



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NEWS

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New Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge deck installed Unique design being used for the first time in New Jersey

(Trenton) – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) today announced that a unique bridge deck for the Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge has been installed, marking a major milestone in the construction of a new vertical lift bridge to replace the existing bridge.

The Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge over the Hackensack River project is completely replacing the existing bridge with a new, wider vertical lift bridge doubling the vertical clearance over Hackensack River from 35-feet to 70-feet, resulting in fewer openings and less congestion.

The Orthotropic Deck for the new Route 7/Wittpenn Bridge was lifted in place over three days this past week using one of the largest crane barges in the country. The deck was constructed in three sections, one section lifted into place each day over three days. NJDOT's contractor, CCA Civil, Inc., is currently bolting steel connectors to join the three deck sections, along with the end floor beams, to make one complete lift span unit. Later this month, the full, new deck will be connected to the lift span cables.

This is the first time this innovative type of deck has been used in New Jersey. It was manufactured by Vigor LLC at its facilities in Clackamas, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington and was transported to New Jersey through the Panama Canal.

Bridge Deck Design

The [Orthotropic Deck](#) is a lightweight design that has a thin steel plate and a series of ribs and floor beams, similar to U.S. Battleship decks.

Prefabricating the deck results in faster construction and higher quality control. Having a lightweight deck allows the bridge to operate more efficiently, reduces the amount of future maintenance and additionally, creates a longer span length providing a smoother driving surface.

Construction of the new bridge is being accomplished in [five separate contracts](#). The first three contracts have been completed which built the Fish House Road Pump Station, advance utilities, roadway embankments, river piers, fender system and a portion of the approach spans for the new vertical lift bridge. The fourth and fifth contracts are currently under construction and will complete the approach spans, the Fish House Road flyover ramps, new roadways, and the new vertical lift bridge span and towers.

Motorists are encouraged to check NJDOT's traffic information website www.511nj.org for real-time travel information and for NJDOT news follow us on Twitter [@NJDOT_info](https://twitter.com/NJDOT_info).

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