

**Main Street (CR 533) Safety Improvements
Between Kennedy Boulevard & Dukes Parkway
Manville Borough, Somerset County
Public Information Center #2 – Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Questions and Answers**

1. Will there be any change to the clearance height under the bridge?

Answer: The clearance will not be changing, but we are enhancing the overheight detector system and signage that warn vehicles that are in danger of hitting the bridge. The railroad bridge itself is not part of this project and lowering Main Street under the bridge would have significant impacts on the businesses and property owners adjacent to the bridge.

2. Can this Road Diet system be considered between Kennedy Blvd and Schmidt St?

Answer: The limits of the project have already been established at the time of the application for federal funds. This portion of Main Street would need to be studied separately to determine if a road diet would be appropriate.

3. Will the paver sidewalks be replaced?

Answer: Paver sidewalks will be replaced in kind at the locations of the curb extensions and at intersections. The curb ramps will be concrete. Additionally, select areas where paver sidewalk is in poor condition will be replaced. The sidewalk/pavers will not be replaced in its entirety along the corridor.

4. I am concerned with the traffic on Main Street with the new plan. With 4 lanes, it already backs up all the way up and down Main Street. I can't imagine the back up with 2 lanes.

Answer: The new signals will be optimized to encourage signal progression and to offset some of the loss of capacity the road diet may induce. Also, the southbound merge at the railroad bridge will be

removed, improving operations at that conflict point. It is noted that since the purpose of the project is safety, certain improvements may degrade traffic operations at a location while improving the safety design of the corridor. The safety improvements have been designed while also optimizing the traffic signals for flow with respect to the current and projected future volumes of Main Street.

5. This is all pretty stupid.

6. Will copies of latest plans be posted on the township site?

Answer: The PowerPoint presented at the Information Center depicting the improvements at specific locations will be posted to the County's project website for viewing.

7. The new measures seem great! Thank you for all of your efforts and we need this improvement badly, but I am wondering if you have feedback on what this will do to traffic.

Answer: Please see the response to comment 4 above.

8. I noticed that the crosswalk on Main Street (by South Street) is now on the opposite corner than it is currently. Why is that? The crossing is already terrible!

Answer: The crosswalk is being moved to avoid crossing two lanes of traffic and the left-turn lane. The new location only crosses two lanes, offers a pedestrian refuge island and has better sight distance in relation to the vertical curve, creating a safer crossing for pedestrians.

9. Why would you remove the crosswalk by Filak? People are still going to cross there.

Answer: The crosswalk is not being removed by Filak Ave. The crosswalk is being straightened out for a shorter crossing, and curb extensions are being installed to increase pedestrian safety.

10. Northbound on Main Street from Grub Hut to Dukes Parkway, I

noticed it spreads out to two lanes before the light. Would it be better to keep it one lane until the light, and give a dedicated lane to the ramp coming out of McDonald's/Reading Cinemas going northbound?

Answer: The two thru lanes heading northbound at the Dukes Parkway light will allow for more storage of queued vehicles approaching Dukes and will help in not blocking driveways and intersections upstream, which could cause safety concerns for cars and pedestrians.

- 11.** The south Main St. area will be losing 14 current spots? South Street to Roosevelt.

Answer: The loss in parking spots is a result of applying current regulations and code (Title 39) to the parking space layout with respect to length, width and distance from intersecting streets and crosswalks. To receive federal approval, these requirements and standards must be adhered to.

- 12.** What new type of trees will be installed for the whole length?

Answer: Types of trees are being finalized through coordination with the Borough; but in general trees are being replaced where they are impacted by construction, dying or present a safety concern. Several healthy trees in the corridor will remain in place.

- 13.** Can we have better lighting under the bridge?

Answer: Pedestrian-scale LED lights will be added near the bridge in the County's right-of-way. Lighting will not be installed under the bridge as it is out of the County's jurisdiction.

- 14.** Will all lights have turn signals to get off Main Street?

Answer: Main Street at Dukes Parkway will have left-turn arrows; Main Street at Brooks Blvd./Shopping Center will have left turn arrows; Main Street Southbound at Thomas J Kaschak Blvd. will have a left-turn arrow; no left-turn arrows on Main Street will be installed at Camplain Road; Main Street Northbound at Kyle Street/Roosevelt Ave. will have

a left-turn arrow.

15. Excellent presentation and very well thought out. I think that, even though there exists a large amount of traffic during peak times, it seems that there should be a balance of vehicle flow and safety measures. Giving pedestrians more, and safer, crossing options should help alleviate the need for people to feel they need to cross outside of crosswalks.

16. Do you foresee any extended period of closure of Main Street during construction?

Answer: An extended closure of Main Street is not proposed. One lane in each direction of Main Street will be maintained with off-peak flagging operations occurring as necessary. During the final paving of Main Street, the roadway will be closed for a limited time most likely during nighttime hours.

17. I saw that this is hopefully starting Spring 2022 - but how long will it last?

Answer: The plan is for construction to be completed in one construction season.

18. Can we get better crosswalk safety signs? Pedestrians seem to walk often in between cars. What type of signs or signals can we get in place to discourage this?

Answer: New and updated signage is included in this project. These include signs that identify the location of crosswalks and regulatory signs that indicate no pedestrian crossing locations.

19. There is currently a crosswalk at the corner of Orchard and Main (crossing Main St). Considering the municipal lot is there, wouldn't it be prudent to leave a crosswalk there? I can envision lots of jaywalking in that section as many people use the ally at 206 S Main as a shortcut to Champlain. Just a thought.

Answer: In order to address safety, which is the purpose of the project, the crosswalk is being removed so that pedestrians will not need to cross three lanes of traffic, including potentially queued traffic in the left-turn lane. The Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) and curb extensions are being added as safety measures to the Rosalie St. crosswalk to further promote that crossing for pedestrians.

- 20.** What can be done to speed up right of way acquisitions so that this project is not delayed any further? Construction was supposed to begin this year.

Answer: The project team must fulfill NJDOT and federal requirements to make sure we are complying with the Uniform Act for this project. There are 45 parcels that require either a right-of-entry, easement, or partial acquisition. These are necessary to construct the project to ADA compliancy. It is a long process due to the amount of agreements that must occur. The County is implementing a new process (right-of-entry) for 39 of the parcels in order to speed up the right-of-way process. The right-of-way documents are currently under review by NJDOT. Once approved, property owners will be contacted by the County.

- 21.** With the curb extensions at Dakota and Main, will the parking spots near the corner be removed? Just a concern for Fire Apparatus turning into Main Street from Dakota.

Answer: The design accounts for fire trucks making the turn onto Main Street from Dakota. Also, the proposed median has mountable curb in case a fire truck takes the turn too wide. Also, the curb extension being installed on the corner will prevent cars from parking illegally and obstructing truck turns.

- 22.** Thank you for your answers, well done.

- 23.** Will crosswalk signals at the intersection of Camplain and Main be replaced?

Answer: Yes, the pedestrian signal heads will be replaced, along with all

traffic signal equipment (signal heads, poles, and foundations) to meet the current standards.

24. Thank you for your thorough responses and transparency!

25. Any thought in eliminating the short part of Filak Ave. and S. 5th Ave. to add S Main St parking spots?

Answer: No, eliminating that part of Filak Ave. for parking is not proposed. Furthermore, Filak Ave. is under the jurisdiction of Manville.

26. Thank you, appreciate your sharing virtually.