

NJDOT Bureau of Research
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Project Title:	Economic and Quality of Life Impacts of Route 21 Freeway Construction - Year V		
RFP Number:	NJDOT Research Project Manager: 2001-08 R Sasor		
Task Order Number/Study Number:	Principal Investigator: TO-35 Golub, Eugene / Dresnack, Robert		
Project Starting Date:	Period Starting Date: 01/01/2002		
Original Project Ending Date:	Period Ending Date: 12/31/2006		
Modified Completion Date:	Period Ending Date: 06/30/2007		

Task	% of Total	% of Task this quarter	% of Task to date	% of Total Complete
Phase I: Literature Review	3	0	100	3
Task 1: Pre-construction, economic conditions	4	0	100	4
Task 2: Familiarization with Route 21	4	0	100	4
Task 3: Familiarization with Context Design	4	0	100	4
Task 4: Familiarization with Baseline data	4	0	100	4
Task 5: Develop study methodologies	75	0	100	75
Task 6: Prepare interim annual reports	3	0	100	3
Task 7: Prepare quarterly / final reports	3	2	99	2.97
Final Report				
TOTAL	100 %			100.0 %

Project Objectives:

The objectives of this study as set forth in the RFP are to:

- (1)Determine the economic and quality of life impacts of the Route 21 missing link freeway construction on the communities it traverses.
- (2)Determine these impacts by using simple indicators that show evidence of change in economic conditions or quality of life.
- (3)Follow up on the baseline data collected in 2001 by NJDOT staff, by collecting information on the same indicators and public spaces once each year in Years 2002-2006; thereby, evaluating these impacts over a five year period.
- (4)Evaluate the communities' reaction to the "Context Sensitive Design" initiatives taken for this highway project, which utilized extensive CSD elements to enhance the quality of public space.
- (5)Evaluate the impacts on traffic volumes and characteristics of removing

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traffic from local streets.

Project Abstract:

Opened to traffic in December 2000, the “missing section” of the Route 21 Freeway in Clifton and Passaic (Hope Ave. to the Rt. 46 Interchange) was designed utilizing the “equivalent” to the CSD approach at that time and will be the highway project used for the evaluation of CSD. A great deal of planning and design work was done to enhance the quality and appearance of this roadway and to maximize positive impacts on and for the surrounding communities.

This research project will evaluate over a five year period how effective the CSD approach was in the design of the Route 21 Freeway. The evaluation will focus on economic and quality of life issues. The type of economic issues that may be reviewed include impacts on neighborhood, residential real estate values, the success of commercial enterprises in the area, demographic characteristics in the area, traffic safety, workload to police, fire, hospitals and other municipal services. The type of quality of life issues that may be reviewed include: impacts on noise in the neighborhood, air quality, aesthetics and viewscape, traffic flow and other factors of concern to the local population.

Public perception initially and over a five year period will be measured by surveys to be taken each year of the project. This is a most critical element in the study because success ultimately must be “seen” by the impacted public literally and figuratively. In addition, traffic counts will be taken to determine changes from pre-construction to post-construction conditions and variations over the five years of the study. Other published data and modeling will be utilized to measure changes in economic and quality of life impacts.

1. Progress this quarter by task:

2007 2nd Quarter

Final editing upon review of NJDOT will be completed

2007 1st Quarter

Final editing upon review of NJDOT will be completed

2006 4th Quarter

A paper was prepared for submission to TRB. Paper was accepted.
The analysis was completed and the final report was completed.

2006 3rd Quarter

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Analysis of accident data, and sales data on real property continued. Surveys conducted with individuals who were active in the project design and discussion were further analyzed.

Revisions of the final report were continued.

2006 2nd Quarter

Analysis of accident data, and sales data on real property continued. Surveys were conducted with individuals who were active in the project design and discussion will be further analyzed.

A survey to query users of the parks and amenities added by the project was initiated in this quarter. Revisions of the final report is progressing

2006 1st Quarter

Analysis of accident data, and sales data on real property continued. Surveys conducted with individuals who were active in the project design and discussion were analyzed. A survey to query users of the parks and amenities added by the project was prepared.

The structure of the final report is in the process of modification. A new cd will be provided at the quarterly meeting.

2005 4th Quarter

Analysis of accident data, and sales data on real property continued. Traffic counts were obtained at approximately twenty key locations to measure improvements as predicted by the original studies. Additional surveys were conducted with individuals who were active in the project design and discussion. Noise readings at key locations were taken to compare with original EIS. The 4th annual report was submitted.

2005 3rd Quarter

Analysis of sales data on real property continued. Surveys of businesses on Monroe & Parker streets were continued. New forms were generated to survey new businesses developed after the completion of the freeway. A survey to query users of the parks and amenities added by the project has been developed and will be used in the next quarter. Traffic counts have been undertaken at

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several new intersections to compare with pre-project projections. Analysis of the data gathered continued.

2005 2nd Quarter

Analysis of accident data, and sales data on real property continued. Surveys of businesses on Monroe & Parker streets were continued. A POWERPOINT presentation on the project was presented to NJDOT staff and at a conference in Lisbon. Analysis of the data gathered continued.

2005 1st Quarter

This quarter analysis of accident data, and sales data on real property continued. Surveys of businesses on Monroe & Parker streets were conducted. A POWERPOINT presentation on the project was prepared for a research paper and presentation to the NJDOT staff. Analysis of the data gathered continued.

2004 4th QUARTER

This quarter was spent analyzing data that has been gathered on traffic at key intersections, surveys of residents and statewide accident data in the area of the project. The format of the annual reports has been modified. the new format should be easier to read and understand since it is comprised of significant data.

2004 3rd QUARTER

Analysis of accident data, and sales data on real property will continue. Traffic counts were obtained at key locations to measure improvements as predicted by the original studies. Additional surveys were conducted with merchants at Botany Village. Work was done on updating and improving the prior and new annual report.

2004 2nd QUARTER

The accident data has been placed in a usable form and is being analyzed. Data at critical intersections is being obtained with regard to traffic. The interim annual report has been revised as to form.

2004 1st QUARTER

Analysis of accident data, and sales data on real property has been undertaken. Attempts were made to conduct in person surveys of homes along the Rt 46 corridor. This was not feasible and so the surveys were mailed to the homes.

PRIOR QUARTERS)This progress is recorded in chronological order from the

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project begining.)

Phase1 The literature search is complete.

Task3 Familiarization with CSD is almost complete. Additional work includes discussion with other NJDOT personnel as to how CSD was applied on this project.

Task2 Familiarization with the Rt 21 design and Baseline Data is complete. The NJDOT data has been obtained and has been reviewed. Additional data is being developed from other local and County Sources.

Task4 The project team has completed review of NJDOT 2001 baseline data.

Task5 A photographic record of the project has been undertaken and is near completion. It includes photoscapes of the area in proximity of the project as well as photos of the areas thought to be of importance by the NJDOT. these records are compiled on CD's.

Professional staff from both communities were individually interviewed and a compilation is being developed. Further, the local merchant associations have likewise been interviewed.

Surveys have been sent to elected officials & professional staff in both municipalities. Individual surveys are being conducted with merchants in both municipalities.

Traffic counts are being conducted at key intersections as per NJDOT original studies.

Noise readings are being taken at key locations as per original NJDOT studies.

Data is being compiled for Clifton on all sales of properties and the variation in prices as well as the total assessed valuation of the town for the last 10 years. Similar data has been requested from Passaic.

Accident data in the two towns is in the process of being developed to demonstrate changes that have occurred in the last few years. Additional photography has been taken at important locations. Base photographic record is being digitized for a permanent record that is easily organized.

We are obtaining sales reports from City of Passaic. Surveys taken have been digitized and analyzed. An interim annual report has been submitted in draft form. This has been finalized this quarter.

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Planning for the second year analysis and data gathering has been completed. The photographic record taken during the project has been digitized and has been organized into a usable computer file.

The Interim Annual Report has been reviewed by NJDOT, Clifton & Passaic and their comments included in the report.

Interviews were obtained from businesses along Main Avenue in both Passaic & Clifton.

A photographic record was taken along South St in Passaic.

State accident data was obtained for Clifton & Passaic.

Sales data of properties in Passaic & Clifton was obtained.

2. Proposed activities for next quarter by task:

Final editing upon review of NJDOT will be completed.

3. List of deliverables provided in this quarter by task (product date):

The draft 4th Annual Report was delivered

4. Progress on implementation and training activities:

None

5. Problems/proposed solutions:

6. Budget summary:

Total Project Budget	\$293,326.00
Modified Contract Amount	\$0.00
Total Project Expenditure to date	\$282,000.00
% of Total Project Budget Expended	96.14%