



Virtual Public Information Center

Date: July 13, 2021 – July 22, 2021

Replacement of the Schalks Crossing Road (CR 683) Bridge over Amtrak Northeast Corridor and Devils Brook
Township of Plainsboro, Middlesex County, NJ

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance transportation needs, the environment, community concerns and costs, will hold a Virtual Public Information Center (PIC) to provide local residents, public officials, and the business community with information on the Schalks Crossing Road (CR 683) Bridge over Amtrak Northeast Corridor and Devils Brook Replacement Project. You are encouraged to actively participate by providing comments by mail or e-mail.

THE MEETING

Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Public Information Center will be held virtually. Please visit the following website any time between July 13th and July 22nd to learn more about the project and leave comments:

schalkscrossingbridge.com

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

BACKGROUND

The NJDOT is proposing the replacement of the existing Schalks Crossing Road (CR 683) Bridge over the Amtrak Northeast Corridor and Devils Brook located in Plainsboro Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The existing bridge is a five-span riveted steel plate through girder bridge, which is non-redundant. It carries County Route 683 over four Amtrak electrified railroad tracks and Devils Brook.

The purpose and need of this project, which was initiated by Plainsboro Township, is to address the Schalks Crossing Road Bridge's substandard geometric features and unsafe bicycle and pedestrian access between the residential community located north of the bridge and the town center located south of the bridge. The project proposes a shared bicycle/pedestrian sidewalk to provide pedestrian accessibility. The existing structure is functionally obsolete due to inadequate deck geometry and substandard vertical clearance.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project includes:

- The functionally obsolete bridge will be replaced with a three-span continuous haunched steel girder structure.
- The new bridge will accommodate 11-foot travel lanes and 3-foot shoulders in each direction and a 10-foot minimum multi-use (bicyclists and pedestrians) path on the east side, separated by a 4-bar railing.
- The bridge vertical underclearance over Amtrak will be improved to 24-feet 6-inches to meet design standards

by raising the roadway profile.

- Nuclear Road, at the southeast corner of the bridge, will be realigned to accommodate the roadway widening and raised profile and will be open during construction.
- The existing stormwater basin at the intersection of Schalks Crossing Road and Scudders Mill Road will be retrofitted as a result of this project.
- Public utilities will be relocated as part of the project.

HISTORIC/CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Schalks Crossing Road Bridge crosses the Pennsylvania Railroad New York to Philadelphia Historic District. Since the project proposes bridge replacement, which constitutes a use of a historic site under Section 4(f), federal regulations pertaining to the protection of historic properties, referred to as the Section 106 process, require the NJDOT to consider the effect and impacts of proposed projects to these protected resources. NJDOT is required to solicit public input to assist it to carry out the Section 106 and Section 4(f) processes. Historic preservation organizations, historical societies, and similar groups, or individuals with information about cultural resources (archaeological or architectural) specific to this bridge are encouraged to participate in the PIC or submit comments to:

Robert Bird
Office of Landscape Architecture & Environmental Solutions
New Jersey Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 600, Trenton, NJ 08625-0600
E-mail: Robert.Bird@dot.nj.gov

TRAFFIC CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Construction will be completed under a full roadway/bridge closure with traffic detoured for the duration of construction. Separate detours will be established for cars and trucks. Northbound Schalks Crossing Road traffic will be detoured west along Scudders Mill Road to the College Road East intersection. From there, passenger cars will be routed northbound along College Road East to Research Way eastbound, then reconnecting with Schalks Crossing Road. Truck traffic will continue west on Scudders Mill Road to US Route 1 northbound. From there, trucks will utilize Ridge Road eastbound to reconnect with Schalks Crossing Road.

For further information, please contact:

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