

New Jersey Department of Transportation Commissioner Francis K. O'Connor <u>www.njdot.nj.gov</u>



Virtual Public Information Center

Route 35, Bridge over North Branch of Wreck Pond Township of Wall, Monmouth County Date: May 5, 2025 – May 19, 2025

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance the transportation needs, the environment, community concerns, and cost. NJDOT will hold a **Virtual Public Information Center (PIC)** to inform local residents, officials, and the community about the **Final Design Project Plan for the Route 35 Bridge over North Branch of Wreck Pond** project. You are encouraged to participate by providing comments by mail or e-mail.

THE MEETING

Please visit the following website any time between <u>May 5th and</u> <u>May 19th</u> to learn more about the project and leave comments:

https://www.Route35BridgeOverWreckPond.com/

You will have an opportunity to review a presentation of the project, exhibits of the relevant items, submit questions, and leave feedback. Property owners of rental units are advised that tenants are also invited and encouraged to participate.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this project is to replace the bridge which carries Route 35 over the North Branch of Wreck Pond Brook, which is in poor condition. The existing bridge was originally constructed in 1931.

Route 35 travels over the North Branch of Wreck Pond, at mile post 18.20 in the Township of Wall, Monmouth County. The project corridor is less than one-quarter mile in length, extending beyond the bridge from mile post 18.11 to mile post 18.28. Within the project limits is the signalized intersection of Route 35 with Ocean Road. The roadway has one travel lane in each direction, substandard shoulders, and no existing sidewalk. The posted speed limit is 40 miles per hour.

THE PROJECT

The Project Plan consists of a full replacement of the Route 35 Bridge over North Branch of Wreck Pond. The new bridge will be a single-span precast concrete rigid frame structure. The bridge will support a wider section to accommodate the existing lane configuration, widened shoulders and six-foot sidewalks along both sides of the structure. The proposed design also introduces standard cross-slopes across the lanes and shoulders to improve drainage flow along the bridge. Wider berms are proposed along the approach roadways to bring the roadway section up to current standards. The addition of ADA-compliant curb ramps is proposed at the intersection of Route 35 with Ocean Road.

The proposed bridge replacement structure will meet all current geometrical and safety standards and eliminates the current substandard elements within this existing Route 35 section.

Right of way acquisition and easements will be required for the bridge widening, relocation of utilities, and the reconfiguration of the driveway just past the bridge in the southbound direction. Additionally, driveway aprons within the limits of the roadway work will be reconstructed. Utility relocations will be necessary to accommodate the widened bridge and roadway.

Additional goals of the project include implementing cost effective bridge replacement methods, minimizing impacts to environmentally sensitive areas and minimizing impacts to traffic and the local community during the construction phase. The proposed improvements are anticipated to provide for a safer and more efficient roadway.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Federal regulations pertaining to the protection of historic properties, referred to as the Section 106 process, require the NJDOT to consider the effect of proposed projects upon historic resources listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places.

If you would like more detailed information on the Section 106 process, please reference the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's *A Citizen's Guide to Section 106 Review*, available online at:

https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017-01/CitizenGuide.pdf.

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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:

> John P. Mikusa, Environmental Specialist 4 NJ Department of Transportation Bureau of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Solutions PO Box 600 Trenton, NJ 08625 Email: JohnP.Mikusa@dot.nj.gov

ANTICIPATED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

- Start of Construction: February 2026
- Completion of Construction: May 2028

For Special Accommodations, please contact Tharmarajah Rishindran (609) 512-3495.

Please submit comments by June 5, 2025. For further information, please contact:

Sandra Opoku Office of Government and Community Relations New Jersey Department of Transportation P.O. Box 600, 1035 Parkway Avenue Trenton, NJ 08625-0600 Phone: 609-963-1982 Email: <u>SandraO.Opoku@dot.nj.gov</u>