

RESOLUTION 2020 – 228

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY PETITIONING NJDOT CONSIDER WIDENING IMPROVEMENTS TO OCEAN COUNTY ROUTE 9 CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, Ocean County recently was notified that major widening improvements considered for the route 9 corridor running from Toms River through Lakewood have been shelved and deemed not worthwhile by the New Jersey Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the State's proposal to do pavement upgrades and some low cost high impact intersection improvement to this corridor amount to nothing short of basic maintenance of the road; and

WHEREAS, the major improvements including widening the road and adding new lanes, is the work that is necessary to upgrade the Route 9 corridor finally meet the needs of the fastest growing areas of Ocean County; and

WHEREAS, clearly abandoning the larger scope of this proposal does nothing but exacerbate further a critical transportation problem that is being experienced daily on this roadway; and

WHEREAS, other than Route 9, motorists in Ocean County have the Garden State Parkway for north south travel use including for work, medical appointments and public safety evacuations. However, Route 9 provides access to all local roads and is the most heavily used corridor in Ocean County; and

WHEREAS, Route 9 has been studied continuously over the years by the state DOT and while the most recent conceptual development study failed to treat the County as a partner and did not honor the study process, it still should have resulted in the road being improved through widening with additional lanes; and

WHEREAS, Route 9 in Ocean County has not been widened or drastically improved since the days of the stagecoach. This particular area – between Lakewood and Toms River – is our fastest growing area and the decision to not do the major widening improvements creates nothing more than additional hazards brought on by unprecedented congestion all filtered into two lanes, one north, one south; and

WHEREAS, our continuing requests to improve a major highway in Ocean County are not unreasonable and yet they continue to fall on the deaf ears of

the State agencies charged with overseeing the maintenance of this roadway;
and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey appears perfectly content with taking the hard earned money of Ocean County motorists and commuters through its toll hike increases, gas taxes and the like, yet it cannot seem to help Ocean County by providing major improvements to the State's badly maintained and often fraught with safety concerns corridor; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County can no longer wait for these types of improvements to come to Route 9. The future is right here. The continuing growth, the congestion, the accidents, will not wait for the State to finally decide that keeping ocean County drivers and pedestrians safe on this road should be considered a priority; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County residents anticipate these improvements and they should expect no less from the State of New Jersey to advance this work and get it done.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey demands the NJ Department of Transportation reconsider its decision to abandon this project and move forward with it for the safety of all those using this roadway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body calls upon Ocean County legislators to petition the NJ Department of Transportation to get this necessary project into construction and have it completed in a timely manner to eliminate bottlenecks and ongoing traffic concerns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Phil Murphy; NJ Department of Transportation; NJ Turnpike Authority; the 9th, 10th, 12th & 30th Legislative Districts; Senate President; Assembly Speaker; Ocean County Municipalities and the Ocean County Mayor's Association.

CERTIFICATION

I, Michele Rivers, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that this resolution was duly adopted by the governing body at their meeting held on the 9th day of July, 2020, a quorum being present and voting in the majority.

Michele Rivers, RMC
Municipal Clerk