



Virtual Public Information Center Date: July 26, 2024 – August 9, 2024

Route 1 Hard Shoulder Running Pilot Project CR 522 to Thomas Ave South Brunswick and North Brunswick Townships, Middlesex County, NJ

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance transportation needs, the environment, community concerns and cost, is holding a **Virtual Public Information Center** to inform residents and businesses of the proposed **Route 1 Hard Shoulder Running Pilot Project, County Route 522 to Thomas Ave**. You are encouraged to actively participate by providing comments by mail, or e-mail.

The Presentation

To reach as many people as possible, the **Public Information Center** will be held virtually. Please visit the following website any time between July 26 and August 9, 2024 to learn more about the project and leave comments.

www.Route1HSRPilot.com

You will have an opportunity to review the project via a video presentation or as a document, submit questions, and leave feedback. Property owners with rental units are advised that tenants are also invited and encouraged to participate. If you are unable to view the presentation but are interested in learning about the project, please contact us at the telephone number or email address listed below.

Background

Route 1 through the project area is a busy urban highway that has two travel lanes in each direction. The roadway capacity is insufficient to handle the traffic demand during the morning and evening peak commuting times. As a result, motorists face congestion, slow speeds, and stop-and-go traffic that can lead to frustration and traffic incidents.

The purpose of this project is to provide congestion relief during the morning and afternoon rush hour, by using the outside shoulder as a travel lane for passenger cars only. This will increase the capacity of Route 1 within the project limits from two lanes to three lanes during rush hours. This congestion management strategy of opening the roadway shoulders for vehicular traffic during peak hours of traffic is known as Hard Shoulder Running (HSR). A similar pilot project was completed on the segment of Route 1 adjacent to the southern end of this project, from Independence Way to Raymond Road. This segment was converted to permanent HSR due to the pilot's success.

Proposed Pilot Project

The existing HSR from Independence Way to Raymond Road includes several communication features to inform the

traveling public about the use of shoulders as travel lanes during peak commuting times. These features include static regulatory and guide signs as well as electronic lane use control signals (green arrow ↓ or red x) to indicate whether the shoulder is open or closed as a travel lane. Because the current project is a pilot project, only a few of the essential communication features will be included in it, comprising pavement markings and static regulatory and guide signs. The ground mounted static signs will be provided along Route 1, side streets and driveways. The roadway improvements to implement the HSR pilot project will remain within the current pavement limits.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) devices will be used to monitor traffic and collect data on travel times. Crash data will be collected from the police reports of the two townships. After the HSR has been in place for several months and traffic flows have normalized, data analysis will be conducted to determine how far the pilot project met the purpose of providing congestion relief during rush hours, without compromising the safety of the Route 1 traveling public.

It is expected that the easier flow of traffic during rush hours will result in less air pollution compared to the existing congested traffic.

The project is just starting the construction phase which is expected to be completed in late summer 2024. Construction will take place overnight with temporary lane closures as needed, without any detours of Route 1 traffic. Temporary traffic control devices will provide safety for the traveling public as well as construction personnel in the construction zones.

Estimated Schedule

Construction – June 2024 to August 2024
HSR Pilot Implementation – Late August 2024
HSR Pilot Evaluation – August 2024 for six months

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Meredith Hammond
Deputy Director
Office of Community & Constituent Relations
New Jersey Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 600, 1035 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600
Phone: 609-963-1982
Email: Meredith.Hammond@dot.nj.gov