



**CAPE MAY COUNTY**  
**Ocean Drive (CR 621) Upgrades & Bridge Improvements**  
**Local Concept Development Study**  
**Township of Lower, Cape May County, NJ**  
**[www.capemaytwomilebridge.com](http://www.capemaytwomilebridge.com)**

---

**Community Input Survey Summary – 24 Total Responses Received**

**About You**

1. Are you a resident of Lower, Wildwood Crest, Cape May or other?

Lower – 14 (63.64%)  
Wildwood Crest – 5 (22.73%)  
Cape May – 2 (9.09%)  
Other – 1 (4.55%)

2. What is the zip code of your residence?

08260 – 13 (59.09%) (Wildwood)  
08204 – 7 (31.81%) (Cape May)  
08210 – 1 (4.55%) (Cape May Court House)  
08251 – 1 (4.55%) (Villas)

3. What is your age?

Under 18 – 0 (0%)  
18-39 – 2 (9.09%)  
40-64 – 11 (50.00%)  
65 and above – 9 (40.91%)

4. Do you own or operate a business in Lower, Wildwood Crest, Cape May or other?

Lower – 5 (23.81%)  
Wildwood Crest – 1 (4.76%)  
Cape May – 1 (4.76%)  
Other – 0 (0%)  
None – 14 (66.67%)

5. What is the zip code of your place of employment?

08204 – 3 (33.33%) (Cape May)  
08260 – 2 (22.23%) (Wildwood)  
08251 – 3 (33.33%) (Villas)  
08062 – 1 (11.11%) (Mullica Hill)

6. How did you hear about the Ocean Drive Causeway Study?

- Our Website – 1 (4.55%)
- Press – 4 (18.18%)
- Social Media – 6 (27.27%)
- Friend or Family Member – 3 (13.64%)
- Sign or Advertisement – 0 (0%)
- Other – 10 (45.45%)
  - Mail – 5 (23.81%)
  - Notified as Stakeholder – 1 (4.76%)
  - Wildwood Crest Boro Meeting – 1 (4.76%)
  - Invited – 1 (4.76%)
  - At Meeting – 1 (4.76%)
  - Stakeholder Presentation – 1 (4.76%)

**Your Transportation Habits**

7. How often do you use Ocean Drive?

- Seasonal – 5 (22.73%)
- Every day – 6 (27.27%)
- Often – 12 (54.55%)
- Seldom – 1 (4.55%)
- Never – 0 (0%)

8. How often do you use each mode of transportation around the Ocean Drive Causeway?

	Seasonal	Every day	Often	Seldom	Never
<b>Drive:</b>	6 (27.27%)	6 (27.27%)	11 (50.00%)	1 (4.55%)	0 (0%)
<b>Bike:</b>	2 (11.76%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (35.29%)	9 (52.94%)
<b>Walk:</b>	1 (6.25%)	0 (0%)	1 (6.25%)	2 (12.50%)	12 (75.00%)
<b>Boat:</b>	3 (18.75%)	1 (6.25%)	4 (25.00%)	2 (12.50%)	6 (37.50%)

9. If walking or biking, what is your destination?

- Exercise – 2 (20.00%)
- Wildwood Crest – 1 (10.00%)
- Cape May – 4 (40.00%)
- Harbor View Marina – 1 (10.00%)
- Bike Trail in Cape May – 1 (10.00%)
- Nature Preserve Area – 1 (10.00%)

10. How often do you use a boat in the vicinity of the Ocean Drive Causeway?

- Seasonal – 4 (20.00%)
- Every day – 1 (5.00%)
- Often – 5 (25.00%)
- Seldom – 2 (10.00%)
- Never – 9 (45.00%)

11. How often do you pass under Ocean Drive in a marine vehicle?

Seasonal – 3 (14.29%)  
Every day – 0 (0%)  
Often – 5 (23.81%)  
Seldom – 4 (19.05%)  
Never – 9 (42.86%)

12. Which bridge do you pass under in a marine vehicle?

Mill Creek Bridge – 1 (10.00%)  
Upper Thorofare Bridge – 3 (30.00%)  
Middle Thorofare Bridge – 6 (60.00%)

13. What is the height of the boat you pass under the Ocean Drive Causeway most often?

Less than 20' – 9 (90.00%)  
20' to 40' – 1 (10.00%)  
40' to 60' – 0 (0%)  
Higher than 60' – 0 (0%)

#### **Your Input**

14. Are you interested in this study and its outcome?

Yes, a lot – 19 (86.36%)  
Yes, a little – 3 (13.64%)  
Not sure – 0 (0%)  
No – 0 (0%)

15. If so, in which regard? (Check all that apply)

As a local resident or commuter – 19 (86.36%)  
As a recreational user – 4 (18.18%)  
As a local business owner – 5 (22.73%)  
As a social service provider – 2 (9.09%)  
Other – 2 (9.09%)

- I don't want to see the ridiculous changes like between Ocean City and Longport and Ocean City and Somer's Point
- Emergency Services

16. In your opinion, what could be better along the Ocean Drive Causeway? (Check all that apply)

Motor vehicle congestion and delays – 16 (72.73%)

Safety – 18 (81.82%)

Accommodations for other modes of transportation (walking, biking, etc.) – 14 (63.64%)

Accommodations for marine traffic – 7 (31.82%)

Considerations for the natural environment – 6 (27.27%)

Other – 4 (18.18%)

- Fire safety for Diamond Beach
- E-ZPass alone would ease traffic toward Cape May
- Driving speed needs to be reduced to 25mph in both directions
- Speed limit sign near Diamond Beach showing 40mph leads to a 25 mph zone and creates a speed trap for Lower police to issue tickets

17. In your opinion, what is already sufficient along the Ocean Drive Causeway? (Check all that apply)

Motor vehicle congestion and delays – 3 (16.67%)

Safety – 0 (0%)

Accommodations for other modes of transportation (walking, biking, etc.) – 0 (0%)

Accommodations for marine traffic – 6 (33.33%)

Considerations for the natural environment – 13 (72.22%)

Other – 3 (16.67%)

- Too small of a roadway
- The aesthetic appearance and no disruption of vista/landscape
- Nothing

18. In your opinion, what is the **most important** concern that improvements should address? (Check one)

Motor vehicle congestion and delays – 6 (27.27%)

Safety – 7 (31.82%)

Accommodations for other modes of transportation (walking, biking, etc.) – 1 (4.55%)

Accommodations for marine traffic – 2 (9.09%)

Considerations for the natural environment – 2 (9.09%)

Other – 4 (18.29%)

- Careful design and making replacements without being obtrusive
- Structural safety of bridges
- Speed on the causeway going to and coming from Pacific Avenue needs to be reduced
- Speed sign of 40mph near Diamond Beach only exists to misdirect drivers and get issued speeding tickets. It's a trap for Lower Township to prey upon tourists

19. How would you rate the inconvenience posed to you during Ocean Drive closures for maintenance and repair? (Check one)

Low – 3 (13.64%)

Medium – 7 (31.82%)

High – 6 (27.27%)

Very High – 6 (27.27%)

20. How would you rate the quality of the accommodations made for marine traffic by the Ocean Drive Causeway? (Check one)

Low – 3 (14.29%)

Medium – 9 (42.86%)

High – 9 (42.86%)

Very High – 0 (0%)

21. What should the study team be aware of concerning any traffic changes or detours?

- Emergency evacuation event of coastal storm
- Widening of roadway
- Communication. well marked what is open/closed/times etc.
- Summer influx of people. It is taxpayers' livelihood. I saw what happened to the business owners of Townsends Inlet
- Sufficient notification, chance of flooding on Rio Grande - How would Diamond Beach leave island?
- Minimal detours during June, July, and August should be obtained at all costs.
- That information be posted well in advance!
- If closed, there will be significant impact to Wildwood Crest businesses and local marinas as there are no convenient solutions
- Need fire engines to be able to respond over bridge and faster emergency responses without having to deal with a drawbridge. Cannot adversely affect fishing industry - commercial + recreational
- Keeping the current businesses along Ocean Drive easily accessible for customers, tractor trailers and boat trailers. All the businesses along Ocean Drive cater to the tourist industry and are going to be more impacted by traffic changes and detours than the fisheries marine traffic.
- After construction/repair, the vehicle speed limit to and from Pacific Ave to the bridges needs to be reduced to 25mph. Drivers speed up on local roads anticipating the change from 25mph to 40mph on Ocean Drive. And then speed into the 25mph residential zone when coming north from the bridge at 40+mph.
- Traffic delays
- Often during flooding, Ocean Drive is the only exit from the island

22. Are you interested in becoming a stakeholder representing your organization, business, school, neighborhood, or interest group?

Yes – 4 (20.00%)

No – 13 (65.00%)

If so, which group?

- Wherever I could be of service
- Stakeholder representing our business
- Lower Township Rescue Squad – Lower Township Council
- Business
- Cape Issues
- South Austin Condominium Association (18 units on Austin Ave)

23. Are any provisions needed for you to attend a meeting, such as transportation to meetings, help with hearing, or seeing?
- No/None – 10 (90.90%)
  - Timely Notification – 1 (9.10%)
24. Are there any organizations or individuals you would suggest we contact as possible stakeholders?
- Yes – 4 (25.00%)  
 No – 12 (75.00%)  
 If so, which group?
- Local AARP Club, other civic groups Lions, Kiwanis, etc.
  - Businesses on the causeway
  - Local Marinas along Ocean Drive as folks traveling from The Wildwoods would most likely seek alternative marinas if road closed during boating season.
  - Recreational boat owners
25. Do you have any questions, comments, or suggestions related to the Ocean Drive Causeway, the Study, or future meetings?
- Middle Thorofare when closing bridge shakes
  - As someone who has always spent my summers along the shore in Cape May County, and now as a home owner in Cape May, I was saddened to see the hideous replacements for the Ocean City causeway and causeway from the north end of Ocean City to Longport. While I understand that these "super-sized" bridges were what was thought to be appropriate, it has changed the landscape significantly, and not for the better. I hope that the needed repairs and replacements along Ocean Drive between Ocean City, and all the way down to Cape May can have more aesthetic consideration to keeping with the charm of the surrounding areas. If people are in a hurry to go north and south, then let them go out to the Parkway. The Ocean Drive series of causeways lends itself to a wonderfully peaceful drive steeped with lots of charm. Enjoy the trip! The congestion problem is not with the bridges, it's the in-town traffic patterns that's the problem.
  - I was under the impression that a thorough study had been completed in the early 2000s. We thought we were going to have a new bridge by mid 2000s.
  - My husband is dockmaster at Two Mile Landing Marina. I worry about him traveling the Middle Thorough Bridge every day from Cold Spring. My suggestion is if we can't get a new bridge soon is to have timed openings (every 1/2 hr. to 1 hr - except for commercial vessels) like all the bridges in the Intercoastal Waterway has all the way to Florida. It would save a lot of wear and tear on the bridge.
  - Please do any construction during night time hours!
  - Do this: <http://drmp.com/expertise/design-build/a-max-brewer-bridge-replacement>
  - All business owners along Ocean Drive cater to the tourist industry and are going to be more impacted by traffic changes and detours than the fisheries and marine traffic.
  - None other than suggestion of 25mph speed on north side of biggest bridge
  - What is the proposed duration of the construction portion of the project? Is the work to be performed off season?
  - Please do whatever is possible to streamline the overall process.
  - Top speed of 50mph is dangerous. Should be lowered to 45mph. The 40 mph sign and arrow entering the Diamond Beach 25mph zone must be removed.