

RICHMONDTOWN ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT HISTORY

In 1997, elected officials serving the Richmondtown area of Staten Island asked the City to “demap” the long planned, but unbuilt Richmondtown Loop. This assignment was given to the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT). The process of demapping is challenging and complicated, because the City cannot simply erase a mapped street - it must develop viable alternatives.

The NYCDOT undertook the Richmondtown Roadway Improvement Project to assess improvements to Arthur Kill Road, Richmond Road and Richmond Hill Road in the Richmondtown area of Staten Island. These areas have serious congestion problems, safety issues and a lack of pedestrian amenities.

The project’s main goals are to improve unsafe roadway conditions along the Snake Hill portion of Richmond Hill Road, improve traffic flow and capacity within the study area’s major intersections (Richmond Road/Arthur Kill Road, Richmond Road/St. Patricks Place), improve pedestrian amenities (sidewalks, crossings), and improve the quality of life for residents (e.g., intersection improvements, roadway realignments, and traffic diversions).

A key consideration for any proposed change to the City's mapped roadway system (such as demapping part of the "Loop") is that any alternative road system must provide traffic operations and accessibility comparable to the existing mapped roadway (the mapped "Loop") as well as be sensitive to the needs and constraints of these institutions and to the area's local residents.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

These displays illustrate the alternatives currently undergoing study as alternatives to the demapping of the Loop. The alternatives consist of a No Build (maintaining the existing Richmond Hill Road), a Minimum/Maximum alternative (safety improvements only); and three alternatives that would relocate Richmond Hill Road.

The alternatives have been developed through a series of meetings with residents, property owners, institutions, and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) formed in 2003. Since 2003, NYCDOT has been conducting an environmental review process necessary to meet New York State and New York City environmental laws. The environmental review process has consisted of a Public Scoping Process conducted in 2004 which further defined project alternatives and issues to be analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS, a comprehensive document, will describe the alternatives, issues and potential impacts to the

area. Expected for completion in Spring 2008, the DEIS will be distributed to residents, community groups, government agencies, property owners and the general public for comment. Following a public review and comment period with a public hearing, a Final EIS will be published addressing comments received.