

# Meeting Info

## Public Information Center Wednesday, March 30, 2005, 4-7 p.m. West Windsor Township Municipal Building 271 Clarksville Road

### Alexander Road Bridge West Windsor Township, Mercer County



**The Meeting:** This forum is being held to inform community leaders, interest groups and individuals of the NJDOT's proposed design for replacement of the Alexander Road Bridge. A second objective is to provide educational tools to

help residents better understand roundabouts. The project will focus on replacing the deficient bridge and improve Alexander and Post Roads in the immediate vicinity of the bridge. The design includes improvements to minimize impact to surrounding properties.

**Project Description:** The Alexander Road Bridge was built in 1941. The existing bridge is over Amtrak's Northeast Corridor Rail Line serving the Mid-Atlantic Region. The NJDOT is responsible for this orphan bridge. At a roadway width of only 20' the current bridge does not meet minimum requirements for lane width. The existing bridge is in need of replacement due to its poor condition. The horizontal and vertical geometry need to meet current design standards on Alexander and North Post Road. Adequate vertical underclearance and lateral clearance of the railroad is needed. The intersection of Alexander And North Post Roads is also substandard. **The primary purpose of this project is to replace the existing bridge.** The Final Design plans include replacement of the existing bridge with a one-span bridge. The existing "T" Intersection will be replaced with a modern roundabout. The project is rich in Context Sensitive Design elements that help the improvements fit the community and needs of the motorists. Attention to detail and a focus on pedestrian needs are included in the project design.

**Final Design Plan-**The proposed plan includes two 12' lanes and a 4' shoulder. A 6' sidewalk is included on both sides of the new bridge. North Post Road will consist of two 14' lanes with a 6' sidewalk on the north side of the roadway and bridge. Five driveways along North Post Road are impacted by the roadway construction. The project design uses methods to reduce impacts to these driveways. Right-of-way, including six partial property acquisitions with easements, is required. A frontage road is included to increase driver safety and allow separation of commuter traffic from residences.

As requested by the community, the proposed design uses a balanced approach and limits improvements to discourage attracting additional traffic to the area while providing a safer environment for turning movements at the intersection. The proposed design provides adequate sight distance to ensure driver comfort navigating through the area. Right of Way negotiations have started with certain property owners.

**Construction staging, detour & duration:** There will be three (3) stages to Construction.

- **Stage 1** – Will last approximately 10 months and will include construction of the new bridge, 80% of the new retaining walls and reconfiguring the West Windsor Parking Authority Parking Lot. Access and traffic will be maintained on the existing roadway.

- **Stage 2** – Will last approximately 3 months and will detour traffic onto C.R.571 (Princeton-Hightstown Road). Construction will include completion of the retaining walls, demolition and removal of the existing bridge (Stage 2/3), and tie-in of the new roadway.
- **Stage 3** – Will last approximately 3 months and will include all landscaping features, and minor tie-in of roadways and driveways.

**Pedestrian and Residential Treatments:** Sidewalks will be



constructed throughout the project on both sides of the roadway. Crosswalks will be installed at the Roundabout and on the connecting side streets. The face of retaining walls will emulate rock and stone native to central New Jersey to fit the setting of the area. The

center of the Roundabout will include attractive colored textures to compliment the area.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force has provided input to the project and support the addition of sidewalks throughout the project. Sidewalks are also included along the west side of Alexander Road in the vicinity of the West Windsor Parking Authority. Connection of sidewalk will run from Wallace Road to the roundabout and down Alexander Road to Old Bear Brook Road. Crosswalk locations will be located in the vicinity of the roundabout, on the North Post Road leg and the Alexander Road leg toward Wallace Road.

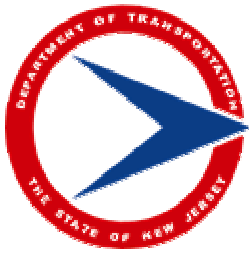
**Environmental/Cultural Resources:** A draft Categorical Exclusion Document (CED) is currently being reviewed by FHWA. This document is required if an option is selected to use Federal funds for construction. A freshwater wetlands permit and a Transition Area Waiver for Special Activities permit has been reviewed by the NJDOT. The permit application will be revised pending comments from the review. Permitting is required prior to the start of construction.

**Funding and Schedule:** Design and construction of the project are supported by State funds in the NJDOT's Capital Improvement Plan. The construction cost estimate for this project is \$9.7 million. *State funds for construction are very limited so it will be important to maintain a strict budget to ensure the project's delivery schedule.* The project is in the latter stages of Final Design. Final Design is on schedule for the project to be awarded by January 23, 2006. Construction is estimated to take about 16 months. Following this schedule Construction would be complete by about May 2007.

#### For Further Information Contact:

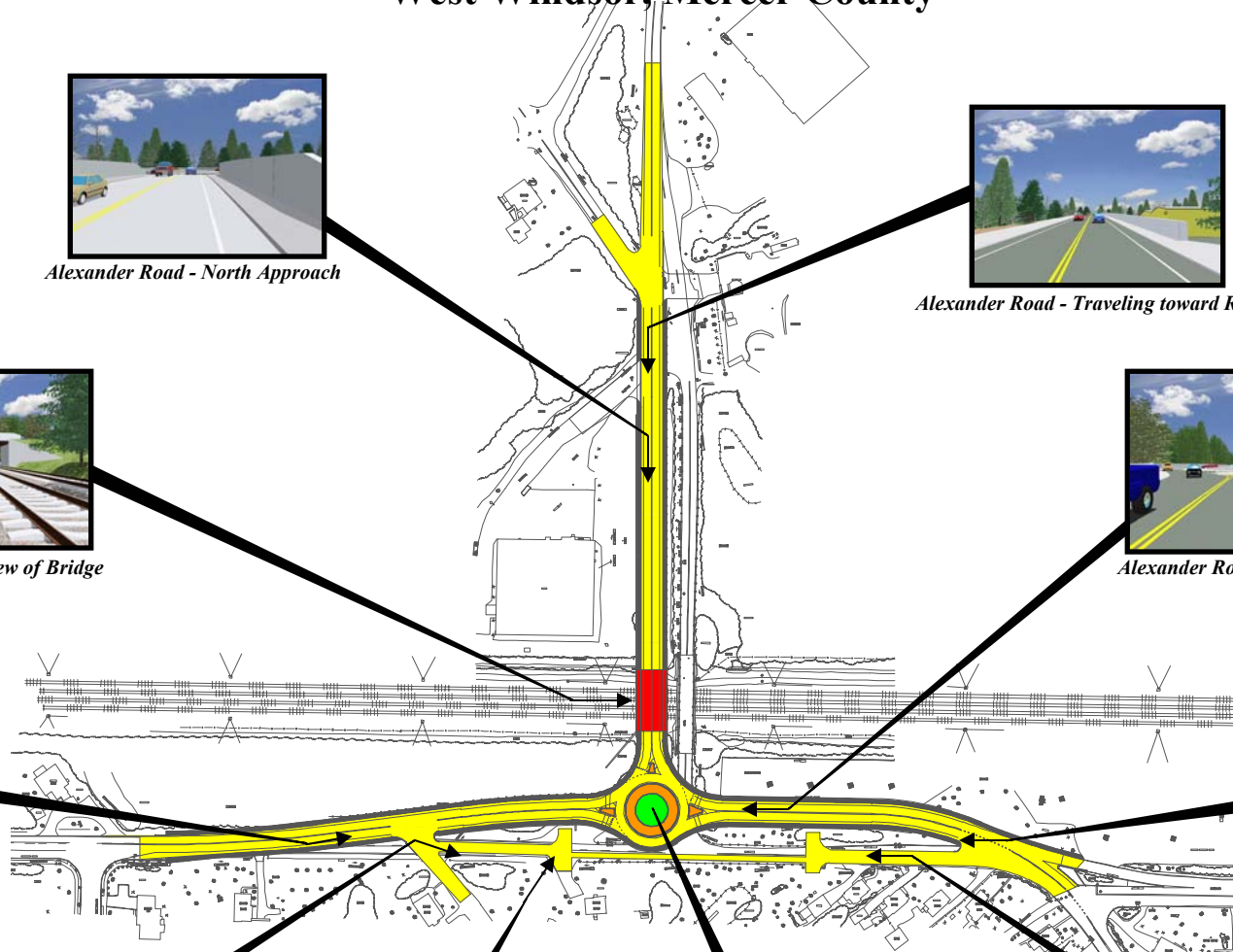
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# Alexander Road Over Amtrak NEC

## West Windsor, Mercer County



Alexander Road - North Approach



Alexander Road - Traveling toward Roundabout



West Approach - View of Bridge



Alexander Road - East Approach



North Post Road - West Approach



Alexander Road - East Approach



Frontage Road - View From West



Frontage Road - View of Retaining Wall



Aerial View of Roundabout



Frontage Road - View From East