

**New Jersey Department of Transportation
Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project
Rehabilitation of the Existing Manahawkin Bay and Hilliards Thorofare Bridges
Stafford Township and Borough of Ship Bottom, Ocean County
Public Information Center
Thursday, December 15, 2016, Two Sessions**

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance transportation needs, the environment, community concerns and cost, will hold a **Public Information Center** to inform local residents and businesses of the staging and improvements in connection with the **Rehabilitation of the existing Manahawkin Bay Bridge and the Hilliards Thorofare trestle bridge** as a separate construction contract for the **Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project in Stafford Township and the Borough of Ship Bottom, Ocean County**. You are encouraged to actively participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail or by e-mail.

The Meetings

The Public Information Center will be held on **Thursday, December 15, 2016 at Ship Bottom Borough Hall, 1621 Long Beach Boulevard, Ship Bottom from 2 - 4 pm and at Stafford Township Municipal Building, 260 East Bay Avenue, Manahawkin from 6 - 8 pm**. A brief presentation will be given at 2:30 pm and at 6:30 pm, respectively.

Please plan to attend at a time that is convenient for you. The meeting will provide an opportunity to view information on the design plans and construction staging. NJDOT staff will be on hand to answer any questions. Property owners of rental units are advised that tenants are also invited and encouraged to participate.

Background

The existing Manahawkin Bay Bridge (no longer carrying Route 72 traffic after the shift of all traffic to the new southerly bridge) over the Intracoastal Waterway exhibits structural deterioration and the effects of aging. The existing structure did not provide safe accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians. Route 72 is the only vehicular route from the Long Beach Island communities to the mainland and is the sole emergency evacuation route off of the island. Long Beach Island is an important summer tourist destination for the region and thus is vital to the economic viability of the region. The NJDOT has coordinated the planning and timing of the improvements with Stafford Township and Ship Bottom Borough officials.

The Project – Construction Contract 4

The NJDOT has awarded a contract to rehabilitate the existing Manahawkin Bay Bridge and the existing Hilliards Thorofare Bridge. The improvements to the existing Bay Bridge include: pier cap rehabilitation, replacement of steel girders, deck slab, and parapets, installation of a new fender system, and scour protection for the existing abutments. The bridge deck will be reconfigured to provide two lanes and a 13 foot wide outside shoulder, which can accommodate bicycles in each direction. A six-foot sidewalk with a pedestrian safety barrier/railing is also proposed on the north side. The improvements to the existing Hilliards Thorofare Bridge are similar to the work performed in the second contract to the East and West Thorofare Bridges, and include: repairing and resurfacing the existing bridge deck and replacement of the outside bay of the deck slab, reconfiguring the lanes to provide a pedestrian separation barrier/railing and sidewalk on the north side, and repairing spalls on the existing pier caps.

Two lanes of traffic in each direction will be carried on the newly constructed Bay Bridge during rehabilitation of the existing Bay Bridge. In the final condition at the conclusion of the Fourth Contract, the existing bridge will carry two westbound lanes and the new bridge will carry two eastbound lanes. Construction of the Hilliards Thorofare Bridge rehabilitation will be done in up to six stages similar to the staging that was done for the East and West Thorofare Bridges.

A Shuttle Bus Service will be resumed once construction begins following a pre-determined schedule to allow pedestrian and/or bicycle traffic to reach Long Beach Island from the mainland. The schedule is available on NJDOT's website www.njcommuter.com (Construction Updates, select Route 72) or at the local municipal offices.

Estimated Project Schedule

Fourth Construction Contract: Fall 2016 to Summer 2019

For further information, please contact:

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