

RESOLUTION #2023-139

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LACEY, COUNTY
OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SUPPORTING THE
TOWNSHIPS APPLICATION FOR CONGRESSIONALLY
DIRECTED SPENDING FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE
RAILROAD AVENUE EXTENSION NORTH AND SOUTH
PHASE 2 AND 3**

WHEREAS, The Township of Lacey is seeking funding through the Congressionally Directed Spending Funds (CDS); and

WHEREAS, Congressionally Directed Spending items can promote economic development, education, health care initiatives, and other worthy investments in communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lacey is requesting funding and support for the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South from Station Drive to Lacey Road and from Musket Drive to South Street; and

WHEREAS, this roadway will divert traffic to a parallel roadway specified in a carefully planned local alternate route plan provides an effective response to facilitating increased mobility and improved travel time reliability in a roadway corridor until such time as the State of NJ can address US Highway Route 9 expansion; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the project is to improve operational efficiency and alleviate traffic congestion on U.S. Highway Route 9 to improve mobility in the busy commercial area. The Route 9 corridor is a highly traveled corridor and currently experiences high levels of congestion during peak times. This roadway improvement will help ease congestion in the area and improve safety conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Township proposes to alleviate traffic congestion along Route 9. The preferred alternate route would provide a new 2-lane limited-access alternate parallel route to Route 9 from Lacey Road south to Station Drive and from Musket Drive North to South Street, while improving access points along the alternate route. The new roadway would consist of two travel lanes with a multiuse path known as the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail which is a joint project with the County of Ocean; and

WHEREAS, this project is fully consistent with the NJTPA's federally approved long-range transportation plan, "Plan 2050 – People. Transportation. Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA supports federal funding for this project and can add the project to the TIP should it receive designated federal funding; and

WHEREAS, Lacey Township is seeking funding to construct the roadway in the amount of \$6,119,345.00 (Construct Costs: \$5,319,345; Engineering: \$800,000)

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Lacey, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township of Lacey governing body supports the CDS funding request for the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South to reduce traffic congestion and to minimize the stress on residents, commuters, delivery persons by having access to an alternate route.

2. The governing body is of the opinion that it is in the best interests of its citizens and residents of Lacey Township to see this project completed.

3. Completion of this project will also complete the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail in Ocean County which is a joint project with the County of Ocean.

4. Successful funding of this project is supported by the NJTPA, the 9th Legislative District, the County of Ocean, the residents and the business community.

5. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Senator Menedez, Senator Booker, Congressman Smith, Congressman Van Drew, Senator Connors, Assemblyman Rumpf, Assemblywoman Gove, NJTPA, NJDOT and the County of Ocean.

CERTIFICATION

I, VERONICA LAUREIGH, do hereby certify that I, the undersigned, am the Township Clerk of the Township of Lacey and am duly authorized to certify resolutions adopted by the Township Committee held at a regular meeting on the 23rd day of **MARCH, 2023**


VERONICA LAUREIGH
Municipal Clerk/Administrator



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS
SENATOR - 9TH DISTRICT
SenConnors@njleg.org

9TH DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE OFFICES
620 WEST LACEY ROAD
FORKED RIVER, NJ 08731

OCEAN & BURLINGTON COUNTY:
(609) 693-6700 OR (732) 240-0266

ATLANTIC COUNTY:
(609) 407-4099

WEBSITE: [HTTP://DISTRICT9.SENATENJ.COM](http://DISTRICT9.SENATENJ.COM)

BRIANE RUMPF
ASSEMBLYMAN - 9TH DISTRICT
ASM.RUMPF@NJLEG.ORG

DIANNE C. GOVE
ASSEMBLYWOMAN - 9TH DISTRICT
AswGove@njleg.org

March 21, 2023

To whom it may concern:

RE: Letter of Support - Lacey Traffic Congestion Relief Project

Our 9th District Legislative Office supports the Township of Lacey and the Governing Body's efforts to address traffic congestion in the town. It has been brought to our attention that the Township is seeking Congressional District Spending Funds in the amount of \$6,119,345.00 in an effort to complete the remainder of their Railroad Right-of-Way project and the South Extension to alleviate increasing traffic congestion.

It is our understanding that with the initial phase of this project already completed between Musket Road to Lacey Road on the Northern Extension, the Township of Lacey is seeking funding for Phase II which will extend the roadway through the right-of-way on the Southern side of Lacey Road as well as to extend the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail further north through the Lanoka Harbor section of Lacey Township.

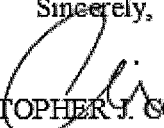
Furthermore, we have been advised by Township officials that the objective of this project is to reduce traffic congestion and to minimize the stress on residents, commuters, delivery businesses by having access to another roadway. Currently, Route 9 is the only major north/south roadway in the Township.

As the Township of Lacey's Railroad Avenue project only partially completed, it is without question that the Township needs to complete both the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail North as well as the Railroad Avenue Extension South.

Therefore, please accept our Delegation's Letter of Support for the Township of Lacey's request for funding of the abovementioned project.

Thank you, in advance, for your review of this letter of support.

Sincerely,


CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS
Senator - 9th District


BRIANE RUMPF
Assemblyman - 9th District


DIANNE C. GOVE
Assemblywoman - 9th District

CJC/BER/DCG: js/bd



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 600

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

Lt. Governor

DIANE GUTIERREZ-SCACCETTI

Commissioner

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Christopher Smith
Member of Congress, 4th District
1715 Highway 35 North
Suite 303
Middletown, NJ 07748

Re: Township of Lacey:
Railroad Avenue Extension Project

Dear Representative Smith:

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is pleased to support the request for the inclusion of the Township of Lacey's Railroad Avenue Extension project for consideration for a federal appropriation. A federal appropriation will permit the advancement of this project through the various phases of the project delivery process. This project is crucial to Lacey's transportation network and supports New Jersey's long standing commitment of building a safer transportation network, strengthening our transportation system, and improving the state of good repair of New Jersey's transportation infrastructure.

The NJDOT is confident that this project can be added to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in a reasonable timeframe; provided that a federal appropriation is secured that would fully fund the project. As this project focuses on improvements to local infrastructure, the municipality would be the responsible entity to carry out the project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Bertoni".

Joseph D. Bertoni
Deputy Commissioner

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COUNTY OF OCEAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08754-2191



MICHAEL J. FIURE
ADMINISTRATOR
(732) 929-2147

MICHELLE GUNTHER
CLERK OF THE BOARD
(732) 929-2005

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Chris Smith
33 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08754

Dear Congressman Smith:

It has come to our attention that the Township of Lacey is submitting a proposal for Congressional Directed Spending to fund the completion of the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South from Station Drive to Lacey Road and from Musket Drive to South Street. The Railroad Avenue Extension project will improve traffic conditions along route 9 by offering an alternate route and protecting and supporting the stability and growth of the surrounding residential communities.

This project will create a major roadway offering alternate means of travel from US Highway 9 in addition to the completion of a pedestrian/bikeway known as the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail. The Barnegat Branch occupies a 15.6-mile abandoned rail corridor in Ocean County, New Jersey, that extends from Barnegat Township to Toms River. The trail was built on the former Barnegat Branch Division roadbed of the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

This project compliments ongoing county, local and private sector transportation investments. The movement of people and goods on our roadways is important to our economy. Constructing this roadway will serve the residential community, as well as the commercial, industrial, retail and civic land-uses situated along the corridor. Without this project, this economic corridor will continue to have a pinch point and will remain congested.

Lacey's project lines up with the intent of the NJTPA and has significant positive impact to the residents, businesses and visitors.

If awarded these funds, the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South will have a catalytic effect on easing traffic congestion on an already overburdened roadway system known as US Highway Route 9.

Therefore, we are requesting consideration for a full award of funding as described.

Respectfully,


Joseph H. Vicari
Director


Gary Quinn
Deputy Director


John P. Kelly
Commissioner


Virginia E. Haines
Commissioner


Barbara Jo Crea
Commissioner



MICHAEL J. FIURE
County Administrator

OFFICE OF THE
OCEAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Telephone
(732) 929-2147

P.O. BOX 2191 ★ 101 HOOPER AVENUE ★ ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08754-2191

TRISTIN J. COLLINS
Assistant County Administrator

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Chris Smith
33 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08754

Dear Congressman Smith:

It has come to our attention that the Township of Lacey is submitting a proposal for Congressional Directed Spending to fund the completion of the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South from Station Drive to Lacey Road and from Musket Drive to South Street. The Railroad Avenue Extension project will improve traffic conditions along route 9 by offering an alternate route and protecting and supporting the stability and growth of the surrounding residential communities.

This project will create a major roadway offering alternate means of travel from US Highway 9 in addition to the completion of a pedestrian/bikeway known as the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail. The Barnegat Branch occupies a 15.6-mile abandoned rail corridor in Ocean County, New Jersey, that extends from Barnegat Township to Toms River. The trail was built on the former Barnegat Branch Division roadbed of the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

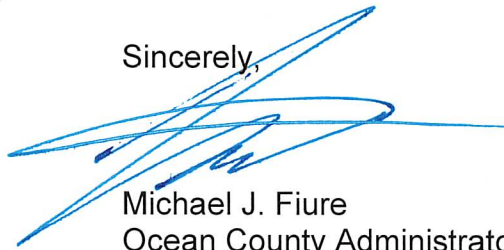
This project compliments ongoing county, local and private sector transportation investments. The movement of people and goods on our roadways is important to our economy. Constructing this roadway will serve the residential community, as well as the commercial, industrial, retail and civic land-uses situated along the corridor. Without this project, this economic corridor will continue to have a pinch point and will remain congested.

Lacey's project lines up with the intent of the NJTPA and has significant positive impact to the residents, businesses and visitors.

If awarded these funds, the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South will have a catalytic effect on easing traffic congestion on an already overburdened roadway system known as US Highway Route 9.

For these reasons, we urge your strong consideration for a full award of funding as described.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Fiure
Ocean County Administrator



SPECIAL ASSISTANCE/ACCOMMODATIONS available, please call (732) 929-2147.



Carmen F. Amato, Jr.
Mayor
Township of Berkeley
P.O. Box B
Bayville, NJ 08721



Phone: 732 244 7400 ext. 1203
Fax: 732-341-8968

March 24, 2023

Re: Lacey Township
Railroad Avenue Extension North & South
Congressionally Directed Spending

To whom it may concern:

The Township of Berkeley would like to offer strong support for the Lacey Township's Application for the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South to offer an alternate route from the congested and overburdened Route 9. This roadway will be devoted to upgrading and improving roadways to enhance their safety and ability to efficiently handle growing traffic volumes.

This would also allow for the completion of the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail which is a vital network of the County's Parks and Recreation linear trail. This will create safe places for people to walk and bicycle for recreational purposes. This well-placed trail connects to key destinations and places of employment and can also encourage utilitarian trips.

Approval of this funding will help enhance the capacity and efficiency of the transportation infrastructure.

We ask that you give positive consideration to this project to help address the needs of our neighboring community.

Respectfully,

Carmen F. Amato, Jr.
Mayor of Berkeley Twp



One Newark Center, 17th floor, Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 639-8400 • fax (973) 639-1953 • www.njtpa.org

John W. Bartlett, Chair
David W. Behrend, Executive Director

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Chris Smith
33 Washington Street | PO Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08754-0728

Dear Representative Smith:

I am writing regarding proposed Congressionally designated funding for the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South project in Lacey Township, Ocean County. As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for northern and central New Jersey, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) oversees the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It is our understanding that any projects receiving member-designated funding are required to either be in the current TIP or be able to be added to it in a reasonable timeframe.

It is our understanding that Lacey Township is requesting \$6.1 million to advance this project. It would complete a vital roadway within the Township to divert local traffic from the highly traveled Route 9 corridor, which experiences high levels of congestion during peak times. The most congested section is from Sunrise Boulevard south to Lacey Road.

To help alleviate this congestion, the Preferred Alternative would provide a new, two-lane limited-access alternate parallel route to Route 9 from Musket Drive North to South Street and from Lacey Road South to Station Drive, while improving access points along the alternate route. The new roadway would consist of two travel lanes with a multiuse path known as the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail which is a joint project with Ocean County.

The project is fully consistent with NJTPA's federally approved long-range transportation plan, *Plan 2050—People. Transportation. Opportunity*. The plan calls for investment "devoted to upgrading and improving roadways to enhance their safety and ability to efficiently handle growing traffic volumes (p.57)." The *Plan 2050* also calls for creating "more walking and cycling trails throughout the region" which will be fulfilled by this project.

Given this project's consistency with *Plan 2050*, the NJTPA supports federal funding for this project and could add the project to the TIP in a reasonable timeframe should it receive designated federal funding. Thank you for your ongoing support of federal transportation investment in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Behrend". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "B".

David W. Behrend
Executive Director



Engineers · Surveyors · Planners · Environmental Scientists

March 24, 2023

Via Email

Honorable Mayor Tim McDonald & Lacey Township Committee
818 West Lacey Road
Forked River, NJ 08731

Re: Lacey Township
Railroad Avenue Extension North & South
Congressionally Directed Spending

To whom it may concern:

Gravatt Consulting Group is a small consulting civil engineering and surveying company and local business in Lacey Township that has been serving the community for the past 53 years. Its employees live in Lacey Township and the neighboring communities. Gravatt Consulting Group would like to offer strong support for the Lacey Township's Application for the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South to offer an alternate route from the congested and overburdened Route 9. This roadway will be devoted to upgrading and improving roadways to enhance their safety and ability to efficiently handle growing traffic volumes. As a local business with a major stake in the community this roadway will offer much needed support for the growing housing market in Lacey Township. This will offer optional ingress and egress and emergency evacuation without having to utilize Route 9.

Adjacent to the roadway will be the completion of the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail which is a vital network of the County's Parks and Recreation linear trail and offer a walking path/bicycle path for the residents of the local residential complex being constructed. This will create safe places for people to walk and bicycle for recreational purposes.

Approval of this funding will help enhance the capacity and efficiency of the transportation infrastructure for the residents.

We ask that you give positive consideration to this project to help address the needs of our community.

Respectfully,

GRAVATT CONSULTING GROUP, INC.

Bruce A. Jacobs, P.E., P.P., C.M.E.
Director of Engineering
For the Firm

www.gravattconsulting.com

P.O. Box 1007, 414 Lacey Road

Forked River, New Jersey 08731

609-693-6126

F 609-534-2850



Lacey United Methodist Church

203 West Lacey Road
PO Box 151
Forked River, New Jersey 08731
Office: 609-693-5222

Email: Laceyumcnj@gmail.com

Web: laceyumc.org

Cell: 845-893-9157

Reverend Jonathan Campbell

Lacey Township
Railroad Avenue Extension North & South
Congressionally Directed Spending

March 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lacey United Methodist Church offers its strong support for the Lacey Township's Application for the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South to offer an alternate route from the congested and overburdened Route 9. This roadway will be devoted to upgrading and improving roadways to enhance their safety and ability to efficiently handle growing traffic volumes. As an adjoining property owner with a major stake in the community this roadway will offer much needed support to our parishioners by allowing them safe ingress and egress at a controlled traffic light.

Adjacent to the roadway will be the completion of the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail which is a vital network of the County's Parks and Recreation linear trail and offer a walking path/bicycle path for the residents of the local residential complex being constructed. This will create safe places for people to walk and bicycle for recreational purposes.

Approval of this funding will help enhance the capacity and efficiency of the transportation infrastructure for the local residents.

We ask that you give positive consideration to this project to help address the needs of our neighboring community.

Respectfully,


Rev. Jonathan Campbell
Lacey UMC Pastor



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"Truly I tell you, just as you did it for one of the least of these, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40

M & T at Lacey, L.L.C.

Re: Lacey Township
Railroad Avenue Extension North & South
Congressionally Directed Spending

March 27, 2023

To whom it may concern:

The M&T at Lacey, L.L.C. would like to offer strong support for the Lacey Township's Application for the Railroad Avenue Extension North and South and urge that the Township's request for \$6.1 million in funding be favorably received. The requested grant, if awarded, will enable an alternate route of travel from U.S. Route 9, which has, over the years, become congested and overburdened and badly in need of upgrades and improvements. These improvements are needed to enhance the safe operation of the roads and accommodate the anticipated future growth in volume.

As an adjoining property owner with a major stake in the community these roadway improvements will offer much needed support for the growing housing market in Lacey Township. While at the same time, offer optional ingress and egress and emergency evacuation without having to utilize Route 9.

In addition, adjacent to the roadway will be the completion of the Barnegat Branch Rail Trail part of a vital network of the County's Parks and Recreation linear trail that offers a walking path/bicycle path for the residents of the local residential complex presently being constructed. This will create safe places for people to walk and bicycle for recreational purposes.

Since it is evident that approval of this funding will help enhance the capacity and efficiency of the transportation infrastructure for the local residents, we urge its favorable consideration, and ask for your assistance in helping to give positive consideration to this project to address the needs of this community.

Respectfully,



Jack Morris-Managing Member

M & T at Lacey, L.L.C.

Cc: Doug Wolfson, Esq.
Ronald Aulenbach
Veronica Laureigh