

Lights

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tions in Cape May County, US Congressman Frank LoBiondo was able to secure \$5 million in federal funding to design overpasses for the exits 9, 10 and 11.

Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno and NJDOT Commissioner Jim Simpson represented Gov. Chris Christie at the meeting. Guadagno said the project is not part of \$700 billion in roadwork in New Jersey, stretching from Cape May County to as far as Hoboken. She said the Cape May County project was originally estimated to cost \$125 million, but has been pared down to \$110 million through fiscal responsibility.

She said the groundbreaking was the start of a process of keeping a small promise to the Meyer family.

"We have a unique understanding here of what is important in life," she said. Guadagno said the administration began talking about the three traffic lights in Cape May County, where as there were no other lights on the 172-mile long GSP. She said they all came to the same conclusion.

"It was a no-brainer to do what is right," she said. "I'm happy to bring some sense to Cape May County."

Van Drew said the lights were installed 60 years ago with the promise they were only temporary. He said



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, breaking ground for the \$110 million project that will eliminate three dangerous intersections from the Garden State Parkway in Cape May County are Cape May County Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton, US Congressman Frank LoBiondo, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, NJDOT Commissioner Jim Simpson, Turnpike Authority Director Ronnie Hakim, Eric Meyer - Middle Township resident whose son died in an accident in 2004 at the parkway and Stone Harbor Boulevard, and State Sen. Jeff Van Drew, who started advocating for the elimination of the parkway traffic lights nearly a decade ago.

ties, to include widening the Great Egg Harbor Bridge.

"We are spending billions in this region alone, but it couldn't come at a better time because of (super-storm) Sandy," Simpson said. Simpson said the bridge project would also include a bike lane, so cyclists riding on Route 9 could cross over the Great Egg harbor Bridge and

then get back on Route 9.

Coincidentally, Simpson said he witnessed firsthand the danger of the GSP traffic lights. He said coming to the county administration building that morning he saw a dump truck blow through a red light at Crest Haven Boulevard doing 50 or 55 mph. Freeholder Director Gerald Thornton said the

project would correct 60 years of bad engineering. He thanked the congressman for securing federal funding to help pay for the project.

"This doesn't make up for the loss," LoBiondo said. "It was clear in the mid-90s the traffic lights were a problem, and were a recipe for disaster."

He said at that time the state wouldn't commit to removing the traffic lights without federal funding. He said they had to meet a long list of criteria before the project was approved. LoBiondo echoed previous comments saying the governor backed the project.

"The Christie administration said we get it, we'll get it done," LoBiondo said.

The project will replace the traffic signals at the three at-grade intersections with full interchanges. Bridges will be built over Shell Bay Avenue, Stone Harbor Boulevard and Crest Haven Road. Ramps will provide continued full access between the parkway and the local roads at all three interchanges. Drivers on the Garden State Parkway will no longer have to stop to let local traffic pass, and drivers on the local roads will no longer have to wait at a busy intersection to get to the other side of the parkway.

"Three people have died in crashes at these traffic lights just since the preliminary design for this project began

in 2004," Simpson said.

According to information provided by the state, the traffic lights have been in place since before there was a Garden State Parkway. They were installed when the former New Jersey Highway Department built a bypass around Cape May Courthouse in the 1940s. They remained after the bypass was incorporated into the Parkway when the toll road opened in 1954.

The New Jersey Turnpike Authority, which operates the Parkway, awarded a construction contract to the Richard E. Pierson Construction Company of Pilesgrove in December. Pierson was the lowest of four bidders. The total cost of the project is \$110 million, about \$15 million less than originally projected. The project is being paid for with \$32 million in federal funding secured by Congressman LoBiondo and \$78 million from the Turnpike Authority's 10-year capital program.

Construction is expected to take about two years.

The first steps will be to relocate utilities and to construct a temporary diversionary road parallel to the northbound Parkway. The diversionary road, which is expected to be completed in about three months, will carry Parkway traffic while the overpasses are being constructed.

Sand

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said the permits are generally issued for five years, however they still touched base with the NJDEP before starting the project.

The movement of sand on local beaches is a constant phenomenon. MacLeod said a storm last week blew sand onto Beach Avenue in about five different locations. The city had to use heavy equipment to collect the sand off the street and place it back on the beach.

Responding to a question about dune creation, MacLeod said the city does not generally construct dunes. However, sometimes,

as part of beach replenishment procedures, contractors hired by the Army Corps of Engineers and DEP will do work that involves the dunes.

"But we haven't done anything recently that would include significant sand placement on dunes," he said.

The placement of snow fences on beaches can often lead to dune creation. New snow fencing at the Cove Beach area, MacLeod said, is an effort to keep sand off the street and off private property until the winter winds wane.

"The goal at the Cove is in relationship to windblown sand. The idea is to get a series of snow fence lines to

help control the windblown sand and keep it out of street," he said.

MacLeod said the wind tends to blow west to east this time of year, and a lot of sand collects in the street at of Beach Avenue and in the Cove Restaurant's parking lot. He said sometime this week, as part of beach replenishment program, the contractor working with the USACE and DEP would be removing that sand and placing it back on the beach.

MacLeod said sometime in March the snow fence would be removed from the Cove Beach.

Skate

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Chait said they are renting more traditional roller skates than they are the inline skates, also called roller blades. He said he can only guess the reason why.

"A lot of blades kids have their own roller blades," he said, "but we certainly have seen more skate rentals."

Roller blades also cost twice as much to rent, \$4 rather than \$2 for traditional roller skates. Chait said the cost was based on a comparison of prices with other facilities. He said the price differential existed when skating was held in the old Convention Hall. Chait said there are also fewer roller blades available.

The Recreation Department has also started a toddler skating program on Friday morning as a result of the demand. Chait said parents were finding it difficult to teach their younger children to skate on a crowded skating rink.

"This gives them a chance to teach to their small children to skate with ample room. We are also testing it out to see if it needs a better time slot," Chait said.

He said the program is similar to the Wee Play Time the Recreation Department runs on Thursdays, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Cape May Roller Skating at



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Above, parents give their daughter a helping hand, teaching her how to skate at the Cape May Convention Hall roller skating time.

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**Safe Haven PG-13 Wed. Premier 10:00pm
**Safe Haven PG-13 Opens Thur 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 7:05, 9:40
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunter 2D R (Fri - Wed) 11:30
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**A Good Day to Die Hard R Premier Wed. 10pm
**A Good Day to Die Hard R opens Thur. 11:15, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45
**Warm Bodies PG-13 11:20, 1:50, 4:10, 7:25, 9:45

** No Passes

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TIDES
February 2013
Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
6	4:08	4:35	10:21	10:25
7	5:10	5:37	11:21	11:25
8	6:06	6:33	12:15	12:15
9	6:58	7:24	12:22	1:05
10	7:46	8:12	1:14	1:52
11	8:32	8:58	2:05	2:37
12	9:17	9:43	2:53	3:21
13	10:01	10:27	3:41	4:03

Moon Phases
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New Moon, Feb. 10
First Quarter, Feb. 17
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