



**COUNTY OF ESSEX / COUNTY OF HUDSON**  
**Local Concept Development Study for Bridge Street Bridge**  
**over the Passaic River**  
**City of Newark and Town of Harrison, NJ**



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**PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER SUMMARY - TOWN OF HARRISON**  
**MEETING REPORT**

DATE: Tuesday, October 18, 2016  
TIME: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Harrison Public High School, Library  
401 Kingsland Avenue, Harrison NJ  
ATTENDEES: Sign-In Sheets (*available upon request*)

**PURPOSE OF MEETING**

The purpose of this public meeting is to introduce the project team, present the project status and schedule, and to obtain input from the general public on the community interests associated with the Bridge Street Bridge in developing the project purpose and need. (*PIC Project Information Handout attached*).

**MEETING SUMMARY**

1. A total of eleven (11) individuals attended the Public Information Center (PIC) meeting in the Town of Harrison from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thirteen (13) project team members were in attendance.
2. The meeting was designed as an open house format with display boards providing project information for viewing by the general public and to provide reference in addressing any questions from the public. Project Team members were in attendance to present information and assist with questions from the community stakeholders and general public.
3. Two handouts were available at the sign-in table: (1) PIC Project Information Handout and (2) blank PIC Comment Form distributed to the general public upon sign-in to the meeting. The Comment Form could be completed to hand in at the meeting or could be faxed, emailed or mailed to either Hudson County Project Manager, Joseph Glembocki, P.E. or to Essex County Project Manager, Luis Rodriguez (Handouts attached). Both of the Handouts were posted on the project web site. ([www.bridgestreetbridge.com](http://www.bridgestreetbridge.com), under Community Outreach).
4. Additional blank Community Input Survey forms were available for those interested, who had not already completed a survey. The Community Input Survey is also available on the project website to enter online or to print out.





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5. The project display boards used to share information during the open house included: (1) aerial map of project study area indicating the deficiencies (2) environmental screening map indicating constraints (3) cultural resources map showing historic properties in the area (4) Local Project Delivery Program Process and (5) Local Concept Development Phase – Process Flowchart.
6. A screen presentation area was available with seating for viewing the PowerPoint presentation, which was presented at 4:00 pm. After introductions from the Project Team, Joseph Glembocki, Hudson County Project Manager provided an overview of the project noting the following:

Hudson County in addition to Essex County supports the need to study the bridge due to structural deficiencies that indicate either a major rehabilitation or replacement may be needed. The bridge is over 100 years old and many of the mechanical parts are no longer manufactured, making it even more expensive to continue to repair. The purpose of this bridge study is to identify how to rehabilitate or replace the existing bridge. The costs are too great for either Essex County or Hudson County so it requires Federal funding. This Local Concept Development Study is the first step to the bridge improvements.

Essex County filed the application with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) who is overseeing this phase of the project. The bridge is under both Hudson County and Essex County jurisdiction. It's important getting input from the stakeholders and general public to decide what improvements are needed for the Bridge Street Bridge. Once an alternative is decided, then NJDOT Local Aid will administer the project for the design and construction phases with the Counties utilizing Federal funding.
7. Bruce Riegel, Hardesty & Hanover Project Manager, presented the project information, status and schedule with PowerPoint presentation slides. Robert Piel (Environmental Specialist, Amy S. Greene Consultants, Inc.) provided information on the environmental resource screening using the display map of environmental screening and Paul McEachen (Cultural Resources Specialist, RGA, Inc.) presented information on the cultural resources screening using a display map showing an aerial of the project area with the historic sites indicated. The PIC PowerPoint presentation and the display maps are available on the project web site ([www.bridgestreetbridge.com](http://www.bridgestreetbridge.com), under Community Outreach).
8. Below are the comments shared by attendees (representatives of civic, social service, business owners, residents and general public) during the Q&A at the end of the brief presentation and during the open house, noted by Project Team members as follows:
  - The NJDOT Route 280, Route 21 Interchange Improvement Project construction has generated a lot of traffic issues; Bridge Street Bridge has been tied up for hours.
  - Consider the Red Bull Center events, which adds traffic over the Bridge Street Bridge in addition to the activities held in Newark at the NJPAC and the Prudential Center.





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- Besides looking at the bridge width, really look at the approach intersection; when trucks turn, traffic is blocked.
  - A lot of students attending the schools and colleges in Newark live in housing in Harrison so there is a lot of pedestrian and bicycle activity on the Bridge Street Bridge.
  - *Question:* Will Jackson Street Bridge be done also?  
*Response:* An application for the Jackson Street Bridge has not yet been submitted by the Counties to begin a Concept Development Study for major rehabilitation or replacement. The Clay Street and Bridge Street bridges are higher priorities due to age and condition.  
*Additional Comment:* The LCD Study for the Clay Street Bridge has been completed and is currently under Federal agency review.
  - *Comment:* There are development plans for Riverfront Park to continue up the Newark side of the Passaic River and connect between Bridge Street Bridge and Clay Street Bridge and beyond.  
*Response:* Please provide any plans to the Study Team; such a walkway is beyond the project limits for the Bridge Study, however if the bridge were replaced it would provide connectivity as needed for bicycles and pedestrians.
9. At end of presentation, attendees were encouraged to take copies of the handouts to share information with others. The 30-day comment period ends as of Friday, November 18, 2016 for the purpose and need. The next public meeting would be in the spring/summer 2017 to present the Purpose and Need Statement and proposed conceptual alternatives for the bridge.
10. A total of four (4) completed PIC Comment Forms were received at the afternoon meeting session in the Town of Harrison. No PIC Comment Forms were received at the evening session in the City of Newark (7-9pm) and two additional PIC Comments were submitted via email to the Hudson County Project Manager, Joseph Glembocki within the 30-day comment period for the project purpose and need. The PIC Comments received are attached with personal contact information marked out. Any responses to PIC comments are reflected in the Frequently Asked Questions on the project website. The input from the PIC comments received provided information for the development of the goals and objectives of the project Purpose and Need Statement.
11. The attendees shared their appreciation for the opportunity to review and comment on the project to individual Project Team members. The PIC open house adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the minutes within three (3) working days of receipt. Without notification, these minutes will be considered to be record of fact.  
NJTPA Essex County/ Hudson County Bridge Street Bridge Study Project Team





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**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Essex County and Hudson County are conducting a study for bridge improvements such as a major rehabilitation or replacement of the existing Bridge Street Bridge over the Passaic River to address its structural deficiencies and maintain an important transportation connection to the City of Newark's Downtown Business District for local residents and regional commuters in Essex County and Hudson County. The bridge has been closed several times in recent years for structural and mechanical repairs. Due to its age, the bridge has deteriorated over time and routine maintenance can no longer address the deficiencies.

**The Project Background**

The existing bridge is in poor overall condition. Several factors contribute to this assessment:

*Condition:* The bridge is structurally deficient with its superstructure in poor physical condition with localized advanced section losses to most steel truss members, localized advanced section losses to floor beams and girders in the approach spans, and holed through truss gusset plates in the swing span. The substructure is in satisfactory condition. The bridge's mechanical machinery and electrical system are in fair to poor condition and consist of new and obsolete devices and sub-systems that are nearing the end of their serviceable life.

*Highway Safety:* The bridge railings do not meet current crash and safety standards.

*Public Safety:* The bridge interlocking system is not in accordance with current acceptable standards.

*Seismic:* The bridge is susceptible to seismic forces and does not meet current seismic design standards.

**The Proposed Study:**

The current phase of this project is Local Concept Development (LCD). During this phase a well-defined and well-justified Purpose and Need Statement will be developed focusing on the need to improve safety and maintain the current crossing over the Passaic River. The LCD Phase elements also include data collection; coordination with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, local officials, community stakeholders, and permitting agencies; the development of a reasonable number of sensible and practical conceptual alternatives; the development of a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, and to investigate all aspects of the project. These aspects will include environmental, right of way, access, utilities, design, community involvement, constructability, and cost (see NJTPA LCD flowchart).

The primary tasks of stakeholders are to provide community input to assist in the development of the Project Purpose and Need Statement, assist in the development of conceptual alternatives, identify possible fatal flaws, and to assist in the recommendation of the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) based on the Project Purpose and Need.



### Local Concept Development Project Schedule (Major Milestones)

Develop Project Purpose and Need Statement	Fall 2016
Development of Conceptual Alternatives	Winter 2017
Selection of Preliminary Preferred Alternative	Fall 2017
Submission of Draft Concept Development Report	Fall 2017
Obtain Resolutions of Support for Preliminary Preferred Alternative	Fall 2017
Completion of Local Concept Development Phase	Winter 2018

### Anticipated Community Involvement Schedule

Community Stakeholders Meeting for Purpose & Need Statement Development	Summer/Fall 2016
Public Information Center for Purpose and Need Statement Development	Fall 2016
Obtain Community Stakeholders Input for Developed Alternatives	Winter/Spring 2017
Local Officials Meeting No. 2 for Preliminary Preferred Alternative Recommendation	Spring 2017
Public Information Center No. 2 for Preliminary Preferred Alternative Recommendation	Spring/Summer 2017
Local Officials Meeting No. 3 for Obtaining Resolutions of Support	Summer 2017

### Contact Information

**Luis E. Rodriguez**  
**Essex County Assistant County Engineer**  
County of Essex  
Division of Engineering  
900 Bloomfield Avenue  
Verona, NJ 07044  
973-226-8500 x2650  
lrodriguez@essexcountynj.org

**Sanjeev Varghese, P.E., P.P.**  
**Essex County Engineer**

**Joseph Glembocki, P.E.**  
**Hudson County Assistant County Engineer**  
County of Hudson  
Office of the County Engineer  
Bergen Square Center  
830 Bergen Avenue, Floor 6B  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
201-369-4340 x4160  
jglembocki@hcnj.us

**Thomas Malavasi, P.E. P.P.**  
**Hudson County Engineer**

For Additional Project Information, visit the Project Website

**[www.bridgestreetbridge.com](http://www.bridgestreetbridge.com)**





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**PIC COMMENT #1**





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**Project Purpose & Need: Public Comments & Suggestions**

Please use the space below to provide comments or suggestions (Please print legibly):

Name:

[REDACTED]

Mailing Address:

[REDACTED]

Telephone/Email:

[REDACTED] HARRISON, NJ, 07029

Comments/Suggestions:

ONE LANE SHOULD REMAIN OPEN DURING. (NOT POSSI  
 (SIMILAR TO THE PULASKI HWY PROJECT)  
 OVER 90% OF MY GUEST USE THE BRIDGE TO COMMUTE  
 TO AND FROM WORK, TRAINS AND AIRPORT.  
 HOPEFULLY A GREAT PLAN WILL BE SET SO  
 BUSINESS IS NOT [REDACTED] EFFECTED.

Kindly submit the comments by Friday, November 18, 2016 to either contact:

Luis E. Rodriguez  
 Essex County Assistant County Engineer  
 Department of Public Works  
 Division of Engineering  
 900 Bloomfield Avenue  
 Verona, NJ 07044  
 Fax: 973-226-7469  
 lrodriguez@essexcountynj.org

Joseph Glembocki, P.E.  
 Hudson Assistant County Engineer  
 Office of the County Engineer  
 Bergen Square Center  
 830 Bergen Avenue, Floor 6B  
 Jersey City, NJ 07306  
 Fax: 201-369-4346  
 jglembocki@hcnj.us





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**PIC COMMENT #2**







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**Project Purpose & Need: Public Comments & Suggestions**

Please use the space below to provide comments or suggestions (Please print legibly):

Name:

[Redacted Name]

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Email:

[Redacted Telephone/Email]

Comments/Suggestions:

- For bicycle and pedestrian accommodation, design should provide for protected accommodation rather than placing a bike lane in the shoulder. Safety and comfort will be better achieved if bicycles and pedestrians are separated from vehicular traffic.
- Bridge design should continue to accommodate bus traffic in the future, both in terms of roadway width and turning movements.

**Kindly submit the comments by Friday, November 18, 2016 to either contact:**

Luis E. Rodriguez  
 Essex County Assistant County Engineer  
 Department of Public Works  
 Division of Engineering  
 900 Bloomfield Avenue  
 Verona, NJ 07044  
 Fax: 973-226-7469  
 lrodriguez@essexcountynj.org

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 Hudson Assistant County Engineer  
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 830 Bergen Avenue, Floor 6B  
 Jersey City, NJ 07306  
 Fax: 201-369-4346  
 jglembocki@hcnj.us





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**PIC COMMENT #3**



**Subject: RE: Bridge and Clay Street Bridge Crossings**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 10:27 AM

**From:** Joseph Glembocki <jglembocki@hcnj.us>

**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Conversation:** Bridge and Clay Street Bridge Crossings

[REDACTED],

See comments below received from a Newark resident. Include and incorporate this with the comment form input received for both bridges. Thanks.

Joe

*Joseph F. Glembocki, P.E.  
Assistant County Engineer  
County of Hudson  
Office of the County Engineer  
Bergen Square Center  
830 Bergen Avenue, Floor 6B  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Tel. (201) 369-4340  
Fax (201) 369-4346*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2016 3:16 PM  
**To:** lrodriguez@essexcountynj.org; Joseph Glembocki  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Bridge and Clay Street Bridge Crossings

To: Luis Rodriguez and Joseph Glembocki

RE: Bridge conditions

From: [REDACTED]

I received a notice from Councilwoman Jenkins office regarding the upcoming

meeting.

While the meeting is for the structural condition of the Bridge street bridge. I am writing about an issue that can be addressed immediately. And that is the traffic pattern going to the Bridge St and Clay St bridges from the Harrison/Kearny side:

For the Bridge street bridge, on Harrison Ave from the bridge to the entrance of 280, the road needs repair. The traffic going into the 280 on ramps in both directions are bottlenecked, the stop light should allow the traffic feeding both on ramps and straight ahead to be green at the same time, and then green only for the traffic on Harrison Ave going towards the bridge. Anything to help with the flow of traffic is welcomed.

For the Clay street bridge, the intersection on Central Ave and Passaic Ave needs to be fixed. The left turn only lane and signal is causing congestion, with most of the traffic making a right turn or going straight ahead, the left turn lane is not being used most of the time. I have see the right lane backed up all the way to Johnston Ave. And with the new BJs Warehouse Club and more retail stores coming, the traffic congestion is getting worse. I feel that changing the traffic pattern on that intersection will improve traffic flow.

Lastly, I believe that these intersections have not changed much long before the revitalization of Newark, Harrison and surrounding areas. I think it will be of better service to the community by addressing the traffic pattern as well as maintaining the bridge crossings. And the capex will be much lower for the reworking of the traffic signals and road designations.

Thank You

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



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**PIC COMMENT #4**





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**Project Purpose & Need: Public Comments & Suggestions**

Please use the space below to provide comments or suggestions (Please print legibly):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Suggestions:

*Bridge must be wider. Use of the bridge projected  
 over the next 20-30 years. Make use of  
 and walking public access. Raising level of bridge  
 for long term make use for larger boats  
 traffic. Bridge should not closed with other  
 projects - Ten piece bridge at the base of Rt 21  
 coming from Broadway Newark would pose major  
 traffic issues. Thank you.*

Kindly submit the comments by Friday, November 18, 2016 to either contact:

Luis E. Rodriguez  
 Essex County Assistant County Engineer  
 Department of Public Works  
 Division of Engineering  
 900 Bloomfield Avenue  
 Verona, NJ 07044  
 Fax: 973-226-7469  
 lrodriguez@essexcountynj.org

Joseph Glembocki, P.E.  
 Hudson Assistant County Engineer  
 Office of the County Engineer  
 Bergen Square Center  
 830 Bergen Avenue, Floor 6B  
 Jersey City, NJ 07306  
 Fax: 201-369-4346  
 jglembocki@hcnj.us





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**PIC COMMENT #5**



**Subject: RE: Local Concept Development Study - Bridge Street Bridge over Passaic River**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 5, 2016 2:25 PM

**From:** Joseph Glembocki <jglembocki@hcnj.us>

**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Conversation:** Local Concept Development Study - Bridge Street Bridge over Passaic River

[REDACTED]

See comments below received from a Harrison resident. Include and incorporate this with the comment form input received. Thanks.

Joe

*Joseph F. Glembocki, P.E.  
Assistant County Engineer  
County of Hudson  
Office of the County Engineer  
Bergen Square Center  
830 Bergen Avenue, Floor 6B  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Tel. (201) 369-4340  
Fax (201) 369-4346*

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 05, 2016 2:05 PM

**To:** Joseph Glembocki

**Subject:** Local Concept Development Study - Bridge Street Bridge over Passaic River

I had completed a document for the NJ DOT concerning a proposal to widen the Bridge Street Bridge. I work full time and cannot attend the Harrison meeting on October 18th. I would like to state that I do not feel any work is needed on this bridge. It was recently repaired, extensively, I thought. There are nice sidewalks on both sides of the bridge which both pedestrians and bicyclists may use.

Currently, NJ DOT has a major project relating to new ramps to Route 21 from Route 280. This has been very disruptive to traffic flow, including those of us who take a bus to work. There is at least another two years of planned work on that project. In the meantime, it was determined (but not decided when/if) that the Clay Street Bridge crossing from East Newark to Newark could no longer be repaired and would eventually have to be torn down and replaced. However, there has had to be emergency closure of the Clay Street Bridge. Hence, the Bridge Street Bridge has been carrying above normal traffic. Under normal conditions, this bridge is fine and does not



need widening (more lanes added), as I saw in the original memos from NJ DOT.

I am concerned greatly about the use about my tax dollars, and whether any work on this particular bridge is needed.

This is a recap of my comments to NJDOT. I am a homeowner in Harrison, NJ and I work in downtown Newark. My opinion is my personal opinion and not that of the Agency I work for.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

[REDACTED]

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**PIC COMMENT #6**





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**Project Purpose & Need: Public Comments & Suggestions**

Please use the space below to provide comments or suggestions (Please print legibly):

Name:

Mailing Address:

Telephone/Email:

Comments/Suggestions:

TOWN OFFICIALS MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN TO MENTION FACT  
OF RED BULL GAMES & NEW RED BULL CONCERTS CREATING  
TRAFFIC PROBLEMS CURRENTLY, THUS WITH BRIDGE  
ST BRIDGE OUT OF COMMISSION, TRAFFIC WILL BE  
SEVERELY CONGESTED BEYOND BELIEF. TRAFFIC  
WAS QUOTED AT 11,000 GOING OVER BRIDGE, WHICH I  
BELIEVE AFTER BEING IN BUSINESS 40 YRS HERE, IS  
EXTREMELY UNDERESTIMATED.

Kindly submit the comments by Friday, November 18, 2016 to either contact:

Luis E. Rodriguez  
Essex County Assistant County Engineer  
Department of Public Works  
Division of Engineering  
900 Bloomfield Avenue  
Verona, NJ 07044  
Fax: 973-226-7469  
lrodriguez@essexcountynj.org

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