



Middlesex County

Improving Transit Services and Bicycle - Pedestrian Access In the County Route 529 Corridor

Second Open House Meeting Highlights and Summary of Feedback

**Monday, March 7, 2016
6:00 - 8:30PM**

**Stelton Community Center
328 Plainfield Avenue
Edison, NJ**

Participation

Sign-in sheets reflect 38 attendees who participated at the open house consisting of 19 participants from the general public, 5 steering committee members, 8 staff members from Middlesex County, 5 Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee members, and 1 staff member from North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

Opening Remarks

Freeholder Charles Tomaro, from Edison welcomed participants and listened to the stories and requests which created numerous clear examples of transportation needs for improved access from Edison Station to Everest Institute on Hadley Road in South Plainfield.

Staff Presentation

Anthony Gambilonghi, Middlesex County Transportation Planning Supervisor, discussed the purpose of the Study, which includes an analysis of existing and future growth occurring in the corridor, resulting in a need for expanded transit services along with bicycling and pedestrian improvements. These kinds of improvements will help serve points of attraction both along the corridor and in nearby areas. The Study seeks to increase overall mobility to job markets within the corridor and the region, especially for those who do not own automobiles or have limited access to auto use. Mr. Gambilonghi stated that the Study supports the vision and goals of the recently updated Middlesex County Transportation Plan, the

NJTPA Regional Transportation Plan, and the new Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. The Study will also further advance the recommendations of past planning activities and proposals to improve pedestrian mobility and access to transit and other nearby facilities such as the NJTPA sponsored Walkable Community Workshop that was done some years ago in Edison Township. Mr. Gambilonghi welcomed and encouraged the public's input and invited all meeting participants to visit and interact with facilitators assigned to four "discussion tables" that focused on four transportation modes (rail, bus, bicycle, and pedestrian) for County Route 529. This format of outreach facilitated public input and an opportunity to obtain contact information from the project team for those that had questions or comments at a later date.

Ryan Rapp, Middlesex County Transportation Principal Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation covering a variety of topics, including an analysis of current transit service, bicycle and pedestrian amenities, demographics, future trends (population, age, households, families, median household income, race, ethnicity, etc.), and employment data along County Route 529. Before breakout sessions began, Mr. Rapp stated there would be a recurring PowerPoint display of 40+ photographs of various bicycle, pedestrian and transit amenities currently in the Corridor Study area.

Public Feedback

As a means to solicit transportation recommendations for the Corridor, steering committee members and staff of the Middlesex County Office of Planning were stationed at four "discussion tables" covering four transportation modes (rail, bus, bicycle, and pedestrian) where they directly engaged in one-on-one conversations with the general public. Suggestions expressed by the public were transcribed onto large easel notepads. The general recommendations received from the public are outlined below:

Rail Transit

- In the winter: Seasonal parking and access problems
 - Stairwell from new parking is difficult for seniors, etc. Need ramp switchback.

Bus Transit

- Expand bus service and extend routes
 - Shuttle services from apartment complexes to train stations (e.g. Rivendell at Edison Apartments to Edison Train Station)
 - Shuttle services to run along Kilmer Campus from Kilmer Homes and Ozanam Shelter.
 - Bus service from Edison Train Station to Middlesex Mall Plaza.
 - Train/Bus connectively from neighboring towns/cities to South Plainfield, Piscataway, New Brunswick.

Existing Bus Route#814 - Expand mobility needed to Library and Retail locations (e.g. malls)

- Currently at intersection Plainfield Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue: commuters have to cross over Route 1 to get to bus stop. Closer access needed.
- Bus service to Wick Shopping Plaza (Edison) with loop around to/at Walgreens at Plaza.

Existing Bus Route#819 - More frequent stops needed.

Bicycle Facilities

- Bikeway connections are essential.
 - Connect train stations Northeast Corridor (Edison) to Raritan Valley Line (Dunellen).

Illumination Facilities

- Truman Drive in Edison - Very dark in the evening; lighting is needed.

- Suttons Lane in Edison, train rail underpass – illumination needed.

Pedestrian Facilities

- Sidewalk gap – Townhomes on Stelton Road toward Edison Train Station
- Sidewalks needed between Ethel Road and Edison Train Station on the opposite side of the 529 Corridor.
- Sidewalks needed on Kilmer Road in Edison.
- Kilmer Road: too wide for single use.
 - Make 2 lanes both directions or make better defined lanes.

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