

The New Goethals Bridge Continues to Rise

Work on the Goethals Bridge Replacement Project is reported to be nearly 49% complete. According to Trent Andres, Assistant Project Director for the joint venture construction team on the project, Kiewit-Weeks-Massman AJV, work will continue on both the eastbound and westbound cable-stayed bridge and approaches throughout the winter.

“Presently, we’re taking down some of the original bridge over the New Jersey Turnpike that is in the way of the new bridge construction. Motorists can see the progress as the towers and approach piers are visible,” Andres said. Over the winter, work will include ongoing construction of the columns and caps on the new bridge approaches, approach girder erection, continued main bridge tower construction and erection of the main bridge steel superstructure.



The New York Eastbound Pier 1 Towers - Lift 10 and Lift 11 reinforcement installation.



New York Eastbound and Westbound Main Span Towers, looking southwest.



Looking southeast for a view of the New York Eastbound and Westbound Main Span Towers.

A View of the Installation of Girder 5 on New Jersey Eastbound Span 9



New Jersey Eastbound Span 9 – Girder 5 Lift preparation.



Alignment of New Jersey Eastbound Span 9 Girder 5.



Raising New Jersey Eastbound Span 9 Girder 5.



New Jersey Eastbound Span 9 Girder 5 installation.



A view of the New Jersey Eastbound and Westbound Main Span Towers.



The existing Goethals Bridge looking west towards the new Goethals Bridge.

GBRP Fields Active Apprentice Program



Anne Caprari of Kiewit oversees the Goethals Bridge Replacement Project apprentice program.

The Goethals Bridge Replacement Project (GBRP) has an innovative Apprentice Program. The GBRP is helping 35 apprentices participating in its Apprentice Program to build long and prosperous futures for themselves and their families.

Anne Caprari, Compliance Manager and Equal Employment Opportunity Officer at Kiewit, the lead contractor of the joint venture companies, oversees the Apprentice Program. She ensures applicants are guided to the appropriate organizations and unions to begin the apprenticeship process.

In addition to advertising on New Jersey and New York state websites and visiting job fairs, Anne says there are a number of paths interested parties can follow to becoming an apprentice on the GBRP or other projects. “When someone is interested in working on the Bridge but not currently in a union,” she explains, “we direct them to a union hall to begin the process. In New Jersey, for example, we have handouts we share regarding the various trades in which they are interested in apprenticing.” Anne then adds the applicant’s information to the project-specific Union Referral Log for each union to track.

For union members who come to the site seeking work, the “Shaping the Job” program’s process to hiring for the project is state-specific. According to Anne, this is primarily a New York State option—to come to the job, interview, and secure a placement. In New Jersey, prospective hires must apply through the various union halls.

Anne also directs prospective apprentices to a host of pre-apprenticeship training programs, including Nontraditional Employment for Women (www.new-nyc.org); Helmets to Hardhats (www.helmetstohardhats.org), serving veterans; and the Edward J. Malloy Initiative for Construction Skills (www.constructionskills.org); as well as a number of local, community groups.

GBRP Apprenticeship by the Numbers

The GBRP has fielded 35 apprentices in eight trades. Slightly more than 20% of the GBRP apprentices are women; nearly 30% are minorities (African American, Hispanic, Asian or other).

Participating contractors include CB Contracting Corp., Costal Steel Contractors of New Jersey, John Ball & Sons, Inc., KWM, Magic Touch, S&J Electrical, Tonage, Inc., and Work Zone.

Trades on the Bridge

Joe LaRosa, Construction Local 731 Foreman



Joe LaRosa and his team prepare to work on the New York approach columns.

Joe moved up quickly to become a Journeyman on that project. He explains that his process from Apprentice to Journeyman was a little “shorter for me than it is now. It was a different time then.” His first Foreman position was with Granite Northeast. Now on the Goethals Bridge Replacement Project, Joe and his team work on the New York approach columns, pouring concrete for the main span.

What is it like being the Local 731 Foreman on the New York side of the Bridge? Joe says, “What I really focus on is making sure my guys go home at the end of the day the same way they came in. If I can’t do it, I won’t put my [people] in harm’s way. Safety is paramount.”

Joe LaRosa did not start his career intending to work in construction. He was a New York City policeman, until September 11, 2001. Two weeks after the World Trade Center tragedy, still affected by the overwhelming devastation and eager to help rebuild what was lost, he followed his brother and father-in-law to the site, joined the Union and began his apprenticeship. Joe has never looked back.

“I spent four years at the Trade Center site,” he recalls. “I started out as an apprentice, working on the recovery efforts, on the site clean-up, and then on the rebuild. I was part of the team that rebuilt the PATH train station. I laid track and poured concrete in the tunnels.”

Joe moved up quickly to become a Journeyman on that project. He explains that his process from Apprentice

Right now I'm really focused on the columns. I like the height. We go up on 150-foot "man lifts." You start out pouring concrete at 12 feet and our last pour was 140 feet in the air.

Joe LaRosa, Foreman



Contact Information

www.panynj.gov/GoethalsBridgeReplacement Follow us on Twitter @PANYNJ Email GoethalsBridge@panynj.gov

Get visual updates through our webcam: <http://www.panynj.gov/bridges-tunnels/goethals-bridgereplacement.html#webcam>