



# *BOROUGH OF WOODSTOWN*

P.O. Box 286

Woodstown, New Jersey 08098-0286

May, 2015

Dear Woodstown residents and business owners:

This letter is being delivered to residents and business owners who reside on East Avenue and West Avenue (Route 40 in Woodstown), North Main Street (Route 45 in Woodstown) and nearby side streets.

For some time we have been discussing three major road improvements with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) that will mostly occur during 2016 and 2017 on those two state highways.

While most of the work will occur in 2016/2017, there will be some preliminary work in 2015. Residents on North Main will see work on crosswalks. Residents on East Avenue from just east of the RR tracks through to Elm Street will see a "maintenance" project within the next two months to smooth that part of East Avenue until the major rebuild in late 2016/2017.

The purpose of this letter is to give you advance notice of plans as they exist today. We want to keep you as informed as we can and encourage you to keep in touch with us if you have any questions during the next two years as you see progress unfold.

- (1) The first project will be the resurfacing of Route 45 for a length of 12 miles, starting at Bowen Avenue in Woodstown, progressing up all of North Main Street, past the end of Woodstown, and continuing north on Route 45 for miles past Mullica Hill. NJDOT is putting the project out to bid in June of 2015 and expects to do most of the work in 2016. They currently expect to have work done to improve handicapped access to sidewalk crossings during the autumn of 2015. This resurfacing is very much needed in our town due to heavy wear on North Main Street, especially in the area of the Marlton Road intersection.
- (2) The second project will be the rebuilding of the intersection of Route 40 and 45 in the heart of Woodstown. It will start at the railroad tracks, continue west on Route 40 to Green Street and north on North Main Street to Bowen Avenue. The "island" at the corner of Routes 40 and 45 will be taken out to improve traffic flow, vehicle safety and noise from "swerving and accelerating" trucks. The sidewalk in front of First National Bank will be made wider so that the pedestrian crossing is shorter and safer. Several other pedestrian crossing improvements will be made, including (1) moving the crosswalk in front of the Post Office to the other side of the western part of the Post Office driveway (closer to town) to improve visibility of pedestrians by vehicles coming east on Route 40, (2) putting more modern, "timed" crosswalk lights at the 45/40 corner, and (3) moving the North Main crosswalk that is in front of Papa Luigi's to the other side of Bowen Avenue, closer to downtown. This will be a major road reconstruction project; the road will be rebuilt to a depth of 18 inches. The contract is expected to be awarded in late 2016 and the work done in 2017. Detailed

plans and past meeting notes between us and NJDOT for this important project can be found on the borough's website: <http://www.historicwoodstown.org>

- (3) The third project will be the resurfacing of East Avenue (Route 40) starting at the Corner Bar and extending east for a little less than 6 miles, well past the end of Woodstown to the Pole Tavern intersection of Route 77. This improvement is desperately needed due to heavy wear on East Avenue, and the resulting noise and vibrations from trucks using Route 40. The current plans call for also awarding the contract in summer 2016. We now anticipate construction will start in the autumn of 2016.

As a preliminary step, in the next couple of months a "maintenance project" will be done in the part of East Avenue that goes from the RR tracks east through to Elm Street. About 1.5 inches of the top of the road will be removed and replaced with smoother asphalt. This will help with reducing noise and vibrations from traffic in the area. Please note that this preliminary "maintenance" work is designed to only last until we get the full road resurfacing in 2016/2017 described above.

These important road improvement projects will enhance public safety and the quality of life in Woodstown. It is our privilege to coordinate with the NJDOT to represent the interests of our residents. We will continue to monitor their progress and their schedule and, whenever possible, represent the best interests of effected Woodstown residents in their project design and scheduling decisions. Please note that our role is to encourage the state to make these improvements. Final decisions about project design and scheduling are of course completely up to the NJDOT since both Route 40 and 45 are state roads, and hence owned by the state.

None of these projects require any payment by the Borough of Woodstown. They are all fully funded by the state. They will not have any effect on property taxes.

When the construction actually takes place there will be noise, disruption and the usual hassle experienced with the use of heavy equipment. In advance, we thank you for your patience and understanding during the construction period.

As with any set of plans, things can (and often do!) change. We will do our best to keep you informed via the borough's website.

If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to send one of us an email or come to a borough council meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 7PM each month) to discuss in person. Our email addresses are listed below. If we don't know the answers we'll try to get them for you, or possibly to steer you to the right person to get an answer as best we can.

Sincerely,

Deb Tierno



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