



Engineers  
Planners  
Surveyors  
Landscape Architects  
Environmental Scientists

Shelbourne at Hunterdon  
53 Frontage Road, Suite 110  
Hampton, NJ 08827  
T: 908.238.0900  
F: 908.238.0901  
[www.maserconsulting.com](http://www.maserconsulting.com)

June 24, 2019

Jaime Oplinger, P.E.  
Executive Manager, Bureau of Traffic Engineering  
New Jersey Department of Transportation  
1035 Parkway Avenue  
PO Box 600  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Bicycle Lane Elimination/On-Street Parking Re-Establishment  
Route NJ 179 (Old York Road) vic. Boss Road  
East Amwell Township, Hunterdon County  
MC Project No. EAT-013

Dear Ms. Oplinger:

Please let this letter serve as a request for a regulatory investigation into the need to re-establish parking via the elimination of the bicycle lanes along Route NJ 179 (Old York Road) from south of Boss Road to CR 579/John Ringo Road (approximate mileposts 6.25-6.41) adjacent to the Post Office property in East Amwell Township.

From a historical perspective, this bicycle lane was authorized by NJDOT in 2002 and it was implemented in 2018 as part of a NJDOT resurfacing project. By striping the bicycle lane, the existing shoulder and its on-street parking were eliminated. While this may not have been an issue when the bicycle lane was originally authorized, in the subsequent 17± years, several branches of the United States Post Office have been consolidated into the branch at this location. In combination with the Hunterdon County South Branch Library, a wellness center and Princeton Hydro, LLC, the parking demands for this office complex far outweigh its on-premise parking lot. For a time, spillover vehicles continued to park on Route NJ 179 within the bicycle lane, creating a potential safety hazard, but through enforcement efforts, the practice now seldom occurs. However, as vehicles crowd the lot searching for the elusive open parking stall, on-premise safety for both pedestrians and vehicles has deteriorated.

It should be noted that during the months when spillover vehicles parked on the bicycle lane, no conflicts with cyclists were reported. Township officials have observed minimal bicycles utilizing the bicycle lane since its creation or for years prior.





Due to the property constraints between Route NJ 179, John Ringo Road and adjacent residential lots, expansion of the parking lot is not feasible. The office complex is served by two driveways located approximately 250 feet apart. However, because of the internal footprint, driveway consolidation would likely create additional on-premise issues.

As such, East Amwell Township feels that the solution to this parking issue is to eliminate the striped bicycle lanes along Route NJ 179 between approximate mileposts 6.25 to 6.41 and to re-establish on-street parking similar to the pre-existing condition. This would create a share-the-road scenario within the area specified; such would simply be an extension of the existing share-the-road usage along Route NJ 179 north of the complex between John Ringo Road and Route US 31/202. Considering the similarities between these two roadway sections in land use, parking needs, vehicular speed limit and bicycle activity, expectation is satisfied by advancing the Township's suggested solution. Additionally, understanding that NJ Motor Vehicle Law (39:4-138d) only prohibits parking directly in front of a driveway, to address sight distance and safety concerns regarding vehicles exiting the complex, we further believe that 25-foot areas of no stopping or standing should be established both north and south of the driveways.

Upon completion of NJDOT's investigation and anticipated receipt of its "will approve" response, East Amwell would be pleased to pass a resolution to support NJDOT's conclusions and development of the required Traffic Regulation Order.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or David J. Martin, RSP, at 609-587-8200 x4339 (office) or 856-296-7716 (cell).

Very truly yours,

MASER CONSULTING P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Burr', is written over the printed name of the signatory.

William H. Burr, IV, P.E.  
Township Engineer

WHB/dw

CC: Mayor & Township Committee  
Krista Parsons, Township Clerk  
Jason Silverthorn, DPW Director  
Dave Martin, RSP, Maser Consulting P.A.  
Maurice Rached, P.E., Maser Consulting P.A.