

Regional Recommendations to Improve Traffic Conditions in Eastern Monmouth County

1) Allow trucks to use the Garden State Parkway beyond Eatontown exit 105 to exit 117.

- The GSP, Routes 35, 34 and 18 are the only roads that connect Monmouth County to points north.
- The populations of Monmouth & Ocean Counties have increased dramatically since the construction of the GSP.
 - From 1990 to 2000 Monmouth County's population increased by 11.2%,
Ocean County increased by 17.9%.
 - From 2000 to 2005 Monmouth County's population growth rate is estimated at 3.4%
while Ocean County's estimate is 9.3%.
- Increased population means increased commercial traffic*
- With the current truck prohibition on the GSP north of exit 105, Routes 35, 34 and 18, *as well as local roads*, become more congested with commercial traffic.

2) Expand the Garden State Parkway Exit 105 to include full direct access to Rt. 18

- Rt 18 runs in an east-west direction from Tinton Falls to Marlboro.
- Currently there is no direct connection between Rt. 18 North (towards Colts Neck and Marlboro) and GSP North.
 - o Colts Neck and Marlboro residents living along Rt 18 who wish to use the GSP North must exit Rt 18, navigate congested local roads in Eatontown and enter the GSP at exit 105.
 - o An alternative is to use CR520 to enter the GSP at exit 109.
 - o Both CR520 at exit 109 and Hope Rd in Eatontown by exit 105 are extremely congested.
- Exit and entrance ramps that directly connect GSP southbound to Rt 18 North and Rt 18 southbound to GSP North need to be built. Currently the land where the ramps could be built is not developed.

3) Expand GSP Exit 105 to include an entrance and exit to northbound Garden State Parkway from Wayside Road in Tinton Falls.

- Currently Wayside Road motorists can access the GSP southbound via Rt. 18 but there is no connection to northbound GSP.
- If vehicles could enter or exit the GSP via Wayside Road, it would reduce traffic congestion on Rt 36 and Hope Roads in Eatontown.
- If trucks are permitted on the GSP north to exit 117, an entrance to the GSP at Wayside Rd would provide trucks easy access to the County Landfill, Marpal recycling, and other businesses located on or near Wayside Rd.

4) Create a new exit on Rt. 18 at an extension of Laird Road in Colts Neck.

- Currently the county college, Brookdale Community College, has an all-commuting enrollment of over 13,000 students.
- Many students travel to Brookdale via the GSP and exit at Exit 109. Exit delays have created extremely dangerous situations with traffic backing up into the through lanes on the parkway.
- Laird Road begins at CR 537 and connects to Phalanx Road which leads to the Phalanx Road entrance of Brookdale Community College.
- A Laird Road exit to Rt 18 may also relieve congestion at the intersection of CR 537 & Rt 34.