



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

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Alexander Street/Road in Princeton and West Windsor to reopen next week following completion of Mercer County and NJDOT bridge replacement projects

Three bridges were replaced concurrently

(Trenton) – New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and Mercer County officials today announced that Alexander Street/Road in Princeton and West Windsor is scheduled to reopen by the end of next week as the concurrent Mercer County and NJDOT bridge replacement projects near completion.

By the end of next week, Alexander Road is scheduled to reopen to traffic following the completion of two separate bridge replacement projects that concurrently replaced three bridges near each other on Alexander Street/Alexander Road in Princeton and West Windsor. Mercer County replaced two bridges and NJDOT replaced one bridge. The road is called Alexander Street in Princeton and becomes Alexander Road in West Windsor at the Delaware & Raritan (D&R) Canal, which divides the municipalities.

Mercer County is in the process of completing final paving and striping for its project. Once the County work is completed, NJDOT will have access to the portion of Alexander Road between the Bridge over the D&R Canal and the County Bridge so final paving can be completed on that part of Alexander Road. Once this work is complete, the road will reopen. The NJDOT Bridge over the D&R Canal is complete and the sidewalk opened for pedestrians on May 1.

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT INFORMATION

NJDOT Alexander Road Bridge over D&R Canal Replacement

The NJDOT project replaced the bridge over the D&R Canal between Princeton and West Windsor, which was built in 1948 and was in poor condition. The existing structure was a three-span, simply supported, timber stringer-type bridge with a timber deck overlaid with asphalt. There was a 6-foot wide timber sidewalk on each side with continuous, rolled steel beams below. The existing structure featured one travel lane in each direction and no shoulders.

The new bridge is a single-span consisting of a beam-supported concrete deck on reinforced concrete abutments. The outer edge of the structure and concrete wingwalls feature a wood façade. The new bridge railings and guiderail meet current standards and the design is respectful of the historic nature of the D&R Canal and surrounding area. The new roadway will consist of two 12-foot lanes, two 5-foot shoulders and two 5-foot wide timber sidewalks with concrete curbs.

Mercer County Bridge over Stony Brook and Bridge over Alexander Creek Replacements

The Mercer County project replaced two structures – the bridge over the Stony Brook and the Bridge over Alexander Creek, which are north of the D&R Canal. The existing truss bridge over the Stony Brook was installed in 1989 as a temporary replacement to the structure in place at the time. Construction of a permanent bridge became a priority as the truss bridge has begun to deteriorate and the width was not adequate to accommodate bus and truck traffic. Bridge railings and guiderail were upgraded to meet current standards and the design is respectful of the historic nature of the D&R Canal and surrounding area.

The bridge just north of Basin Street over Alexander Creek also was replaced due to deteriorated structural conditions. Both bridges were built with the same roadway configuration as the new D&R Canal Bridge being constructed by NJDOT.

Accelerated Construction to Minimize Impact to the Community

To minimize the duration of the closure of Alexander Street/Alexander Road, all three structures were replaced simultaneously. Both NJDOT and Mercer County used Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) techniques for their respective bridge replacements, which drastically reduced the required closure time of Alexander Street. Conventional bridge construction would require approximately 9-12 months to complete. These projects were completed in less than six months.

Mercer County and NJDOT coordinated with regulatory agencies such as the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), NJDEP State Historic Preservation Office, D&R Canal State Park, D&R Canal Commission, NJ Water Supply Authority and stakeholders, such as West Windsor, Princeton and Princeton University.

The precise timing of the work is subject to change due to weather or other factors. For NJDOT news follow us on Twitter [@NJDOT_info](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

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