

US Army Corps of Engineers. Philadelphia District 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

Attn: CENAP-OPR

Public Notice

Comment Period Begins: June 30, 2023 Comment Period Ends: July 30, 2023 File Number: NAP-2022-00412-TEC

File Name: GSP Operational Improvements, MP 80 to 83

Contact: Adam Fannin

Email: adam.e.fannin@usace.army.mil

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

APPLICANT: New Jersey Turnpike Authority

> Michael Garofalo, Chief Engineer c/o Vincent Mignella, Project Engineer

P.O. Box 5042

Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095-5042

mignella@njta.com

AGENT: Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI)

Valerie Hrabal

520 US 22, Suite 200

Bridgewater, New Jersey, 08807

vhrabal@gpinet.com

LOCATION: Garden State Parkway (Parkway) between Milepost 80.4 near the

> stream crossing of Jakes Branch and Milepost 84.1 near Interchange 83 at Route 9/166 crossing in Beachwood Borough, South Toms River Borough, Berkeley Township, and Toms River Township, Ocean

County, New Jersey;

Approximate Center Coordinates: 39.95002, -74.207783.

PURPOSE: The stated purpose of this project is to improve accessibility, safety, and

travel time along the Parkway from Milepost 80 to 83 by constructing the missing Parkway access points at Interchange 80; providing additional traffic capacity and eliminating unsafe weaving conditions along the mainline and at interchanges; and correcting substandard design

elements, where feasible.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA) has requested Department of the Army (DA) authorization to conduct work in navigable waters of the United States and to discharge dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States associated with improvements to the Parkway between Milepost 80.4 near the stream crossing of Jakes Branch and Milepost 84.1 near Interchange 83 at Route 9/166 crossing. The proposed project would include widening the Parkway, resulting in mainly three through lanes with adjacent collector-distributor roadways in each direction-including safety and operational improvements at Interchanges 80, 81, and 82/82A.

Proposed improvements under this project would include improving Parkway geometrics to meet current NJTA design standards where feasible, creating continuous auxiliary lanes to better accommodate queuing and weaves; creating collector-distributor roads to physically separate local traffic from Parkway through traffic, safety and operational improvements of Parkway interchanges, ramps and adjoining State and local roadway networks, the addition of a new southbound entrance ramp and northbound exit ramp to Interchange 80. The proposed project would also result in the widening or replacement of seven (7) bridges, reconstruction and/or extension of several culvert pipes, replacement of guide rail, drainage system upgrades and overhead signing.

The application requested authorization for the temporary discharge of dredged and/or fill material into 0.024 acres of wetlands and for the permanent discharge of dredged and/or fill material into 1.143 acres of wetlands and 0.355 acres of tidal open waters to facilitate the construction of the proposed project.

For additional project details, see the attached plans identified as: New Jersey Turnpike Authority Garden State Parkway Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Permitting For Operational Improvements, Milepost 80 to 83, sheets 1-16, and dated May 2023.

MITIGATION

The applicant has stated that the proposed project has been designed to avoid and minimize adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the maximum extent practicable. For unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources, the applicant has proposed compensatory mitigation.

The applicant has proposed to offset permanent unavoidable impacts to wetlands and tidal open waters via purchase of mitigation bank credits, while temporary impacted wetlands would be restored on-site. The applicant has indicated compensatory mitigation would comply with New Jersey Administrative Code 7:7A-11 and 7:7-17.

CORPS EVALUATION FACTORS

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the activity's probable impact including its cumulative impacts on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among these factors are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and welfare of the people.

The evaluation of the impact of this project will also include application of the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency if the project includes a discharge of dredge or fill material pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

A preliminary review of this application indicates that species and/or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) may be present in the action area. This office will forward this Public Notice to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with a request for technical assistance on whether any ESA-listed species or their critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity. This office will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on ESA-listed species or their critical habitat and will consult with the USFWS and/or NMFS, as appropriate. ESA Section 7 consultation would be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL TRUST

The District's Cultural Resource Specialist and Tribal Liaison is currently reviewing the proposed permit action for potential impacts to Historic Properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places and for potential issues concerning the Tribes. The proposed permit action will be an Adverse Effect to the Garden State Parkway Historic District and may adversely affect other historic properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of historic places. Further investigations, consultation and analyses will be required throughout the Section 106 process.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary review of this application

indicates that EFH is present within the project area. This office will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on EFH and will consult with NMFS, as appropriate. Consultation would be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATE

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate (WQC) is required from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved State CZM Program. No permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification or has waived its right to do so. Comments concerning the impact on the State's coastal zone should be sent to this office with a copy to the State's CZM office.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS AND PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST

Any comments received will be considered by this office to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposed project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess the probable impact on the public interest. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the proposed work must be submitted, in writing, within the comment period indicated in the header above. Any person may request, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing must be in writing and state the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Please provide any comments, request for a public hearing, or requests for additional information to the Regulatory Project Manager indicated above. All Public Notices are posted on our website at:

https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/

Todd A. Schaible

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Todd A. Schaible Chief, Regulatory Branch







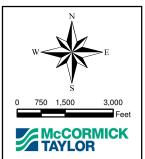
Operational Improvements, Milepost 80-83 Garden State Parkway

Toms River and Berkeley Townships, and South Toms River and Beachwood Boroughs

Legend Ocean County, New Jersey

Project Location Pinelands Boundary L Municipality Boundary





NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

DIANE GUTIERREZ-SCACCETTI

ULISES E. DIAZ VICE CHAIR

MICHAEL R. DU PONT TREASURER

RONALD GRAVINO COMMISSIONER

JOHN D. MINELLA COMMISSIONER

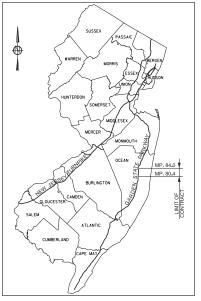
RAPHAEL SALERMO

GARDEN STATE PARKWAY

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS INDIVIDUAL PERMIT PLANS

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING FOR OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS, MILEPOST 80 TO 83 SOUTH TOMS RIVER BOROUGH, BERKELEY AND TOMS RIVER TOWNSHIPS **OCEAN COUNTY**

SUMMARY OF USACE WETLAND IMPACTS - PROJECT TOTALS				
PERM. WETLAND IMPACT	TEMP. WETLAND	PERM. OPEN WATER IMPACT	TEMP.OPEN WATER IMPACT	TOTAL IMPACT
49,802 SF	1,025 SF	15,471 SF	0 SF	66,298 SF
(1.143 AC)	(0.024 AC)	(0.355 AC)	(O AC)	(1.522 AC)





INDEX OF SHEETS

SHEET NO.	DESCRIPTION			
1	TITLE SHEET			
2	GENERAL LEGEND			
3 - 5	PLAN REFERENCE SHEETS			
6 - 15	USACE JURISDICTIONAL PLANS			
16	GENERAL PLAN AND ELEVATION BRIDGE NO. 81.4 OVER			

I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF LAW THAT I HAVE PERSONALLY EXAMINED AND AM FAMILIAR WITH THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN THIS DOCUMENT AND ALL ATTACHMENTS AND THAT, BASCO ON MY INOUITY OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS IMMEDIATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING AND PREPARING THE INFORMATION, BELIEVE THAT THE INFORMATION IS TRUE, ACCURATE, AND COMPLETE, I AM AWARE THAT THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT PENALTIES FOR KNOWINGLY, SUBMITTION, FALSE INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF FINE AND IMPRISONMENT.

NOTE: TOPOGRAPHIC DATUM IS NAVD 1988, ADD 1.21 FT TO CONVERT TO NGVD 1929 DATUM

THE 2016 STANDARD SPECIFICATION OF NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY, AS AMENDED BY SUPPLEMENTARY SPECIFICATIONS, TO GOVERN.

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