

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
**Route 52 Causeway Bridge Replacement
And Somers Point Circle Elimination**

**Somers Point and Ocean City
Atlantic and Cape May Counties**

Public Information Center

Wednesday, October 7, 2009, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Jordan Road School
129 Jordan Road, Somers Point, NJ**

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 Public Information Center to inform local residents, officials and the business community about the Route 52 Causeway Bridge Replacement and Somers Point Circle Elimination project.

The Public Information Center (PIC). The purpose of this PIC is to inform the general public about the NJDOT's Construction Contract B for the Route 52 Causeway Bridge Replacement and Somers Point Circle Elimination. The PIC provides an open house opportunity to view information on the final design, construction schedule, staging and traffic patterns for Contract B. NJDOT staff will be on hand to answer questions.



Contracts A (Completed) and B

Existing Conditions

This project extends 2.8 miles, from the intersection of Route 9 and 52 in Somers Point, south along Route 52 (MacArthur Boulevard) through the Somers Point Circle over Great Egg Harbor Bay to Ocean City at Ninth Street and West Avenue.

The Bridges. The Route 52 causeway between Route 9 in Somers Point and Ocean City was constructed in 1933. It includes four bridges; two are drawbridges over the Ship and Beach Thorofare (Intra-Coastal Waterway) channels. The other two bridges, that span Elbow Thorofare and Rainbow Channel, which were previously identified by NJDOT as structurally deficient, have now been replaced as part of Contract A.

The Circle. Route 52 (MacArthur Boulevard), Shore Road and Mays Landing Road come together at the Somers Point Circle. Large numbers of vehicles traverse this circle in the summer months and their weaving movements create congestion causing the circle to become a bottleneck for traffic along Route 52 with a higher than average number of accidents. Given that traffic volumes are expected to increase by the design year 2024, the circle cannot safely and effectively accommodate current and future volumes. The Circle's current configuration limits capacity and may hamper evacuation efforts from Ocean City during severe storms.

Proposed Project

NJDOT proposes to replace the causeway with a two-mile bridge and touchdown area on Rainbow Island. It will consist of two high-level fixed spans over the Ship Channel, Rainbow Channel and Beach Thorofare with two 12-foot lanes and 10-foot shoulders in each direction separated by a concrete median barrier in the bridge section and a 10-foot wide walkway connecting Somers Point and Ocean City.

Other improvements include a new Ocean City Visitors Center as part of a Scenic Overlook, fishing piers, boat ramps, parking lots and improvements to the Somers Point Historic District. In Somers Point, the traffic circle will be replaced by a signalized intersection with turning lanes and pedestrian/bicycle crossings. MacArthur Boulevard will be widened to include a center turning lane to improve access to the adjoining businesses.

Variable message signs are located on the Garden State Parkway southbound before Exit 30 and northbound before Exit 24. They will advise motorists of roadway hazards, congestion and local events.

Construction Contract B. The \$251 million Construction Contract B was awarded to the *Route 52 Constructors* construction company in June 2009. Construction offices will be set up in Somers Point (location pending). This contract will take approximately 42 months to complete. The public can

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view updates on construction activities and traffic information at www.njcommuter.com (see information under Web Site).

The work will include construction of the remaining sections of the bridge over the islands and the Ship and Beach Thorofare channels as well as touchdown points in Somers Point and Ocean City. It will also include construction of a new Ocean City Visitors Center located on Garrets Island, replacement of the Somers Point circle with a signalized intersection and improvements to MacArthur Boulevard. A portion of 9th Street in Ocean City will also be reconstructed. Drainage improvements and a variety of streetscaping measures will be included in the reconstruction. Contract B will be constructed in several stages (1 - 7 stages):

- **Stage 1** – Begin construction of portions of the bridge structure over both Ship Channel and Beach Thorofare. Ground improvement work near proposed abutment in Ocean City.
- **Stage 2** – Construction of the southbound roadway sections of Route 52 in Somers Point and 9th Street in Ocean City and construction of a portion of the structure over Beach Thorofare.
- **Stage 3** - Construction of the northbound roadway sections of Route 52 in Somers Point and 9th Street in Ocean City and construction of a portion of the structure over Beach Thorofare.

- **Stages 4-7** – Construction of the remaining portions of the structure and demolition of the existing structure. Completion of the new Visitors Center on Garrets Island.

Traffic patterns. Two lanes of traffic will be maintained along Route 52 in both directions during the summer peak tourist seasons. During the off-seasons, the traffic pattern will be reduced to one lane in each direction.

Project Schedule.

Construction Contract B July 2009- December 2012

Web Site. For further information and images on construction activities, design details and community outreach efforts please visit the web site.

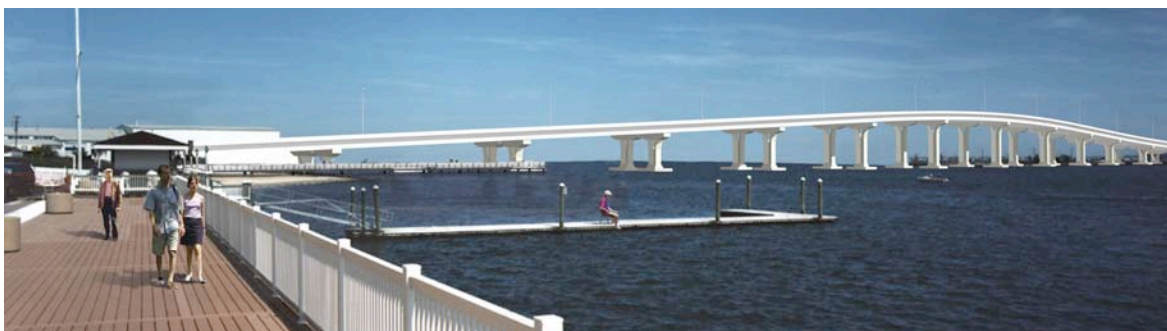
www.njcommuter.com (Construction Updates, select Route 52) or <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/commuter/roads/route52/>

For Further Information Contact:

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Newly constructed bridge over Elbow Thorofare (Contract A)



Computer rendering of the proposed high level bridge over Ship Channel (Contract B)