

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

I-80 WB Rockfall Mitigation Project - Knowlton & Hardwick Townships of Warren County

Public Information Center

Wednesday June 14, 2017 6:00 - 8:00 PM

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is committed to developing roadway transportation improvements that balance transportation needs, the environment, community concerns and costs. One of the most critical elements related to the success of a project is the relationship that the NJDOT develops with the community. You are encouraged to participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail or by e-mail.

The Meeting

We cordially invite you to attend a Public Information Center for Interstate 80 WB Rockfall Mitigation Project improvements. The meeting will take place on **Wednesday June 14, 2017 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Knowlton Elementary School, 80 Route 46, Delaware, N.J.** Please come at a time that is convenient for you. You will have an opportunity to examine the proposal developed for this roadway safety project. NJDOT staff will be available to answer your questions.

The Problem

This portion of I-80 Westbound serves as an important regional connection between New Jersey and Pennsylvania and serves as a key local access point to the National Park Service's Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Rockfall occurrences have led to accidents and lane closures which required the deployment of the New Jersey State Police and NJDOT maintenance staff to remove rock debris and restore safe roadway access. The proposed project area is within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; however, all work will occur within the NJDOT Right-of-Way. The proposed project includes walls, catchment ditches, berms, fences and wire mesh netting on I-80 Westbound between Mileposts 1.04 and 1.45.

Environmental Conditions

The project site is located within the Mt. Tammany Natural Heritage Priority Site; potential environmental constraints include threatened and endangered (T&E) species identified by the NJDEP Natural Heritage Program and/or the USFWS, including: Timber rattlesnake, Longtail salamander, bald eagle, barred owl, northern goshawk, bobcat, wood turtle, Indiana bat, and wild bleeding heart. The NJDOT will follow the recommended procedures, to the extent possible, to avoid and/or minimize impacts to these important natural resources.

NJDOT is required by the New Jersey No Net Loss Reforestation Act to hold a public forum when one or more acres of deforestation occurs in an area owned or maintained by a state entity, to present to the public the deforestation and reforestation plans prepared for the project. Construction of this project will deforest an area of trees in both Knowlton and Hardwick Townships according to the methodology outlined in the No Net Loss (NNL) Program Guidelines. The law states that if tree planting adjacent to the deforested area is not possible, re-planting will occur in the following order: within the municipality in which the deforestation occurred, within five miles of the site of deforestation, or off-site. If none of these options are feasible, the Department will provide monetary compensation in the amount equal to the value of the number of trees required to the "Shade Tree and Community Forest Preservation License Plate Fund." The affected municipalities will be advised by Community Forestry the amount of monies available for tree planting within their communities via a grant process. Plans showing the deforestation and reforestation for the project will be presented at the meeting and the public will have the opportunity to comment on the plans for a comment period of 60 days after the public forum.

Federal regulations pertaining to the protection of historic properties, referred to as the Section 106 process, require NJDOT to consider the effect of the proposed project upon historic resources listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. A handout with information about the process will be available at the Public Information Center.

NJDOT is required to solicit public input to assist in carrying out the Section 106 process. Historic preservation organizations, historical societies, and similar groups, or individuals with information about cultural resources (archaeological or architectural) in the project area are encouraged to attend the Public Information Center or comments may be submitted to:

Amber Cheney
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Estimated Construction Schedule - June 2020

For further information, please contact:

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Governor Chris Christie



Commissioner Richard Hammer

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