



Virtual Public Information Center for Deforestation / Reforestation

August 18, 2022 – September 6, 2022

Route 23, Bridge over Pequannock River / Hamburg Turnpike

Borough of Butler and Borough of Kinnelon, Morris County;

Township of West Milford, Passaic 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 for Deforestation/Reforestation to provide local residents, public officials, and the business community with information on the **Route 23, Bridge over Pequannock River / Hamburg Turnpike** project. You are encouraged to actively participate by providing comments on-line or by mail or e-mail.

Due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Public Information Center will be held virtually. Please visit the following website any time between **August 18, 2022 – September 6, 2022** to learn more about the project and submit comments:

<https://visualmedia.jacobs.com/Route23BridgeOverPequannockRiverNNL/index.php>

Please view at a time that is convenient for you. You will have an opportunity to review exhibits of the proposed project reforestation plans and provide comments. You may also contact us at the telephone number or email address listed below.

Project Overview:

The existing 513 foot long bridge is located at Route 23 Milepost 16.99 in the Borough of Kinnelon, Morris County and Township of West Milford, Passaic County. The bridge carries four lanes of Route 23 over the Pequannock River, NYS&W Railway, and the Hamburg Turnpike Southbound Ramp. The bridge is part of Route 23 the north/south, which links northeast and northwest parts of the state via connections with interstate highways I-287 and I-80. Constructed in 1934, the eight span, concrete encased steel through-girder superstructure is supported on concrete columns and spill-through abutments with a width of 60.5 feet

The Proposed Project:

NJDOT has identified the need for the replacement of this bridge due to the poor condition of the deck and geometric deficiencies that do not meet current standards

Full replacement is proposed for this Route 23 bridge to provide extended service life. The Pequannock River is classified as an FW2–Trout Production–Category 1 (FW2–TP–

C-1) waterway. C-1 waterways require special protection of a 300-foot Riparian Zone Buffer as measured from the top of stream bank. Limiting disturbance to the environmentally sensitive areas surrounding the river was a major factor in the proposed staged construction approach that utilizes a Diversionary Roadway with Temporary Bridge to perform the final bridge replacement activities.

Proposed Reforestation Plan:

NJDOT is required by the New Jersey No Net Loss (NNL) Reforestation Act to hold a public forum when greater than one acre of deforestation occurs in an area owned or maintained by a state entity to present to the public the project deforestation and reforestation plans. Plans showing the deforestation and reforestation for the project are provided in the virtual presentation for review and public comment. Construction of this project will deforest 2.57 Acres (526 trees) as consistent with the methodology in the NNL Program Guidelines. The cited Act states that if tree planting adjacent to the deforested area is not possible, it shall be conducted in the following order: within the municipality in which the deforestation occurred, within five miles of the site of deforestation, or off-site. Of these options, only 0.50 Acres (103 Trees) of On-site reforestation are feasible for this project. The Department will provide monetary compensation for the 2.07 Acres (423 trees) of deforestation required to the “Shade Tree and Community Forest Preservation License Plate Fund.” The affected municipalities will be advised by Community Forestry the amount of monies available for tree planting within their community via a grant process.

Estimated Project Schedule:

Start Construction: Summer 2023 (Tree clearing starting February 2023)

For further information, please contact:

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