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Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti and District Legislators announce Route 22 Bloy Street Bridge replacement project Additional Federal funds allowing more work to get done

(**Trenton**) - New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, along with Senator Joseph Cryan and Assemblyman Jamel Holley, today announced the advancement of a project to replace the Bloy Street Bridge over Route 22 and make safety improvements to the highway.

This is one of 28 projects that are moving forward because of an additional \$100 million in federal funding the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded to NJDOT in September.

"The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognized the New Jersey Department of Transportation's effectiveness in delivering projects that increase safety and make a positive difference in our communities," NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti said. "That's why they authorized an additional \$100 million this year, allowing NJDOT to advance this important bridge replacement and highway safety project here in Hillside so we can move it forward now."

This project consists of replacing the Bloy Street Bridge over Route 22, which is in poor condition, and improving turning movements at Route 22. The new bridge will meet current design and safety standards and improve the vertical under clearance over Route 22. The project also will widen the Route 22 eastbound and westbound lanes to and from Bloy Street. In addition, Yale Avenue to the west of Bloy Street will be closed with a cul-de-sac to improve the current five-point intersection movement. The project will provide sidewalks and improve curb ramps to meet ADA standards.

The project is anticipated to be awarded this fall with construction beginning early next year. It is expected to be completed in the summer of 2023. Without the additional money from FHWA this year, this important safety project would have had to wait a year or two until there was funding to move it forward.

"I have spoken with the Commissioner about the public safety hazard the intersection of Bloy Street and Route 22 poses for vehicular and truck traffic traveling in Hillside," Sen. Joseph Cryan said. "These improvements will streamline the traffic flow, adding acceleration and deceleration lanes that will ultimately make these roads safer for our citizens."

"Providing public safety measures is an integral part of government responsibility," Assemblyman Holley said. "The Commissioner's advancement of this project is indicative of that responsibility. I am delighted that this project is now moving forward in District 20."







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Each year, FHWA redistributes the limit of what each state may spend before the Federal fiscal year ends on September 30. For FY19, FHWA approved NJDOT's entire request of \$100 million – which is more than double the largest amount received over the past 10 years.

Some of the funds will be used for the Bloy Street Bridge replacement, as well as a variety of other projects including bridge preventative maintenance, pedestrian safety improvements, bikeway improvements, intersection improvements and capital projects that will ease congestion and improve safety.

This is one of the 28 projects that are being funded, including 10 that are part of the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP), which provides federal funds for community based "non-traditional" projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the nation's intermodal system. For a list of projects click <u>here</u>.

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