

## UPDATE ON CEDAR LANE IMPROVEMENTS

With the arrival of the new Amazon facility, the township wanted to address some of the concerns that have been expressed to us regarding traffic and the changing of shifts at the new business. Amazon officials have been very cooperative in working with Florence Township and the Florence Township Police Department. The township understands the concerns, and several improvements have already been implemented by the township and Amazon. More improvements are scheduled for the immediate area to help minimize inconvenience to residents.

To try and keep the information brief and concise, we are outlining the information in bullet points.

- To help reduce the number of people walking to the Amazon facility, Amazon has hired a private transportation company to shuttle workers to and from the light rail station and a local bus stop. Amazon uses the private company, Stout Transportation for both of its shifts. Eventually, they hope to use the county's BurLink shuttle service to assist in reducing the overall numbers of people walking to and from the facility.
- Florence Township has applied for a grant to construct a new dedicated lighted walking path from the Florence light rail station to Cedar Lane. If approved, this will help greatly for people who utilize public transportation to get to the Amazon and other nearby employment hubs in our township.
- At the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Cedar Lane, a new roundabout will be constructed in the very near future. The roundabout is part of several improvements scheduled for Cedar Lane. The roundabout will help better direct and flow traffic to and from the area. The improvements are being paid for by the developers. Once PSE&G relocates their utility poles and lines, work can begin on all of the improvements. The winter weather could hinder full completion, but only in a minor way.
- On Cedar Lane, there will be improved lighting, new public sidewalks in front of Amazon and the new building across the street, as well as additional signage. There will also be a new dedicated left hand turn lane on Cedar Lane for the Amazon employee entrance. This left hand turn lane will allow thru traffic to keep moving without significant delays.
- Because Amazon opened their new facility right before their peak season, we all learned how to begin making adjustments in order to reduce the impact of the shift changes. For example, Amazon has been staggering its employees so they leave the parking lot in stages. Also, they are better coordinating the timing of their deliveries. According to Amazon officials, their peak season for this specific facility is over, and they will work with the township to better coordinate traffic at all times of the year.
- Amazon hired road flaggers to help during the peak season. The flaggers have been advised not to impede the flow of residents driving on Cedar Lane, and the flaggers will no longer be used in a few weeks.
- The police department is working on timing adjustment recommendations for the traffic signals at the Route 130 intersections to help during certain periods. The township will make a formal request of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) to implement the timing recommendations to help move motorists across Route 130.

As changes are made, an update will be made on the Township Website and via Facebook. We thank everyone for their cooperation and assistance during this change in our community.