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Ocean City, New Jersey

Contact Person: Jim Rutala, Administration 609.525.9333

Ocean City Promotes Pedestrian and Bike Safety

Three major projects are underway in Ocean City designed to calm traffic and provide for safer access by walkers, bikers and joggers. Traffic calming efforts are designed to reducing vehicle speeds, improving safety and enhancing quality of life.

The City's first shared bicycle/auto route will soon be in place on Haven Avenue from 9th to 34th Street. With strong community support an ordinance was passed by City Council to make Haven Avenue a through street with stop signs on every cross street. The dedication of the Haven Avenue Bike Route is planned for Friday, May 23 at 10 am at the Transportation Center at 9th Street and Haven Avenue.

The City will also be first municipality in New Jersey to incorporate the "sharrow", a shared bike lane designation into its roadway network. The sharrow is currently being used to designate shared bike lanes in cities such as San Francisco, Portland, Chicago, and Pittsburgh.

The Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports took the lead to promote this project. Specially designed signage will promote this bike route and a 15 mph speed limit will keep cars from conflicting with bike riders.

Mayor Sal Perillo praised the Council on Physical Fitness for pushing this unique recreational amenity. Perillo stated, "Bicycle riders have enjoyed the boardwalk for years and now they will have a great new route to explore."

The Haven Avenue Bike Route connects the Downtown with the neighborhoods and links the Stanton Wildlife Refuge, Intermediate School, Community Center, and Transportation Center.

Along Haven Avenue crosswalks were upgraded at 10th, 14th, 18th, 24th, 29th and 31st Streets.

Upgraded crosswalks are also being completed at each intersection on West Avenue from 11th Street to 18th Street. In addition, West Avenue is being relined to continue the three lane cross section with bike lanes on each side.

Finally, textured pavement is being added in the Downtown at 7th to 14th Streets. These specially designed “sunburst” crosswalks are part of an ongoing program to enhance the Asbury Avenue shopping district.

The pedestrian friendly improvements do not stop with these projects. The new \$400 M Route 52 causeway will feature a pedestrian/bike lane that will be separated from the traffic lanes – the first causeway in New Jersey to include a pedestrian/bike lane that is physically separated from auto traffic. The lane will eventually link to the Haven Avenue bike route and the Downtown area, making bike accessibility much safer in Ocean City.