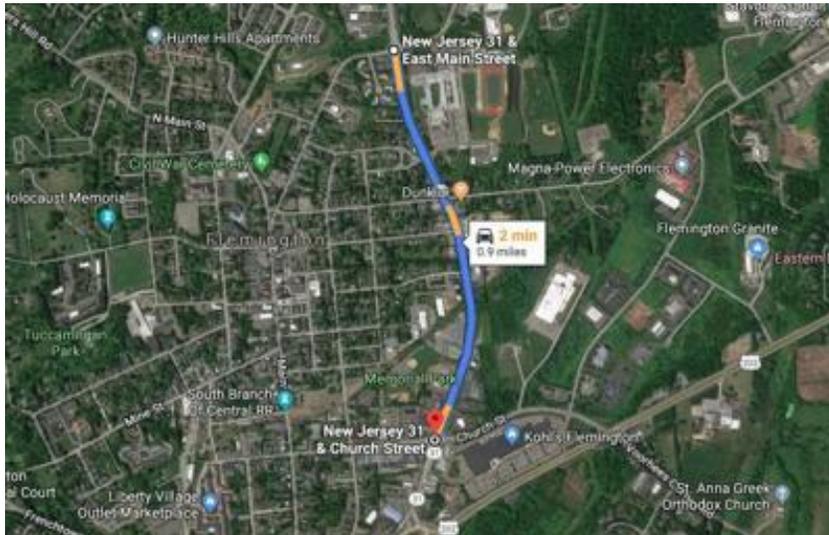


NJDOT will discuss Route 31 widening project on Thursday, Oct. 10

- 22 hrs ago



The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) will host a Public Information Center (PIC) from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10, at the Raritan Township Council Chambers, 1 Municipal Drive, in Raritan Township, about the proposed widening of Route 31 from Church Street in Flemington to East Main Street in Raritan Township.

Google Maps

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The NJDOT, in a release announcing the session, said it is "committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance the transportation needs, the environment, community concerns, and cost. NJDOT will hold a Public Information Center to inform local residents, officials, and the community about the Preliminary Preferred Concept for the Route 31, Church Street (CR 650) to E. Main Street/Flemington Junction Road project."

The widening is proposed to take place between milepost 22.21 to milepost 23.13 on Route 31 through the two communities.

The public will have an opportunity to review exhibits of the concept plan, ask questions, and share information with NJDOT staff members. Property owners of rental units are advised that tenants are also invited and encouraged to participate.

Background

Route 31 is a state road that passes through Flemington Borough and Raritan Township north to south in Hunterdon County, serving both local and regional traffic providing a connection for traffic traveling from I-95 in the south to I-78 in the north and destinations beyond. Within the project limits, the posted speed is 40 mph. The roadway section throughout the project limits varies from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction plus a center turn lane.

A 2008 report identified the need to create a consistent roadway section with two lanes in each direction to mitigate operational and safety concerns. A 2013 Traffic Study evaluated the anticipated degradation of the corridor over time and prioritized portions of the corridor to be widened in phases, based on current and future operational conditions. The section of Route 31 within the current project limits was identified as necessary to address the inconsistency in the number of travel lanes that currently results in congestion, queuing and safety issues.

The Project

The proposed design will address existing safety and operational issues by widening Route 31 to provide a consistent roadway cross section. The roadway section will include two lanes in each direction with a 16-foot center turn lane, where feasible, and 8-foot shoulders. Substandard geometric features will be improved where possible, while preserving existing cultural and environmental features as applicable.

The widened roadway will require right-of-way acquisition for some properties within the project limits. Additionally, driveways within the limits of the roadway work will be regraded to tie into the new edge of pavement. Utility relocations will be necessary to accommodate the widened roadway. The Black River and Western Railroad Bridge, which currently restricts the roadway to its narrowest point, will be replaced with a steel through girder bridge that will mimic the look and feel of the existing bridge. The vertical clearance to the roadway below will be improved.

Traffic signal upgrades and timing adjustments will improve the flow of traffic throughout the project area. Sidewalk inconsistency will be addressed to provide uninterrupted pedestrian travel, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance will be achieved by upgrading curb ramp locations and crosswalk striping. All of the proposed improvements are anticipated to provide for a safer and more efficient roadway.

Construction Schedule

The anticipated design process is expected to begin in the winter of 2020 with a construction start in the fall of 2023 and construction end by the fall of 2025.

The public is encouraged to participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail, or e-mail.

For comment or further information, contact Meredith Hammond, Office of Community Relations, New Jersey Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 600, Trenton, NJ 08625-0600, Phone: (609) 963-1982, Email: Meredith.Hammond@dot.state.nj.us.