

# Improving Transit Services & Bike- Pedestrian Access in the County Route 529 Corridor

Kick-off Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2014

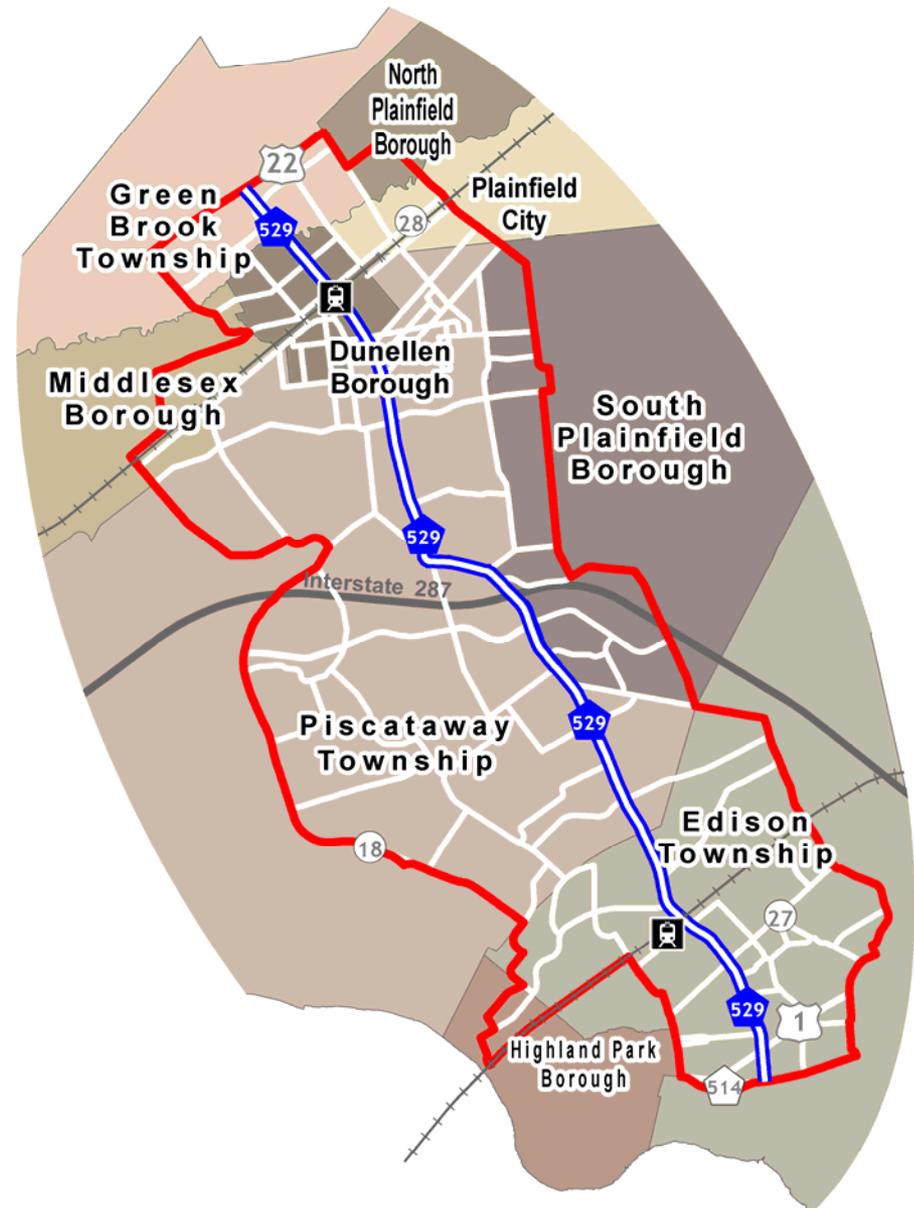
Middlesex County Office of Planning

# Purpose and Scope of Study

- Seek to improve bicycling and pedestrian accommodations and intermodal mobility along the Corridor
- Examine existing and future growth in the corridor and the need for expanded transit services and bicycling and pedestrian improvements to serve points of attraction along the corridor and in nearby areas.
- Public outreach process will involve working with a steering committee supplemented by two public open house style meetings.

# Corridor Study Area

- Approximately 8.6 miles of County Route 529
  - South to north, from Woodbridge Ave to US Route 22
  - Plainfield Ave, Stelton Rd, Washington Ave
- Nine municipalities in three counties
- Major Roads in the Study Area:
  - Interstate Route 287
  - US Routes 1 and 22
  - NJ Routes 18, 27, and 28
  - Numerous County Routes
    - CR501 (New Durham Rd)
    - CR514 (Woodbridge Ave)
    - CR601 (West Seventh Ave)
    - CR609 (Metlars Ln)
    - CR665 (S. Washington) + others
  - Major municipal roads such as:
    - Centennial Ave, Hadley Rd, William St, Old Post Rd, Cedar Ln, Ethel Rd + others
- Two Commuter Rail Stations
  - Northeast Corridor- Edison Station
  - Raritan Valley Line-Dunellen Station
- Bus Service
  - 108 bus stops
  - Nine NJ Transit Bus Lines
  - Rutgers Intercampus (Livingston Campus)



# Project Timeline

- **July 1, 2014:** Project Authorization
- **November 2014:** Kick-off Meeting with Steering Committee
- **April 2015:** 1<sup>st</sup> Public Open House Meeting
  - Preliminary staff findings and recommendations
- **September 2015:** Second Steering Committee Meeting
  - Distribute preliminary draft report and solicit input
- **November 2015:** TCC Meeting
  - Distribute preliminary draft report and solicit input
- **January 2016:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Open House Meeting
  - Presentation of final draft report and solicit input
- **February 2016:** TCC Meeting
  - Presentation of final draft report; final comments
- **May 2016:** Third Steering Committee Meeting to Approve Final Report
- **June 30, 2016:** Project completion (“close-out” with NJTPA)

# Data Collection

## Transit Service/Facilities

- Narrative description of all public transit services in the corridor (including Rutgers)
  - NJ Transit Commuter Rail
    - Northeast Corridor Line: Edison Station
    - Raritan Valley Line: Dunellen Station
  - Nine NJ Transit Bus Lines
    - 59, 65, 66: to Newark
    - 113, 114, 117: to Port Authority
    - 810, 814, 819: local routes
  - Coach USA/Suburban Transit
    - Daily Atlantic City Service
  - Rutgers Intercampus
    - B, LX, REXL, Weekend, Summer routes
- Assembled a directory/database of bus stops within the corridor (108 bus stops)
  - Identified bus line and destination head signs for each bus stop
  - Stop type (near side, far side) and street direction
  - Presence and type of shelter
  - Data is geo-referenced and can be correlated to data collected during the sidewalk, shoulders and signalized intersections inventories (next slides)
- Identified services that have been discontinued in the near-past
  - Edison Light Transit (former peak-period feeder service to train station)
  - NJ Transit 980 (former Wheels route; New Brunswick to Piscataway)
  - Suburban 100L (formerly Princeton-Dunellen)

# Data Collection - Sidewalk/Shoulders

- Windshield survey of **201 “directional” miles** of major roads within the corridor.
- Sidewalks
  - Identified sidewalk material, approximated width (by range) and presence of “Class 1” bike path
  - Identified worn paths on segments with no sidewalk
- Shoulders
  - Approximated width (by range) and presence of dedicated bike lane (“Class 2” bike lane).
  - Also identified segments with no shoulder present but were marked as “Class 3” bike routes (i.e. sharrows).

# Data Collection - Ped Facilities at Signalized Intersections

- Photo-Inventory and data collection at **112 locations**
- On each leg at every location we inventoried presence and/or absence of:
  - Crosswalks
  - Depressed curbing/ramps at corners
  - Pedestrian Signal Heads
    - count-down timers
  - General Comments

# Role of Steering Committee

- Provide input on study findings and recommendations to staff
- Provide data and/or relevant literature and/or planning documents
- Attend First Public Open House on introduction of study and solicitation of public input/participation, by April 30, 2015.
- Attend Second Steering Committee Meeting, by September 2015
- Attend Second Public Open House to present Final Draft Report (by January 31, 2016)
  - Staff of the Division of Transportation will conduct an “open house” / “information center” style public meeting that will commence with a presentation summarizing the Final Draft Report.
- Attend Third meeting of Steering Committee to approve Final Report (by April 30, 2016)

# Identify Key Stakeholder Groups

- Key stakeholder groups that may bring value to the study
  - Identify relevant groups not represented on the Steering Committee itself:
    - Employees, employers, merchants, students, elderly, disabled, visitors to parks and recreational uses

# Local Planning Documents

- Obtain local planning documents and data sources
  - For example, municipal master plans, planning studies, redevelopment plans, proposed capital improvement projects in the study area etc.

# Open Floor Discussion

- Questions
- Open Floor Comments
- Initial Feedback

# Next Steps

- Ongoing solicitation of comments/information through direct contact with from Steering Committee members
- Staff to continue with data collection and technical assessment phases
  - General Demographics
  - Work Travel Characteristics
  - NJ Transit “Transit Score”
  - Land Use, Zoning and Development Trends
- Develop Preliminary Recommendations
- 1<sup>st</sup> Open House Meeting (April 2015)

# THANK YOU!