



Public Information Center

Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Route 31

Route 78/22 to Graysrock Road

Pavement Improvement Project – Preliminary Engineering

Clinton Township, Hunterdon County

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance transportation needs, the environment, community concerns, and cost. NJDOT will hold a **Public Information Center (PIC)** to inform local residents, officials, and the community about the **Preliminary Engineering Design of the Route 31 Pavement Improvement Project**. You are encouraged to participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail, or e-mail.

THE MEETING

The PIC meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 6-8 PM at the Clinton Township Municipal Courtroom, 1370 Rt. 31 North, Lebanon, NJ**. You will have an opportunity to review exhibits of the Preliminary Design Plan, ask questions, and share information with NJDOT staff members. Property owners of rental units are advised that tenants are also invited and encouraged to participate.

BACKGROUND

The one-mile section of Route 31 from the I-78/Route 22 interchange to the Route 173 interchange is a divided highway with two lanes in each direction. The existing reinforced concrete pavement was constructed about 50 years ago and is failing. The primary project purpose is to rehabilitate Route 31 pavement to preserve/maintain the state highway system.

THE PROJECT

Route 31 is a key commuter route with high traffic volumes during weekday morning and evening peak-hours, so lane closures for pavement reconstruction work will typically be scheduled for off-peak hours and during weekends. The project will replace deteriorated concrete pavement with new full-depth hot mix asphalt (HMA) pavement. During construction, work will take place in stages, beginning with the northbound lanes. One travel lane will be maintained while the other half of the roadway pavement is reconstructed during Stage 1. The sequence is reversed during Stage 2.

During the Spring to Fall construction season, the contractor will shut-down one travel lane on Friday evening, reconstruct a section of roadway, and reopen the roadway with two travel lanes by early Monday morning. Route 31 northbound reconstruction is expected to require one construction season, and Route 31 southbound will require a second season.

While the project focus is to rehabilitate and preserve pavement infrastructure, the design also includes safety improvements at two locations. First, eastbound Center Street currently meets southbound Route 31 at a stop-controlled intersection with an acute skew angle where drivers at the Center Street approach have difficulty looking behind to see traffic approaching along Route 31 southbound. The result is numerous rear-end crashes. To improve sight distance, the Center Street/Route 31 intersection will be realigned so eastbound Center Street meets Route 31 at an approximate right-angle. The improved angle will allow drivers stopped along Center Street to better see approaching traffic and better decide when to safely pull into Route 31 southbound. The second safety improvement includes extending the length of the acceleration lane where the ramp from I-78/Route 22 westbound meets Route 31 northbound. Extending the acceleration lane length by about 300 feet will provide additional space for decision making and reduce conflicts along this high-volume merge.

The project will repair and rehabilitate other elements of the roadway infrastructure including guide rail, signs, lighting, drainage and bridges. Guide rail improvements include replacing all guide rail within the project limits in accordance with recently updated standard details. Signs will be upgraded, and one overhead sign structure along Route 31 southbound will be replaced. Lighting improvements include upgrades to the existing lighting fixtures along Route 31 through the I-78/Route 22 interchange and installation of new highway lighting at the Route 173 interchange. Drainage improvements include replacing, upgrading and resetting all inlet castings and pipe/inlet repairs to preserve the integrity of the drainage system. Improvements to bridges include concrete deck repairs and fencing replacement to conform to current standards.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Start Final Design: Spring 2020
- Start Construction: Spring 2023
- End Construction: Winter 2025

For further information, please contact:

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