New Jersey Department of Transportation
Route 37 - Mathis Bridge Eastbound over the Barnegat Bay
Deck Replacement
Township of Toms River and Borough of Seaside Heights, Ocean County
Public Information Center
Tuesday, February 17, 2015 4 – 7 PM

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 **Route 37 Eastbound Thomas Mathis Bridge Deck Replacement Project in the Township of Toms River and the Borough of Seaside Heights, Ocean County**. You are encouraged to actively participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail, or by e-mail.

The Meeting

The Public Information Center will be held in the **Council Chambers Meeting Room, 33 Washington Street, Toms River on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 from 4 – 7 pm**. Please plan to attend at a time that is convenient for you. You will have an opportunity to view information on the design plans and construction staging. NJDOT staff will be on hand to answer questions. Property owners of rental units are advised that tenants are also invited and encouraged to participate.

Background

The existing Eastbound Mathis Bridge deck carrying Route 37 over the Barnegat Bay exhibits structural deterioration and the effects of aging. Route 37 is one of the main vehicular routes from several townships east of the Barnegat Bay to the mainland. It is also an emergency evacuation route off of the barrier islands. These shore resorts are important summer tourist destinations for the region and thus vital to the local economy. The NJDOT has coordinated the planning and timing of the proposed improvements with the community officials.

The Proposed Project

The proposed improvements to the Mathis Bridge include bridge deck replacement, safety improvements to the obsolete gates and railings, substructure and structural steel repairs, bearing replacement, minor painting, and mechanical/electrical upgrades to machinery/controls. The project will also include minor improvements to the bridge approach roadways, storm drainage system improvements, ITS improvements, bridge lighting, and fender repairs. The Mathis Bridge will be improved to provide 10-foot wide lanes.

There is no work on the westbound Tunney Bridge other than off-seasonal temporary traffic shifts during construction staging. A concrete movable construction barrier will separate traffic during the off season shifts as described below. Existing pedestrian access on the north sidewalk of Tunney Bridge will remain during the temporary traffic shift.

Navigation will be maintained throughout the construction, but without openings of the movable span, between early-December and the end of March for three seasons.

Traffic/Construction Staging

Construction will be staged to maintain existing conditions during the peak summer season, with three travel lanes in both the westbound and eastbound directions from about May 1st through October 31st. The construction above deck is limited to November 1st to April 30th each year.

During each construction season, the Mathis Bridge will be closed to all vehicular traffic. All traffic will be shifted to the westbound Tunney Bridge, where two lanes will be maintained westbound and one lane eastbound - from west of Fischer Boulevard to east of Catalina Avenue. Temporary crossovers will be constructed at either end to shift eastbound traffic to/from the Tunney Bridge. The existing access to the businesses along the southern side of Route 37 eastbound in Toms River will be maintained during construction. Additionally, the Douglas Street jughandle for left turn and through movements adjacent to the bridge will be maintained during construction. During off peak construction seasons, a minor detour, only for the right turn movement from the jughandle to eastbound traffic is required. A new traffic signal at the Douglas Street jughandle will be constructed.

There are no right-of-way acquisitions, public utilities are not impacted and environmental permits are not required.

Estimated Project Schedule

- Estimated Construction Start: Spring 2015
- Estimated Completion: Prior to Summer 2018

Web Site

www.njcommuter.com (Construction Updates, select Route 37)

For further information, please contact:
Denise Peck, Regional Manager
Office of Community and Constituent Relations
Denise.Peck@dot.state.nj.us

New Jersey Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 600, Trenton, NJ 08625-0600
Phone: 609.530.2110; Fax: 609.530.4638