

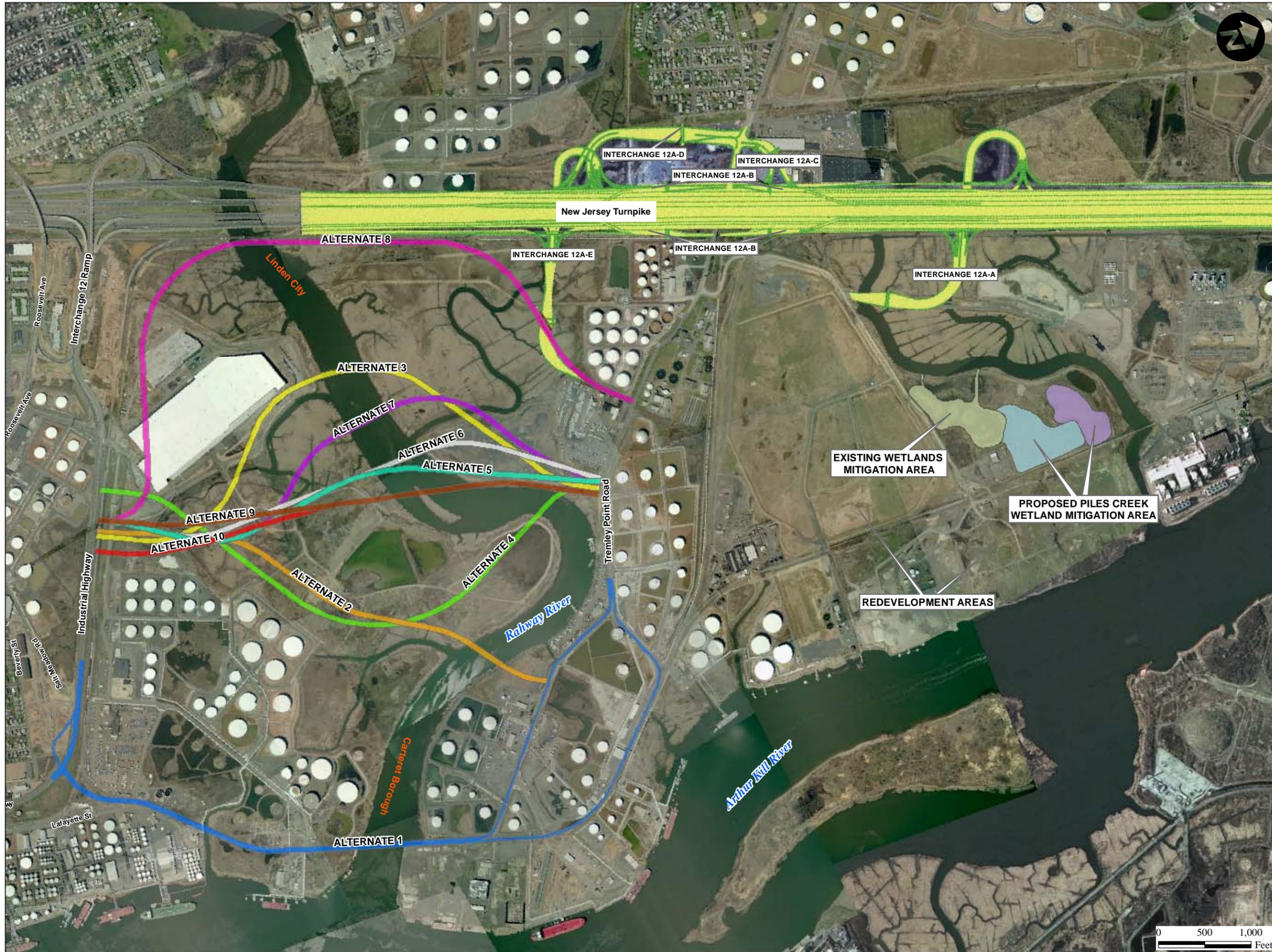
## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The proposed Tremley Point Connector Road project (TPCR) consists of the construction of a new, four-lane, predominantly pile-supported roadway/bridge that will provide a direct link between Industrial Highway in Carteret, Middlesex County, traverse the Rahway River and connect at Tremley Point Road in Linden, Union County, New Jersey. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority (Authority) is the project sponsor for the TPCR and intends to transfer full ownership and maintenance to Union and Middlesex County upon completion of construction. This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) on behalf of the Authority in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for the preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. Included within this EA is a description of the proposed TPCR, the purpose and need for the TPCR, a description of existing environmental conditions and evaluation of potential impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed TPCR, alternatives to the proposed TPCR, and mitigation measures for the TPCR.

This NEPA EA also satisfies the requirements of, and supersedes, Executive Order No. 215 (E.O. 215), signed by New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean on September 11, 1989. E.O. 215 requires departments, agencies and authorities of the State to prepare and submit to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) an EA or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in support of major construction projects. The TPCR will involve land disturbance of more than five acres and construction costs in excess of \$5 million, and this NEPA EA fulfills the requirements of an E.O. 215 EIS.

The purpose and need for the TPCR is based upon Union County and Linden's plan to redevelop approximately 400 acres of underutilized and vacant brownfield areas on Tremley Point. These brownfields are located within the vicinity of the Port of New York & New Jersey (Port) and have been identified by the Port as a suitable location for a warehousing/distribution network. Tremley Point is one of a few undeveloped areas close to the Port that can provide a warehousing/distribution network to support realized and anticipated growth of the Port and the metropolitan region. In conformance with the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey Portfields Initiative, State Master Plan, Brownfield Redevelopment Act, Smart Growth Initiatives, and Union County and Middlesex County planning goals, the redevelopment of the brownfields on Tremley Point will remediate known contaminated sites for beneficial reuse that will be a benefit to the citizens of Linden in particular and the residents of New Jersey overall.

Fifteen alternative alignments for the TPCR and a new interchange have been evaluated in terms of their effectiveness in achieving the project's purpose and need with a goal of also minimizing impacts to the affected environment to the extent practicable (see Figure No. ES-1). The "No-Action Alternative" is also being considered. An additional key component of the overall project's goal of minimizing impacts is to provide mitigation for unavoidable impacts to wetlands located within the footprint of the TPCR.



**Legend**

- Alternate Route 1
- Alternate Route 2
- Alternate Route 3
- Alternate Route 4
- Alternate Route 5
- Alternate Route 6
- Alternate Route 7
- Alternate Route 8
- Alternate Route 9
- Alternate Route 10
- Existing New Jersey Turnpike Authority Wetlands Creation Site (9 acres)
- Approximate Area Available For Creation (9.90 Acres)
- Approximate Area Available For Enhancement of Wetlands (5.54 Acres)
- Municipal Boundary Line

Source:  
 Interchange 12A Studies, prepared by HNTB Corp, April 2, 2001.  
 Access Alternatives From New Jersey Turnpike To Tremley Point, Dated November 2006, Drawn by Edwards & Kelsey.  
 Existing Wetlands Mitigation completed by PS&S.  
 Available Mitigation Areas approximated by PS&S.  
 ESRI StreetMap USA, 2007.  
 Pictometry Online Imagery, 4/22/07.  
 ArcGIS Online - Aerials Express, 2006.

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**NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY  
 TREMLEY POINT CONNECTOR ROAD  
 BOROUGH OF CARTERET,  
 MIDDLESEX COUNTY,  
 CITY OF LINDEN  
 UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**ACCESS ALTERNATIVES FROM  
 NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE  
 TO TREMLEY POINT**

Drn By: JFA	Scale: 1" = 500'	Project: 02595.003.004
Chkd By: IPD	Date: 9/8/08	Figure No.: ES-1



Short-term and minor filling and shading impacts to the aquatic environment, primarily wetlands, are anticipated from the construction of the TPCR. In order to provide mitigation for unavoidable impacts to wetlands and associated black-crowned and yellow-crowned night heron foraging areas located within the footprint of the TPCR, up to five acres of tidally influenced wetlands will be created from existing uplands located adjacent to Piles Creek at the wetlands mitigation site on Tremley Point that was previously constructed by the Authority.

Beneficial impacts to resource contamination, brownfields redevelopment, transportation, traffic, port development, air quality, socioeconomics and land use are anticipated by the construction and operation of the TPCR.

The data and analyses provided within this EA indicate that the ecological impacts to existing wetlands that are subject to mitigation are outweighed by the balance of the beneficial impacts that demonstrate this project is in the public interest and will result in an overall positive environmental benefit. By correspondence dated August 11, 2005, the USCG informed the Authority that the pursuit of a Mitigated FONSI for the TPCR is reasonable. A Mitigated FONSI will determine that the TPCR could have a potentially significant effect on wetlands, but that with the appropriate mitigation that consists of the creation of wetlands at the Piles Creek site, tangible and specific effects can be reduced to less-than-significant levels.