

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Nationwide Programmatic Section 4(F) Evaluation Document that provides information to support a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges, Township of Stafford and Borough of Ship Bottom, Ocean County New Jersey, in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is available for public review.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is the study that is being performed to meet the NEPA requirements. If, after public comment, it is agreed that there are no significant impacts, the FHWA will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that will conclude the environmental process.

The proposed project includes intersection improvements starting at Marsha Drive in Stafford Township, New Jersey and ends at Long Beach Boulevard in Ship Bottom, Ocean County, New Jersey. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) will expand the Marsha Drive/Route 72 intersection to add through lanes on Route 72 and add left-turn lanes on Marsha Drive. The intersection of Bay Avenue and Marsha Drive will be converted into a roundabout. Furthermore, there will be repair work on the four bridges that cross the Manahawkin Bay, as well as the building of a parallel bridge next to the main Bay Bridge. There will also be the construction of a pump station to address flooding issues in the area and minor reconstruction of the local streets to improve traffic flow.

The project purpose is to keep the Route 72 Causeway and approach roadways in sound condition so they can provide continuous, effective vehicular access to Long Beach Island communities while maintaining coastal evacuation egress as well as maritime passage in the intracoastal waterway during construction.

The Public Hearing will be held to provide interested individuals with the opportunity to testify about the effects of the proposed project and the preferred alternative. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2010 from 2:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m., in the Stafford Township Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 260 E. Bay Avenue, Manahawkin, New Jersey. An information center will run concurrently from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The hearing format will consist of official presentation by the Department followed by the opportunity for the Public to give testimony. Persons wishing to speak should sign in to speak at the registration desk and will be called on to speak in the order in which they are registered and will be allotted five minutes to present their testimony. All testimony will be recorded by a Certified Court Reporter.

Written statements may be given instead of oral testimony. Individuals may also submit written statements in support of their oral testimony at the Public Hearing. All such written statements may be submitted at the hearing or sent directly to the Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Solutions, 1035 Parkway Avenue, PO Box 600, Trenton, New Jersey 08625 Attention: Bruce Hawkinson, Environmental Project Manager, by July 1, 2010.

A display and information area will run concurrently with the hearing to provide an

opportunity for anyone to ask questions and receive answers from Department personnel. These discussions are informal and will not be part of the official public hearing record.

The Environmental Assessment document is available for public review at the following locations:

Stafford Township Municipal Building

Clerk's Office

260 E. Bay Avenue
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Surf City Borough Hall

Clerk's Office

813 Long Beach Boulevard
Surf City, NJ 08008

Barnegat Light Borough Hall

Clerk's Office

10 East 7th Street
Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

Beach Haven Borough Hall

Clerk's Office

300 Engleside Avenue
Beach Haven, NJ 08008

Harvey Cedars Borough Hall

Clerk's Office

7606 Long Beach Boulevard
Harvey Cedars, NJ 08008

Ship Bottom Borough Hall

Clerk's Office

1621 Long Beach Boulevard
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008

Long Beach Township Municipal Building

Clerk's Office

6805 Long Beach Boulevard
Brant Beach, NJ 08608

Ocean County Clerk's Office
County Administration Building

101 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, NJ 08754

Ocean County Library System Headquarters

101 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08753-7625

Long Beach Island Branch

Ocean County Library System
217 S. Central Avenue
Surf City, NJ 08008

Stafford Branch

Ocean County Library System

129 N. Main Street
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Copies of the document are also available for review at the:

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Office of Environmental Solutions

1035 Parkway Avenue.

Trenton, NJ 08625

Federal Highway Administration

840 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 310

Trenton, NJ 08625

A CD-ROM version of the Environmental Assessment document or a hard copy of the Executive Summary can be obtained by making a request to:

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Office of Environmental Solutions

1035 Parkway Avenue

Trenton, NJ 08625

Attn: Bruce Hawkinson

For further information concerning this document, please contact Bruce Hawkinson, Environmental Project Manager, NJDOT, Office of Environmental Solutions at (609) 530-4272. Public Comments concerning this document must be received in this office by July 1, 2010.

Signed: Jacqueline Trausi
Department Secretary