

**There is a public hearing run by Turnpike Authority(TA) at JC City Hall on Mon. 6/22 on its design for \$10 million two lane road connecting Jersey Ave to Phillips Street, over Mill Creek, just east of existing footbridge.** This long-planned road is going to happen but TA needs to hear from us before finishing design.

The Friends board has expressed with LSP Supt Rob Rodriguez and Deputy Supt Jon Luk **how essential it is to have a bike path and sidewalk on both sides of the 2 lane road** and JC's representatives to the TA, **Chief of Staff Mark Albiez and Mayoral aide Doug Carlucci have fully agreed and pledged that the road's shoulders will be turned into those pedestrian and bike paths.** It will be JC's road for the city to do what it wants after it's completed. The existing footbridge, with thousands more moving to JC, will be insufficient so bridge paths are vital.

*At the public hearing, according to the Turnpike Authority, Jersey City officials will address these issues such as pavement markings, traffic signals, and future plans for this area after this project is constructed)*

Construction will last from Spring '16 to Spring '18.

*On 6/22, public hearing is from 5pm to 8pm. From 5pm to 6:30, TA representatives will informally discuss project with exhibit boards. At 7pm, after a brief TA presentation, the public can speak or give written testimony until 8pm or until last person who signs the list, gets to speak (5 minute limit).*

**Public comment period will go until Friday July 10.**

**For submitting public comments** (aside from in person at the public hearing),

**please email [info@turnpike.state.nj.us](mailto:info@turnpike.state.nj.us)**

We suggest **Email Subject of Jersey Ave vehicular bridge** as that's what project is called on their public hearing announcement page.

For Public Hearing Jersey Ave Road **Information**, please click on the second title on the "What's New" page at <http://www.state.nj.us/turnpike>

**At the bottom of that webpage, are links to the public hearing handout (email will be added to it by Turnpike Authority) and to the "display boards".**

**or send snail mail public comments to**

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Woodbridge, NJ 07095

The main road benefits as presented over the years are:

- emergency services, longtime road advocates, will have another way in/out of the park or from Caven Point Rd/Phillips St with Medical Center nearby
- road will help strengthen connections/bonds between JC neighborhoods, especially Lafayette and downtown residents but also other neighborhoods.
- Lafayette residents have complained for years of commuters going through their neighborhood (Johnston to Pacific to Grand) so many of those commuters will get to Grand directly. If more commuters use it by getting off at 14B, that will have to be monitored and after Pulaski Skyway reopens (Skyway was justification for the TA getting \$10 million), JC should follow recommendation of a top firm of having 3 "roundabouts" on Phillips to slow down the traffic and make the bridge a more neighborhood friendly road.
- Road will make it easier for residents (who would be driving) from downtown & other neighborhoods to get into and out of LSP more directly.

The main detriment will be commuters using the road but JC feels there may not be many more commuters than now go from Phillips thru Lafayette to Grand. But other than rush hours, the bridge has its benefits for the community. There will need to be a traffic light at Zapp Drive/Johnston Ave/Phillips & landscaping.

If the road leads to a lot more commuters getting off exit 14B to go on new road directly to Grand and cause much more traffic than currently goes on Grand (by way of Lafayette from Phillips to Johnson to Pacific to Grand) ,and if the traffic in Lafayette neighborhood gets back to higher levels again, then the city sooner than later should build traffic roundabouts on Phillips between the south end of the park to the cobblestone Zapp Drive as recommended by the SSE study by respected consultants for Redevelopment Agency.

The SSE study with the roundabouts are at this link.

[http://www.cityofjerseycity.com/uploadedFiles/City\\_Government/Department\\_of\\_Business\\_Administration/Jersey%20Avenue%20Extension%20Conceptual%20Design.pdf](http://www.cityofjerseycity.com/uploadedFiles/City_Government/Department_of_Business_Administration/Jersey%20Avenue%20Extension%20Conceptual%20Design.pdf)

There are no plans at this time to fund these traffic circles or even a commitment by JC to build them but they will be essential.

These commuters should take mass transit instead of driving to JC waterfront or NYC.