

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Project Location and Description

The Route 9 and Road 319 Intersection Improvements Project area is located in Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware (*See Figure 1 and Figure 2*). The existing intersection is in a rapidly growing area on the eastern limits of Georgetown, DE. Planned proposed developments will bring an additional 1,000 homes to the area, plus a new shopping center and high school. Based on anticipated traffic volumes, the intersection level of service is projected to fail in less than 10 years. In addition, the existing side streets approach Route 9 at significantly skewed angles. The side streets are also currently offset about 80 feet from each other. The existing intersection configuration creates operational deficiencies and potential safety issues that need to be addressed.

The proposed improvements consist of an intersection realignment slightly to the east of the existing intersection. The realignment will eliminate the current intersection skew and offset, providing for improved operations. In addition, each of the approaches will have separate left turn, right turn, and through lanes, in order to accommodate the projected traffic volumes. Based on commercial development planned in the northeast quadrant, the eastbound Route 9 approach will have double left turn lanes. Sidewalks are also proposed within the project limits, to tie into existing and proposed sidewalks where feasible.

Existing Road 319 (Sand Hill Road) north of Route 9 is 34 feet wide and carries two 12-foot through lanes with 5-foot shoulders on each side of the road. Proposed improvements would widen the roadway to between 36 feet and 70 feet. This widening would accommodate three 12-foot through lanes (two northbound and one southbound), a 12-foot right-turn lane and a 12-foot left-turn lane, in addition to 5-foot shoulders on each side of the road. South of Route 9, Road 319 (Airport Road) is currently 24 feet wide and carries two 12-foot through lanes. Proposed improvements would result in the roadway being widened to between 34 feet and 58 feet. This widening would accommodate two 12-foot through lanes (one in each direction), a 12-foot right-turn lane and a 12-foot left-turn lane, in addition to 5-foot shoulders on each side of the road.

Existing Route 9 is 44 feet wide and carries two 12-foot through lanes (one in each direction), as well as 10-foot shoulders on each side of the road. The proposed improvements would widen the roadway up to 75 feet in some areas to accommodate two 12-foot through lanes, a 12-foot right-turn lane and two 12-foot left turn lanes (in the eastbound direction), in addition to 10-foot shoulders on each side of the road (one of which is reduced to a 5-foot bike lane adjacent to the right-turn lane).