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State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

JAMES S. SIMPSON
Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

October 7, 2013

Re: New Jersey Department of Transportation
NJ Route 4 Over Hackensack River Bridge Concept Development Study
City of Hackensack and Teaneck Township, Bergen County, NJ

Dear Community Stakeholder:

The New Jersey Department of Transportation is pleased to inform you of the start of a new study, evaluating the rehabilitation or replacement of the New Jersey Route 4 Bridge over Hackensack River Project. The project is currently in the Concept Development phase. Enclosed is a Study Information Handout, including the study description and schedule.

The Department encourages active participation from the public on its transportation improvement studies. We are currently working with representatives from the local municipalities and would like to reach out to the local and regional stakeholders such as schools, hospitals, businesses and civic organizations from the City of Hackensack and Teaneck Township, Bergen County.

Kindly complete the attached NJ Route 4 Community Stakeholders Survey by October 18, 2013 and return to the address indicated on the survey, so we may have an understanding of your needs and contact information for a representative from your organization. A Community Stakeholders Meeting (2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) and a Public Information Center Meeting (6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at the Bergen County Engineering Department, 1st Floor Multi-Purpose Room, One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ. Please see the attached meeting notice for further information.

Thank you for completing the survey. Should you or your organization have questions or comments concerning the project, please contact me at the NJDOT Office of Community and Constituent Relations (609-530-2110, deborah.hirt@dot.state.nj.us).

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation improvement project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah M. Hirt".

Deborah Hirt
Regional Manager
NJDOT, Office of Community & Constituent Relations

cc: Charles Henry, NJDOT, Division of Project Management



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NJ Route 4 Over Hackensack River Bridge Concept Development Study
City of Hackensack and Teaneck Township, Bergen County, NJ

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance the transportation needs, the environment, community concerns and cost. The Department is extending an invitation for you to attend the following meetings:

Date: **Thursday, October 24, 2013**

Meeting: **Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1**

Time: **2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Place: **Bergen County Engineering Department, Multi-Purpose Room, 1st Floor
One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ**

Meeting: **Public Information Center Meeting**

Time: **6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (open house format - brief presentation at 6:30 p.m.)**

Place: **Same location as above**

The purpose of the Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1 is to introduce the project team, present the Study status and schedule, and to discuss the community interests associated with improvements to the NJ Route 4 Bridge over the Hackensack River.

The Public Meeting will be an open house format to present study information and obtain input from the general public. The public are welcomed to attend at a time convenient to them to view display boards and staff will be available to answer questions. There will be a brief presentation at 6:30 p.m. with similar information as presented at the afternoon Community Stakeholders Meeting. **You are welcomed to attend either or both meetings.**

In addition to the above meetings, written comments will be accepted through Friday, November 22, 2013. Comments may be mailed, faxed or emailed to the address below.

For project information, please contact:

Ms. Deborah Hirt
NJDOT Office of Community & Constituent Relations
deborah.hirt@dot.state.nj.us
Tel: 609-530-2110
Fax: 609-530-4638

Mailing Address:

NJDOT, OCCR
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, NJ 08625
Attn: Deborah Hirt



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NJ Route 4 Over Hackensack River Bridge Concept Development Study
City of Hackensack and Teaneck Township, Bergen County, NJ

STUDY INFORMATION

The New Jersey Department of Transportation is conducting a study for major rehabilitation or replacement of the existing Route 4 Bridge over the Hackensack River to improve its structural deficiencies and to maintain a critical transportation connection between the City of Hackensack and the Township of Teaneck as well as for the regional communities in Bergen County. Due to its age, the bridge has deteriorated over time and routine maintenance can no longer address the deficiencies.

Bridge Background Information

The Route 4 over Hackensack River bridge is an eight span, simply supported concrete encased steel deck girder and floorbeam structure. The structure which was built in 1931 is structural deficient due to the deteriorated condition of the deck. In addition to the significant deck deterioration, the bridge is scour critical, because the depths of the bridge supporting piles are unknown. The structure is nearing the end of its service life, and is requiring more and more maintenance repairs to allow it to remain open to traffic. The bridge is also considered functionally obsolete since it does not have any shoulders for the length of the bridge and the bridge railing is sub-standard. Finally, this important pedestrian link for Fairleigh Dickinson University has a severely deteriorated sidewalk and pedestrian railing/parapet.

The Proposed Study

The current phase of this study is Concept Development (CD). During this phase a well defined and well justified Purpose and Need Statement will be developed focusing on the need to improve safety and maintain the current crossing over the Hackensack River. The CD Phase elements also include data collection; coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, Bergen County, Local Officials, local business and community stakeholders, and permitting agencies; the development of a reasonable number of sensible and practical conceptual alternatives; the development of a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, and to investigate all aspects of the project. These aspects will include environmental, right of way, access, utilities, design, community involvement, constructability, and cost.

The primary tasks of Local Officials and community stakeholders are to participate in the development of the Project Purpose and Need Statement and conceptual alternatives, and in the selection of the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) based on the Project Purpose and Need. The identification of possible "fatal flaws" (i.e., concerns and/or issues that would preclude the advancement of a given conceptual alternative) also will be explored with the various project stakeholders during this stage of project development.

Concept Development Project Schedule (Major Milestones)

Develop Project Purpose and Need Statement	Fall 2013
Development of Conceptual Alternatives	Winter 2014
Selection of Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA)	Spring 2014
Submission of Draft Concept Development Report	Summer 2014
Completion of Concept Development Phase	Fall 2014

Preliminary Milestone Schedule

Data Collection/Purpose and Need Phase

Summer - Fall 2013

Conceptual Alternatives & Analysis Phase

Fall 2013 - Spring 2014

PPA and Final Documentation Phase

Spring - Fall 2014

Preliminary and Final Design

2015 - 2017

Construction

2017 - 2019

Community Outreach

- Local Officials Meeting No. 1–Municipalities of Hackensack, Teaneck and River Edge–September 12, 2013
- Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1 (2-4pm) & Public Information Center (6-8pm) – October 24, 2013
- Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 2 (2-4pm) & Public Information Center (6-8pm) – Winter, 2014
- Public Information Center (4-7pm) for Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) - Spring, 2014
- Local Officials Meeting No. 2–Municipalities of Hackensack, Teaneck and River Edge - Spring, 2014

Input will be solicited from the City of Hackensack, Township of Teaneck, and Bergen County on the project alternatives, including the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA), prior to the completion of the Concept Development Report. That input can be provided to the Department in various forms, such as municipal and county resolutions, letters from the municipalities and the county, and project meeting minutes.

Contact Information

Deborah Hirt, *Community Relations Regional Manager*
New Jersey Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Avenue, PO Box 600
Trenton, NJ 08625 - 0600
Phone: 609-530-2110
deborah.hirt@dot.state.nj.us



**New Jersey Department of Transportation
 NJ Route 4 Over Hackensack River Bridge Concept Development Study
 City of Hackensack and Teaneck Township, Bergen County, NJ**

Community Stakeholders Survey

October 7, 2013

To: Individuals and Organizations interested in NJ Route 4 over Hackensack River Bridge
 Concept Development Study

From: New Jersey Department of Transportation

RE: **Local and Regional Community Stakeholders Survey**

The New Jersey Department of Transportation is extending an invitation to local officials and key community stakeholders in the vicinity of the NJ Route 4 Bridge over the Hackensack River to represent their community interests and participate in this Bridge Study.

The project team is identifying potential stakeholder representatives for a Community Stakeholders Meeting to be held on **Thursday, October 24, 2013 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm** at Bergen County Engineering, 1st Floor Multi-Purpose Room, Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ. If unable to attend, a Public Information Center Meeting will be held **from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm** on the same day and location open to the general public.

The purpose of the Community Stakeholders Meeting will be to present the project status and schedule, discuss the bridge condition, and obtain stakeholder input. The Public Meeting will be an open house format to present information and solicit input from the public on the Study's purpose and need.

Please return the completed Survey and contact information by October 18, 2013 via Email: maculbertson@verizon.net, or Fax: 856-795-8523 or Mail to: M.A. Culbertson, LLC, P.O. Box 45, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	
Title:	
Organization:	
Address:	
Telephone number:	
Fax number:	
Email Address:	

Do you have a preference for being contacted? *Please check:* Phone Fax Email

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Please check options and provide any additional comments on the back side of page.

1. Were you aware of this Bridge Improvement Study? Yes No
2. How often do you use NJ Route 4 over Hackensack River in a month? (please check)
 Everyday (30 days) Often (5-10 days) Seldom (1-3 days) Never
3. Do you use public transportation in this area? Everyday Often Seldom Never
 If so, what type? NJ Transit Private Bus Other _____

4. Do you walk or ride a bike in this area? Yes Often Sometimes No
- a. If walking, which sidewalk:
- Northside (*mall side, westbound traffic*) Southside (*east bound traffic*) Both Not on bridge
- b. If bicycling, please circle: sidewalk or shoulder and which side:
- Northside (*mall side, westbound traffic*) Southside (*east bound traffic*) Both Not on bridge
5. How is this study important to you - your involvement/representation? (*circle any that apply*)
- a. Resident or Commuter (*how do you use this interchange for travel, local or regional*)?
- b. Type of Mobility and Access (*local use - walking, biking, transit*)
- c. Economic interest (*business owner, chamber of commerce member*)?
- d. Social service provider (*non-profit agency, house of worship, human resources*)?
- e. Historic features of interest (*member of historical society or organization*)?
6. What are the key issues near the NJ Route 4 over Hackensack River Bridge as you see them (access, safety, traffic, mobility, aesthetics)?
7. What should the study team be aware of concerning any traffic changes or detours near the NJ Route 4 over Hackensack River Bridge that happen today or in the future?
8. Are you interested in becoming a stakeholder representing your organization, business, school, neighborhood or interest group (*attend 2-3 meetings*)? Yes No
9. Are any special provisions needed for you to attend a meeting such as access, hearing, or visual?
10. Are there any organizations or individuals you would suggest we contact as possible stakeholders?
11. Do you have any comments/questions about the study or any other suggestions you wish to share about the study that may help with planning future meetings?

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return by October 18, 2013 to: maculbertson@verizon.net or fax to: 856-795-8523, or mail to: M.A. Culbertson, LLC, P.O. Box 45, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact Deborah Hirt, NJDOT Office of Community & Constituent Relations, Tel: 609-530-2110, deborah.hirt@dot.state.nj.us