

## **New Jersey Avenue Traffic Signal Synchronization, Road Diet and Resurfacing Project**

### **Project overview provided by the Cape May County Engineer**

The County of Cape May has awarded a \$13 million dollar roadway reconstruction and traffic signal synchronization contract to improve New Jersey Avenue (Cr 621) from Rambler Road to Rio Grande Avenue . The project also includes the creation of a parking area/ community event hub situated between Sweetbriar Road and Aster Road which is a Wildwood Crest initiative known as Crest Station. Crest Station be constructed as part of the larger County project under a shared services agreement between the County and Borough. Completing both projects under one construction contract will result in cost savings to the Borough by taking advantage of common contractual expenses and will reduce the impact on residents and minimize traffic disruptions since both projects will occur concurrently.

The work to be performed under this contract includes the road reconstruction of New Jersey Avenue (CR 621) from Rambler Road to Cresse Avenue in Wildwood Crest, a distance of 0.90 miles, along with upgrades to the existing traffic signals from Rambler Road to Rio Grande Avenue. The roadway cross section will be modified from the existing four thru lane section into two thru lanes and a center turning lane. The roadway reconstruction work scope includes the removal of the existing asphalt and subbase and replacement with a new 6” dense graded aggregate subbase and a 7 ½” thick asphalt paving section. The roadway curb to curb width will be maintained, however the work will include the replacement of the existing concrete curb and concrete gutter along the entire length of the project and the replacement of concrete sidewalks as needed to maintain proper grade and drainage. In addition, the reconstruction of New Jersey Avenue will also include drainage improvements consisting of new inlets and piping, and traffic signal improvements. All existing traffic signals will be upgraded with new traffic signals within the Borough of Wildwood Crest and in the City of Wildwood north to Rio Grande Avenue.

The reconstruction of New Jersey Avenue will also include traffic calming measures within the business district between Columbine Road to Heather Road. Within this subsection of the project, a center landscaped median will be constructed and lined with concrete curb. The project will also consist of the creation

of a 5' wide dedicated bike lane in the northbound and south bound directions. Traffic striping will consist of epoxy stripes and crosswalks. The center median located outside of the business district along the project length will receive painted thermoplastic markings/gores. All, of the roadway improvements and traffic signal upgrades are being funded by the County.

The new hub area known as Crest Station will consist of a parking area/special event area located along the easterly side of New Jersey Avenue between Sweetbriar Road and Aster Road. This area will provide diagonal off-street parking spaces and will be situated within a parking area that will receive decorative concrete serving as the parking lot surface. Benches, landscaping, decorative area lighting and street scape paver treatments will be part of this improvement as it will serve to provide parking and act as a community meeting area for future events. This portion of the project is being funded by the Borough of Wildwood Crest.

A total of 11 existing traffic signals will be upgraded as part of the project. The signals are located both within the roadway reconstruction limits of New Jersey Avenue (Rambler Road, Palm Road, Rosemary Road, Sweetbriar Road, Cardinal Road, Aster Road, and Heather Road) as well as outside of the roadway reconstruction limits (Cresse Avenue, Hildreth Avenue, Hand Avenue and Rio Grande Avenue). Typical traffic signal work includes the construction of new signal foundations, standards and mask arms, new junction boxes, and underground conduit, new controllers, signal heads, and pedestrian signal assemblies as well as new street signage.

Due to the amount of the work associated with various portions of the project, work will take place over two construction phases. Work will commence as part of Phase 1 on September 7, 2026 and extend until a planned seasonal shutdown on May 15, 2027. Work will resume as part of Phase 2 on September 7, 2027 with a final completion date of May 15, 2028. The following work activities will occur within the two phases of construction:

**Phase 1 –Required work (September 7, 2026 to May 15, 2027):**

The minimum required work will include the reconstruction of the roadway from Rambler Road to Columbine Road. This phase shall include the completion of all drainage work, concrete curbs and flatwork, new subbase and paving section including the final surface course paving, and the completion of all traffic signals within this phase limit. All restoration shall be completed and all contract work for this section of the roadway shall be completed by the end of phase 1 so that this portion of New Jersey Avenue is entirely complete and operational by May 15, 2027.

**Phase 2 work (September 7, 2027 to May 15, 2028):**

The phase 2 work shall include the reconstruction of the remaining roadway reconstruction work from Columbine to Cresse Avenue, and any signal intersections not completed as part of phase 1. In addition, the construction of the Crest Station improvements between Sweetbriar Road to Aster Road shall be completed as shall all landscaping, streetscaping, lighting and irrigation associated with the project.

During the construction phases, residents and businesses will always have access to their properties. As construction activities proceed, one direction of travel will be maintained along New Jersey Avenue while the other direction is detoured around the work zone.