



**COUNTY OF ESSEX / COUNTY OF HUDSON**  
**Local Concept Development Study for Bridge Street Bridge**  
**over the Passaic River**  
**City of Newark and Town of Harrison, NJ**



**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Essex County and Hudson County are conducting a study for bridge improvements such as a major rehabilitation or replacement of the existing Bridge Street Bridge over the Passaic River to address its structural deficiencies and maintain an important transportation connection to the City of Newark's Downtown Business District for local residents and regional commuters in Essex County and Hudson County. The bridge has been closed several times in recent years for structural and mechanical repairs. Due to its age, the bridge has deteriorated over time and routine maintenance can no longer address the deficiencies.

**The Project Background**

The existing bridge is in poor overall condition. Several factors contribute to this assessment:

*Condition:* The bridge is structurally deficient with its superstructure in poor physical condition with localized advanced section losses to most steel truss members, localized advanced section losses to floor beams and girders in the approach spans, and holed through truss gusset plates in the swing span. The substructure is in satisfactory condition. The bridge's mechanical machinery and electrical system are in fair to poor condition and consist of new and obsolete devices and sub-systems that are nearing the end of their serviceable life.

*Highway Safety:* The bridge railings do not meet current crash and safety standards.

*Public Safety:* The bridge interlocking system is not in accordance with current acceptable standards.

*Seismic:* The bridge is susceptible to seismic forces and does not meet current seismic design standards.

**The Proposed Study:**

The current phase of this project is Local Concept Development (LCD). During this phase a well-defined and well-justified Purpose and Need Statement will be developed focusing on the need to improve safety and maintain the current crossing over the Passaic River. The LCD Phase elements also include data collection; coordination with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, local officials, community stakeholders, and permitting agencies; the development of a reasonable number of sensible and practical conceptual alternatives; the development of a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, and to investigate all aspects of the project. These aspects will include environmental, right of way, access, utilities, design, community involvement, constructability, and cost (see NJTPA LCD flowchart).

The primary tasks of stakeholders are to provide community input to assist in the development of the Project Purpose and Need Statement, assist in the development of conceptual alternatives, identify possible fatal flaws, and to assist in the recommendation of the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) based on the Project Purpose and Need.

## Local Concept Development Project Schedule (Major Milestones)

Develop Project Purpose and Need Statement	Fall 2016
Development of Conceptual Alternatives	Winter 2017
Recommendation of Preliminary Preferred Alternative	Fall 2019
Submission of Draft Concept Development Report	Winter 2020
Obtain Resolutions of Support for Preliminary Preferred Alternative	Winter 2020
Completion of Local Concept Development Phase	Spring 2020

## Anticipated Community Involvement Schedule

Local Officials Meeting No. 1 for input on Purpose and Need	Fall 2016
Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1 for Purpose & Need Statement Development	Fall 2016
Public Information Center No. 1 for Purpose and Need Statement Development	Fall 2016
Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 2 for input on Conceptual Alternatives	Spring 2017
Local Officials Meeting No. 2 for Preliminary Preferred Alternative Recommendation	Fall 2019
Public Information Center No. 2 for Conceptual Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative Recommendation	Fall 2019
Obtain Municipal and County Resolutions of Support	Spring 2020

## Contact Information

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For additional project information, visit the project website: [www.bridgestreetbridge.com](http://www.bridgestreetbridge.com)

