

**Intersection Improvements along Main Street (CR 531)  
From Talmadge Avenue to Brunswick Avenue**

**Borough of Metuchen, Middlesex County**

**BACKGROUND**

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) has teamed with federal partners, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, subregions, and other state and local agencies to improve the safety and reliability of the region’s transportation infrastructure. Through two safety funding programs, the Local Safety Program (LSP) and High-Risk Rural Roads Program (HRRRP), NJTPA funds safety improvements on county and local roadways in urban, suburban, and rural communities. NJTPA has developed a Local Safety Engineering Assistance Program (LSEAP) to provide professional consultant support services for necessary planning and design services and construction document preparation for these projects.

**THE PROJECT**

Through LSEAP, Middlesex County is receiving funds to plan, design, and construct safety improvements at 20 intersections within the Borough of Metuchen, covering a distance of approximately 1.1 miles.

Improvements are proposed to address a number of known problems and deficiencies including high crash occurrence, frequent bridge strikes at the NEC-AMTRAK underpass, pedestrian facilities that are not fully compliant with ADA standards, and limited bicycle accommodations.

Planning, evaluation, and design work commenced in December 2019 and the conceptual design has been completed. Proposed improvements include:

- Upgrades to traffic signal infrastructure, timing, phasing, and video image detection to improve overall safety and traffic flow
- New traffic signals poles, foundations, mast arms, controller cabinets, and 12-inch LED signal heads

(lenses) with reflective backplates to aid visibility at select intersections

- New ADA-compliant curb ramps with detectable warning surfaces, pedestrian push buttons, pedestrian countdown timers, sidewalk improvements, roadway lighting improvements, high visibility crosswalks, and the installation and replacement of regulatory, warning and pedestrian signs at the intersections, and curb extensions to reduce pedestrian exposure
- Exclusive left turn lanes at some intersection approaches to reduce queuing, traffic congestion, and aggressive driving
- Flashing pedestrian beacons at selection locations
- Traffic calming at targeted locations to improve safety, mitigate travel speeds, and shorten pedestrian crossing distances
- Overheight vehicle detection system to divert overheight vehicle and reduce occurrence of NEC bridge strikes
- Shared bicycle lane with “Sharrow” symbols and bicycle boxes
- Roadway resurfacing throughout the project limits

The NJTPA and Middlesex County are currently working with Michael Baker International, Inc. (with New Jersey offices in Hamilton and Newark) to advance the design of the five intersections.

**ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Hold Public Information Center (PIC)	Oct 7, 2020
Complete Preliminary Design	Winter 2020/21
NJDOT Approve Environmental Doc.	Fall 2020/21
Complete Final Design	Dec 2021
Federal Authorization to Construct	Winter 2022/23
Begin Construction	Spring 2023
Construction Substantially Completed	Winter 23/24