

**New Jersey Department of Transportation
Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project
East and West Thorofare Bridges Rehabilitation and Environmental Mitigations
Stafford Township and Borough of Ship Bottom, Ocean County
Public Information Center**

Monday February 9, 2015, Two Sessions

Ship Bottom Borough Hall, 1621 Long Beach Blvd., Ship Bottom, New Jersey 2 - 4 PM

Stafford Township Municipal Building, 260 East Bay Ave., Manahawkin, New Jersey 6 - 8 PM

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), is 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 East and West Bridge Thorofares and Environmental Mitigations** as additional construction contracts 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 **Monday, February 9, 2015** in the afternoon at **Ship Bottom Borough Hall, 1621 Long Beach Boulevard, Ship Bottom** from **2 - 4 pm** and in the evening 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 either or both meetings 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 Thorofare Bridges carrying Route 72 over the Intracoastal Waterway exhibits structural deterioration and the effects of aging. The existing structure does not currently 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 Contracts

Second Construction Contract: The NJDOT has awarded a contract to rehabilitate the Causeway Bridges over West Thorofare and East Thorofare. The improvements to both Thorofare Bridges include: pier cap rehabilitation, bearing retrofits, pile protection system, new parapets, and repairing and resurfacing the bridge decks. The bridge decks will be reconfigured to provide two lanes and a wider outside shoulder, which can accommodate bicycles in each direction. A six-foot sidewalk with a pedestrian safety barrier is also proposed along the westbound direction. In addition to improvements on the Thorofare Bridges, the project will also include reconstruction of the approach roadways, new storm drainage systems, a parking lot, highway lighting, and bulkhead/fender system repairs.

Third Construction Contract: The NJDOT has awarded a separate contract for construction of environmental mitigations needed to comply with environmental permit conditions for the entire Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project. The NJDOT, in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, is constructing the restoration of a previous dredge disposal facility at the Cedar Bonnet Island Unit of the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge which will include wetland creation, mitigation for freshwater wetlands, intertidal/subtidal shallows, and riparian impacts. Also included are public access improvements such as public parking and new interpretive pedestrian walking trails to provide improved access to the Wildlife Refuge and provide residents and visitors with additional passive recreation and tourism enhancements. This contract also includes the retrofit of two existing stormwater basins, located along Route 70 in Brick Township, to comply with the NJDEP Stormwater Rules and to improve the Manahawkin Bay water quality.

Estimated Project Schedule

- 2nd Construction Contract: Winter 2015 to Summer 2017
- 3rd Construction Contract: Winter 2015 to Fall 2017

Web Site

www.njcommuter.com (Construction Updates, select Route 72)

For further information, please contact:

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