



Subject: Route 520 / Acme Road Improvement – Key Updates

Dear Lincroft Neighbors,

On **May 13**, Middletown Township and Monmouth County held a second 520 Public Information Session to discuss **Phase I of the Route 520 improvement project** — converting Acme Road to a **2-way street** behind Lincroft Grove Plaza. The LVGA has advocated for this improvement for 25 years! The notes below describe the most important information from the meeting, along with suggestions from your Lincroft neighbors. We'll continue to advocate for a safer, more walkable Lincroft for all users, and keep you updated as plans progress.

– Lincroft Village Green Association (www.lincroft.org)



Project Highlights:

- **Acme Road Expansion:** The Township is finalizing an easement acquisition, to be voted upon at the **May 28th Township Committee Meeting**.
 - **County Construction Timeline:**
 - **May** – Finalizing construction plans
 - **June** – Tree clearing & drainage
 - **July–August** – Road construction & paving
 - **Post-construction:** A full **520 Corridor Traffic Study** will measure effectiveness—from Hance Ave (Tinton Falls) to Stag Place (Lincroft).
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Traffic Safety:

- **Traffic Studies** from several engineering firms will provide the data necessary to evaluate the roadway conditions and traffic patterns.
 - **High-crash areas** include Schulz Drive, Half Mile Road, and Middletown-Lincroft Road.
 - **Proven safety counter-measures** (e.g., signal timing changes, turn restrictions) will be recommended for consideration.
 - **Speed enforcement** efforts have continued as Middletown has increased speed monitoring and held joint details with neighboring towns. Police issued 149 speeding tickets on CR520 in March.
 - **520 Corridor Speed Limits:** Middletown officials will be meeting with Holmdel and Red Bank to evaluate the speeds along the 520 corridor for speed reductions and consistency.
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Road Diet Discussion:

The County will explore a “**Road Diet**”— reducing CR520 to three lanes with a center raised median with turn lanes to improve safety, calm traffic, and make the area more pedestrian-friendly. A Road Diet is an NJDOT-recommended safety measure that reduces a 4-lane road to 3 lanes (2 travel + 1 turn lane), improving safety and mobility for all.

Potential Benefits:

- Fewer crashes (rear-end and angle)
- Slower, more consistent speeds
- Better conditions for **pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users**
- Creates a **more community-friendly environment**

Watch the NJDOT Road Diet Video (go to minute 7:50 for a Lincroft-relevant example):

<https://www.nj.gov/transportation/eng/completestreets/roaddiet.shtm>



Community Suggestions:

- **Pedestrian safety:** Requests for beacon lights, raised sidewalks and crosswalks, and shorter street crossing times.
 - **ADA Compliant Sidewalks:** Narrow sidewalks with obstructions make pedestrians vulnerable. Widen and clear the sidewalks.
 - **E-Bikes:** Need for regulation and restriction from e-bikers using sidewalks.
 - **Speeding:** Residents want speed limits reduced (currently 40 mph on 520 and 25 mph on Acme Rd), “Slow Down” signs, and “No Passing” zones.
 - **Exit 109 Housing Development:** Concerns about added traffic.
 - **Amazon delivery trucks** stopping in travel lanes.
 - **Traffic flow:** Suggestions include more signage at one-way driveways, a light between Navy Rd & Hurley’s, and “intelligent” traffic lights.
 - **Parking & access:** Support for shared lot agreements, better ingress/egress at plazas, and elimination of left turns from driveways with alternate exits.
 - **Traffic Calming:** Center landscaped raised medians and road devices to lower the speed and reduce lane changes.
 - **A DESIRE TO MAKE LINCROFT A LIVEABLE COMMUNITY THAT IS PEDESTRIAN-SAFE RATHER THAN CAR-CENTRIC.**
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