



Virtual Public Information Center

Date: September 7 - September 21, 2021
Grove Avenue, Bridge over Port Reading Railroad
Borough of Metuchen, 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 is holding a Virtual Public Information Center (PIC) to provide local residents, officials, and businesses with information on the **Grove Avenue, Bridge over Port Reading Railroad** project. You are encouraged to actively participate by providing comments by mail or email.

The Presentation

Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Public Information Center will be held virtually. Please visit the following website any time between September 7th and September 21st to learn more about the project and leave comments: <https://grove-avenue-bridge-pic.com>. You will have an opportunity to review a presentation, submit questions, and leave feedback. Property owners with rental units are advised that tenants are also invited and encouraged to participate. If you are unable to view the presentation but are interested in learning about this project, please contact us at the telephone number or email address listed below.

Background

The area of the Borough of Metuchen within the project limits is residential with predominately single-family homes, with the exception of Metuchen High School located immediately northeast of the project limits. The bridge carries an undivided two-lane roadway over a single, non-electrified track operated by Conrail (Port Reading Railroad). Built in 1892, this five-span timber bridge is approximately 120-feet long and 42'-3" wide, including a 4-foot wide timber sidewalk on the east fascia. The purpose of the project is to replace the Grove Avenue bridge with a new structure with life safety performance objective of 75 years while maintaining a 23-foot minimum vertical clearance over the railroad and providing safe facilities for pedestrians during construction. The existing bridge is structurally deficient and functionally obsolete due to low inventory rating and poor deck geometry. Substandard items including safety features that do not meet current NJDOT standards, absence of shoulders and substandard sidewalk width.

The Project

The proposed project structural improvements include: replace structurally deficient and functionally obsolete existing structure with a single-span, 106-foot long, 52-foot wide bridge with galvanized steel girders, precast concrete deck panel superstructure, precast concrete stub abutments and concrete parapets with chain-link fence all meeting current NJDOT standards. The proposed project roadway improvements include: new bridge roadway cross section with an 11-foot lane, 8-foot shoulder and 6-foot sidewalk in each direction of Grove Avenue with the cross section to tie into the existing roadway cross section with 25-foot approach slabs, existing roadway alignment to be maintained and vertical profile raised 3-inches. Construction will be accomplished in one stage with a full roadway closure and vehicle and truck detours. Construction will take place during the summer to minimize impacts to traffic while Metuchen high school is out of session, a temporary pedestrian bridge will be constructed east of the proposed Grove Avenue bridge and the work zone will not obstruct residential traffic to the neighborhoods adjacent to the construction site.

Estimated Schedule

- Winter 2022 – Preliminary Engineering Complete
- Winter 2022 – Start Final Design
- Spring 2024 – Final Design Complete
- Summer 2024 – Start Construction
- Fall 2025 – Construction Complete

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Meredith Hammond, Regional Coordinator
Office of Community & Constituent Relations
New Jersey Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 600, 1035 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08625-0600
Phone: 609-963-1982
Email: Meredith.Hammond@dot.nj.gov