



LOCATION: TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN

SPONSOR: SOMERSET COUNTY

Intersection Improvements to Easton Avenue (CR 527) at DeMott Lane

Project Information

The purpose of this project is to implement intersection improvements at the Easton Avenue (CR 527) and DeMott Lane intersection in Franklin Township. This project is being advanced by Somerset County, as the Project Sponsor, utilizing Federal Aid funding with agency oversight from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in accordance with Federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and in compliance with the NJTPA's Local Safety Program to provide engineering design and construction. The goal of this project is to improve safety at this intersection for all roadway users, including motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. The location of the intersection is shown on the below figure.

Background

This project will include the reconstruction of the traffic signal equipment, curb, sidewalk, pavement, and median barrier in the vicinity of the intersection. Additionally, the existing multi-use path along Easton Avenue will be reconstructed from Willow Avenue to the Easton Avenue Jughandle/Taco Bell Driveway.

Easton Avenue (CR 527) in Franklin Township is an urban principal arterial which connects Interstate 287 to downtown New Brunswick. The roadway generally consists of two travel lanes in each direction, with a variable width median and variable shoulders. Left turns along Easton Avenue are accommodated by a combination of nearside jug-handles and mainline left turn lanes. Even though the corridor is a County jurisdiction, this section of Easton Avenue operates much like a state arterial highway in both design and function. The corridor is bounded by the D&R Canal and Raritan River on the east side and a mix of residential and commercial uses on the west side. Rutgers Preparatory School is located on the east side of Easton Avenue near the project area and an access point to the Township of Franklin's Meadows Foundation, including access to the D&R Canal State Park (aka the towpath), is located opposite DeMott Lane. Based on a count conducted in 2019, Easton Avenue carries approximately 43,560 vehicles per day. It is the busiest roadway under Somerset County jurisdiction.

A review of available NJ Safety Voyager crash records identifies a total of 65 crashes which occurred at the project intersection between 2019 and 2021. The predominant crash type is rear-end (68%), followed by sideswipe (14%), animal (11%), and fixed-object (7%). The rear-end (68% vs 22%) and animal (11% vs 0.2%) crash types are significantly overrepresented at this intersection compared to the NJDOT Bureau of Safety Programs 2021 Crash Statistics for signalized intersection along the County road system.



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Proposed Improvements

The current phase of this project is Preliminary Engineering (PE). During this phase of the project, the design will be advanced to a level where NJTPA, NJDOT, FHWA, local officials, stakeholders, the public and permitting agencies can attain consensus on the proposed improvements and its effects on the environment, right-of-way, traffic, access, and utilities, as well as constructability and cost.

Somerset County has proposed the following improvements to the study area:

- Replacement of the traffic signal equipment at the DeMott Lane intersection, including new signal heads with retroreflective back plates, countdown pedestrian signal heads, and ADA compliant push buttons.
- High visibility crosswalks at all pedestrian crossings within the study area.
- Reconstructed, ADA compliant multi-use path, sidewalk, and curb ramps within the project limits.
- Median barrier upgrades and installation of crash-attenuators at the intersection of Easton Avenue and DeMott Lane consistent with current standards.
- Guide rail improvements within the study area consistent with current NJDOT standards.
- Bicycle signage and physical upgrades to the multi-use path
- Improvements to D&R Canal Towpath pedestrian access from Easton Avenue

Project Schedule

Preliminary Engineering: **2020-2023**

Categorical Exclusion Document Review/Approval by NJDOT: **2024**

Final Design, including NJDEP permits and ROW Acquisition: **2025 - 2026**

Construction: **2027**

Contact Information

For more information, please contact:

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Project Website

<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-works/engineering/projects-under-design/easton-avenue-cr-527-and-demott-lane>



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Project Location Map

