

Road proposals won't work

I am a civil engineer with some traffic background. I find it abhorrent what the Lincroft Village Green Association is doing regarding the recent traffic fatalities on Route 520 (Newman Springs Road) in Middletown. They are politicizing the tragedy of that day for their own purposes.

As most who have traveled down Newman Springs Road know, it is not a well functioning stretch of roadway. But every incident there is not the result of bad design, or could be corrected by improvements or the lowering of a speed limit. This crash was a sad accident of one driver losing control of his vehicle on a straight stretch of highway. Sometimes a crash is simply the result of driver error, vehicle defect or something else totally unavoidable.

The association wants to change the nature of Newman Springs and Swimming River Roads, two arterial roads, into local roads. People need these roads to get to work and to see their families. Even worse, they want to turn the intersection of Newman Springs at Brookdale Community College into a roundabout.

Roundabouts are not meant to handle the volume of traffic that flows through that area on a daily basis. The only way to alleviate the delays at that location is to extend a second lane from Swimming River/Middletown-Lincroft roads to this intersection. A roundabout will only make things worse.

Lincroft Village Green members should think about the truck noise they will be sending past other people's front doors. Think about the lines of idle cars on the roadway that will result from their recommendations. And, most importantly, think about the other residents of Monmouth County and the township who will suffer.

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