

**KEEP
SOMERSET
MOVING
TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2045**

Public Meeting #2

September 28, 2023



Meet the Project Team



Office of Planning, Policy and Economic Development

Walter C. Lane, AICP, PP, Director

Ken Wedeen, AICP, PP, Supervising Planner, Co-Project Manager

Jonathan Eagle, Senior Transportation Planner, Co-Project Manager



Peter Zambito, Principal Planner

William Long, Principal Planner

Michael Baker

INTERNATIONAL

Peter Kremer, AICP, PP, Project Manager

Anthony Durante, AICP, RSP₁, Deputy Project Mgr



John Federico, PE, AICP, PP, Planning

Heather Martin, AICP, Equity & Environmental Justice



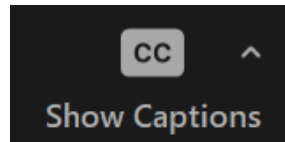
Susan G Blickstein, AICP, PP, PhD, Community Engagement



Welcome and Logistics

During the meeting:

- Your line is muted, and you won't be able to share your video or screen
- Use the "Raise Hand" function if you wish to provide comment or questions
- Caption and translation options can be found under "Show Captions" button



Durante la reunión:

- Usted está silenciado y no podrá compartir su video ni su pantalla
- Utilice la función "Chat" para poner sus preguntas y comentarios
- Las opciones de subtítulos y traducción se pueden acceder con el botón "Show Captions"

Welcome and Logistics

Additional Notes

- This meeting is being recorded
- Comments made in the chat are only visible to meeting hosts, not to other participants
- If you are having technical difficulties, please use the chat function or e-mail: [syang.sgbplanningllc@gmail.com/](mailto:syang.sgbplanningllc@gmail.com)
- We will have two breakout discussion rooms after the presentation and then reconvene for final questions and comments
- During the breakout rooms and final Q&A, participants may use the “Raise Hand” feature, found by clicking “Reactions,” to indicate they wish to speak
- The recording, presentation slides, and a copy of tonight’s Q&A will be posted at: <https://somersetcounty.mysocialpinpoint.com/>

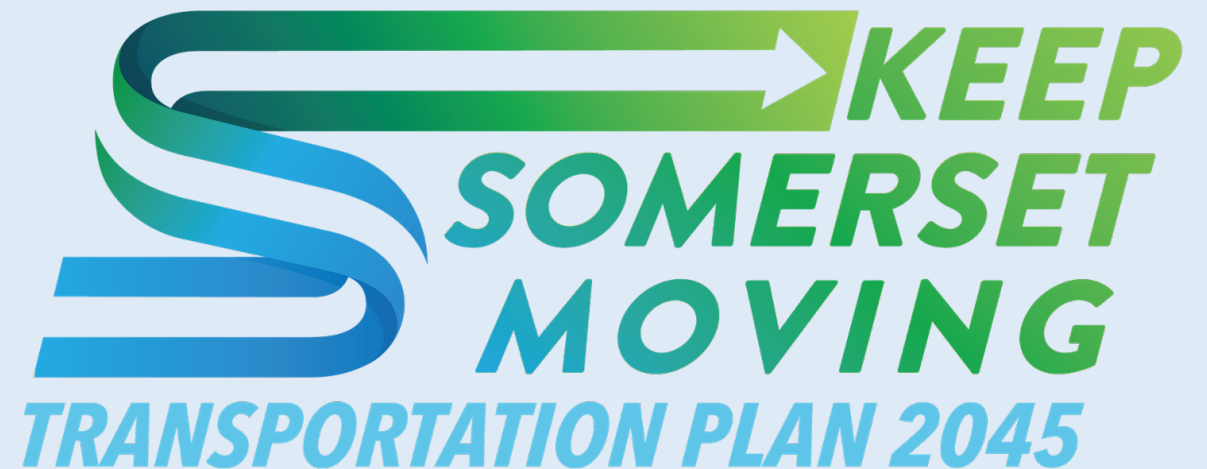




Poll Question 1

Did you participate in the first Open House meeting on February 1?

- A. Yes
- B. No

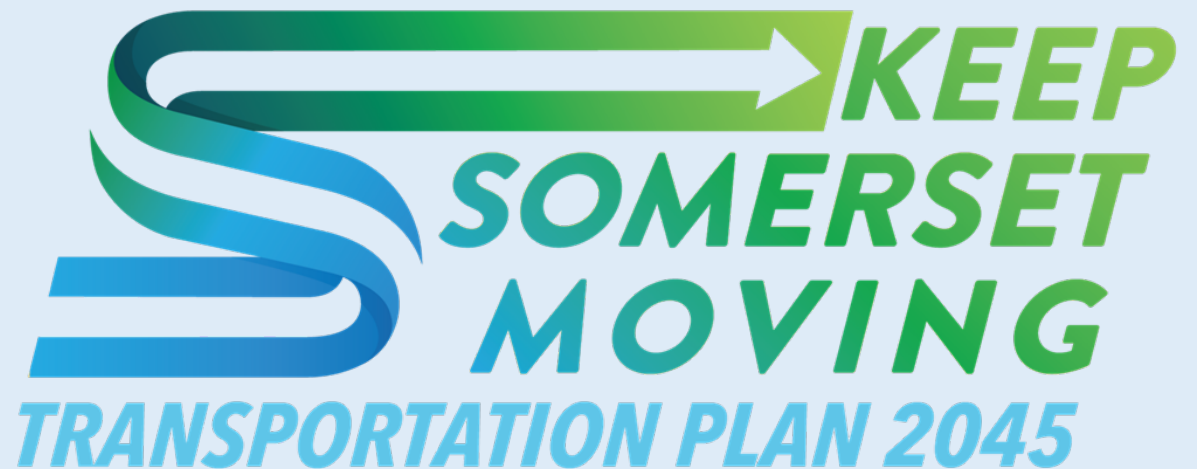




Poll Question 2

How did you find out about today's public meeting?

- A. Social Media
- B. E-mail list
- C. Word of Mouth
- D. Other



Today's Agenda

1. Purpose of Transportation Plan
2. Public & Stakeholder Outreach
3. Vision Statement and Goals
4. Strategies & Recommendations
5. Breakout Discussion Rooms
6. Q&A and Next Steps



Purpose of Transportation Plan

- Maintain the countywide multi-modal transportation system
- Ensure equitable outcomes and access to travel needs
- Collaborate with municipal and agency partners
- Guide transportation decision-making
- Develop projects for County Capital Improvement Program
- Prioritize safety, equity, and resilience



Outreach Overview

- Mix of in-person and virtual opportunities throughout the project timeline
- Dedicated plan website and promotional efforts
- Formal and informal interactive opportunities
- Inform vision, goals, and priorities
- 1000+ engagements



KEEP SOMERSET MOVING
TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2045

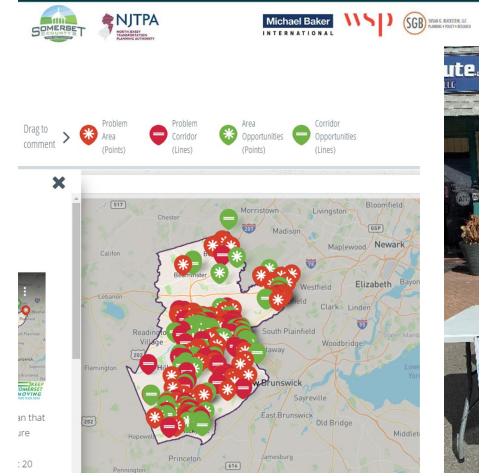
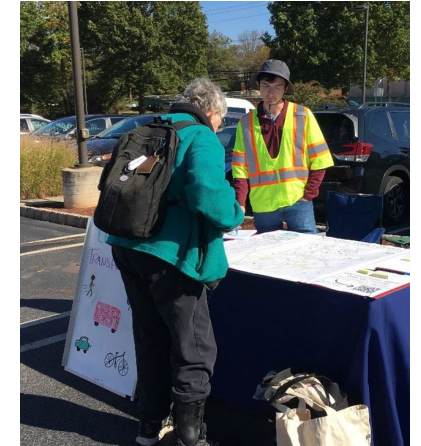
PUBLIC SURVEY OPEN!
¡LA ENCUESTA PÚBLICA ESTÁ ABIERTA!





Help guide future transportation improvements in Somerset County.
Ayude a guiar mejoras futuras de transporte en el condado de Somerset.

SHARE INPUT ON A MAP
COMPARTIR SU OPINIÓN EN UN MAPA

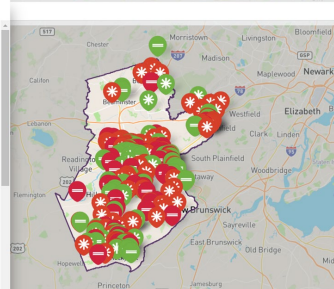
Help identify opportunities and issues with the transportation network.
Ayude a identificar las oportunidades y los problemas con la red de transporte.

PROVIDE YOUR INPUT AT / APORTE SU OPINIÓN A
somersetcounty.mysocialpinpoint.com



Drag to comment >  Problem Area (Points)  Problem Corridor (Lines)  Area Opportunities (Points)  Corridor Opportunities (Lines)

in that :20



Outreach Activities & Engagements



Key Takeaways from Outreach

- More transit
- Enhanced connectivity for walking and bicycling (first/last mile; downtowns; shopping; schools; parks)
- Impacts of increased truck traffic and conflicts at rail crossings
- Need to prepare for storms and weather events
- Improve information and traveler experience
- Changes in demographics and travel patterns

Keep Somerset Moving: Vision Statement

Create a safe, comfortable, sustainable, resilient, and connected transportation system that addresses climate change risks and is coordinated with land use decision making.

Keep Somerset Moving enhances mobility for users of all travel modes and incorporates equity throughout the planning, prioritization, project selection, community outreach, design, construction, and maintenance of projects.



Keep Somerset Moving: Plan Goals

Connected and Efficient

- Maintain and operate an efficient multimodal county transportation system
- Work collaboratively with partners to improve mobility and connections

Equitable

- Prioritize funding for projects that benefit underserved communities
- Provide reliable and affordable multimodal transportation options



Keep Somerset Moving: Plan Goals

Safe

- Enhance safety for all users with emphasis on the most vulnerable
- Promote land use policies that provide safe and convenient access to housing, jobs, services, and amenities

Smart

- Advance electric, connected, and automated vehicle technologies
- Monitor the performance of the transportation system

Sustainable and Resilient

- Create a sustainable and resilient transportation system
- Support economic development and access to opportunity



Keep Somerset Moving: Plan Recommendations

Priority Transportation Projects

- Comprehensive Project Development Process
- Priority Road and Bridge Projects

Policies and Master Planning

- Complete Streets Policy Updates
- Strengthen the Land Use and Transportation Connections
- Future Plans and Studies



Comprehensive Project Development Process

- Feed the County Capital Improvement Program
- Implement the Vision Statement
- Identify existing needs, problems, and opportunities
 - Pavement and bridge condition, traffic congestion, safety, roadway flooding
 - Build on recommendations from previous plan and studies
 - Achieve multiple goals with each project
- Collaborative process
 - County engineering, planning, others



Priority Projects

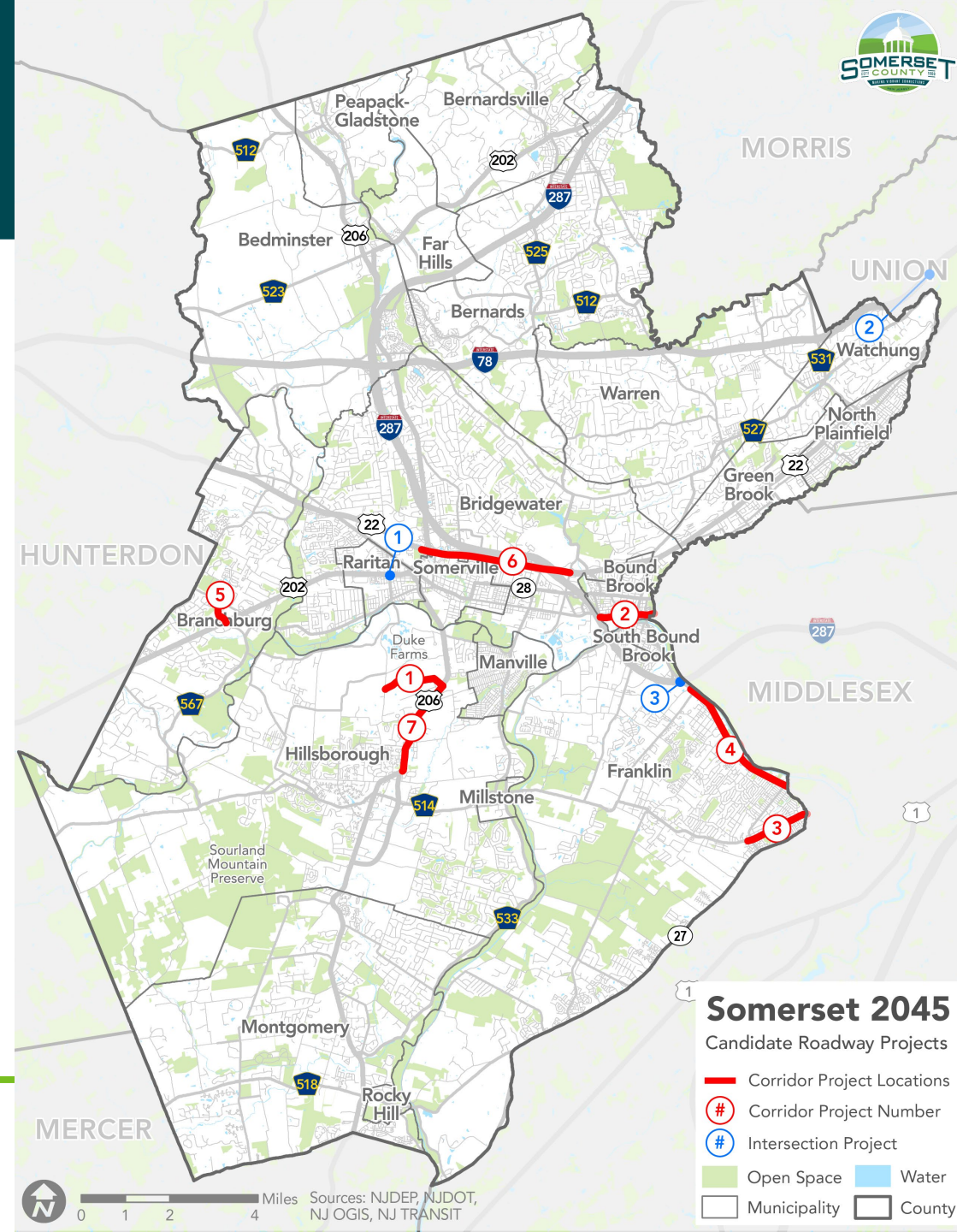
7 Corridor projects

3 Intersections and interchanges

32 Bridge repair and replacement

Based on many sources including

- Carried over from Making Connections
- New County projects
- Safety and crash data
- Stakeholder comments
- Previous plans and studies
- Proximity to transit



Roadway Projects

| Project Number | Municipality | Major Street | Minor Street, From Street, To-Street | Project Phase | Project Type | Project Recommendations and Recommendations (from various sources) |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--|--|---------------|--------------|---|
| C-2 | Bound Brook Borough | Talmage Ave/ Columbus Place/ Main St. (CR 533) | Tea Street to Bound Brook Stream | Eng (PE) | Corridor | Tea Street to Middlesex Co bdy; FY 2022 Local Safety Project |
| C-5 | Branchburg Twp | West County Drive Extension (CR 646) | U.S. 202 to Old York Road (CR 646) | Planning | Corridor | Connect U.S. 202 to Old York Road (CR 637) in Branchburg. |
| C-6 | Bridgewater Twp | U.S. Route 22 Long Term Improvements | U.S. Route 202/206 to I-287 | Eng (CD) | Corridor | Safety and capacity improvements to U.S. Route 22, between U.S. 202/206 and I-287 in Bridgewater. |
| C-4 | Franklin Twp | Easton Avenue (CR 527) | Worlds Fair Drive to Landing Lane | Eng (CD) | Corridor | FY 2023 Local Concept Development Phase |
| C-3 | Franklin Twp | Hamilton Street (CR 514) | Berry Street to Mile Run Stream | Eng (PE) | Corridor | FY 2020 Local safety project; includes design and currently in Preliminary Engineering Phase |
| C-1 | Hillsborough Twp | Brown Avenue Extension (Municipal) | U.S. 206/Brown Avenue to Roycefield Rd | Planning | Corridor | Connect U.S. 206 to Roycefield Road in Hillsborough. |
| C-7 | Hillsborough Twp | U.S. 206 Bypass and Section 15N Widening | Old Somerville Road to Brown Avenue | Design | Corridor | Complete bypass of U.S. 206 and widen section 15N from Old Somerville Road to Brown Avenue in Hillsborough |
| I-2 | Berkeley Heights (Union County) | I-78 / Diamond Hill Road Interchange | Interstate-78 | Planning | Interchange | Complete the existing interchange to provide full movements and missing connections incl. WB I-78 to Diamond Hill Road. |
| I-3 | Franklin Twp | I-287 at Easton Avenue (CR 527) Interchange | Interstate-287 | Planning | Interchange | Improve connections between the two roadways, enhance the interchange and surrounding roadways. |
| I-1 | Raritan Boro | U.S. 202 at 1st Avenue Intersection | U.S. Route 202 | Design | Intersection | Widen intersection to provide 3 travel lanes in each direction; includes traffic signal and striping improvements |



Recommendations from *WalkBikeHike*



WalkBikeHike

Somerset County

CONNECTING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

271 miles of new bike facilities

- Includes 50 potential bike projects on County roadways

| Facility Type | Existing (Miles) | Potential New (Miles) | Total (Miles) |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Trail | 140 | 99 | 239 |
| Shared Use Path | 207 | 65 | 272 |
| Bicycle Boulevard | | 10 | 10 |
| Buffered Bicycle Lane | | 11 | 11 |
| Bicycle Lane | 22 | 78 | 100 |
| Shared Lane Markings | | 8 | 8 |
| Total | 369 | 271 | 640 |



June 28, 2019



Prepared for:



Prepared by:



U.S. 206 Hillsborough Main Street

Hillsborough Town Center

Conceptual rendering of improvements and redevelopment to transform the intersection of U.S. Route 206 and Amwell Road (CR 514).

Redefining U.S. Route 206

Buildings front sidewalks to create a downtown, 'Main Street' environment.

Complete Streets

U.S. Route 206 reconfigured with on-street parking, two travel lanes, landscaped median, and bike lanes to create a multi-modal, Complete Street with low travel speeds to fit the proposed town center context.

Pedestrian Space

Broad sidewalks with street trees along the curb zone create a buffer from traffic and a pedestrian-friendly, walkable streetscape.

Village Green

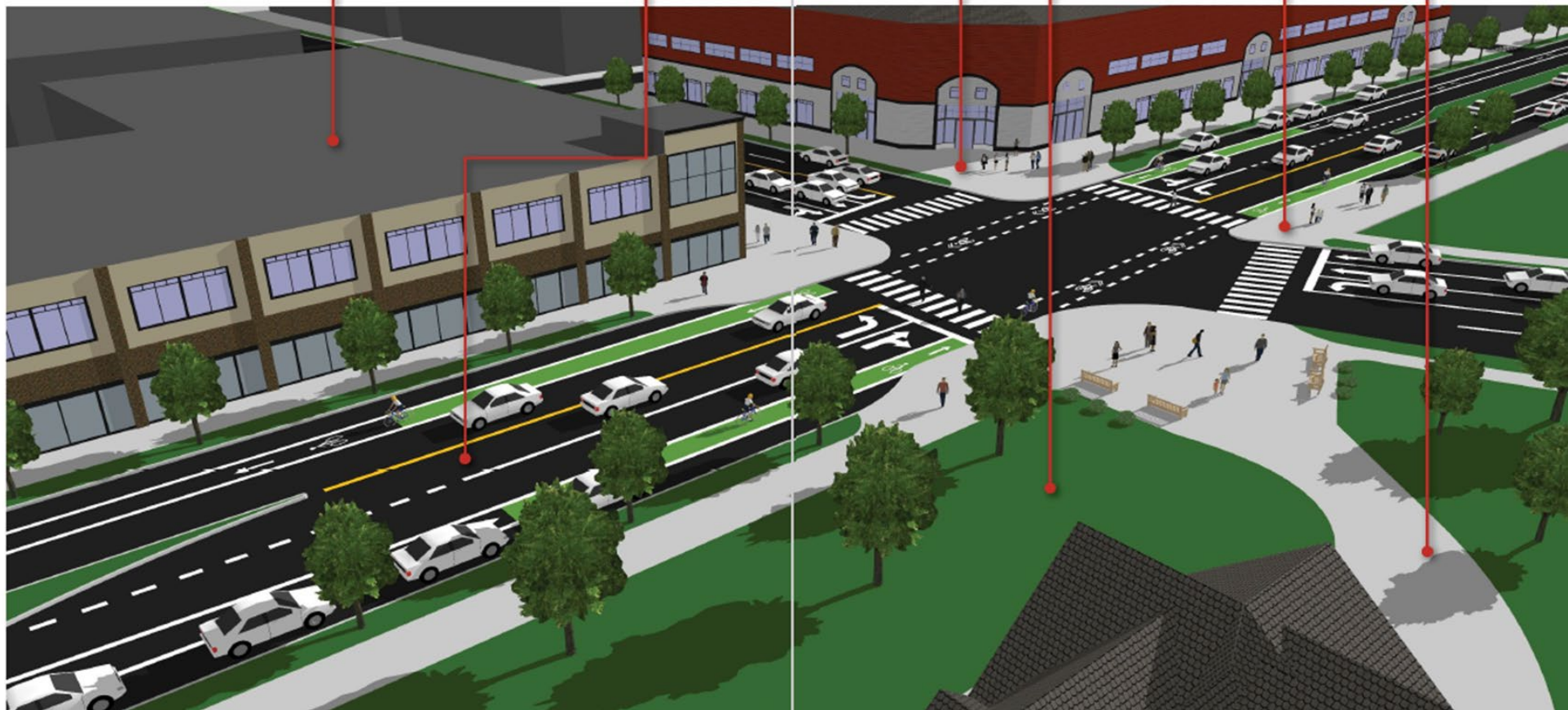
Park at northwest corner provides a village square and flexible community space at the Township's major crossroads.

Traffic Calming

Curb extensions shorten crossing, improve pedestrian visibility, provide more usable streetscape, and calm traffic.

Creative Reuse

Relocate parking at existing buildings to the rear, providing opportunities for outdoor dining and public open space.



Policies and Master Planning

Reexamine County Master Plan and Policies

- Integrated with proposed Project Development Process
- Access and connections to affordable housing locations

Collaborate with municipalities on Policies and Master Plans

- Review and update County and municipal Complete Streets policies
- Review and update County Housing Element
- Leverage the land development review to achieve plan goals

Future Plans and Studies



Strengthen Land Use-Transportation Connections: Affordable Housing Site Selection

Key Finding: Disconnect between housing locations and transportation access and opportunities

Reinforce critical link between access and affordable housing and encourage local partners to integrate land use and transportation needs in affordable housing locational decisions

Potential criteria to better inform locational decisions

- Bicycle Level of Stress and Connectivity Analysis
- Demographics and Equity Factors
- *WalkBikeHike* Framework Strategy
- Access and quality of Complete Streets and transit networks
- Proximity and access to parks and greenways



Strengthen Land Use-Transportation Connections: Land Use & Transportation Strategies

- Establish/expand mixed-use zoning and Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
- Promote use of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
- Prioritize infrastructure investments in mixed-use districts
- Pursue targeted Access Management Plans
- Leverage land development review process for mobility connections
- Incorporate the use of green infrastructure



Future Plans and Studies

Collaborate with Municipalities, NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, NJTPA

- U.S. Route 206 Corridor South: Bypass to Montgomery/Rocky Hill/ CR 518
- U.S. Route 206 Corridor North: Bridgewater to Chester Borough (Morris County)
- West Trenton Rail Restoration
- River Crossings Resiliency Study
- U.S. 206 Hillsborough Main Street
- Reimagine Somerset County Transit Study
- Regional Freight and Goods Movement Strategy



Freight and Goods Movement Strategy

Countywide or subarea Goods Movement Analysis

- Map location of existing and approved warehousing locations

Freight Strategies

- Increase sharing of intermodal freight between truck and rail
- Work with municipal partners to strengthen the land use-transportation connection
- Conduct a study of Warehousing and Goods Movement in Somerset County

Develop and Advance Projects

- Preferred alternative from Port Reading Secondary Grade Crossing Elimination Study
- Freight railroad crossings improvements from NJTPA recent grade crossing study



Breakout Room Discussion

Purpose is to Help us explore ...

- How future projects, plans, and policies can help implement our Vision Statement and goals

Two breakout discussion rooms...

County Projects:

- Comprehensive Project Development Process
- Roads and Bridge Improvements
- Pedestrian Safety, Bicycle, and Transit Improvements

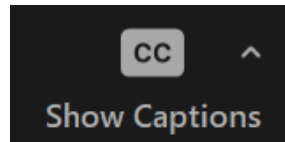
Plans & Policies:

- County master plan and policies
- Land use-transportation connections
- Future Plans and Studies
- Comprehensive Freight Strategy

Breakout Rooms

During the Breakout Rooms:

- Your line is muted, and you won't be able to share your video or screen
- Use the "Raise Hand" function if you wish to provide comment or questions
- Caption and translation options can be found under "Show Captions" button



Durante la reunión:

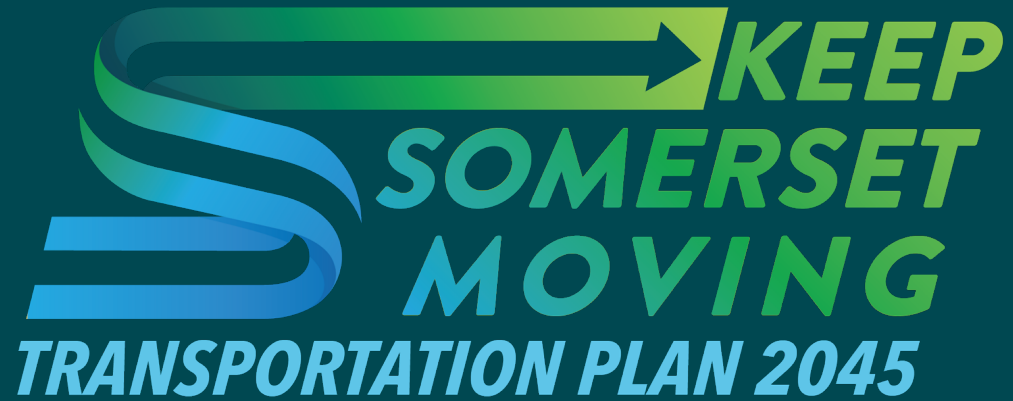
- Usted está silenciado y no podrá compartir su video ni su pantalla
- Utilice la función "Chat" para poner sus preguntas y comentarios
- Las opciones de subtítulos y traducción se pueden acceder con el botón "Show Captions"

Breakout Rooms

Room # 1: Projects

Room # 2: Plans and Policies





Questions?

Please contact either Kenneth Wedeen or Jonathan Eagle at Somerset County Co-Project Managers

Wedeen@co.somerset.nj.us or JEagle@co.somerset.nj.us

Next Steps

- Presentation available for review
- Pop-Up Events (October 2023)
- Public review and comment period
- Final adoption by Somerset County Planning Board



The poster features a green background with a white laptop graphic in the center. At the top left is the 'KEEP SOMERSET MOVING' logo with 'TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2045' below it. At the top right is the 'SOMERSET COUNTY' logo. The main title is 'VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING #2' and 'REUNIÓN PÚBLICA VIRUTAL #2'. The laptop screen contains text in English and Spanish. At the bottom, it provides the date and time: '09.28.2023 (Thurs/Jueves) 6:30 – 8:00pm, Zoom' and a QR code. The registration URL is 'somersetcounty.mysocialpinpoint.com'.

KEEP SOMERSET MOVING
TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2045

SOMERSET COUNTY

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING #2

REUNIÓN PÚBLICA VIRUTAL #2

Join us to learn more about the draft vision, goals, and preliminary recommendations for transportation in Somerset County. Spanish captioning will be provided. The presentation will be recorded.

Únase a nosotros para aprender más sobre la visión, las metas y las recomendaciones preliminares para el transporte en el Condado de Somerset. La presentación será grabada y subtítulos en español serán proporcionados.

09.28.2023 (Thurs/Jueves)
6:30 – 8:00pm, Zoom

Register for the meeting at / Registrarse a la reunión en:
somersetcounty.mysocialpinpoint.com



How to Continue Participating ...

E-mail:

KeepSomersetMoving@co.somerset.nj.us

Phone:

(908) 231-7021

Visit the Project Website

<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-works/planning-policy-and-economic-development/2022-transportation-update-3109>

