

I-295/I-76/Route 42 Interchange Reconstruction

THE NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

James E. McGreevey, Governor

VOLUME I, SPRING 2002

James P. Fox, Commissioner

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is committed to involving members of affected communities and the traveling public from the earliest planning stages of projects.

This is the first of the newsletters to keep the community informed and engaged in discussions during the planning, design and construction phases for improvements to the intersection of Interstate Route 295, Interstate 76, and Route 42 in Camden and Gloucester counties. It will help citizens make informed recommendations to NJDOT during every stage of this project and supplement community meetings.



Aerial view of the I-295/I-76/Route 42 Interchange at "Aljo's Curve" (I-295, Exit 26).

NJDOT
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, NJ 08625

About the Project

The purpose of this project is to improve traffic safety and reduce traffic congestion at the intersection of Interstate 295, Interstate 76 and NJ State Route 42 (the I-295/I-76/Route 42 Interchange). The project will address quality-of-life issues associated with the highway system as it relates to the motorist, residents, and the environment.

NJDOT is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the I-295/I-76/Route 42 Interchange in Bellmawr, Mt. Ephraim, Gloucester City, Camden County and Barrington.

Presently the interchange does not provide a direct connection for the I-295 movements through this interchange. Although contiguous, the existing configuration requires motorists to reduce speed in both the northbound and southbound directions of I-295 to negotiate ramps with posted speeds of 35 MPH. Weaving movements with vehicles from NJ Rt. 42 and from I-76 exacerbate this problem. This location is arguably the busiest in all of Southern New Jersey as it carries large volumes of commuter traffic destined to and from Philadelphia via the Walt Whitman Bridge. It is also a connection via Route 42 and the Atlantic City Expressway to the Shore areas for weekend trips.

These problems, in conjunction with high levels of traffic, produce a high number of vehicle accidents, congestion and travel delays.

Environmental Impact Statement

Project Schedule:

- Develop Alternatives (2001 - 2002)
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (2002 - 2003)
- Final Environmental Impact Statement (2003)
- Design (2003 - 2006)
- Construction (2006 - 2008)

Public meetings and other opportunities for input will be provided throughout the process.

Background Studies

Aware of the continuing demands on the highway in the 1980s, NJDOT addressed traffic safety and congestion issues in the vicinity of the interchange with the Route 42 Widening project. This effort improved traffic conditions along the Route 42 Corridor, but did not address the interchange.

In the 1990s, NJDOT began engineering studies to identify possible interchange improvements. These studies included conceptual solutions and a Transportation Investment Study (TIS).

A broad-based planning study, the TIS explored the use of intermodal solutions at the interchange including mass transit, HOV lanes and rail to address the interchange's traffic safety and congestion issues. In 1999, the TIS concluded that the preferred course of action is an interchange reconstruction project.

Our task now is to determine the best alternative for the I-295/I-76/Route 42 Interchange Reconstruction. The first step is to conduct the federally required Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. NJDOT is committed to the mission of environmental responsibility and community involvement during this process.

Get Involved!

The success of the I-295/I-76/Route 42 Interchange Reconstruction project depends on the participation of the people who live, work and do business in the area. Your input will ensure that the issues of importance to you and your community are given proper consideration in this process. [Here's how you can contact us:](#)



Call:
James Stevenson, Community Relations
(609) 530-2117



E-Mail:
fix.295@dot.state.nj.us



Write:
NJDOT - Communications Office
P.O. Box 600, Trenton, NJ 08625



Visit the Web site at:
www.state.nj.us/transportation

COMMUNITY INPUT SHEET

I-295/I-76/Route 42 Interchange Reconstruction Project

Listed below are some of the factors being investigated in the development of this project. Using the form below, please provide input on the following items or any others you feel are important. The form may be folded and mailed using the pre-addressed panel on the other side of the page, or it can be faxed to James Stevenson, NJDOT Communications Office, at (609) 530-2536. You may also return it to any NJDOT Project Team member at the April 24th Public Information Center.

Safety

- ▶ Reducing motor-vehicle accidents
- ▶ Pedestrian/Bicycle safety

Traffic

- ▶ Delays
- ▶ I-295 Commuters cutting through local neighborhoods
- ▶ Traffic Calming (speed bumps, etc.)

Social

- ▶ Economic effects
- ▶ Aesthetics
- ▶ Property acquisitions
- ▶ Neighborhood preservation

Environmental

- ▶ Noise/Air
- ▶ Archeological resources
- ▶ Wetlands
- ▶ Wildlife habitats
- ▶ Hazardous materials management

Construction

- ▶ Delays
- ▶ Detours
- ▶ Noise/Dust
- ▶ Night work
- ▶ Duration

COMMENTS: _____

Add me to the I-295/I-76/Route 42 Interchange Reconstruction Project Mailing List Yes ___ No ___

Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ email: _____

What is an EIS?

Federal law requires all major transportation projects to be evaluated prior to construction for their effects on the environment and that alternative courses of action be considered. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) specifies when an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared. Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations provide the recommended format and content of Environmental Impact Statements.

An EIS is a document that describes the environmental impacts that a proposed activity might have, such as the filling of wetlands or an improvement in air quality. Environmental issues considered in an EIS include natural characteristics such as land use, water, air, and noise; and social characteristics such as the cultural and economic aspects of the community living in the study area.

Environmental Impacts can be positive or negative or both. An EIS describes impacts of proposed alternatives, as well as plans to mitigate any negative impacts. It discloses the result of the environmental analysis to the public and allows for their input.

fold here

fold here

