

SLIDE 1 – TITLE SLIDE

Welcome to the Virtual Public Information Center for the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges, Contract 1A & 1B project.

This project consists of intersection, drainage and pedestrian accessibility improvements in the Borough of Ship Bottom, and the Route 72 and Marsha Drive Intersection Improvements in the Township of Stafford, Ocean County, New Jersey.

It is the goal of NJDOT to deliver infrastructure projects with the interests of the public as a top priority.

This Center is intended to share the progress on this project and solicit feedback from the public to enhance the project as it progresses forward to Construction.

SLIDE 2 – PRESENTATION AGENDA

This presentation will begin with a brief project overview, followed by a discussion of the key project features and how they enhance quality of life for the public and stakeholders affected.

Last, we will discuss the project schedule, estimated costs, and share information on how you can provide feedback for this project.

SLIDE 3 – PROJECT OVERVIEW

Long Beach Island (LBI) is an important summer tourist destination that supports a robust year-round community, and is vital to the economic viability of the entire region.

LBI economic activity and Emergency Management Services are dependent upon the availability and efficient functioning of the Route 72 Causeway.

This project's overall purpose is to keep the Route 72 Causeway, including the bridges and approach roadways, in good condition.

- This will provide continuous, effective vehicular access to LBI;
- make operational improvements for both everyday use and long-term efficiency in traffic flow;
- make safety improvements;
- and improve coastal evacuation.

The NJDOT has already reconstructed four Route 72 bridges and built one new bridge across Manahawkin Bay as part of the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project.

Contracts 2 through 5 are complete and in service, providing improved travel between LBI and the mainland over the waters of Manahawkin Bay.

The NJDOT will be completing the intersection improvements, drainage improvements and pedestrian accessibility improvements in Stafford Township and the Borough of Ship Bottom as part of Contract 1A and 1B, which is the last construction contract under the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project.

SLIDE 4 - ROUTE 72 AND MARSHA DRIVE INTERSECTION

Marsha Drive is a local road connecting Bay Avenue to Route 72, and to the Beach Haven West residential community on the south side of Route 72.

During the summer months Marsha Drive southbound traffic turning left, onto Route 72 towards LBI, backs up to Bay Avenue causing long delays at the traffic light.

As a part of Contract 1A, the NJDOT will be making operational and safety improvements to this intersection to reduce these delays.

A third travel lane will be added to Route 72 in both directions for a short distance to increase traffic flow at the signalized intersection and to reduce congestion.

The existing jughandles will be reconstructed, a new vehicular traffic signal and pedestrian count-down signals will be constructed. Highway and intersection lighting will also be improved.

The plan view shows the layout of the improved roadways and jughandles at this intersection.

SLIDE 5 - ROUTE 72 AND MARSHA DRIVE INTERSECTION

Travel lanes on the Marsha Drive southbound approach will be widened to provide an exclusive left turn lane and Left/Through/Right turn lane. Marsha Drive northbound typical section is shown.

SLIDE 6 - SHIP BOTTOM TRAFFIC CIRCULATION, SIGNAL & PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

During the summer months, traffic flow on and off the island is very congested, resulting in excessive delays and queues.

Approximately 3,000 feet of Route 72, between 8th and 9th Streets, and three crossroads, at Barnegat Avenue, Central Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard, will be widened in Ship Bottom.

At the request of local officials, two-way traffic will be restored along Long Beach Boulevard, between 8th and 9th Streets, and Central Avenue, between 3rd and 11th Streets, which will improve traffic flow.

Five existing and upgraded crossroad traffic signals, and a new traffic signal at Long Beach Boulevard and 8th Street, will be connected with fiber optic communications to NJDOT Traffic Operations South to improve traffic management.

Route 72 is the sole emergency evacuation route off of LBI and is a vital lifeline.

Unfortunately, LBI has had to be evacuated twice in recent years.

As part of an evacuation plan, Contracts 2 through 5 provide three outbound lanes in the event of an emergency evacuation.

The final emergency evacuation improvements will be installed in Ship Bottom; a third lane, and a new shoulder along 8th Street, an outgoing roadway from LBI.

New sidewalks will be installed along all impacted Ship Bottom roadways.

Ship Bottom sidewalks will be connected to a new sidewalk installed along the Route 72 Causeway, completing a continuous pedestrian path from Stafford to Ship Bottom.

This project will install ADA accessible ramps and accessible pedestrian traffic signals which will meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Shoulders, wide lanes and traffic signals will accommodate the needs of bicyclists.

SLIDE 7 - DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

One goal of the improvements to the Ship Bottom portion of the project is to improve drainage along 8th and 9th Streets during heavy rainfall and high tides.

To reduce flooding, a new storm drainage system along 8th and 9th Street will be installed, with over 300 inlets and two new 3,000 linear-foot drainage trunk lines.

These trunk lines will empty into Manahawkin Bay through two new pile supported outfalls north and south of East Thorofare Bridge.

Also, new tide-flex valves will be installed to limit the tidal influence on the drainage system.

This new storm drainage system will reduce frequent intersection flooding.

New drainage systems will also be installed along both Route 72 and Marsha Drive.

A new bio-retention basin will be installed at the intersection of Route 72 and Marsha Drive in compliance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, or NJDEP, Stormwater Management Regulations.

SLIDE 8 - TRAFFIC STAGING DURING CONSTRUCTION

The Route 72 and Marsha Drive intersection improvements will be constructed in three construction stages.

Two-way traffic will be maintained along Route 72 and Marsha Drive during construction.

Stage 1 construction will occur on the Route 72 shoulders, in both directions, and will include a temporary traffic signal installed at Marsha Drive that will operate during Stages 2 and 3.

Stage 2 construction work will be completed in the Route 72 grass median.

Stage 3 concludes with pavement reconstruction of the outside lanes.

Marsha Drive roadway construction will be completed in three stages, from east to west.

SLIDE 9 - TRAFFIC STAGING DURING CONSTRUCTION

Operational and safety improvements in Ship Bottom will be constructed in three main construction stages.

Traffic will be maintained along Route 72 and local roadways during construction and the 8th Street access roadway will connect traffic to the businesses during all construction staging.

Traffic signals and roadway signing will be adjusted to accommodate the needs of traffic during construction, since no traffic detour is possible.

8th Street, at westbound Route 72, will maintain two travel lanes during Stages 1 and 3 in the summer peak seasons, and maintain one lane during Stage 2 in the non-summer season.

SLIDE 10 - TRAFFIC STAGING DURING CONSTRUCTION

9th Street, at eastbound Route 72, will maintain two travel lanes during Stages 1 and 3 in the summer peak seasons, and maintain one lane during Stage 2 in the non-summer season.

During weekday/weekend peak hours, all travel lanes of traffic will be maintained during the LBI summer tourist season (Mid-May through Mid-September).

During the off-peak season (Mid-September through Mid-May), Route 72 may be reduced to one undivided 13.5 foot travel lane in each direction on both 8th and 9th Streets, as needed.

Access will be maintained to the adjacent residential properties and commercial facilities during construction.

Pedestrian access within the project area will be maintained safely throughout construction.

The contract documents include provisions to safely manage the emergency evacuation of Long Beach Island, if required, during construction.

SLIDE 11 - CIRCLE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS

Circle Drive is a local road located below the West Thorofare Bridge, connecting the north side of Bonnet Island with the south side, in Stafford Township. This construction project includes safety improvements at Circle Drive.

Traffic signals at both ends of Circle Drive will be reconstructed with pedestrian count-down signals and pedestrian push buttons. Roadway lighting and traffic signing will also be reconstructed.

During construction, Circle Drive will be closed to vehicular traffic during the non-summer peak season and diverted to a detour route.

Pedestrian traffic will be maintained during construction.

All improvements will be constructed within the existing public right of way.

SLIDE 12 – ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

The NJDOT has considered several aspects related to the permits and environmental impacts during the entire project design.

For contracts 1A and 1B, one new permit was obtained from NJDEP for impacts to Coastal Wetlands adjacent to Marsha Drive.

In addition, two permit modifications were obtained for the proposed outfalls in Ship Bottom, one from the NJDEP and the other from the US Army Corp of Engineers.

The environmental impacts have been minimized to the extent possible and mitigation measures were included in a separate construction contract.

SLIDE 13 - UTILITIES & RIGHT OF WAY

This project involves the relocation of several aerial utility lines, and underground electric, telephone and gas utility facilities.

Stafford Township has already reconstructed their underground water and sewer pipes along the various roadways.

Utility service to Long Beach Island will be maintained during the utility relocations.

The NJDOT has acquired the majority of the right-of-way parcels needed for this project. The remaining parcels will be acquired during the project construction.

The remaining right-of-way acquisitions will not adversely affect the project construction schedule.

SLIDE 14 – PROJECT SCHEDULE

This project is currently in the construction phase.

Final Design was completed in the Summer of 2020 and construction is anticipated to begin in February of 2021.

Marsha Drive Intersection Improvements are anticipated to be completed by November of 2022.

Traffic and drainage improvements in the Borough of Ship Bottom are anticipated to be completed by December of 2024.

The construction cost of this project is approximately \$33.7 Million. The project is Federally, and State funded.

SLIDE 15 – PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Thank you for your interest in the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges, Contract 1A and 1B project.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions, please fill out the survey at the link shown on this slide.

Additionally, you may contact NJDOT via the Department of Community and Constituent Relations.

All contact information is shown on the slides.

For additional information review the Frequently Asked Questions.