



DOWNE TOWNSHIP

Nature Lover's Paradise



PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER

Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program Newport Streetscape Project Downe Township, Cumberland County Monday, July 10th, 2023 - 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

The Township of Downe and County of Cumberland is committed to ensuring transportation safety improvements that best balance the environment, community concerns, and cost. A **Public Information Center (PIC)** has been scheduled to inform residents, officials, and the community about the **Preliminary Engineering Design** of the **Newport Streetscape Project**. You are encouraged to participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail, or e-mail.

THE MEETING: The PIC meeting will be held at the Downe Township Municipal Building, **288 Main Street, Newport, NJ on Monday July 10th from 5PM to 7PM**. You are welcome to attend at any time during the allotted meeting time window and will have an opportunity to review exhibits of the project graphics, preliminary engineering plans, ask questions, and share valuable input and information with the Township's project team members. Property owners of rental units are advised that tenants are also invited and encouraged to participate.

BACKGROUND: Downe Township received a federal Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) grant through the New Jersey Department of Transportation for streetscape improvements along Baptist Road (CR656), Landing Road (CR656) and Fortescue Road (CR637) for the Newport neighborhood. The grant is being facilitated by Cumberland County and their Engineering Department on behalf of Downe Township. The improvements include constructing sidewalks and streetlights along the entire length of the project. The streetscape improvements will highlight the traditional characteristics of Newport, foster a sense of community between residents, and encourage walking within the neighborhood by providing a connected sidewalk network with streetlights.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: Currently sidewalks are only present on Landing Road with small, scattered sections throughout the other roadway segments. The lack of sidewalk discourages walking between the neighbors and community facilities and those that walk must do so across private property or in the roadways. The existing roadways are not conducive for walking as there are narrow shoulders, speeding vehicles, and poor streetlight illumination of the roadway at night.

THE PROJECT: Preliminary plans have been developed and are available on the Downe Township website at downtownnj.org. 4-foot wide concrete sidewalks are proposed on both sides of Fortescue Road from Landing Road intersection southward approximately 1,125 feet and another 250 feet southward on the east side. On Landing Road, existing sidewalks will be replaced, and/or new concrete sidewalks will be constructed on both sides of the road from Fortescue Road intersection westward for approximately 1,000 feet and eastward for approximately 700 feet. New concrete sidewalk is proposed on the north side of Baptist Road from Methodist Road to Main Street. Most concrete sidewalks will be constructed at grade to avoid the impacts of collecting and treating stormwater runoff. All existing driveways aprons will be reconstructed with concrete to meet ADA standards and the limits of reconstruction will vary based upon grading required to meet the existing grade. To increase safety, high visibility crosswalks will be installed at roadway intersections. 15-foot tall streetlights, similar in style to the streetlights in Port Norris, are proposed throughout the project along the sidewalks.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE AND COST: The Preliminary Engineering Phase of the project is expected to be completed this summer, with Final Design going into 2024. A second PIC will be held in 2024 where the construction plans will be presented to the public for comments. The construction grant amount is \$990,000. Costs for Engineering Design, Construction and Construction Inspection are being reimbursed through the Federal Transportation Alternative program, administered through NJDOT Local Aid Division.

For further information, please contact:

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