

PROJECT INFO

Public Notice

County of Gloucester
Planned Roadway Improvements
County Roadway Widening, Resurfacing
and Safety Improvements

US Route 322 Roadway Widening & Improvement Project Richwood Area Harrison Township, Gloucester County

The County of Gloucester will be widening and resurfacing the section of US Route 322 in the Richwood Area, from just East of the Lambs Road (CR635) Intersection to just West of the Barnsboro – Richwood Road (CR609) Intersection. The project will revise the existing traffic pattern on US Route 322 from two lanes (one lanes in each direction) to Five lanes (two lanes in each direction with a center left turn lane) and Signal upgrades at Intersections.

PROJECT NEED: The corridor is a major east-west connector for Gloucester County which serves not only the heart of Gloucester County but is a vital link for the State and interstate traffic and commerce. It is the main link from the Commodore Barry Bridge to Route 55 and a major recreational shore route. The main artery of US Route 322 experiences major delays with failure conditions during any peak period (Level of Service F), whether off-season or during the summer months. The existing traffic routinely queues (backs ups) through the two intersections. Motorists can expect to wait multiple cycle lengths of the traffic signals to clear Richwood at each intersection. Additionally, the Richwood section of Route 322 has resulted in the highest number of accidents along this corridor in Gloucester County (63 recorded accidents from 2002 to 2004).

THE PROJECT: The project will address the major deficiencies by improving the roadway geometrics and roadway capacity. The project will add one through lane in each direction of travel through Richwood (for a total of four lanes, two in each direction of travel) for added capacity. Turning volumes and existing left turns are a major capacity and safety problem. These will be addressed at the Barnsboro intersection by the addition of a separate left turn lane from the through traffic. A left turn lane will also be added at the Lambs Road intersection, but only in the eastbound direction. Left turns from the westbound direction at this intersection will be addressed via a forward jughandle. The jughandle will more safely address lefts and conflicts from the adjacent Route 55 interchange. Additionally a center turn lane will also be added between the two intersections.

The intersection geometrics at Lambs Rd. (CR635) and Aura-Richwood Rd. (CR 667) will be simplified by re-aligning the intersection. The new alignment will allow more efficient signal timing by allowing both roadways to be served concurrently (one phase). Simplification of the signal timing/phases greatly increases capacity (or the ability to funnel more vehicles through the intersection with

fewer delays). The intersection at Barnsboro–Richwood Rd. (CR 609) and Harrisonville Rd. (CR 618) will also be changed geometrically to increase the intersection's efficiency. The fifth leg of the intersection, County Route 618, will be removed from the intersection approach to US Route 322. This simplifies the approaches to a standard 4 way intersection. Inbound traffic towards Harrisonville Rd. (south on CR 618) will be able to continue from the current traffic pattern from the intersection; however, northbound traffic will be diverted to a new connecting access road to County Route 609. This simplification will also greatly increase the capacity and efficiency of the traffic flows. In addition, the two signals will be interconnected to be timed together to minimize the number of stops and the duration of stops for the through traffic on US Route 322. The overall project will eliminate the excessive delays and create a good level of service for future traffic flows using a twenty (20) year projection. Level of Service C or better will be obtained, which equates to individual delays at each intersection of less than 35 seconds. This compares to the current average delays in the terms of minutes at each of the intersections during peak periods.

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