



# NJDOT NEWS

*"To provide reliable, environmentally and socially responsible transportation and motor vehicle networks and services to support and improve the safety and mobility of people and goods in New Jersey."*

Transportation Mission Statement

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## **NJDOT opens improved Route 31 and Route 518 intersection** ***Project provides safety and operational improvements***

**(Trenton)** – Commissioner Kris Kolluri today announced that the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) recently completed operational and safety improvements to the intersection of Route 31 and County Route 518 in East Amwell Township, Hunterdon County and Hopewell Township, Mercer County. The intersection was opened to traffic on the morning of September 21, 2006.

"These improvements not only provide a safer intersection for the motorists on Route 31, but will also alleviate traffic backups throughout the area," said Commissioner Kolluri. "This project is an example of NJDOT's cost-effective, context-sensitive methods of increasing driver safety."

NJDOT's improvements to Route 31 and Route 518 will increase safety and mobility at an intersection with a history of rear-end and sideswipe accidents and traffic jams. Route 31 southbound has experienced significant traffic backups due to left-turning vehicles during the morning peak hours. In addition, motorists often used the roadway shoulders as bypass lanes for through traffic to avoid vehicles turning left on Route 31. Traffic backups occurring on Route 518 westbound during the evening peak hours are attributed to the lack of turning lanes in the westbound direction.

The \$5.6 million project included the widening of Route 31 and new left-turn lanes from Route 31 in each direction onto Route 518 and from Route 518 onto Route 31 southbound. The addition of these left-turn lanes on Route 31 and westbound Route 518 will help improve the accident rate and traffic backups and discourage the use of the shoulder as a bypass lane.

NJDOT also increased the right turn radius from Route 31 to Route 518 and added deceleration lanes for right turns to help alleviate accidents at the intersection. New eight-foot shoulders have been added to Route 518 and 10-foot wide shoulders were installed on Route 31 to provide for bicycle compatibility. In addition, NJDOT rehabilitated the Route 31 Bridge over Woodsville Brook and widened the Route 518 Bridge to accommodate the addition of the left-turn slot on Route 518 westbound.

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