

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
Executive Order No. 172 Public Hearing

Introduction

Steve Buente, PE, Hearing Officer
New Jersey Turnpike Authority

Statement of Purpose and Hearing Overview

Michael Grant, PE
New Jersey Turnpike Authority

Description of Improvements

Michael Grant, PE
New Jersey Turnpike Authority

Public Comments

Conclusion

Project Staff and Engineering

Authority Representatives are available to answer questions and discuss the project.



Public Hearing Rules

The following rules will govern the Public Comment portion of tonight's Public Hearing:

1. Everyone wishing to speak must register at the desk located at the entrance to the meeting room.
2. Speakers will be called in the order in which they registered, except for public officials who will be given priority.
3. Speakers are asked to state their full name and address, and spell their last name. All comments will be recorded by the Certified Court Reporter.
4. Oral comments will be limited to 10 minutes. Remaining time cannot be assigned to another speaker. There is no limit on the length of written comments.
5. The Public Hearing will end when all those registered to comment have done so.

The record shall remain open for fifteen (15) days after the hearing, until December 15, Any additional comments must be submitted prior to December 15, in writing to:

Michael Grant, PE, Senior Project Engineer
New Jersey Turnpike Authority, PO Box 5042
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-5042

All comments will be addressed in a written Final Hearing Report, which will be issued after the close of the comment period. Copies of the Final Hearing Report will be provided to East Brunswick Township.



**New Jersey Turnpike
Interchange 9 Improvement Project**

PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, November 30, 2011

6:00-7:00 PM Open House
7:00-9:00 PM Public Hearing

East Brunswick Township Municipal Court Building
1 Jean Walling Civic Center Drive
East Brunswick, New Jersey

NJTPK Interchange 9 Improvement Project

Project Description:

The New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA) has identified Interchange 9, located in East Brunswick, Middlesex County, as an interchange in need of operational and safety improvements. Contributing factors to the need for improvements at the interchange are the high traffic volumes entering and exiting the toll plaza and the traffic congestion on Route 18 in the vicinity of the interchange.

The NJTA is proposing to replace the existing single lane ramp that connects Route 18 southbound to the Interchange 9 toll plaza with a two lane ramp. The new wider ramp will require the replacement of the bridge that carries Route 18 over the Turnpike ramps to and from Route 18 southbound. The radius of the new ramp will be increased to meet the current minimum design standard and Route 18 will be shifted to the east, away from the residential area on the west side of the highway. With the exception of vacant land north of the Route 18 exit/entrance to Tower Center Blvd., right-of-way acquisitions will not be necessary on private property. Improvements will be made to the signalized intersection at Naricon Place including the construction of additional lanes on the Route 18 southbound approach to provide two "Turn Only" lanes leading into the new two lane Turnpike entrance ramp and a separate right turn lane for Naricon Place. The project will improve the weaving movements in the vicinity of the Turnpike ramp that enters Route 18 northbound and will increase the weaving distance within the toll plaza for Turnpike vehicles exiting at Interchange 9.

At the Public Hearing, in accordance with the New Jersey No Net Loss Act, NJTA will also present information concerning the clearing of trees in association with the project.

Project Goals:

- Address future traffic growth on Route 18 and through the Turnpike toll plaza
- Improve the safety and operations through the Turnpike toll plaza and on Route 18
- Address existing traffic backups and the substandard horizontal curve on the ramp from Route 18 southbound to the Turnpike toll plaza
- Improve capacity on Route 18 Southbound at the approach to the Naricon Place intersection
- Improve the merging and weaving on Route 18 northbound in the vicinity of the ramp from the Turnpike
- Improve weaving through the Turnpike toll plaza

Project Benefits:

- Increase the capacity and safety of the ramp from Route 18 southbound to the Turnpike toll plaza
- Shifted alignment of Route 18 accommodates improvements to Turnpike ramps without impacting the existing adjacent residential neighborhood
- Improvements to the signalized intersections on Naricon Place with Route 18 and Tower Center Blvd. will improve the flow of traffic
- Improvements on Route 18 northbound will improve the flow of traffic and increase safety
- Improvements to Route 18 will decrease the volume of "by-pass" traffic on alternate roadways

Construction:

The construction of the project will be performed under one construction contract. The periods of construction that will impact traffic will be restricted to minimize impacts during peak travel periods. Maintenance and protection of traffic will be carefully planned to minimize impacts to commuters. All existing ramps and highway movements will be maintained throughout the construction period.

Tentative Construction Schedule:

- Begin Construction – Summer 2012
- End Construction - Fall 2014

