



MONMOUTH COUNTY
Final Design Phase for
County Route 537, West Main Street, Corridor Roadway Improvements
Between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, New Jersey

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER SUMMARY
MEETING REPORT

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2026
TIME: 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Online via Microsoft Teams

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of the Public Information Center meeting was to inform the public of the final design plans for the proposed corridor improvements.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice of the meeting was distributed by the following methods:

- A Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting Notice (*Report Attachment A*) was mailed two weeks prior to the meeting date to property owners within 250 feet of the roadway, local officials, and community stakeholders, including businesses, residents, cultural and civic organizations, hospitals and schools. The mailing also included members of the general public who had provided contact information at prior meetings, via email, or via the project website.
- The PIC Meeting Notice was sent by email to property owners, local officials, community stakeholders, and others who provided email addresses.
- Posts were made, with links to a PDF version of the PIC Meeting Notice, to the Recent News and Upcoming Meetings pages of the project website.
- The Township of Freehold was asked to post the PIC Meeting Notice on their municipal website.
- The PIC Meeting Notice was submitted for publication in the legal notices sections of *The Star-Ledger* and *The Two River Times* newspapers.

The PIC Meeting Notice provided three ways to join the meeting - a URL address, a phone number and conference ID to join by phone (audio only), and a QR code.

MEETING SUMMARY

Approximately nineteen (19) local officials and members of the public attended the online PIC meeting. A total of thirteen (13) Project Team members also participated.

1. Welcome, Meeting Overview and Introductions

Martine Culbertson, Community Involvement Facilitator, welcomed participants to the online meeting, provided a review of the information from the PIC Meeting Notice, and noted the following meeting guidelines:

- a) Microphones should be muted and cameras off during the presentation.



- b) Questions could be submitted in the Chat box and would be read and answered, in order of receipt, during the Q&A session after the presentation
- c) Once Chat box questions were addressed, participants could use the Raise Hand feature and unmute to ask questions.
- d) Q&A would end no later than 7:55 p.m. to allow time to review next steps and make closing remarks before the meeting's end.
- e) The meeting would officially end at 8:00 p.m.
- f) The meeting was being recorded, and the recording would be posted to the project website during the 30-day comment period.

If all questions were answered before 7:55 p.m., next steps and closing remarks would be covered at that time. The project team would remain online until 8 p.m. in case any other participants joined the meeting.

Martine reviewed the meeting agenda then introduced key members the Project Team and cooperating agencies.

2. Opening Remarks

The Monmouth County Project Manager, Robert Strang-Wolf, provided opening remarks, noting the following items:

- The project is in the Final Design phase.
- The project limits extend approximately two miles from Sentinel Road to the US Route 9 interchange.
- The project is federally funded and must follow a federal project delivery process. The Local Concept Development and Local Preliminary Engineering phase have been completed, and the current Final Design phase is anticipated to be complete this coming spring. Project documents are under review by the NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT).
- In addition to the design efforts during this phase, forty-seven (47) properties within the project limits required varying degrees of acquisition, from minor temporary construction easements to full acquisition. At this time, all properties requiring full acquisition are under County ownership.
- Coordination with the various utility companies along the corridor, including JCP&L, Verizon, AT&T, Altice, NJ Natural Gas and Freehold Township Water and Sewer, is continuing.

3. Local Capital Project Delivery Program

Brian Medino, Deputy Project Manager for Hardesty & Hanover, provided an overview of the project activities in the first three phases (Local Concept Development, Local Preliminary Engineering, and Final Design) of the Local Capital Project Delivery Program. The final phase, Construction, is anticipated to start before the end of 2026.

4. Proposed Improvements

Improvements starting at Sentinel Road and moving eastward:

- The westbound left turn lane will be lengthened to provide additional storage
- One stormwater basin will be located on the eastbound side across from Victoria Court
- The eastbound left turn lane at Hospital Drive will be lengthened for additional storage and the Wells Fargo driveway will be right in/right out only

Continuing east from the Iron Bridge Road intersection:

- There will be a dedicated right turn lane from CR 537 eastbound to Iron Bridge Road.
- The existing through lane on Iron Bridge Road will be converted to a shared through and left turn lane.
- Continuing east on CR 537 beyond the intersection will be the two-way left turn lane and another stormwater basin will be near the CVS.

Continuing east from the Redwood Lane / Village Center Drive intersection:

- The left turn lane from CR 537 eastbound onto Village Center Drive will be lengthened to provide additional storage.
- The TD Bank driveway will continue to be right out and right /left in similar to existing conditions
- A right turn only lane will be added to Redwood Lane.
- Bus turnouts will be introduced on both sides of CR 537.
- Continuing east on CR 537 beyond the intersection, a concrete divider island will be added at Moore's Tavern; access to and from Moore's Tavern and Mount's Corner at this location will be right in/right out only.

Continuing east from the Stillwells Corner Road / Wemrock Road intersection:

- All approaches at the intersection will consist of two left-turn lanes, two through lanes and a right-turn only lane.
- A second southbound lane will be provided on Stillwells Corner Road, will continue past the Moore's Tavern driveway, then will taper down to one lane.
- A left turn lane for entrance to Moore's Tavern will be added northbound on Stillwells Corner Road before the intersection. This is separate from the left turn lanes onto westbound CR 537.
- The northernmost exit from the school will be removed.
- Continuing east on CR 537 beyond the intersection, a stormwater basin will be included on the westbound side of the roadway on residential lots that were acquired by Monmouth County.

Continuing east from the Castronova Way / Walmart Drive intersection:

- The eastbound left turn lane from CR 537 to Castronova Way will be lengthened to provide additional storage.
- On Castronova Way, a second dedicated left turn lane to CR 537 eastbound will be added.
- A bus stop will be provided on the southbound side of Castronova Way.
- A bus turnout will be constructed on CR 537 eastbound just beyond Walmart Drive.
- Continuing east on CR 537, the curb radii at the Walmart driveway will be increased to accommodate larger trucks.
- Another stormwater basin will be along the westbound side of CR 537 at Gibson Place.

For Gibson Place / Castronova Way

- New striping will provide for two "westbound" lanes from Gibson Place, around Castronova Way, with only one lane the other direction.

At the NJ Route 33 / CR 537 Interchange

- The bridge will be widened to provide sidewalk on the westbound side.

At the Trotters Way intersection:

- There will be three through lanes westbound at Trotters Way; the third lane will become the auxiliary lane for the ramp onto NJ 33 West.
- Vehicles making the right turn from Trotters Way onto CR 537 westbound will be required to yield to westbound traffic.

- A dedicated left turn lane will be included for vehicles the loop ramp turning onto CR 537 westbound.

Proposed improvements also include providing sidewalks on both sides of the road throughout the project limits.

In addition to the roadway and sidewalk improvements, ITS facilities for the project corridor will be installed near the Route 9 interchange. All signals will be connected to make operation and traffic flow more efficient.

5. FD Phase Work Effort

Completed work includes

- Survey
- Boring field work for sign structures and signal foundations
- Engineering technical design plans for roadway and sign structures, landscaping, lighting and signals
- Right-of-way negotiations and acquisitions
- Utility coordination for pole and underground relocations
- Construction staging
- NJDEP environmental flood hazard and wetland permitting and Freehold Soil Conservation District permitting

Right-of-Way (ROW) coordination:

- The County has acquired the necessary property rights to facilitate the construction of the roadway improvement project.

Utility coordination:

- Advanced discussions regarding utility relocation are ongoing.
- There is an opportunity to begin some relocations before road construction begins.

Construction Staging & Traffic Control:

- During construction, two lanes of traffic will be maintained in each direction during peak hours.
- One lane operations will be restricted and only permitted in off-peak hours with low traffic.
- At the NJ 33/CR537 interchange bridge, traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction while work is completed on the westbound side.
- Pedestrians will always have access to the local businesses and local streets, and driveways and local roads will be open at all times.

Environmental Items:

- Environmental permitting was conducted in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- The project was determined to have a potentially adverse effect to the Levi Solomon and West Freehold Lot 41 archaeological sites, so a memorandum of agreement was established between Monmouth County and SHPO. A Phase III study resulted, where archaeologists recover and catalog the artifacts.
- The project is in compliance with the Freshwater Wetland Protection Act and the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules.
- Several structures within the project limits were identified as potentially containing hazardous materials such as asbestos, so sampling, testing, and assessment were conducted to ensure proper materials management will be employed during construction.

- Soil erosion and sediment control certification was obtained to ensure the proper management practices are in place during construction.

Community Outreach:

- Community involvement and public outreach is ongoing with local officials and the public.
- During each phase of the project, meetings have been held first with local officials, then with community stakeholders, and then with the general public.
- The project website (www.cr537westmainstreet.com) is an effective way to keep everyone informed about the project.
- Messages sent to the project email address (info@cr537westmainstreet.com) go directly to project managers and team members.

6. Q&A Session – Comments and Questions

After the presentation, the meeting was opened to questions. Questions submitted or asked during Q&A were not official comments for the public record documentation. Official written comments had to be submitted by the following methods to be included in the public record documentation:

E-mail: info@cr537westmainstreet.com

Online: www.cr537westmainstreet.com

Mail: Robert Strang-Wolf, PE
Monmouth County Project Manager
Monmouth County Division of Engineering
Hall of Records Annex, 3rd Floor
1 East Main Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

Written comments could be submitted through the 30-day public comment period, which ended Friday, March 6, 2026.

During Q&A, Chat box questions were read aloud and answered by the project team. Participants were also invited to use the Raise Hand function and unmute to ask questions.

7. Project Next Steps

- The PIC presentation and recording will be available to view on the project website during the 30-day comment period: www.cr537westmainstreet.com.
- PIC Summary Meeting Report will post to website after 30-day public comment period ends and all questions and comments have been submitted.
- The project team will complete the Final Design plans and construction specifications.
- There will be a review and concurrence meeting with the coordinating agencies and Monmouth County to advance project to the Construction Phase.

8. Closing Remarks

Joseph Ettore, Monmouth County Engineer, thanked everyone for taking the time to participate in the meeting. He also thanked the NJDOT, NJTPA, and the project team for their continued cooperation and support.

He noted that CR 537 is a critical roadway serving Freehold Township and the surrounding region. Increased traffic volumes and development along the corridor have led to congestion, operational challenges and safety concerns, particularly at key intersections and access points. The improvements presented at this meeting are intended to improve safety and traffic flow and accommodate all users of the roadway.

Public involvement remains an important part of the process, even in Final Design. Joe encouraged everyone to submit their comments online, by email, or by regular mail as previously described and within the comment period.

Closing remarks ended at approximately 6:30 p.m., however, the Project Team remained online in case any other members of the public joined the meeting prior to the scheduled 8:00 p.m. end time. One additional question was asked in the Chat box and answered by the project team. No other attendees joined after that the time frame. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- During the PIC meeting Q&A session, a CentraState representative asked for a separate coordination meeting with the County. The County Project Manager would contact them directly to schedule the meeting.
- During the 30-day public comment period, a total of four (4) comments were received from three (3) individuals. The comments and responses provided to the individuals are in Report Attachment B. (Personal information was redacted from the comments and responses before the report was posted to the project website.)
- Please visit the project website for future updates: www.cr537westmainstreet.com
- Please send questions or comments to: info@cr537westmainstreet.com

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the summary within three (3) working days of receipt. Without notification, it will be considered to be a record of fact.

CR537 West Main Street Corridor Improvements Project Team



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PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER SUMMARY
MEETING REPORT

ATTACHMENT A

PIC Meeting Notice



MONMOUTH COUNTY
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Online Public Information Center Meeting

The County of Monmouth will be hosting an online Public Information Center meeting to inform local residents, organizations, businesses and the general public about the Final Design phase for the County Route 537, West Main Street, Corridor Roadway Improvements between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange. The meeting and project implementation are in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA).

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public of the final design plans for the proposed corridor improvements. The meeting is being conducted in conformance with federal and state regulations.

Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Place: Online via Microsoft Teams at <https://bit.ly/cr537pic-020426>

Meeting ID: 256 133 553 492 52 Passcode: yT7R2aF9

Or call in (audio only): 1-929-336-2435 Phone conference ID: 781 169 541#



This is an online meeting with a slide presentation and Q&A session. If you have a visual or hearing limitation/disability, contact Robert Strang-Wolf at info@cr537westmainstreet.com or 732-431-7760 no later than Friday, January 30, 2026, for assistance.

The public is invited and encouraged to comment on the corridor roadway improvements project. Written comments will be accepted through Friday, March 6, 2026. Comments may be submitted in any of the following ways:

E-mail: info@cr537westmainstreet.com

Online: www.cr537westmainstreet.com

Mail: Robert Strang-Wolf, PE
County Project Manager
Monmouth County Division of Engineering
Hall of Records Annex, 3rd Floor
1 East Main Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

This meeting is open to all members of the public. For additional information, please visit the project website at www.cr537westmainstreet.com

If you are unable to attend, a video of the presentation and a PDF of the presentation slides will be available after the meeting on the project website: www.cr537westmainstreet.com



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PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER SUMMARY
MEETING REPORT

ATTACHMENT B

PIC Comments and Responses
(Personal information redacted)



MONMOUTH COUNTY
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Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting No. 1 – February 4, 2026

Comments and Project Team Responses

Commenter #1

Subject: Meeting

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 1/27/2026, 12:39 PM

To: info@cr537westmainstreet.com

CC: [REDACTED]

Good Afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED] of the Freehold Township PreK-eighth grade School District. When this project was first drafted years ago, representatives from the county came to meet with [REDACTED] our Business Administrator, and me. Is it possible to meet with us again so that we can ensure we don't lose access to our school properties and so we can plan appropriately for any detours or temporary closures will take place?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Freehold Township School District
384 West Main Street
Freehold, New Jersey 07728
(732) 462-8400 [REDACTED]

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From: Strang-Wolf, Robert <robert.strang-wolf@co.monmouth.nj.us>

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Brian Medino (bmedino@hardestyhanover.com) <bmedino@hardestyhanover.com>; Martine Culbertson <maculbertson@verizon.net>; Ettore, Joseph <joseph.ettore@co.monmouth.nj.us>

Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 08:45:59 AM EST

Subject: Clifton T. Barkalow Middle School

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for attending our Public Information Center last Wednesday. You have requested a coordination meeting. We can set up a virtual meeting at your convenience. Please provide a few dates and times that you are available, and we will coordinate our schedules.

Thank you,

Bob

Robert J. Strang-Wolf, P.E.

Principal Engineer II



Monmouth County Division of Engineering

Hall of Records Annex

One East Main Street

Freehold NJ 07728

Phone 732 431-7760

Robert.Strang-Wolf@co.monmouth.nj.us

From: [REDACTED]
To: Strang-Wolf, Robert <robert.strang-wolf@co.monmouth.nj.us>
Cc: Brian Medino (bmedino@hardestyhanover.com) <bmedino@hardestyhanover.com>; Martine Culbertson <maculbertson@verizon.net>; Ettore, Joseph <joseph.ettore@co.monmouth.nj.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 12:29:42 PM EST
Subject: Re: Clifton T. Barkalow Middle School

Thank you for following up. We are available next week as follows:

Tuesday, 2/17 11:00-1:30
Wednesday, 2/18 11-2:30

Thank you,

[REDACTED]



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Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting No. 1 – February 4, 2026

Comments and Project Team Responses

Commenter #2

Subject: CR537 West Main Street Contact Us Submission

From: CR537 West Main Street <no-reply@cr537westmainstreet.com>

Date: 2/13/2026, 9:49 PM

To: info@cr537westmainstreet.com

Full Name:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

Comment:

We received the mailing for the Feb 4 PIC meeting today, Feb 13? We would have attended as our driveway is on the affected [REDACTED] I could not find the video presentation of the meeting as described in the late letter.

Do you want to be a stakeholder? Yes

[commstakeholder]

[REDACTED]

Subject: CR 537 West Main Street Roadway Improvements Project PIC Meeting Recording
From: CR 537 West Main Street Corridor Roadway Improvements Project
<info@cr537westmainstreet.com>
Date: 2/24/2026, 10:22 AM
To: c [REDACTED]
CC: Monmouth County West Main Street <info@cr537westmainstreet.com>

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your inquiry. The meeting recording is posted and available to view until the end of the public comment period. A PDF of the slide presentation is also available to view or download. For direct access, please click either item below:

[PIC Meeting No. 1 – Meeting Recording – 2/4/26](#)
[PIC Meeting No. 1 – PowerPoint Presentation – 2/4/26](#)

As a reminder, the public comment period will last through Friday, March 6, 2026. Comments may be submitted in any of the following ways:

E-mail: info@cr537westmainstreet.com

Online: www.cr537westmainstreet.com

Mail: Robert Strang-Wolf, PE
County Project Manager
Monmouth County Division of Engineering
Hall of Records Annex, 3rd Floor
1 East Main Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

Your continued interest in the CR 537 Roadway Improvements project is appreciated.

Regards,
CR 537, West Main Street, Roadway Improvements Project Team

Robert J. Strang-Wolf, P.E.
Principal Engineer, Civil / Monmouth County Project Manager
Monmouth County Division of Engineering and Traffic Safety
info@cr537westmainstreet.com

Martine A. Culbertson
Community Involvement Facilitator
M.A. CULBERTSON, LLC
856-795-8485
info@cr537westmainstreet.com



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Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting No. 1 – February 4, 2026

Comments and Project Team Responses

Commenter #3

Subject: Corridor Roadway Improvements

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 2/5/2026, 2:52 PM

To: "info@cr537westmainstreet.com" <info@cr537westmainstreet.com>

Robert,

Are you able to provide me with meeting notes or improvement specifics of any kind discussed at yesterday's Online Public Information Meeting?

Anything to help me understand what and when the changes are going to be along 537.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]
Freehold, NJ
[REDACTED]

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From: Strang-Wolf, Robert <robert.strang-wolf@co.monmouth.nj.us>

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Brian Medino (bmedino@hardestyhanover.com) <bmedino@hardestyhanover.com>; Martine Culbertson <maculbertson@verizon.net>

Sent: Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 03:47:24 PM EST

Subject: RE: Corridor Roadway Improvements

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

I have attached a slide from our presentation last night. It has the website address for the project. The website has the entire presentation posted which will answer your questions. We anticipate the project being bid this fall with an anticipated start date in March of 2027.

Thank you,
Bob

FINAL DESIGN PHASE

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ANTICIPATED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEDULE

Local Officials Meetings No. 1, No.2 and No. 3	Feb 2021, June 2023, August 2025
Community Stakeholders Meetings No.1	Sept 2021
Public Information Center Meeting	February 4, 2026

Project Website:

www.cr537westmainstreet.com

Email Address:

info@cr537westmainstreet.com



Roadway Improvements to County Route 537 Corridor Final Design
Public Information Center Meeting (February 4, 2026)