle by South Brunswick and a bus route run by Suburban Coach USA (private bus company).
- The Forrester Group has a project designed for the westbound side of Route 1 at Independence Way.
- Washington Road bike pedestrian bridge for University - example of improvement and to identify use of BRT connection.
- Freedom Trail - RT27 - D & R canal great example of improvement in the area - concern for funding of recommended improvements, however important to first define needs and brainstorm solutions which meet the needs, then examine costs as part of analysis.
- Consider review of the economic analysis study which examined international corridors and presenting the concept of “no lights” to improve signalization and flow.
- Examine the crossing at Whispering Woods - residents traveling to shopping.
- Consider all uses of the area - discuss access of diverse user groups to connect residential, recreational, civic and commercial uses (students, tourists, elderly, commuters etc.).
- Consider visual appearance and impacts, site design - Harrison Road bridge, parks, open view of the Millstone - improvements are an example of a beautiful collaborative effort.
- Riparian compensation zone 4/10 acre was given as a “trade-off” creating an environmental friendly design at the Forrester Center near College Road interchange.
- Traffic issues are apparent week days - local business travel competes for access with the regional traffic flow.
- Hotel - offers shuttle services from business facilities and train station and can

experience severe delays - need efficient access routes - cross ramps, buses.

- Employers, employees – need bus and shuttles to get to train site (Penns Neck).
- Drainage improvements needed (Ridge Road - closed due to heavy rain, also at New Road, Raymond Road and Oakey's Brook).
- High rates of speed a concern where lights are not present.
- University collaboration with overpass- was a public private initiative which succeeded.
- Land Use improvements in Plainsboro with new town center, commercial development, employers - may lead to a change in demographics and growth in population.
- Other use of technology to consider in study area - synchronized signalization of traffic lights (13 in corridor, some may improve flow), pre-emptive controls for EMS access, ITS and VMS messaging motorist aids.
- Consider HOV priorities - for shuttle services and other key amenities.

6. In summary, Craig Johnson thanked attendees for their comments and explained that it would help to define the draft Purpose and Needs Statement for the project. At the next meeting the CAC will review the draft statement and additional information generated from the traffic model to begin to develop what concepts may help to address the project needs.

7. Martine Culbertson will provide meeting minutes and notification of the next CAC meeting to be held in April. In closing, Craig Johnson thanked attendees and adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

## **KEY ACTION ITEMS**

1. Attendees to review the contents of Project Portfolio and provide any stakeholders or organizations for consideration as potential CAC members to Martine Culbertson.
2. Attendees to review Project Fact Sheet and Handout information and share project information with their constituents.
3. Project team to draft meeting minutes and distribute to attendees once approved via email and posted to the project Website.
4. Project team to review results of any transportation planning studies, which may involve or impact the study area; and continue coordination with NJ TRANSIT BRT program and other agency or County projects within the study area.

5. Project team to develop draft Purpose and Needs Statement and will then schedule and confirm date of CAC Meeting No. 2 (tentative date in April) and send out meeting notification.

**NEXT MEETING - Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting No. 2**

Date: April, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: South Brunswick Twp. Utility Building, Monmouth Junction, NJ

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the minutes within five (5) working days of receipt. Without notification, these minutes will be considered to be record of fact.

Martine Culbertson  
RT1 CAC Facilitator

**New Jersey Department of Transportation  
Route 1, Forrestal Road to Aaron Road  
Townships of South Brunswick, North Brunswick & Plainsboro  
Middlesex County**

**Community Advisory Committee Meeting No. 1  
December 9, 2009, 10:00 a.m.  
South Brunswick Township Utility Building  
540 Ridge Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ**

**AGENDA**

MEETING PURPOSE: To present the project; to discuss the study process and schedule;  
and to identify transportation related issues on Route 1,  
from Forrestal Road to Aaron Road that need to be addressed.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Welcome  
Meredith Hammond, *NJDOT, Community Relations Regional  
Manager*
- Route 1 Forrestal Road to Aaron Road Project  
Gary Leach, *NJDOT, Project Manager*

II. PROJECT PRESENTATION

- Study Process - Route 1 Project Approach & Schedule  
Craig Johnson, *Dewberry, Project Manager*
- Traffic Data and Analysis  
Julia Steponanko, *GPI, Traffic Engineer*
- Community Advisory Committee (CAC) - Roles & Objectives  
Martine Culbertson, *M.A. Culbertson, LLC, Facilitator*

III. DISCUSSION

- Issues and Opportunities  
Craig Johnson, *Dewberry, Project Manager*  
Martine Culbertson, *M.A. Culbertson, LLC, Facilitator*
- Wrap Up  
Craig Johnson, *Dewberry, Project Manager*