



MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON

Department of Infrastructure
& Operations

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council
From: Deanna Stockton, *Deputy Administrator*
JP Ricci, *Principal Engineer*
Subject: Fiscal Year 2026 Municipal Aid North Harrison Street Grant Project – Intention to Submit a Scope Modification Request on August 5, 2026
Date: July 31, 2026

The Department of Infrastructure and Operations (I&O) is hereby seeking support from Mayor and Council to submit a scope modification request to the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for Princeton's Fiscal Year 2026 Municipal Aid project on North Harrison Street. The project proposed in the grant application included the improvement of three signalized intersections and installation of permanent bicycle and pedestrian improvements between Clearview Avenue and Bunn Drive. NJDOT awarded Princeton a \$753,540.00 grant toward an estimated \$7 million project. The proposed scope modification will request that the grant funds be dedicated to a project which would improve only the intersection of North Harrison Street at Terhune Road.

The original project submitted (identified internally as Phase II) was intended to implement the bulk of improvements proposed in the Michael Baker International (consulting firm) multi-modal Harrison Street corridor study in the area near the Princeton Shopping Center – 3 intersection improvements with roundabouts, new sidewalk on the west side of North Harrison Street, and grade-separated and buffered bike lanes in each direction. In conjunction with the Nassau Street to Franklin Avenue project (identified internally as Phase I and partially funded with a \$818,256.00 NJDOT Municipal Aid grant for traffic calming project), the Phase II project was proposed to supplement the improvements installed on Terhune Road (North Harrison to Grover) in support of the third-round affordable housing developments.

Since the Phase II project was submitted to NJDOT, Princeton subsequently installed buffered bicycle lanes on North Harrison Street. This improvement is functioning and the proposed permanent grade-separated and buffered bike lanes can be delayed until such time that funds can be available. Likewise, the Valley Road and Bunn Drive intersections, which were two of the three intersections proposed for improvement, are functioning in a satisfactory manner. Later this summer, Princeton's pavement striping contractor will install a buffered bicycle lane in the southbound direction from Bunn Drive to Terhune Road, with the support of the Traffic Safety Committee and the I&O Committee; this installation will enhance the traffic calming work done previously through the conversion of one travel lane to a buffered bicycle lane in each direction. The only component of the Phase II grant project that is not captured at this time is the installation of new sidewalk on the west side of North Harrison Street. It is proposed that the sidewalk between Bunn Drive and Terhune will be extended when the Bunn Drive intersection is improved. The sidewalk extension between Terhune Road and Franklin Avenue would be included in a future Valley Road intersection and / or the permanent bicycle lane project(s).

The modified Phase II project is intended to better match the grant funds available to the estimated cost of a project and to address the intersection most impacted by the third-round affordable housing developments. While we propose replacing the existing traffic signal with a one-lane roundabout, the consultant will confirm that all modes of traffic are effectively managed with a roundabout instead of a new traffic signal. The

intersection will be designed to safely accommodate bicycles, pedestrians, and all sizes of motor vehicles. Improvements will include:

- Grade-separated bicycle lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the intersection
- One lane of vehicular travel in each direction
- High-visibility crosswalks
- Pedestrian refuges within splitter islands on the roundabout approaches

A sketch of the proposed roundabout for the intersection of North Harrison Street and Terhune Road has been attached to this memo.

Princeton must award the Phase II construction contract by late 2027 and we would like to proceed with the design phase. Please contact us if you have any questions related to this request.