

GREEN ACRES PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that Hudson County will hold a public hearing to obtain comments regarding its application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Green Acres Program, proposing to permanently divert approximately 2.445 acres of a wetland area in Hudson County's Laurel Hill Park (Block 1, Lot 3 in the Town of Secaucus), for a Bridge Easement for the construction and operation of the Portal North Bridge. This hearing will also satisfy the requirement of N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.5 et seq. "Sale, lease or exchange of real property of capital improvement by counties; conditions; fees." The purpose of the overall Portal North Bridge Project, sponsored by NJ TRANSIT, is to replace the existing and aging Portal Bridge with a new railroad bridge.

As compensation for this diversion of a Bridge Easement, a payment in the amount of \$54,800 (four times the \$13,700 appraised value of the diversion) will be deposited into the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund. In addition to the aforesaid contribution to the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund, NJ TRANSIT has also agreed to contribute the sum of \$179,000 to Hudson County for the rehabilitation of Laurel Hill Park to be utilized for waterfront enhancement and trail improvement, amongst other things.

This application is subject to NJDEP Commissioner and State House Commission approval and is available for review at on Hudson County's website: www.hudsoncountynj.org. A hard copy of the application is available for public inspection at the Secaucus Library (1379 Paterson Plank Rd, Secaucus, NJ 07094).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:36-26.8(a) and N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.5 et seq., and in the continued interest of Public Health during this COVID Crisis, a public hearing will be held via a Zoom Webinar on:

July 29, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

All interested parties who wish to attend the above hearing may choose one of the following options:

Join Zoom Webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83605210736?pwd=WHdxVWhHcnMyK2JnWE1CeGM2VHVLUT09>

Or

Dial by Phone: (646) 558-8656

Webinar ID: 836 0521 0736

Passcode: 059461

In addition to oral comments presented during the public hearing, written comments may be submitted to the agencies listed below. Written comments should be submitted to Hudson County, with a copy to the NJDEP Green Acres Program at the following addresses:

David B. Drumeler, Esq.
Hudson County Deputy Administrator
567 Pavonia Ave. - 4th Floor
Jersey City, NJ 07306

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Green Acres Program, Bureau of Legal Services and Stewardship
501 East State Street, 1st Floor
Mail Code 501-01, P.O. Box 420,
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
Attention: Hudson County Steward
or at maude.snyder@dep.nj.gov

Duplicate comments can also be submitted to PortalBridgeDiversion@hcnj.us. Public comment on this diversion request will be accepted during the public hearing and until August 12, 2021, which is two weeks after the public hearing.

Separate from, but in addition to the Green Acres process, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.5 et seq. “Sale, lease or exchange of real property of capital improvement by counties; conditions; fees”, the County has prepared a written report setting forth the reasons for, and all advantages and disadvantages of the proposed diversion, including the environmental and recreational impacts and the environmental and economic value of said diversion (as stipulated in N.J.S.A. 40A: 40A:12-13.5(a)(1)). Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.5(a)(2), the report is available on: www.hudsoncountynj.org/. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13.5(a)(3), this will serve as the second hearing, which is being conducted at least 14 days apart from the first held on November 4, 2020 and at least 90 days in advance of the date of the proposed sale, lease, or exchange.

Si necesita una traducción, por favor comuníquese con PortalBridgeDiversion@hcnj.us.