

Somerset County

Analysis Inputs

Somerset County's high-scoring trip potential is concentrated in Somerville Borough, with smaller pockets of demand in Pluckemin, Bound Brook Borough, and Watchung Borough. Most other communities fall within the medium trip potential range, with the exception of the southwestern and northwestern parts of the county, where parts of Hillsborough Township and Bedminster Township have very low demand. There is also a low-scoring area in Franklin Township, on undeveloped land near the D&R Canal Trail. This area likely has higher demand than the analysis indicates, due to the nearby trail's recreational draw.

There are no high-crash intersections for active transportation users in Somerset County, and only three high-crash corridors, in North Plainfield Borough and Franklin Township. The regional network overlaps with all three Network Screening Analysis locations.

Table 19 shows the most predominant EJ populations in Somerset County by census block. The most predominant EJ population in Somerset County is minorities, which comprise about 34 percent of the population in larger communities like Somerville Borough. Minority populations are also present across much of western and southern Somerset County, including Hillsborough, Franklin, Montgomery, Green Brook, and Bernard Townships, and North Plainfield, Watchung, and Manville Boroughs. The regional network serves most of these areas well, although there are gaps in some of the less populated areas of Franklin Township.

Table 19: Overburdened Communities in Somerset County

OBC Category	Number of census blocks
Low Income and Minority	14
Minority	85
Minority and Limited English	1
Low Income	8
Minority	3

Public Feedback

Webmap responses for Somerset County do not reveal any overarching themes, and with only nine responses for the entire county, it is difficult to draw any conclusions about public priorities. Responses ranged from concerns about the lack of camping facilities for long-distance bike tourists on the D&R Canal Trail, to the need for more sidewalks and bike lanes in various communities. Several respondents voiced the desire to bike more often, but refrain from doing so due to lack of accommodations on US and NJ routes and county roads.

Existing Network and Proposed Improvements

The D&R Canal Trail section starting in Trenton and continuing north to Bound Brook Borough and onto City of New Brunswick is the most regionally significant active transportation corridor in Somerset County. Smaller trails include the Six Mile Run Trail, which connects to the D&R Canal Trail and ends at the Middlesex County line (NJ 27/Lincoln Highway); the Bedminster Hike and Bikeway, which extends about 2.5 miles through Bedminster; as

well as many local unpaved trail networks in recreational areas, and several disconnected bike lanes throughout the county.²⁴

The regional network would connect to most of these locations, especially the larger trails in Somerset County. It intersects with the D&R Canal Trail at several points and overlaps with many of the local recreational trail systems as well. The network would also extend active transportation options to communities that currently lack them, in the southwestern and northwestern parts of the county, as well as smaller communities throughout the county that are not connected to any regional corridors. The regional network also overlaps with recommendations from previous planning efforts,²⁵ although Somerset County's regional network corridors are less detailed than previous planning efforts in terms of alignment.

Both NJ TRANSIT lines that serve Somerset County, the Raritan Valley Line and Gladstone Branch, and all stations completely overlap with the regional network's 0.5 mile buffer:

- Gladstone Branch: Lyons, Basking Ridge, Bernardsville, Far Hills, Peapack, Gladstone
- Raritan Valley Line: Bound Brook, Bridgewater, Somerville, Raritan, North Branch

This overlap provides opportunities to improve first- and last-mile connections within the county, particularly in more densely populated areas.

Table 20 lists all roads in Somerset County's regional network. It includes road name, municipality, and length of each segment. Network segments that are less than 0.25 miles in length are not listed. Many network segments are on high-volume state highway corridors; as such they are not presently conducive to active transportation. However, walk/bike potential does exist in these areas, and more suitable parallel routing could be explored, such as sidepaths, trails, and other separated facilities, as well as improved transit service for longer distance connections. Local roads that parallel the regional network may also be used as alternate low-stress routes during network implementation.

²⁴ For a more comprehensive inventory of Somerset County's existing network, refer to [Walk Bike Hike Somerset County](#), published in 2019.

²⁵ Ibid.

Table 20: Somerset County Regional Network Corridors

Road Name	County/NJ/US Route	Municipality	Start Point	End Point	Length (Miles)
Mine Brook Road	CR 525, US 202	Borough of Bernardsville	Mount Airy Road, Olcott Square	Main Street	3.19
East Main Street	CR 527, CR 533, CR 607	Borough of Bound Brook	N/A	N/A	0.58
Talmage Avenue	CR 533	Borough of Bound Brook	Columbus Place	Main Street, Tea Street	0.57
Main Street	CR 512, US 202	Borough of Far Hills	Mine Brook Road	Hillside Avenue, Lamington Road, Somerville Road	1.79
Peapack Road	CR 512	Borough of Far Hills	Main Street	Main Street	1.19
Watchung Avenue	CR 531	Borough of North Plainfield	Pearl Street	N/A	0.70
Somerset Street	CR 531	Borough of North Plainfield	N/A	N/A	0.77
Old Chester Road	CR 671	Borough of Peapack and Gladstone	Jackson Avenue, Main Street	Old Chester-Gladstone Road	0.61
Main Street	CR 512	Borough of Peapack and Gladstone	Peapack Road	Mendham Road	1.75
Mendham Road	CR 647	Borough of Peapack and Gladstone	Main Street	Jackson Avenue	0.45
Frelinghuysen Avenue	CR 644	Borough of Raritan	N/A	N/A	0.26
Princeton Avenue	N/A	Borough of Rocky Hill	Blue Spring Road	Washington Street	0.99
Montgomery Avenue	N/A	Borough of Rocky Hill	Montgomery Road	Reeve Road, Washington Street	0.53
Washington Street	CR 518	Borough of Rocky Hill	Georgetown Franklin Turnpike	Montgomery Avenue, Reeve Road	0.49
W. End Avenue	NJ 28	Borough of Somerville	N/A	N/A	0.65
West Main Street	NJ 28	Borough of Somerville	East Main Street, North Bridge Street, South Bridge Street	North Doughty Avenue, South Doughty Avenue, West End Avenue	0.35
Schley Mountain Road	CR 652	Township of Bedminster	N/A	N/A	0.91
Allen Road	CR 652	Township of Bernards	N/A	N/A	4.03
Valley Road	CR 512, CR 525	Township of Bernards	N/A	N/A	2.88
South Finley Avenue	CR 613	Township of Bernards	N/A	N/A	1.72
Stonehouse Road	CR 613	Township of Bernards	N/A	Valley Road	1.35
Morristown Road	US 202	Township of Bernards	Olcott Square	Mount Kemble Avenue	1.95

Road Name	County/NJ/US Route	Municipality	Start Point	End Point	Length (Miles)
Finley Avenue	CR 613	Township of Bernards	North Finley Avenue	Childs Road, Morristown Road	0.47
North Finley Avenue	CR 613	Township of Bernards	East Oak Street, South Finley Avenue, West Oak Street	Finley Avenue	0.61
Main Street	CR 533	Township of Bridgewater	N/A	N/A	0.37
East Main Street	CR 533, CR 612, NJ 28	Township of Bridgewater	North Bridge Street, South Bridge Street, West Main Street	Main Street, Promenade Boulevard	3.08
US Route 22 Eastbound	US 22	Township of Bridgewater	Milltown Road	Easton Turnpike	0.59
N/A	US 202	Township of Bridgewater	Lamington Road	county line	14.38
N/A	US 206	Township of Bridgewater	US 202	Old Camplain Road	3.08
N/A	US 22	Township of Bridgewater	US 202	Easton Turnpike, France Drive	4.58
Georgetown Franklin Turnpike	CR 518	Township of Franklin	Gateway Boulevard, Lincoln Highway	Washington Street	2.79
Hamilton Street	CR 514	Township of Franklin	Amwell Road, Susan Drive	Woodbridge Street	3.18
Somerset Street	NJ 27	Township of Franklin	French Street, Main Street	School Avenue	1.22
Lincoln Highway	NJ 27	Township of Franklin	N/A	N/A	0.93
Lincoln Highway	NJ 27	Township of Franklin	N/A	Gallop Lane	0.86
Lincoln Highway	NJ 27	Township of Franklin	Beekman Road	N/A	1.75
Main Street	NJ 27	Township of Franklin	Heathcote Road, Laurel Avenue	Kingston Terrace	0.42
Easton Avenue	CR 527	Township of Franklin	N/A	Foxwood Drive	0.90
Warrenville Road	CR 634, CR 651	Township of Green Brook	N/A	Mount Bethel Road, Washington Valley Road	2.04
Peter J. Biondi Memorial Bypass	US 206 BYP	Township of Hillsborough	N/A	N/A	2.84
State Road	US 206	Township of Hillsborough	N/A	N/A	1.74
Amwell Road	CR 514	Township of Hillsborough	Hamilton Street, Susan Drive	Cloverhill Road, Rainbow Hill Road	15.17
US 206	US 206	Township of Hillsborough	N/A	Valley Road	0.66
Montgomery Road	N/A	Township of Montgomery	N/A	Montgomery Avenue	0.88

Road Name	County/NJ/US Route	Municipality	Start Point	End Point	Length (Miles)
Van Horne Road	US 206	Township of Montgomery	Mountainview Road, Peter J. Biondi Memorial Bypass	Montgomery Road	4.80
Mount Bethel Road	CR 651	Township of Warren	N/A	N/A	2.27
King George Road	CR 651	Township of Warren	N/A	N/A	2.24

Figure 20: Somerset County Regional Network

