

## VIEWPOINTS

# What to do about Rt. 520

## Residents group offers alternatives

Monmouth County is considering changes to Route 520 and has commissioned a traffic study of 520 from Everett Road to Shrewsbury Avenue. The study has made various recommendations, including widening 520 in front of Lincroft School as well as in Red Bank and widening Route 50 (Lincroft-Middletown and Swimming River roads).

The Lincroft Village Green Association is opposed to widening the roads in Lincroft and constructing jughandles at Old Phalanx Road and the Brookdale Community College entrance. Recommendations regarding Route 520 by the members of the association and Lincroft Task Force include the following:

- Expand the reduced speed zone to include the area from the Garden State Parkway exit to the Brookdale entrance. Speed limits in the center of town from Majestic Street to the Lincroft Little League fields should be 25 mph at all times, not just when students are present.

- Discourage speeding through the use of large, visible crosswalks, center islands, rumble strips, blinking lights and increased enforcement, particularly through the use of overhead speed enforcement cameras.

- Encourage pedestrian safety through highly visible, signalized pedestrian crosswalks, yield-to-pedestrians-in-crosswalk signs and the construction of additional sidewalks, especially to the post office.

- Encourage alternate routes by constructing an Exit 107 to the parkway at Tinton Avenue, a direct connection to Route 18 northbound from parkway Exit 105, a new Route 18 exit at an extension of Laird Road, which connects to Phalanx Road and Brookdale, and a parkway overpass at a reconnected Riverdale Avenue in Tinton Falls.

- Reduce congestion from cars entering and exiting parking lots by connecting all parking lots and by limiting the number of commercial driveways with direct access to Route 520. Improve the driveway behind the Exxon and pave the lot behind the Dunkin Donuts. Require rear entrances to stores. Make the Acme driveway two-way, with both left- and right turns allowed onto Lincroft-Middletown Road.

- Change the timing of the light at Phalanx Road to provide a longer green for Route 520 eastbound traffic.

- Provide a new entrance to the library and nearby businesses by building a driveway directly across from Phalanx Road.

- Connect the post office lot to the Lincroft Bible Church lot to accommodate left turns into and out of the post office.

- Provide crosswalks at the Thompson Park and Christian Brothers Academy entrances. The CBA entrance should have a light that is active during morning and afternoon dismissal hours and when pedestrians wish to cross. Construct a sidewalk on the north side of 520 from Brookdale to Everett Road.

I encourage everyone to attend a meeting at Brookdale's Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. today to discuss Route 520 improvements. The county engineer has requested written comments from the public regarding 520. Send comments to Theodore Giannechini, Monmouth County Engineer, Mail of Records, 1 East Main St., Freehold, NJ 07728.

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MIDDLETOWN