

Toms River Waterfront & Surrounding Area Local Concept Development Study

Questions and Answers from Public Meeting (September 24, 2020)

Q1: *How much does the project cost and who will pay for it?*

A1: *There is no estimated cost for design and construction of the project at this time since the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) has not yet been determined. The LCD study will determine this PPA and is funded by Ocean County. The USDOT BUILD grant will subsequently be used to advance the project from the LCD study phase to final Construction.*

Q2: *Are there going to be parking for existing stores and offices on Water Street west of Main Street?*

A2: *We will be looking at all the roadways in the project and surrounding area while developing concepts. Looking at the existing parking supply we will evaluate its need and any potential for changes. At this time we do not know or anticipate changes on Water Street. We plan to meet with the Toms River Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) and business owners in the area to get input on how the parking serves their needs and clientele. Getting feedback from the BID and business owners in the area will help to inform the concepts that we develop.*

Q3: *In regard to the project area, the red outline appears to cut into or near the area of Hamlet Court, Messenger Street, Broad Street and others. This would be the upper left of your diagram. East of the parkway. Will this affect the wooded areas of the residential areas?*

A3: *Currently, we do not know or anticipate impacts to the wooded areas north of the Water Street/Parkway interchange. The red outline is intended to show the area where we see potential for roadway and multimodal improvements. These improvements are intended to occur within the existing right-of-way (ROW). However, the intersection of Water Street/Highland Parkway/Garden State Parkway looks to be an area where we will investigate the potential for a modern roundabout solution.*

Q4: *Since some of the area involves the Garden State Parkway entrances or exits, is the State of NJ and or NJ Transit helping to fund some of this project?*

A4: *At this point in the project Ocean County is funding the Local Concept Development Study. Once this is completed there are funds available from the USDOT BUILD Grant to progress the project into the next phases. Depending on the concepts developed during phase 1 (Local Concept Development) there may or may not be opportunities to involve the State, NJ Transit, or NJTA in discussion for additional funding. This is to be determined.*



Q5: *What is the anticipated timeline to construction of these improvements?*

A5: *The timeframe will be better determined at the end of the Local Concept Development Study once a Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) is selected. However, the USDOT BUILD Grant must be executed 5-years from the beginning of the project. With that said, we anticipate that construction bids will be released in 2023 with construction beginning before or by 2025.*

Q6: *Can you repeat the project website?*

A6: www.tomsriverdowntownstudy.com

Q7: *Will there be any condemnations on Water Street?*

A7: *The anticipation is that there will be no additional right-of-way acquisitions and all project improvements will be done within the existing right-of-way, with the exception of the Herflicker Blvd. extension that is already underway.*

Q8: *Is the website live?*

A8: *The project website has been live for about a week.*

Q9: *Will the municipal parking lot at Water Street and Irons Street still be there after this project?*

A9: *As part of the Local Concept Development process we want to minimize all right-of-way impacts to existing properties. Redevelopment of properties such as the municipal parking lot at Water Street and Irons Street is controlled by Toms River Township and is not a part of this project's Local Concept Development.*

Q10: *How are you doing a road concept when the Redevelopment plans are not finalized yet?*

A10: *We have existing roadway network data and a good understanding with Toms River on the anticipated redevelopment, as well as, the traffic impact of that redevelopment on the roadways within the project area. Working in close collaboration with Toms River Township we are able to anticipate the long term impacts of redevelopment (whether finalized or future) and develop roadway concepts that address these impacts.*

Q11: *Will there be detours during this project? Where will they be?*

A11: *It is too early in the process to say for sure if there will be planned detours for the proposed improvements and where those detours will be located. Traffic impacts as a result of construction and the necessary detours or construction staging will be addressed during the next phase of this project Preliminary Engineering (PE).*

Q12: *Will we be able to see the questions and responses given during today's Q&A during the seven (7) day public comment period?*

A12: *Yes, a summary of the Q&A will be uploaded on the project website and available for the public to view by Friday, September 25, 2020.*

