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NJDOT begins replacement of Route 1 bridge over Shipetaukin Creek in Lawrence

(Trenton) - The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) today announced that construction has begun on a \$2.5 million project to replace the Route 1 bridge deck over Shipetaukin Creek in Lawrence Township, Mercer County. In addition, NJDOT will repair the roadway approaches, abutments and pier.

"NJDOT's replacement of the Route 1 Shipetauken Creek Bridge will improve safety without compromising mobility," said Commissioner Kolluri. "Maintaining two lanes of traffic throughout construction will ensure that the project's impact upon motorists traveling on Route 1 in Lawrence will be minimal."

NJDOT in September removed guide rails and built a temporary roadway in order to maintain two lanes of traffic in both directions throughout construction. On the evening of October 13, NJDOT will begin to replace the center portion of the bridge deck. Traffic will be shifted to the outer portion of both the southbound and northbound areas of the roadway. This stage of construction is scheduled to be completed in late November 2006.

Starting in spring 2007, NJDOT will begin the replacement of the northbound side of the existing bridge deck. Northbound traffic will be shifted to the newly constructed center of the deck. Southbound traffic will use the temporary roadway.

From early summer 2007 to October 2007, NJDOT will replace the southbound side of the existing bridge deck. During this stage of construction, southbound traffic will be placed in the center third of the deck and northbound traffic will use the newly paved outside lanes. NJDOT also will replace the center barrier that was removed prior to the start of construction and will restore traffic to its pre-construction configuration during this stage.

NJDOT placed two variable messaging signs at each end of the project to inform motorists of the construction. Real time travel and construction information is available online at <u>www.njcommuter.com</u>

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