



Delaware Department
of Transportation

Public Information Meeting Summary

HSIP NCC, N54, Howell School Road, SR 896 to SR 71

Monday, April 29, 2013 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Olive B. Loss Elementary School Library
200 Brennan Boulevard, Bear, DE

The project design team held a public workshop on April 29, 2013 to present the proposed project improvements and information to the public. A total of one hundred and one (101) people attended the public information meeting. Project team members received feedback on the proposed improvements. Of the 15 comment forms received during the meeting and 7 electronic comments received following the meeting, opinions were in favor and opposed of the proposed design components and are further summarized below.

Current Design:

The Howell School Road project appeared on the DelDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program list. A summary of the proposed improvements to improve safety and overall traffic operations within the project limits are as follows:

- Eliminate existing “dog-leg” intersection formed by SR 896, Howell School Road and Denny Road. Improve SR 896 and Denny Road intersection. Provide bike lanes on SR 896 within the new intersection.
- Howell School Road will be widened to provide 11-foot lanes and 5-foot bicycle lanes within the project limits. Widening a portion of the Howell School Road corridor to provide turn lanes at intersections.
- A 10’ multi-use path is proposed from Airdrie Drive/Lexington Parkway (Clairborne) along the south side of Denny Road, crossing SR 896, continuing along the south side of the relocated Howell School Road to Lums Pond State Park and the Caravel Woods entrance at Robert People’s Boulevard.
- A roundabout is proposed at the Howell School Road and Robert People’s Boulevard intersection to improve operation, safety and traffic calming, increase mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists, and improve drainage.
- The Meadow Glen Subdivision access at SR 896 will be eliminated. The subdivision will gain access via Meadow Glen Drive from the relocated Howell School Road. Landscaping is proposed adjacent to the relocated Howell School Road.
- Improve existing drainage conditions along Howell School Road providing a closed drainage system.

Comment Forms Summary:

SR 896 & Realigned HSR improvements

- ***Comments received in favor of the realignment of Howell School Road with Denny Road at SR 896.***

Meadow Glen

- ***Residents requested DelDOT consider pedestrian crossing at Meadow Glen Drive and Proposed Howell School Road.***
 - A sidewalk connection will be provided from the Meadow Glen Community to the proposed intersection of Howell School Road and SR 896 in order to safely cross pedestrians to the proposed 10' multi-use path.
- ***Comments included requests for landscaping along the realigned Howell School Road behind the Meadow Glen residences.***
 - Landscaping along the corridor of the Meadow Glen Community will be provided. DelDOT is proposing to plant a landscaping buffer at the beginning of construction.

Roundabout

- ***Comments received in favor and opposed to the roundabout at the entrance to Caravel Woods.***
 - The intersection at Howell School Road and Robert People's Boulevard has been evaluated due to nine (9) reportable crashes within close proximity to this location between February 26th, 2010 and February 26th, 2013. The volume of traffic entering and exiting Caravel Woods and Mansion Farms at this location does not warrant a signalized intersection. Roundabouts improve safety, generate slower speeds, and reduce congestion. The proposed roundabout has been designed to adequately handle the truck traffic recognized along Howell School Road. Vehicles entering the roundabout must yield before the cross walk, which allows for safe pedestrian access.

Multi-use Path and Bike Lanes

- ***Comments received in favor of the Multi-use Trail and its safety benefits.***
- ***Suggestions included extension of the bicycle path to Buck Jersey Road and/or Route 71.***
 - The existing project limits and funding do not currently allow for this extension.

Speed

- ***Comments expressed concerns of high speeds along Howell School Road.***
 - Traffic studies for this project have confirmed high speeds along the existing Howell School Road corridor and the proposed design has taken this into consideration.