

Our Community Benefits From Capital Improvement Projects

By James R. Slate, Morris Township Engineer

The Township of Morris continues to complete various capital improvement projects throughout our community. The projects include roadway reconstructions, drainage improvements, curbing repairs, road resurfacing, and sidewalk repairs. We recently applied for state aid for the reconstruction of Burnham Road, Spring Brook Road (Phase II), and Old Glen Road. We also requested state aid for the Speedwell Avenue Streetscape project. If the state aid is approved by Trenton, the funds will help offset the Township's funding of the projects. A list of the projects has been provided for your information. The Township remains committed to maintaining the quality of life for all Morris Township residents.

Road Resurfacing

Alvord Road
Dorothy Drive
Elder Drive
Fairview Place
Farm House Lane
Old Mendham Road
Ridgewood Road
Stewart Drive
Windward Drive
Vom Eigen Drive
Heritage Lane
Copperfield Way

Other Projects

Doe Hill Road - Pavement Repairs
Mill Road at Speedwell - Intersection Stripping
Burnham Road Reconstruction (2008)
Speedwell Avenue Streetscape Project (2007-2008)
Plymouth/MacKenzie Drainage Improvement Project Completion (2007)



**Contractor
at work
milling to
prepare for
road
resurfacing**

Sidewalk Repairs

Burnham Road
Fairchild Avenue
Hanover Avenue
Harter Road
Kennedy Road
Max Drive
Sherman Drive
Sylvan Way
Black Watch Trail
Canterbury Way
King Hill Court
Kissel Lane
Knollwood Drive
Netherton Terrace
Pletcher Place
Sunderland Drive
Western Avenue
Windsor Way

Drainage/Curb Improvements

Amy Drive (d) - entire roadway
Bluestone Terrace (c) (d)
Bradley Road (d)
Brookfield Way (d)
Butterworth Sewer Plant (d)
Colonel Evans Drive (d)
Easley Terrace (c)
Fox Chase Lane (d)
Hamilton Avenue (d)
Harter Road (c)
Harwich Road (c)
Heritage Lane (c) (r)
Ketch Road - (d)
Mill Road - Morris Minute Men (d)
Millstone Court (d)
Normandy Boulevard East (d)
Pear Street (d)
Raynor Road (d)
Schoolhouse Lane (d)
Van Beuren Road (d)
Vom Eigen Drive (c) (r)
Wyndmoor Drive (d)

(d) = drainage project
(c) = curb project
(r) - road overlay

Planning Board Approves 2007 Master Plan Reexamination Report

By Rick Haan, Planning Board Chairman and Board of Adjustment Member

The Morris Township Planning Board has unanimously approved and adopted the 2007 Master Plan Reexamination report which was developed with guidance and suggestions from its professional staff as well as input from a number of township boards, departments, and commissions. Board approval came after receiving public comments on August 20, 2007 and making final adjustments to the forty (40) page report. Township residents can examine the Master Plan Reexamination report in the engineering department.

The Master Plan provides a comprehensive guide for development, open space planning, and protection of historic and natural resources in the Township. NJ law requires that a municipality's master plan be reexamined at least every six years.

The Planning Board concentrated its efforts in identifying potential issues, including those related to zoning, vehicular traffic circulation, pedestrian circulation, civic design and streetscape improvements, recreation and open space, fire/emergency access, and inter-municipal & regional impact management. As noted in the Reexamination Report, the board also feels the Master Plan should include goals and policies for: 1) a proactive, strategic vision and a "greening" of the Master Plan; 2) the uncertainty about future municipal power to effectuate local land use controls; 3) the problems of planning for a

diverse community; and 4) the need for good communication with the public and the residents of Morris Township.

The purpose of the Reexamination Report is not necessarily to make changes to the Master Plan. In fact, the Board concluded that the "fundamental planning and zoning framework of the municipality remains sound." But the Report did recommend that the Township Zoning Map and the maps contained in the Master Plan be updated in the short term. In addition, an amendment to the Master Plan to rezone property near the intersection of Rt. 287 and James St., owned by James Street LLC, was also encouraged. This would allow an out-of-date office building to be replaced by townhouses with a density of 4 units per acre.

The board also feels that land use planning studies should be conducted on three major business areas: along East Hanover, Ridgedale, and Speedwell Avenues. The purpose of these studies is to determine if the current zoning ordinances adequately control the current and potential future development in these areas.

Community planning is an ongoing effort. This Master Plan reexamination process allows the Township to take a step back and make sure that the Township's overall goals and plans are still adequate and that its actions are on target. The Planning Board continues to proactively manage development and land use in the Township.