

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
**Route 52 Causeway Bridge Replacement
And Somers Point Circle Elimination**
Somers Point and Ocean City
Atlantic and Cape May Counties

Public Information Center
Thursday, May 22, 2008, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Ocean City Civic Center
6th & Boardwalk, Ocean City, NJ

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance the transportation needs, the environment, community concerns and cost. One of the most critical elements related to the success of a project is the relationship that NJDOT develops with the community. You are encouraged to actively participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail, or by e-mail.

The Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to inform the general public about the NJDOT's Construction Contract A and Design Contract B for the Route 52 Causeway Bridge Replacement and Somers Point Circle Elimination. The meeting will provide an opportunity to inquire about the construction schedule, staging and traffic patterns during Contract A as well as to examine the preliminary engineering plans developed for Contract B. NJDOT staff will be on hand to answer questions.



Contracts A and B

Existing Conditions

This project extends 2.8 miles, from the intersection of Route 9 and Route 52 in Somers Point, south along Route 52 (MacArthur Boulevard) through the Somers Point Circle over Great Egg Harbor Bay to Ocean City at Ninth Street and Bay Avenue.

The Bridges. The Route 52 causeway between Route 9 in Somers Point and Ocean City was constructed in 1933. It includes four bridges; two are drawbridges over the Ship and Beach Thorofare (Intra-Coastal Waterway) channels. The

other two bridges span Elbow Thorofare and Rainbow Channel that had been previously identified by NJDOT as structurally deficient have already been replaced as part of Contract A.

The Circle. Route 52 (MacArthur Boulevard), Shore Road and Mays Landing Road come together at the Somers Point Circle. Large numbers of vehicles traverse this circle in the summer months and their weaving movements create congestion causing the circle to become a bottleneck for traffic along Route 52 and a source of a higher than average number of accidents. Given that traffic volumes are expected to increase by the design year 2024, the circle cannot safely and effectively accommodate current and future volumes. The Circle's limited capacity also hampers evacuation efforts from Ocean City during severe storms.

Proposed Project

NJDOT proposes to replace the causeway with a two-mile bridge and touchdown area on Rainbow Island. It will consist of two high-level fixed spans over the Ship Channel, Rainbow Channel and Beach Thorofare with two 12-foot lanes and 10-foot shoulders in each direction separated by a concrete median barrier in the bridge section and a 10-foot wide walkway connecting Somers Point and Ocean City.

Other improvements include a new Ocean City Visitors Center as part of a Scenic Overlook, fishing piers, boat ramps, parking lots and improvements to the Somers Point Historic District. In Somers Point, the traffic circle will be replaced by a signalized intersection with turning lanes and pedestrian/bicycle crossings. MacArthur Boulevard will be widened to include a center turning lane to improve access to the adjoining businesses.

Two variable message signs will be constructed on the Garden State Parkway southbound before Exit 30 and northbound before Exit 24. They will advise motorists of roadway hazards, congestion and local events.

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New Jersey Department of Transportation



Construction Contract A. The \$141 million Construction Contract A was awarded to the George Harms Construction Company in June 2006. Construction offices have been set up on Goll Avenue adjacent to the Somers Point Circle. This contract will take approximately 42 months to complete. The public can keep up with construction activities at www.njcommuter.com (see information under Web Site).

The work on the middle portion of the project began in July 2006. It extends from Sedge (Elbow) Island, across Elbow Thorofare, Rainbow Island, Rainbow Channel and ties in with the roadway on Garrets (Visitors Center) Island. It will consist of two stages:

- **Stage 1** (completed) - The northbound lanes were constructed.
Traffic patterns: Existing traffic was shifted onto the newly constructed northbound structure.
- **Stage 2** (on-going) - The southbound lanes will be constructed.
- **Traffic patterns:** All traffic in each direction will remain on the new northbound lanes for the duration of Stage 2.

Design Contract B. The Design Contract B is currently under way. Construction is expected to start in 2009. It includes the remaining sections of the bridge over the islands and the Ship and Beach Thorofare channels as well as touchdown points in Somers Point and Ocean City. It will also include reconstruction of the Ocean City Visitors Center, replacement of the Somers Point Circle with a signalized intersection and improvements to MacArthur Boulevard. Contract B will be constructed in several stages (1 - 7 stages).

The Next Step. NJDOT will address comments received from the public at the Information Center Meeting.

Project Schedule

Construction Contract A July 2006- December 2009

Design Contract B

Final Design January 2007- December 2008
Construction March 2009 – December 2012

The Web Site. For additional information and images on construction activities, design details and community outreach efforts, please visit the following web site:

Construction Contract A

www.njcommuter.com (Construction Updates, select Route 52) or
<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/commuter/roads/route52/>

Design Contract B

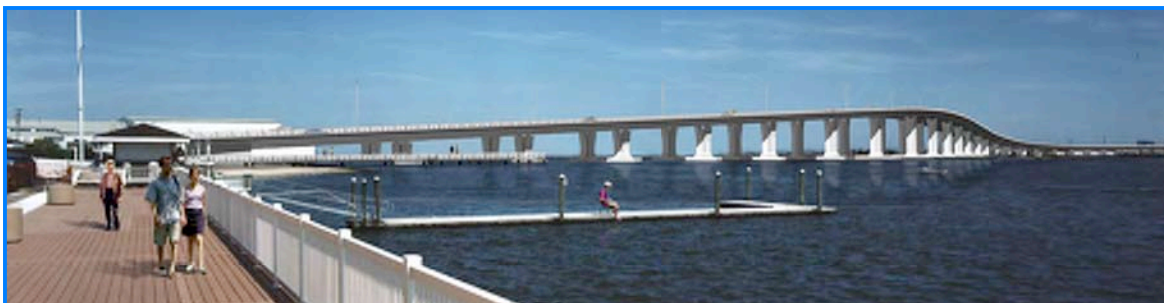
www.njcommuter.com (In the Works from top menu, select Our Projects & the Environment, select Route 52) or
<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/works/studies/rt52/>

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Demolition work on existing Rainbow Channel Bridge with newly constructed Rt. 52 Causeway in the background (Contract A)



Computer rendering of the proposed high level bridge over Ship Channel (Contract B)