Lower Township Seeks Sidewalks for Beach Drive

NORTH CAPE MAY - Visitors and residents enjoy strolling along Beach Drive with its panoramic view of Delaware Bay but walkers must compete with traffic since the road has no sidewalk on the bay side.

Lower Township Council approved making application to the state Department of Transportation to build a sidewalk along 1.5 miles of Beach Drive from Lincoln Boulevard to Pinewood Avenue to improve pedestrian safety.

The project proposal calls for a 6-foot wide sidewalk with a raised curb which will include marked crosswalks and drainage and ADA (American with Disabilities Act) improvements.

According to the grant application, in addition to improving pedestrian safety, the project will enhance access to existing beach paths. Drifting sand from dunes partially covers some areas of the southbound lane of Beach Drive.

Township Councilman James Neville said the project would increase safety for pedestrians by getting walkers and joggers out of the southbound traffic lane.

Total cost of the project is estimated at $996,666 with $996,216 to be funded by a New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund grant.

At an Oct. 7 meeting, Township Council approved additional surveying and engineering work from Hatch Mott MacDonald at a cost of $5,750 to aid in receiving a Coastal Area Facilities Review Act (CAFRA) permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection.