



COUNTY OF BERGEN
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for the
East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge Replacement
over the Hackensack River
City of Hackensack and Township of Teaneck, New Jersey

COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING NO. 1
MEETING REPORT

DATE: Monday, April 17, 2023
 TIME: 2:00 p.m.
 LOCATION: Online via Microsoft Teams
 ATTENDEES:

First Name	Last Name	Representing
Michael	Accordino	Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck
Edward	Angley	
Bashar	Assadi, P.E.	Bergen County Utilities Authority
Eric	Brauer	Teaneck resident
Mary	Dunleavy	Teaneck resident
Richard	Frick, M.Ed.	Fairleigh Dickinson University
Arlene	Gartenberg	Teaneck League of Women Voters
Doron	Goldschmidt	Max Fluss Inc.
Dr. Nilsa S.	Gutierrez	Teaneck resident
Rich	Hirsch	Teaneck resident
Rev. Dwayne	Jackson	Second Reformed Church, Hackensack
James E.	Jaworski, Esq.	Wells, Jaworski & Liebman, LLP
Dean	Kazinci	Township Manager, Township of Teaneck
Steve	Nelson, Esq.	Fairleigh Dickinson University
Barry	Obut	Teaneck Swim Club
Michael	Pagan	Mayor, Township of Teaneck
Sasha	Poucki	Teaneck Swim Club
Claudia J	Tindall	Teaneck resident
Marlin	Townes	Hackensack resident
Paula	Unsal	
Marie	Warnke	Hackensack River Greenway Advisory Board
Ryan	Westra	Project Manager, City of Hackensack DPW
Kris	Wheaton	City Engineer, City of Hackensack DPW
Robert	Celestine	Public Service Electric and Gas
James E.	Doorley	Public Service Electric and Gas
Christopher	Halter	Public Service Electric and Gas
Jerry	Arguello	Veolia Northern NJ Water Operations
Karima	Laqmari	Veolia Northern NJ Water Operations

PROJECT TEAM		
First Name	Last Name	Title
Joseph	Baladi, P.E., P.P., CME	Division Head – Planning/Project Manager, Bergen County Planning & Engineering
Peter	Kortright III, P.P.	Principal Planner/Deputy Project Manager, Bergen County Planning & Engineering



PROJECT TEAM		
First Name	Last Name	Title
Martin	Maver, P.E.	Principal Engineer-Bridges, Bergen County Planning & Engineering
Christopher	Helms, P.P., AICP	Supervising Planner, Bergen County Planning & Engineering
Adam	Camerlengo	Engineering Aide, Bergen County Planning & Engineering
Sean	Ream	Environmental Project Manager, NJDOT
Mario	Gendrachi	Environmental Specialist, NJDOT
Joseph	Romano, P.E.	Project Manager, Michael Baker International
Jeremy	Turner, P.E.	Deputy Project Manager, Michael Baker International
Ashley	Sidhu, WPIT	Environmental Specialist, Michael Baker International
Casey	Barrett, P.E.	Civil Engineer, Michael Baker International
Martine	Culbertson	Community Involvement Facilitator, M.A. Culbertson, LLC
Val	Aylesworth	Project Assistant, M.A. Culbertson, LLC
Nick	DeNicola, P.E.	Staging/Utilities, Boswell Engineering, Inc.
Jaemin	Song, P.E.	Utilities/Traffic, Boswell Engineering, Inc.
Frank	Dobiszewski, P.E.	Traffic, Boswell Engineering, Inc.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the project team, present the project status and schedule for the Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) phase, and to obtain input on the community interests associated with the East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge Replacement over the Hackensack River (see attached Agenda).

ONLINE MEETING GUIDELINES

Martine Culbertson, Community Involvement Facilitator, welcomed participants to the online meeting and noted the following meeting guidelines:

- a) Contact information was provided and posted in the Chat for anyone experiencing audio or visual technical difficulty.
- b) Questions or comments could be typed into the Chat and would be addressed by the Project Team during the Q&A portion of the meeting.
- c) The meeting was recorded to assist in creating a meeting summary report for Project Team use only. The recording will not be posted to the project website.
- d) Some Project Team members' cameras were on during introductions as a courtesy while welcoming participants. Attendees could have cameras on during introductions. During the presentation, to maintain focus on the presentation slides, cameras would be off and everyone, except the presenter/speaker, would be muted. Cameras could be turned on again during the Q&A session.
- e) Meeting would be adjourned once Q&A was completed with all questions addressed, Next Steps were presented and Closing Remarks were made.
- f) Muting/unmuting and raising/lowering hand instructions were provided for those participating via phone (audio only).



MEETING SUMMARY

Note: The meeting was interrupted after approximately 10 minutes when it was discovered the original URL was corrupted and many participants had joined by phone, with no access to the video presentation. The correct URL was emailed to the participants and the presentation was restarted from the beginning once everyone had rejoined.

The Project Team wishes to thank everyone in attendance for their patience and understanding while the error was resolved.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Martine Culbertson, Community Involvement Facilitator, introduced the Project Team as listed on the presentation slide. Martine explained that due to the large number of attendees, and for efficient use of time, participants would be asked to introduce themselves and their affiliation during the Q&A session when providing comments or asking questions.

2. Opening Remarks

Peter Kortright III, Bergen County Principal Planner and Deputy Project Manager, welcomed everyone on behalf of Bergen County and their Board of Commissioners. He thanked participants for their interest in this bridge project and their participation in today's meeting. He noted that Bergen County completed the Local Concept Development (LCD) Study and the bridge is to be replaced. The project is now in the LPE phase.

- a) This is an essential bridge crossing and an important bridge replacement project. The County would like to see the design advance as efficiently as possible and appreciates the support provided by both municipalities.
- b) The contract was awarded to the Michael Baker International (MBI) Team. MBI then presented the project overview and information on the LPE phase.

3. Project Overview & Background

Joe Romano, MBI Project Manager, provided an overview of the bridge project and the current bridge structure, provided information identifying the current structural deficiencies and reasons to replace the bridge, and noted associated improvements up to the approach roadway intersections on both sides of the river.

4. Bergen County East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge over the Hackensack River

Joe Romano and Jeremy Turner, MBI Deputy Project Manager, presented slides to introduce the project and the scope of work for this LPE phase of design. Items discussed included key schedule dates, project goals and purpose, scope of LPE phase work, and the on-going progress on the project (survey work, NJDEP permit requirement for geotechnical borings, utility coordination, and conducting traffic counts).

- a) MBI noted that the critical path items on this LPE phase schedule are primarily environmental studies and coordination with regulatory agencies.
- b) MBI noted construction will be designed in two (2) main stages and will avoid long term road/bridge closures while maintaining one vehicular lane in each direction and one sidewalk crossing the bridge in each stage. There are several existing utilities on the bridge that will need to be relocated during those stages. Certain construction activities will require short term lane closures or one-way flagging operations, which will be coordinated to minimize impacts to traffic as much as possible.



- c) Project Status and Schedule was provided, indicating key anticipated dates for completion. The LPE phase began in Spring 2022 and is anticipated to be complete in early 2024. The Final Design phase, which includes final design plans, environmental permits and right-of-way process, requires an estimated two (2) years before construction would begin. The duration of the bridge replacement Construction phase is design dependent.
- d) LPE Work Effort – the proposed bridge and roadway work are being implemented and completed to meet the overall purpose of this project: that of addressing the structural, geometric, and operational deficiencies and to provide safe, efficient and reliable passage for all users and modes of transportation.
- e) Ashley Sidhu, MBI Environmental Team, presented information on the Environmental Process (*Categorical Exclusion Document (CED), Cultural Resources Study, and Green Acres Program*). Items noted:
- Wetland delineation has been completed (MBI).
 - Technical Environmental Studies (TES) are complete (MBI).
 - The TES and agency coordination must be completed to support the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document (MBI).
 - Section 106 documentation is in review by NJDOT (MBI).
 - Green Acres Program coordination is a critical path item to get the NEPA document and is on-going. After receiving input from the Green Acres Program, MBI can proceed with Section 4(f), which will be used in the Categorical Exclusion Documentation (CED) (MBI).
 - The team received a Waterfront Development Permit and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit to authorize the geotechnical boring program field work that was performed earlier this year (MBI).
 - During the Final Design phase, the next phase after LPE, permit applications will be submitted and will require coordination with the USACE, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).
- f) Community involvement and public outreach meetings from the prior LCD phase and anticipated for the LPE phase were listed. Items noted included:
- Dates of previous LCD phase outreach meetings with local officials, community stakeholders, and the public information center meetings were provided, as well as those held to date in the LPE phase.
 - Future online meetings will be scheduled to share project information and obtain input as the preliminary design progresses.
 - The current LPE phase is mainly to refine the PPA and develop more details regarding the footprint of the bridge replacement and approach roadway intersection improvements to identify impact limits. The right-of-way process to discuss any temporary or permanent easements directly with property owners would occur during the next Final Design phase, when the County would be authorized with Federal funding to negotiate with individual property owners.
 - The project website (www.eastandersonbridge.com) contains past LCD phase information and current LPE phase progress. Please visit the website to view announcements. Comments may be submitted through the Contact Us page of the site.
 - Joe Baladi is the key contact as the Bergen County Project Manager and the project email address for any questions/comments is eastandersonbridgeproject@gmail.com.



5. Community Input – Comments & Questions (Q&A Session)

At the end of the presentation slides, the meeting was opened for community input by participants.

- Comments and questions in the Chat box were read first, as they were received.
- Participants were asked to use the Raise Hand option and unmute to verbally share comments and questions.
- Those connected by phone audio were invited to unmute if they wished to provide comments or questions.
- Q&A continued with additional questions entered into Chat and participants with raised hands and unmuting.
- Questions received via email during the time the meeting was in progress are included below.

The following questions and comments were addressed during Q&A:

a) Teaneck Swim Club chlorine deliveries

Question: Will chlorine delivery trucks be able to access the dirt road/Greenway path along the river, also known as Riverside Drive, before, during and after construction?

Response: Due to the raised bridge profile, the roadway will be slightly raised in the area of the access driveway from Cedar Lane. In general, the Project Team will look to maintain access during bridge replacement construction where feasible, but as noted during the meeting, there may be access impacts to this driveway from Cedar Lane during a portion of Stage 1 construction. Due to the raised profile on the bridge and into the approach roadway, the existing driveway would need to be re-graded. A retaining wall is also proposed on the west side of the driveway along Cedar Lane to minimize impacts from the raised roadway. The Project Team will evaluate access to this driveway further during the Final Design phase to minimize anticipated impacts as possible.

Note: It was suggested the trucks use Pomander Walk to access the swim club. Swim club representatives indicated the delivery truck hoses cannot reach the needed area when entering from Pomander Walk.

b) Teaneck Swim Club water impacts

Question: Will the well water used for the pools be impacted by construction work?

Response: The Project Team does not anticipate well water disruption of service due to construction of the bridge and will note as part of the traffic staging and utilities coordination to be aware of this concern.

c) Left turns from northbound River Road onto Cedar Lane in Teaneck

Comment/Question: During rush hour, it is very difficult to make the left turn from northbound River Road to westbound Cedar Lane due to high traffic volumes. Sometimes the wait lasts through three cycles of the traffic signal. In addition, once buses and trucks return after the new bridge is completed, traffic will increase. Could a left turn signal be provided?

Response: The existing traffic signal timing will be reviewed during LPE to determine what changes can be made to improve left turn movements from River Road northbound to Cedar Lane westbound. This evaluation in LPE phase will determine if the Project Team needs to investigate further during Final Design.

d) Pedestrian safety at River Street near the car wash in Hackensack

Comment: In Hackensack near the car wash, pedestrian safety is a concern at the right turn lane from River Street onto East Anderson Street toward the bridge.



Response: As noted during the presentation, pedestrian signals are being upgraded at this intersection as part of the current LPE scope of work. During the Final Design phase, the Project Team will evaluate additional improvements such as an additional traffic signal head on the right side of the slip ramp, improved signage, and added pavement markings.

e) PSE&G electrical conduits under the bridge

Comment/Question: There are four PSE&G electrical conduits crossing under the existing bridge. Three are occupied and one is a spare. PSE&G would like to increase the total up to 12 conduits on the new bridge due to new development in Hackensack. Could that be included in the design?

Response: The Project Team will review this request for additional conduits needed on the bridge. There are several other utilities that the proposed bridge will carry; therefore, further coordination with utility companies will be done to determine the required spacing between utilities and where the additional PSE&G conduits would be placed. There will be on-going coordination with utility companies as part of this LPE phase and during Final Design. The Project Team will consult with each company to identify specific details as appropriate.

f) Advance notification of bridge closures

Question: Can the pastor of Second Reformed Church in Hackensack get advance notice of bridge closures to pass on to the church parishioners?

Response: When building the new bridge, there will generally be one lane in each direction throughout the construction of the bridge replacement; however, there are certain construction activities that will require occasional lane closures. The Resident Engineer (RE) will have ongoing coordination with both communities to inform the public of any temporary detours or traffic disruptions for certain construction activities. The Resident Engineer that oversees the construction activity will coordinate with the Contractor to ensure access and mobility for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.

Note: The Teaneck Township Manager indicated that, in the event of road closures, Teaneck will send NIXLE alerts, email blasts and, if necessary, reverse 911 calls to residents.

g) Veolia water main under the bridge

Comment/Question: Veolia Northern NJ Water Operations owns the water main within the project limits which crosses under the Hackensack River. How will this project impact the water main under the bridge?

Response: The Project Team will be taking test pits during the week of May 8th to help determine horizontal and vertical location of the water main and other utilities. The proposed bridge foundations are being designed to avoid impacts to the Veolia water main in the river and will look to use construction methods to minimize vibrations. The Project Team asked if Veolia has any recent records of the horizontal and/or vertical alignment of the water main, specifically for the river crossing.

Note: Veolia indicated they do not have any other documentation of the water main river crossing other than the 1938 as-built plans.

h) Timeline for completion of construction

Questions: When will the construction begin and end? How many years until this is done?

Response: The Construction phase is anticipated to begin in approximately three (3) years. There is the remaining LPE phase work and then two (2) years of Final Design, which includes right-of-way negotiations, obtaining permits, and creating the detailed final design plans. The duration of construction may be between 24 and 30 months. Those durations could vary



depending on a number of factors such as the permits allowing the Contractor to do work in the Hackensack River and environmental timing restrictions, such as during fish breeding season.

- i) Kayaking during construction and after new bridge is completed

Question: Will it be possible to kayak under the bridge during construction and after the new bridge is built?

Response: The new bridge will be slightly higher and there will be fewer piers in the water providing more open views of water with easier access under the bridge. During construction there may be times that kayaking could be temporarily restricted, which would be communicated to the public.

- j) Crossing Cedar Lane at Pomander Walk in Teaneck

Comment: A crosswalk is needed across Cedar Lane by Pomander Walk. There is no light planned, but a crosswalk with signs is needed to remind drivers to look for pedestrians. Without an official crosswalk, no one ever stops.

Response: The Project Team will further investigate Pomander Walk crossing concerns. The signal analysis performed in LPE did not warrant a new traffic signal; however, the Project Team will review potential pedestrian crossing safety features during the Final Design phase.

- k) Teaneck Greenway trail

Comments: While we were hoping for a trail extension under the bridge, we appreciate your consideration. We look forward to working with you to keep the trail open as much as possible during construction. We have minimum of two cleanups along that section of trail between April and November, but can schedule them in coordination of construction plans.

Response: The Project Team will provide designs that minimize impacts as much as possible to the trail; however, during in Stage 1 access to the trail from Cedar Lane may need to be diverted at times due to adjacent construction activities. The Project Team asked if there are other special events for the trail that the Project Team be aware of and could be noted in the contract specifications.

6. Next Steps

In summary, the next steps are the engineering and environmental studies to help further advance the preliminary design for the bridge replacement and associated approach roadway improvements.

The next outreach meeting will be an online Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting. The meeting will be scheduled when preliminary engineering plans and environmental studies have been further advanced and are ready to present to the general public for input. Community stakeholders are welcomed to join the PIC Meeting as well as members of the general public.

In the meantime, the project website (eastandersonbridge.com) will provide information for those interested in the project. The website includes a form to submit questions and comments. Communication with the Project Team is also possible via the project email address (eastandersonbridgeproject@gmail.com).

7. Closing Remarks

Teaneck Township Manager, Dean Kazinci, thanked the presenters for sharing project information and the opportunity for discussion with the community. He noted the importance of addressing pedestrian crossing concerns at Pomander Walk given the residents, students, and the adults and children going to and from the Teaneck Swim Club.



Mayor Michael Pagan of Teaneck Township expressed appreciation to the County and Project Team for the presentation and on-going efforts to design the bridge replacement taking into consideration the importance of pedestrian, bike and vehicle access and safety.

Ryan Westra, City Assistant Engineer, was in attendance on behalf of the City of Hackensack; however he needed to leave meeting before closing remarks. City of Hackensack representatives did attend the local officials meeting. There will be on-going coordination with both municipalities as the LPE phase continues to progress.

Peter Kortright III, Bergen County Deputy Project Manager, thanked local officials and the attendees for their time and participation in today's meeting. He also expressed appreciation for the valuable input provided by participants from both communities and the representatives from the utilities. Some of the comments shared provided new insight for the County and will be helpful in the bridge replacement design and into construction.

Bergen County supports connectivity for all modes of transportation. The County will continue to work closely with the City of Hackensack and the Township of Teaneck during this LPE phase as well as in the future Final Design and Construction phases of the bridge replacement.

The meeting adjourned by 3:50 p.m.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

1. The Project Team will continue the engineering and environmental studies and continue coordination with utilities, environmental agencies, and municipalities.
2. Meeting summary report will be posted on the project website with the presentation pdf file once reviewed and approved by Bergen County.
3. Public Information Center (PIC) meeting notice letters will be provided a minimum of two weeks in prior to the meeting date and mailed to property owners within 500' of the project limits and to community stakeholders who provided a mailing address at prior outreach meetings. The PIC meeting notice will also be distributed by email blast to all on the project contact list who provided an email address.
4. Please submit any information you wish to share with the Project Team via the project email address: eastandersonbridgeproject@gmail.com.

NEXT MEETING

Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting No. 1

Date: Anticipated late 2023 - *to be determined (TBD)*

Time: *TBD*

Location: *Online - Teams meeting link to be provided*

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 five (5) working days of receipt. Without notification, these minutes will be considered to be record of fact.

East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge Replacement Project Team





COUNTY OF BERGEN
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for the
East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge Replacement
over the Hackensack River
City of Hackensack and Township of Teaneck, New Jersey

Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1
Monday, April 17, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the project team, present the project status and schedule for the Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) Phase, and to obtain input on the community interests associated with the East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge Replacement over the Hackensack River.

- I. *WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION*
 - Project Overview & Update
 - Local Project Delivery Process & Schedule - Local Preliminary Engineering Phase

- II. *BERGEN COUNTY EAST ANDERSON STREET/CEDAR LANE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT*
 - Project Purpose, Need, Goals, and Objectives
 - Project Status
 - LPE Scope of Work
 - Environmental Process - *CED, Cultural Resources Study, Green Acres Program*
 - Anticipated Construction Staging
 - Community Involvement – *Project Website and Public Outreach Meetings*

- III. *DISCUSSION*
 - Q & A - Community Input - *Interests, Issues, Improvements*

- IV. *NEXT STEPS*
 - Public Outreach:
 - Website Updates; Public Information Center (PIC) online - Late 2023
 - Project Website: www.eastandersonbridge.com
 - Project Email: eastandersonbridgeproject@gmail.com
 - Feedback and Closing Remarks

