

## Marlboro Township Route 79 Sidewalk Extension Project

The Marlboro Township Route 79 Sidewalk Extension Project is being funded through a federal grant and administered by NJ Department of Transportation Division of Local Aid. The sidewalk is to be constructed long the west side of Route 79 from Newman Springs Road to Wyncrest Road. This provides a connected sidewalk system that allows for pedestrian access to the Municipal Complex, Public Library, Marlboro High School, Marlboro Middle School, DeFino Elementary School, Center for Jewish Life and the NJ Transit Bus stops along Route 79.

Currently the project is in the Preliminary Engineering phase. The goal of this phase is to secure a Categorical Exclusion Document (CED) under the National Environmental Policy Act. The CED looks at right-of-way takings, sensitive receptors to noise, air quality (conformity with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990), potential ecological constraints, anticipated environmental permits/approvals/coordination, cultural and natural resources (historic sites, parklands, wildlife refuge), hazardous materials, socioeconomic impacts, and environmental justice. During the development of the CED, coordination is performed with US Fish and Wildlife, NJ State Historic Preservation Office, and other agencies.

The proposed project will disturb more than 5,000 sf of land and will increase impervious surfacing (including areas of flows redirected from lawn to curbed pavement) by more than ¼ acre; triggering NJ Stormwater Management Regulations. To address the regulations, stormwater management facilities are required such as stormwater basins and pervious or porous concrete sidewalks. To determine the ability of the underlying soils to absorb the stormwater, soil borings are needed. The soil characteristics along with the location of the seasonal high water table, will determine the size and the material makeup necessary to handle the stormwater. Currently the feasibility of addressing the stormwater is considering an above ground basin approximately 300 feet north of the Big Brook culvert, underground basins on the Elementary School property and porous concrete sidewalk on a stone bed for the first 500+ feet south of Wyncrest Road.

In addition to soil borings for stormwater analysis, borings are required for the proposed footbridge approximately 1,100 feet south of Wyncrest Road. The borings for the footbridge and basins in front of the school occur within either wetlands or wetlands transition areas. They borings require the need of securing NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) permit to perform. NJDEP Freshwater Wetlands General Permit #12 authorizes activities in freshwater wetlands, transition areas and State open waters necessary for surveying and investigative activities such as Soil Borings.

The NJDEP permit has recently been secured. The attention has turned to securing the NJ Department of Transportation Highway Occupancy Permit and a Temporary Occupancy Agreement to perform the soil borings within the state highway right-of-way.

Once the soil borings are performed, the stormwater basins can be properly sized and the determination of the total area of disturbance calculated.