Lebanon Borough Resident Update

Traffic Safety and Main Street Infrastructure

Dear Lebanon Borough Residents:

The Borough Council recognizes the concerns that residents have raised regarding traffic speed and volume on Main Street, as well as pedestrian and student-safety concerns in the Main Street area.

We take these concerns seriously. We would like to update residents on the actions currently underway and the significant infrastructure work anticipated in the coming year.

1. Increased Traffic Enforcement

The Borough has increased State Police speed patrols along Main Street. These patrols are intended to address speeding concerns, provide additional enforcement, and help identify areas that may warrant further attention.

The Borough will continue working with the State Police as we evaluate traffic conditions and potential measures to improve safety.

2. Traffic-Calming and Safety Measures

The Borough is evaluating possible traffic-calming measures. This includes reviewing options such as speed cushions and obtaining pricing for additional speed-related signage.

The Borough is working with its professionals and engineer to evaluate these areas and determine which measures may be appropriate, effective, and financially responsible.

3. Targeted Review of Potential State Speed-Limit Changes

The Borough will also conduct a targeted review of potential changes at the State level that could affect how municipalities establish or modify local speed limits.

Of particular interest are any changes to New Jersey Department of Transportation requirements or State law that could provide municipalities with greater flexibility to adjust appropriate local speed limits with less expense for traffic and engineering studies.

If such changes become available, the Borough will evaluate whether they could provide a practical and cost-effective opportunity to address speed limits on Main Street or other appropriate Borough roadways.

This review does not presume that a particular speed-limit reduction is appropriate. Rather, it ensures that the Borough is prepared to consider additional options if State requirements change, while avoiding unnecessary professional and engineering expenses to taxpayers.

4. 2027 Water Main Replacement

A major consideration affecting Main Street and other planned roadway improvements is the anticipated water-main replacement project.

In 2027, the Clinton Water Department is expected to move forward with a significant water-main replacement project. According to information provided to the Borough, this project has been planned for many years but has previously been delayed. The Borough has now been notified of the Water Department's intent to move forward.

As residents can appreciate, a water-main replacement of this scope will be disruptive. Main Street is expected to be among the most complicated and significantly affected areas.

Because this work will require substantial disturbance of the roadway, the Borough has deferred certain planned street improvements until the water-main work can be completed. Undertaking major roadway improvements immediately before a significant underground utility project could result in newly completed work having to be disturbed and would not represent a responsible use of public funds.

5. Road Resurfacing and Improvements

Once the water-main work is completed, the Borough intends to work with its engineer to plan appropriate roadway resurfacing and related improvements.

Where appropriate, the Borough will also seek to coordinate these projects with available State of New Jersey grant opportunities. This approach will allow the Borough to consider the condition of the roads after the utility work is completed, establish priorities, and pursue outside funding where available.

Balancing Immediate and Long-Term Needs

The responsibility of the governing body is to balance the Borough's immediate needs with its long-term infrastructure requirements.

Traffic and pedestrian safety require attention today. That is why the Borough is pursuing increased enforcement, evaluating traffic-calming measures, reviewing potential opportunities for more cost-effective speed-limit changes, and working with our professionals to identify practical solutions.

At the same time, permanent roadway improvements must be coordinated with the significant infrastructure work expected to occur.

Every improvement considered by the Borough carries a cost, and ultimately those costs affect taxpayers. Our objective is therefore not simply to address each issue independently, but to coordinate enforcement, traffic safety, speed-limit policy, underground infrastructure, roadway improvements, engineering, and available grant funding in a manner that provides the greatest long-term benefit to the community.

We understand that residents want meaningful action on Main Street. The Borough will continue working with the State Police, our engineer, the Water Department, State agencies, and other appropriate professionals to address immediate concerns while preparing for the larger infrastructure work ahead.

We appreciate the concerns raised by residents and will continue to provide updates as information regarding traffic-safety measures, State requirements, the water-main project, and subsequent roadway improvements develops.

Sincerely,

Mayor and Council, Borough of Lebanon