



Thursday, July 21st, 2022 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Safe Routes to School Grant – Sooy Elementary School Area Sidewalk and ADA Ramp Improvements
Third Street, North Street, Fourth Street, Walnut Street and Old Forks Road
Town of Hammonton, Atlantic County**

The Town of Hammonton is committed to ensuring transportation safety improvements that best balance the environment, community concerns, and cost. The Town will hold a **Public Information Center (PIC)** to inform residents, officials, and the community about the **Preliminary Engineering Design of the Safe Routes to School – Sooy Elementary School Area Sidewalk and ADA Ramp Improvements project**. You are encouraged to participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail, or e-mail.

THE MEETING:

The PIC meeting will be held in the **Council Chambers at Town Hall, 100 Central Avenue on Thursday July 21st from 6PM to 8PM**. You are welcome to attend at any time during the allotted meeting time window and will have an opportunity to review exhibits of the Preliminary Construction Plans, ask questions, and share valuable input and information with the Town's project team members. Property owners of rental units are advised that tenants are also invited and encouraged to participate.

BACKGROUND:

Hammonton received a grant through the New Jersey Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program to construct pedestrian safety improvements to the south and west of Warren E. Sooy Elementary School on 4th Street. The goal of the proposed project is to improve upon the existing conditions, fill in gaps in the sidewalk and create a safe pedestrian corridor to the Sooy Elementary School to encourage students and residents to utilize the sidewalk infrastructure.

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

Currently there are large gaps between sections of sidewalks and either no existing or, if existing, non-compliant curb ramps. In addition, several of the existing sections of sidewalk are not compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. 3rd Street, a County Road, has a high volume of traffic and 40 MPH posted speed limit with no warnings to motorists of the pedestrian crossing at the North Street intersection. The intersection of 4th Street and North Street has a high volume of traffic from school pickup and drop-off which occurs concurrently when children walking to school are crossing 4th Street at North Street.

THE PROJECT:

The Town of Hammonton is currently evaluating alternatives to improve pedestrian safety that is to encourage students to utilize the sidewalk infrastructure nearby Sooy Elementary School. The program extends along a short portion of Third Street (Atlantic County Road No. 724) from its intersection with North Street to approximately 335' east thereof, along North Street from Third Street to Fourth Street, along Fourth Street from North Street to Walnut Street, along Walnut Street from Fourth Street to Old Forks Road, and along Old Forks Road from a point approximately 500 feet west of the Walnut Street intersection to the Road of Excellence intersection. The work is to be constructed within the existing public right-of-way. All existing driveways aprons where sidewalk is present will be reconstructed to meet ADA standards and the limits of reconstruction will vary based upon grading required to meet the existing topography. Existing curb ramps within the project limits will be upgraded to meet current ADA standards. Additionally, to increase visibility and safety, existing crosswalks located at North Street crossing of 3rd Street and North Street crossing of 4th Street will be upgraded and equipped with solar powered Pedestrian Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons system. Several trees may be unavoidably impacted by the design, and, at a minimum, an equal number of plantings will be proposed in the same area. Every attempt is being made to prevent the removal of trees throughout the project limits. Some drainage improvements are anticipated throughout the project area resulting from placing curbs where none currently exists to collect stormwater that flows off the street at these locations. The various alternative sidewalk sections that are currently being evaluated will be presented at the PIC for public input in determining the final improvement layout and development of the Approved Project Plan (APP).

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE AND COST:

The Preliminary Engineering Phase of the project is expected to be completed by this fall, with Final Design starting thereafter and lasting through 2023. A second PIC will be held in late 2023 where the construction plans will be presented to the public for comments. The construction grant amount is \$502,000. Costs for Engineering Design, Construction and Construction Inspection are being reimbursed through the Federal SRTS program, administered through NJDOT Local Aid.

For further information, please contact:

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