

**Local Officials Briefing – Meeting Report with Comment-Response Summary****Project:** Rt. 4 Hackensack River Bridge – Final Design**Subject:** Local Officials Briefing**Date/Time:** December 02, 2024, 1:30 PM**Place:** Online via Microsoft Teams**Attendees:**

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Shivon Harris	NJDOT – OCR	Peter Kortright	Bergen County – Planning
Alexis Devre	NJDOT – OCR	Adam Camerlengo	Bergen County – Planning & Eng.
Charles Henry	NJDOT – PM	Kris Wheaton	City of Hackensack – Engineer
Aimee Hurst	NJDOT – APM	Ryan Westra	City of Hackensack – DPW Project Manager
Dhruvish Gajjar	NJDOT – DPM	Joe Inglima	City of Hackensack – DPW Head
Joe Romano	MBI – PM	Greg ODonnell	Costa Engineering / Borough of River Edge
Justin Worek	MBI – DPM	Andrew McGurr	Township of Teaneck – Police Chief
Sly Fryc	MBI – DPM	Anthony Verley	Township of Teaneck – Deputy Manager
Ebony Washington	MBI – Environmental Lead	Joseph Berchtold	Township of Teaneck – Fire Chief
Matt Ullestad	MBI – Traffic Lead	Farah Gilani	Township of Teaneck – Engineer
Martine Culbertson	M.A. Culbertson – Public Outreach	Hon. Michael Pagan	Township of Teaneck – Mayor
Val Aylesworth	M.A. Culbertson – Public Outreach	Lissette Aportela	Borough of River Edge – Administrator
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County – Planning	Hon. Tom Papaleo	Borough of River Edge – Mayor
Nancy Dargis	Bergen County – Engineering	Jeyson Flores	Costa Engineering / Borough of River Edge
Adam Strobel	Bergen County – Parks Dept.	Jason Milito	Borough of River Edge – DPW Superintendent
Martin Maver	Bergen County – Engineering	Lt. Charles Antinori	Township of Teaneck – Traffic Bureau

**Prepared By:** Justin Worek, P.E. – Michael Baker International**Distribution date:** December 13, 2024**Meeting Purpose:**

To present the background, status, scope, and schedule of the project. The project will replace the Route 4 bridge over the Hackensack River, widen the approaches, and add sidewalks throughout the project limits while maintaining traffic and the existing bus stops.



## Introductions:

Shivon Harris, NJDOT Office of Community Relations Regional Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the online meeting. She facilitated introductions by the local officials of the City of Hackensack, Township of Teaneck and Borough of River Edge.

## Presentation:

Charles Henry, NJDOT Project Manager for the Route 4 Hackensack River Bridge project, began by introducing the Project Team. Charles then presented information on the project purpose, the previously completed phases, the NJDOT Project Delivery Process and the Community Outreach meetings performed during the previous phases.

Joe Romano, Project Manager from Michael Baker International (MBI), presented the project location, existing conditions, and summarized the final design approach.

Justin Worek, MBI Deputy Project Manager, presented the Final Design components of the project and the proposed improvements for the project.

Ebony Washington, MBI Environmental Specialist, presented the Environmental Aspects of the project.

Justin Worek (MBI) presented the Construction Staging and Access approach for the project.

In summary, Charles Henry (NJDOT) provided the next steps and opened the meeting for Local Officials input, questions and comments (Q&A Discussion).

Shivon Harris (NJDOT) ended the meeting by thanking everyone for their time, feedback, and coordination efforts.

*Note: The presentation slides from the online meeting are included as an attachment.*

## Comments/Responses:

Questions and comments received during the Q&A Discussion are listed below with corresponding responses by the Project Team.

### I. Teaneck Engineer – Farah Gilani

1. What are the anticipated impacts to the local roads?

**MBI Response:** The impacts to the local roads will be minimized to the maximum extent possible. The staging approach will maintain the existing number of lanes (3-lanes in each direction) on Route 4 throughout construction, except for a 2–3-week period during the bridge slide operation. The construction of the project will require short-term detours to the on and off ramps to Route 4 within the project limits to facilitate focused construction and demolition activities and to construct the ramp improvements/tie-in grades to Route 4.



II. Bergen County – Martin Maver

2. The East Anderson project is just downstream on the Hackensack River and will have an overlapping construction schedule. Will the Route 4 traffic be diverted onto this structure?

**MBI Response:** There will be short-term closures on Route 4 (*single and multiple lane temporary closures*) during allowable lane closure hours, but Route 4 will not be fully closed so Route 4 traffic will not be detoured onto E Anderson St/Cedar Lane. There will be various short-term detours of the ramps to and from Route 4 within the project limits to facilitate construction activities and ramp upgrades.

III. Teaneck Fire Department – Chief Joseph Berchtold

3. Is all the fiber optic communication lines being maintained throughout construction? There is fiber optic communication between Teaneck and Bergen County that crosses the bridge and uses Millennium Communications.

**MBI Response:** The township and county fiber optic communication lines will be reviewed and incorporated into the Contract Documents. The proposed bridge will not have any overhead utility lines and all utilities/communications will be placed in conduits located under the structure.

**Inquiry:** Aimee Hurst, NJDOT Assistant Project Manager for the Route 4 Hackensack River Bridge project, requested contact information for Millennium Communications from Joseph Berchtold and/or Bergen County to coordinate the fiber optic communications and the projects proposed improvements.\*

*\*After the meeting the contact information for Millennium was provided to Shivon Harris (NJDOT) from Bergen County, which was forwarded to MBI. Zachary Magrid and Louis Arcolesse, III are the County's contact personnel for this fiber system.*

**Additional Note:** Bergen County requested the Route 4 Hackensack River Bridge replacement project plans including the proposed detention system to be located along River Road in Teaneck Township.

**NJDOT Response:** The projects plans and proposed SWM design/details will be provided to Bergen County after MBI submits the Final Design Submission to NJDOT in Early 2025.

IV. City of Hackensack – Ryan Westra

4. What are details of the trestle? The Fire Department may need travel up and down the Hackensack River to ensure passage of their vessels.

**MBI Response:** As shown on Slide 31 of the presentation slides, the temporary trestle will have a similar elevation as the FDU Pedestrian Bridge that is downstream, with a 6'-6" height over the M.H.W. Elevation of 2.55. If the Fire Department vessels cross under this pedestrian bridge structure that they should be able to pass under the temporary trestle. MBI also noted that the temporary trestle will have the piles spaced at approximately 20' to support the trestle's temporary superstructure.

**Inquiry:** The project team asked the Hackensack Fire Department to confirm if their vessels would be able to pass under the temporary trestle, given the clearance height



and width details provided, and can pass under the FDU Pedestrian Bridge.\*\*

*\*\*After the meeting Ryan Westra confirmed the Hackensack Fire Department's vessels are a zodiac raft and a flat bottom aluminum boat and that the provided clearance is acceptable.*

V. River Edge – Jason Milito

5. What is the height of the trestle/temporary bridge? River Edge has concerns that the height of the structure could cause flooding issues upstream on the Hackensack River if storm debris get stuck on the trestle/temporary bridge.

**MBI Response:** The temporary trestle will have a 4' temporary superstructure (approximate). Note that the details of the temporary trestle are conceptual, and the final size/details will be designed and provided by the Contractor awarded the construction project. The temporary trestle vertical clearance in the proposed design plan is similar to the FDU Pedestrian Bridge located downstream. During construction, the Contractor will be responsible to clear any debris that have accumulated against the trestle (within their work area) after any storm events.

6. River Edge Township sees that there are a lot of active projects going on Route 4 and the surrounding area. How are all the projects being accounted for and planned?

**MBI and NJDOT Response:** NJDOT is aware and tracking their on-going projects and the current status of each project on the Route 4 corridor and are coordinating with the adjacent project teams as necessary.

Charles Henry (NJDOT) discussed the Department's on-going projects on the Route 4 corridor.

**Inquiry:** Charles Henry (NJDOT) requested any projects that River Edge is aware of, and were not discussed, to be provided to NJDOT that/those project(s) can be coordinated with the other Route 4 projects.

**Action Items:**

1. MBI to provide a PDF of the presentation slides to all attendees.  
*\*PDF of the presentation is attached. – **Action: Completed.***
2. Jason Milito (River Edge) to provide additional projects along the Route 4 corridor that should be included and coordinated during construction. – **Action: Pending**

**Attachments:**

1. Rt.4 over Hackensack River Bridge FD\_LOB\_Meeting Agenda.pdf
2. Rt.4 over Hackensack River Bridge FD\_LOB\_Presentation-slides.pdf

*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.*

**Route 4 Hackensack River Bridge Project Team**

