



New Jersey Turnpike Authority

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Corzine announces start of Turnpike widening

Governor Jon S. Corzine today announced the start of a \$2.7 billion New Jersey Turnpike widening project that will create or preserve thousands of jobs and remove a chronic bottleneck on one of the busiest toll roads in the U.S.

“Today marks a major step forward in meeting the long-term transportation needs of the State on one of the most densely traveled roadways in America,” said Governor Corzine. “The widening of the New Jersey Turnpike is a critical infrastructure project that will help to spur New Jersey’s economy with the addition of vital construction jobs, enhance the flow of commerce and ease traffic congestion on this heavily traveled transportation artery.”

The project will add 170 lane miles between Interchange 6 in Mansfield Township, Burlington County, and Interchange 9 in East Brunswick, Middlesex County. It will include the construction of a new toll plaza at Interchange 8 in East Windsor, Mercer County.

“Anyone who has ever driven on this section of the Turnpike understands the need for this widening,” said Transportation Commissioner Stephen Dilts, who serves as chairman of the Turnpike Authority. “The merge south of Interchange 8A where Turnpike traffic funnels from five lanes to three is one of the worst bottlenecks in New Jersey. Nobody will be sad to see it go.”

The project, which is the largest widening in the 58-year history of the Turnpike Authority, will add three lanes in each direction between Interchanges 6 and 8A and one lane in each direction between Interchanges 8A and 9. When the work is done in 2013, there will be six lanes in each direction from Interchange 6 to Interchange 11 over that entire stretch of the highway.

No federal or state tax dollars will be used to pay for the project. It will be funded entirely through tolls and other Turnpike Authority revenue.

“After years of careful planning, we’re ready to get started on this vital project,” said Turnpike Authority Executive Director Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti. “Congested highways are one of the great frustrations of contemporary life. By improving the flow of commuter and commercial traffic through New Jersey, this project promises to boost the economy and our quality of life.”

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