

# Project Purpose and Need Statement

## Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve overall safety, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance accessibility for all modes of travel including auto, freight, transit, bicycling and walking along the US Route 22 Corridor between US 202/206 Interchange (MP 33.8) and I-287 Interchange (MP 36.9) in Bridgewater Township and Somerville Borough, Somerset County.

The purpose is to:

- ✓ Improve overall safety in the study corridor;
- ✓ Reduce traffic congestion and improve travel operations; and
- ✓ Integrate, where feasible, various modes of travel along the study corridor

## Need

The project must improve overall mobility, access, economic vitality and general quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors of the area.

- ✓ **Improve Safety** – Certain portions of the corridor experienced over five times the statewide average crash rate
- ✓ **Reduce Traffic Congestion** - A Level of Service (LOS) analysis for the corridor indicates high levels of congestion on the western portion of the corridor, primarily in the eastbound direction
- ✓ **Improve Travel Operations** - A high percentage of the traffic (approximately 60%) along the US Route 22 corridor is through traffic, destined to other locations outside the study area in each peak period.
- ✓ **Integration of Other Modes of Transportation** - Limited pedestrian and bicycle facilities are provided with the exception of the pedestrian bridge located over Route 22 at Mountain Avenue.

