



Route 22 Bridge over Echo Lake Final Design

**Virtual Public Information Center ■ August /September 2021
Borough of Mountainside, Union County**

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is committed to developing transportation improvements that balance transportation needs, safety, the environment, community concerns, and cost. As such, NJDOT is completing Final Design for a replacement of the Route 22 Bridge over Echo Lake. The project is located in the Borough of Mountainside, Union County, New Jersey. The project limits on Route 22 are from MP. 50.63 to MP. 50.80.

PUBLIC MEETING DETAILS

NJDOT will hold a Virtual Public Information Center (PIC) to provide local residents and businesses with information on the bridge project between **Monday, August 23 through Monday, September 6, 2021**. Local residents, public officials, and the business community are encouraged to participate by viewing a recorded project presentation via the website below and providing comments online or by e-mail or mail.

route22bridge-echolake.com

PROJECT NEED

The existing bridge (Structure No. 2003-157) was constructed in 1929 as a single-span, simply-supported bridge with concrete encased steel beams and a reinforced concrete deck.

The bridge provides two travel lanes in each direction (eastbound/westbound) and is separated by a concrete barrier. To the west of the bridge, both directions of Route 22 split to form an approximately 120' wide grass median, within the project limits. This section of Route 22 has a posted speed of 45 mph and is classified as an Urban Principal Arterial. Echo Lake Park is located adjacent to the bridge on its south side.

The 18th Cycle Bridge Reevaluation Report, dated October 2013, indicated that the deck is in poor condition, while the superstructure and substructure

are both in fair condition. This structure is also listed as scour critical.

PROPOSED PROJECT

This project proposes to replace the existing bridge with a new pre-cast concrete 3-sided culvert on cast-in-place spread footings. The proposed footing elevation is set to resist the 100-year scour elevation. The existing wing walls will be replaced with new cast-in-place reinforced concrete wing walls. Once the bridge construction is complete, the existing pavement will be resurfaced. The median U-turn (Ramp OR) located immediately west of the bridge will be closed during construction. Furthermore, it is anticipated to be closed permanently due to substandard acceleration and deceleration lane lengths. In addition, this U-turn is located in an area with a crash rate that is 2.5 times greater than the statewide average. It was determined that the acceleration and deceleration lanes associated with this ramp cannot be lengthened without significant impacts to the right-of-way and Echo Lake Park.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Final design complete	Spring 2022
Construction begin	Summer 2022
Construction end	Fall 2024

For further information, please contact:

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