



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT GOETHALS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

NEWSLETTER 7 / SPRING 2009

INTRODUCTION

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is the lead federal agency for preparation of the Goethals Bridge Replacement (GBR) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Port Authority of NY & NJ (PANYNJ), the project sponsor, proposes the bridge replacement as part of its Goethals Bridge Modernization Program. This is the seventh in a series of newsletters documenting the progress of this study.

The Goethals Bridge is a critical bi-state crossing, connecting Staten Island, New York, and Elizabeth, New Jersey. The bridge carries approximately 76,000 cars and trucks daily and provides direct connections to the New Jersey Turnpike and Routes 1 & 9 in New Jersey, and to the Staten Island Expressway and the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in New York. Constructed in the 1920s, the 81-year-old bridge has become outdated, with narrow lanes, lack of emergency breakdown lanes, and other structural problems. These deficiencies contribute to deteriorating traffic and safety conditions on the bridge, as well as increasing maintenance and repair costs.



United States Coast Guard

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

DEIS PUBLISHED

The DEIS has been issued by the USCG for public review and comment. The Notice of Availability of the DEIS may be found in the Federal Register dated May 29, 2009. The DEIS describes the proposed transportation improvements associated with replacement of the Goethals Bridge and details the analyses and findings related to the social, economic, cultural, environmental and transportation impacts that would result with the "No-Build" Alternative (i.e., not implementing the Goethals Bridge replacement) and the four bridge-replacement "Build" Alternatives (see Page 2).

The DEIS has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Participation by the public is a critical part of the environmental review process to make sure that public concerns and issues are addressed. All comments on the DEIS will be documented and addressed in the Final EIS (FEIS). On the basis of the EIS studies, public input, and comments on the DEIS, the preferred project alternative will be identified in the FEIS.

FORMAL PUBLIC MEETINGS

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as amended, the USCG is holding two formal public meetings to receive comments on the DEIS. At these meetings, you can review project information and talk informally with members of the study staff and formally submit your comments to the USCG, orally or in writing. A stenographer will record all oral comments received at the formal public meetings.

Elizabeth, New Jersey
Wednesday, July 8, 2009
Time 4 PM - 8 PM
Elizabeth City Hall

Staten Island, New York
Thursday, July 9, 2009
Time 4 PM - 8 PM
Staten Island Hotel

Presentation at 4:30 PM
& repeated at 6:30 PM

Register to speak
between 4 PM and 8 PM

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See page 3 for directions to these meetings. For more information about the formal public meetings, or if you have any special needs in order to attend, please contact the study team at 917-339-0488.

NEW BRIDGE ALTERNATIVES

Based on project studies and input received during public outreach meetings, the following alignment alternatives were defined for the project and evaluated in the DEIS:

- **New Alignment South** – a single 6-lane bridge replacement in an alignment directly south of the existing Goethals Bridge;
- **New Alignment North** – a single 6-lane bridge replacement in an alignment directly north of the existing Goethals Bridge;
- **Existing Alignment South** – a single 6-lane bridge replacement in an alignment within and extending south of the existing Goethals Bridge alignment;
- **Existing Alignment North** – a single 6-lane bridge replacement in an alignment within and extending north of the existing Goethals Bridge alignment.

Each bridge-replacement alternative includes the following features:

- the conceptual design of one cable-stayed bridge structure with two roadway decks (one for eastbound and one for westbound traffic), suspended from bridge towers and separated by sufficient space between the decks to accommodate potential future transit service;
- three 12-ft.-wide lanes, one 12-ft.-wide outer shoulder, one 5-ft.-wide inner shoulder on each roadway deck, and one 10-ft.-wide bikeway/sidewalk (on the northern deck only);
- under-bridge navigational clearance of a minimum of 135 feet above mean high water (MHW), equal to the existing bridge; and
- a permanent access road for construction, maintenance and security purposes, located generally below the proposed replacement bridge and approach spans.



Simulation of Goethals Bridge Replacement

VIEWING LOCATIONS FOR THE DEIS

The DEIS can be viewed in its entirety on the project Web site, www.goethalseis.com. Hard copies are available for viewing at the following locations:

New York

- **Brooklyn Public Library**
Central Library, Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn
- **NY Public Library**
Mid Manhattan Library, 5th Ave. at 42nd St., Manhattan
- **NY Public Library**
Port Richmond Branch, 75 Bennett St., Staten Island
- **NY Public Library**
St. George Library Center, 5 Central Ave., Staten Island
- **NY Public Library**
Todt Hill-Westerleigh Branch, 2550 Victory Blvd., Staten Island
- **Staten Island Community Board 1**
One Edgewater Plaza, Suite 217, Staten Island
- **Staten Island Community Board 2**
460 Brielle Ave., Staten Island
- **Staten Island Community Board 3**
655 Rossville Ave., # 218, Staten Island
- **United States Coast Guard**
One South St., Manhattan

New Jersey

- **City Hall of Elizabeth**
Office of the Clerk, 50 Winfield Scott Plaza, Elizabeth
- **Elizabeth Public Library**
Elmora Branch, 740 West Grand St., Elizabeth
- **Elizabeth Public Library**
Elizabeth, 11 South Broad St., Elizabeth
- **City Hall of Linden,**
Office of the Clerk, 301 North Wood Ave., Linden
- **Linden Free Public Library**
31 East Henry St., Linden
- **Roselle Public Library**
104 West Fourth Ave., Roselle

Copies of the DEIS are also available on CD-ROM. To request a copy, please call 917-339-0488.

Wednesday, July 8, 2009
Elizabeth City Hall
50 Winfield Scott Plaza
Elizabeth, NJ
(908) 820-4102

From New Jersey Turnpike

Northbound: Exit at Interchange 13 (I-278, Elizabeth, Verrazano-Narrows Bridge). Keep right, follow ramp sign for Elizabeth, Route 439; at first light continue straight ahead onto Route 439 (Bayway). Follow 439 to South Broad St. (just past Bayway Liquor). Turn right onto South Broad St. and continue to center of town (just past Union County Courthouse) to Dickinson St. (McDonald's on corner). Turn right onto Dickinson St., go one block to Jefferson Ave. Turn left onto Jefferson Ave., Public Municipal Parking Lot on left, City Hall rear entrance on right.

Southbound: Exit at Interchange 13A (Newark Airport-Elizabeth). Follow signs for Elizabeth, Route 1&9 South. Continue on Route 1&9 South; after first railroad overpass, keep right, turn right at second traffic light onto East Jersey Street. Take East Jersey St. to (the third traffic light) Jefferson Ave. Turn left onto Jefferson Ave. to Public Municipal Parking on right, City Hall rear entrance on left.

From Garden State Parkway

Northbound or Southbound: Exit 137 (Elizabeth-Cranford). At exit ramp traffic light, turn left onto Route 28, Westfield Ave. Stay on Westfield Ave. until the end. Turn right onto N. Broad St.; continue past the railroad bridges (The Elizabeth Arch) to Dickinson St. (McDonald's on left). Turn left onto Dickinson St., go one block to Jefferson Ave. Turn left onto Jefferson Ave., Public Municipal Parking on left, City Hall rear entrance on right.

From U.S. Route 1 & 9

Northbound: At Bayway Circle, (Rt. 1&9 and Rt. 439), turn right onto 439 (Bayway), at second traffic light turn left onto South Broad St., continue to center of town, and follow directions as above from N.J. Turnpike Northbound.

Southbound: Take local or express lanes, past Newark Airport. Keep right and follow directions above for N.J. Turnpike Southbound.

Parking

After 4:00 PM, there is ample parking in the City Hall parking lot.

Transit

NJ TRANSIT Buses 26, 52, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62 and 112 stop at the intersection of Broad and Jersey Streets. Call (973) 762-5100 or check www.njtransit.com for more details.

Thursday, July 9, 2009
Staten Island Hotel
1415 Richmond Avenue
Staten Island, NY
(718) 698-5000

From Verrazano-Narrows Bridge

Staten Island Expressway (I-278) West to Richmond Avenue, Exit 7. Bear right at the sign. Hotel is 1/8 mile on the left.

From Outerbridge Crossing

West Shore Expressway (Rt. 440) North to I-278. Stay on I-278 to first exit (Richmond Avenue, Exit 7). Take a left at the first traffic light, and then a right at the next traffic light. Hotel is on the left.

From Goethals Bridge

Staten Island Expressway (I-278) East to Richmond Avenue, Exit 7. Take a left at traffic light, and then a right at the next traffic light. Hotel is on the left.

From Bayonne Bridge

Martin Luther King, Jr. Expressway (Rt. 440) South to I-278 West. Stay right and exit I-278 immediately on Richmond Avenue. Bear right at the yield sign. Hotel is 1/8 mile on the left.

Parking

There is ample parking in the rear of the Hotel.

By Bus

NYC Transit Bus S44 stops in front of the hotel on Richmond Avenue. Call (718) 330-1234 or check www.mta.info for further details.

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

The USCG requests your comments on the DEIS. Oral comments may be given at one of the formal public meetings (details on page 1). Written comments can be submitted at meetings and at any time during the comment period. Comments must be received no later than July 28, 2009 at:

Commander. (dpb)
First Coast Guard District
Battery Building
One South Street
New York, NY 10004
Attn: Mr. G. Kassof

Fax: (212) 668-7967

Comments can also be e-mailed via the project Web site at www.goethalseis.com.

All comments received during the public comment period will be included in the official record and addressed in the Final EIS.

IMPORTANT DATES

DEIS Notice of Availability
May 29, 2009

Formal Public Meetings
July 8 and 9, 2009

Comment Period Closes
July 28, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For project information, visit the GBR EIS Web site at www.goethalseis.com. The site contains the DEIS document in downloadable format, links to meeting presentations, previous newsletters and other study materials.



United States Coast Guard
c/o Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, Inc.
11 Hanover Square, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10005

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