

PROJECT INFO

Public Notice County of Gloucester Planned Roadway Improvements County Roadway Construction, Resurfacing and Safety Improvements

US Route 322 Mullica Hill Alternate By – Pass Route Mullica Hill Harrison Township, Gloucester County

The County of Gloucester and the NJDOT will be working together to create an Alternate By – Pass Route to US Route 322. The project will provide US Route 322 with a straight path through the intersection at Route 45.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: The delay along US Route 322 through the village of Mullica Hill is one of the most noticeable bottleneck problem areas in the region. US Route 322 intersects at a traffic signal and merges with Route 45 at the northern end of the village where all through and shore bound traffic must make a right turn along the combined State Highway route. The US Route 322 traffic then diverges from Route 45 to continue towards Richwood and Route 55 after traversing for approximately ½ mile through the central business district. This combined section of roadway passes through one of Gloucester County's well known antique and shopping areas. The traffic along this section has numerous pedestrian crossings, through traffic conflicts and competes with pedestrians, parking and local traffic. The traffic routinely backs up through the entire length of this combined section and affects not only the US Route 322 through traffic but also the local and intra-County traffic along Route 45. 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 delays through this section of Route 322 in Mullica Hill are experienced in the term of minutes. The eastbound traffic on approach to Mullica Hill routinely queues (Backs Up) for over ¼ mile at the signal on Route 45, as well as southbound on Route 45. The delays and stopped traffic continue then through the village. The same exists for the reverse flow in the westbound direction. The traffic through this area with all of the identified conflicts has resulted in 50 recorded accidents from 2002 to 2004, second only to the Richwood.

THE PROJECT: The realignment and separation of the US Route 322 through traffic is proposed by means of a bypass roadway. The proposed project will eliminate

one of the elements causing much of the bottlenecks in Mullica Hill by eliminating the turning movements for the US Route 322 traffic. US Route 322 would continue straight through at the Route 45 intersection and traverse through an undeveloped area to the east of the village. The intersection would be improved to add left turn lanes on all approaches and a right turn lane eastbound on US Route 322 southbound to Route 45 into the village.

The bypass roadway would be constructed for one lane in each direction of travel with shoulders. Access would be limited to allow for a minimization of conflicts to encourage through traffic to stay on the new alignment rather than continue to traverse and clog the village. The new roadway would again reconnect to the existing alignment of Route 322 at a new signalized intersection at Clems Run Road (CR 623). A small section of this 1 ½ mile new road will utilize a section of Walters Road. Walters Road would be realigned with the new roadway to allow for all existing traffic movements.

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