



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 17, 2016

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Public Input Sought for Improving Route 9 in Toms River

Toms River, NJ – Township residents, businesses and property owners along the Route 9 corridor in Toms River are invited to an open house Tuesday, August 23, to learn about and comment on proposals to improve congestion and reduce crashes along the corridor.

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) is holding the meeting as part of its 12-month planning effort to identify spot improvements, corridor-level treatments and access management regulations for Route 9. The study aims to establish a long-term vision for the corridor; develop a package of low-cost, high-impact safety and operational solutions that can quickly be implemented; and develop a formal Access Management Plan to aid municipalities in regulating future development along the corridor.

The meeting is being held in the Ocean County Library's Mancini Room, 101 Washington Street, in Toms River. There will be two sessions, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and the event will feature three presentations – at 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. – offering an overview of the Route 9 Corridor Study recommendations.

The open house-style meeting will feature information stations with maps detailing the proposed improvements, information about the Access Management Plan and an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the recommendations.

A similar meeting is being scheduled for Lakewood to review recommendations for the portion of the Route 9 corridor in that community.

The input gathered from these meetings will be included in a report, which is expected to be issued later this year.

The Route 9 Corridor Study's Working Group includes municipal officials from Lakewood and Toms River, as well as representatives of Ocean County, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, and NJ TRANSIT.

Additional information about the U.S. 9 Corridor Study in Lakewood and Toms River is available online at <http://www.njtpa.org/Route-9-Study>. Members of the public who cannot attend but would like to provide feedback can email Route9Study@njtpa.org.

The NJTPA is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for 13 northern New Jersey counties. Under federal legislation, MPOs provide a forum where local officials, public transportation providers and state agency representatives can come together and cooperatively plan to meet the region's current and future transportation needs. It establishes the region's eligibility to receive federal tax dollars for transportation projects.

The NJTPA Board consists of one local elected official from each of the 13 counties in the region (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren), and the cities of Newark and Jersey City. The Board also includes a Governor's Representative, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the Executive Director of NJ TRANSIT, the Chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and a Citizen's Representative appointed by the Governor.