

## PLAINSBORO: Report gives Rt. 571 intersection poor grades

By John Saccenti, Staff Writer

**Posted:** Thursday, December 17, 2009 6:31 PM EST

WEST WINDSOR — There were 154 motor vehicle accidents on Route 571 between 2005 and 2007 with the majority of those occurring at the intersection of Wallace and Cranbury roads.

According to a report on proposed improvements to Route 571 by John Kovar of the Louis Berger Group, Route 571 between the Wallace/Cranbury roads intersection and its intersection with Clarksville Road is graded a D by the state in terms of safety and service, and could make an F if improvements aren't done.

Mr. Kovar presented possible improvements to the road during a presentation Tuesday at the West Windsor Municipal Building. Mr. Kovar said possible improvements to the road would be designed with pedestrian safety and improved traffic flow in mind.

He also said plans could include a center turning lane and 6-foot wide bicycle lanes on either side.

Tuesday's meeting was designed to get input from residents about proposed changes to the road and what they would like to see happen to the highway.

Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh said improving safety in the area has been in the works since the 1980s.

In 2003 an agreement was reached with Mercer County on a plan for a three-lane roadway one lane in each direction and a center turning lane. In 2005, the Township Council adopted a resolution endorsing a concept plan. In 2007, the DVRPC authorized Louis Berger Group to complete planning and conduct necessary studies for work on

Improvements are not designed to increase the road's capacity, but to improve traffic flow and pedestrian and traffic safety.

According to Mr. Kovar's report, between 2005 and 2007, there were 24 accidents at the intersection of Wallace/Cranbury roads and Route 571, six at the Acme driveway and Starbrook Drive, and 13 accidents between the two intersections. There were six accidents between Starbrook Drive and Alexander Road, and 14 at the intersection of Alexander and Route 571. There were 22 accidents between Alexander and Clarksville roads, and 23 at the intersection of Clarksville Road and Route 571. In addition, there were 15 accidents between Clarksville Road and Henderson Drive, and three at the intersection of Hendrickson Drive and Route 571.

Other improvements being proposed are to make provide uniform shoulders along each side of the road, pedestrian safety improvements, including a median near the intersection of Clarksville Road, similar to what can be found at the intersection of Penn Lyle Road and Clarksville Road near West Windsor-Plainsboro High School south. Sidewalks with appropriate lighting also are including in the preliminary plans.

In addition, the road would be two lanes in either direction between Clarksville Road and just before Alexander Road.

Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh said plans to fix the road are a long way off and that any discussions in changes are strictly preliminary. Approval from the Department of Environmental Protection and other environmental agencies are still a long way off, said Mr. Kovar.

"We want to make sure they approve of where we're going with the project," said Mr. Kovar.

Some residents who spoke Tuesday were concerned about bicycle safety. Others asked about widening the road to accommodate more cars. However, Mr. Kovar said that can be a double-edged sword.

"If you want to put in five lanes, then the traffic will come," he said. "It will be a case of it becoming a through street."  
[jsaccenti@centraljersey.com](mailto:jsaccenti@centraljersey.com).

Close Window

