



PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT

Local Concept Development Study Meadowlands Parkway Bridge over Norfolk Southern Rail Lines Town of Secaucus, Hudson County

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Meadowlands Parkway Bridge Project is to restore the structural and operational integrity of the bridge bringing it into compliance with current design standards and to provide a safe, efficient, and reliable crossing for all modes of transportation.

PROJECT NEED

The Meadowlands Parkway Bridge, built in 1973 and which is under the jurisdiction of the Town of Secaucus, carries the Meadowlands Parkway over Norfolk Southern Rail Lines, Secaucus Road and a tidal tributary to the Hackensack River. Meadowlands Parkway is a major arterial roadway on the western side of the Town of Secaucus, NJ, just east of the Hackensack River. Along with County Avenue to the east, Meadowlands Parkway provides major north/south connections between residential areas to the north and commercial and retail regions to the south in the Town of Secaucus. Meadowlands Parkway also provides a direct connection to Route 3 to the north and indirectly connects to the New Jersey Turnpike's 15X Interchange and the Frank Lautenberg Rail Station to the south. A mix of development lies adjacent to Meadowlands Parkway, including residential neighborhoods, Hudson Regional Hospital, Harmon Cove Tower and Townhomes, the Secaucus Outlet Center and various industrial/commercial development. Given the major industrial and commercial development in the project area and the access to major state and interstate roadways, Meadowlands Parkway is subject to significant truck traffic. The adjacent residential and retail development generates pedestrian and bicycle traffic along the roadway, particularly in its northern segment. In 2005 the Town of Secaucus in conjunction with NJDOT performed structural repairs to the superstructure, substructure and emergency repairs in excess of \$3 million. The emergency repairs consisted of adding additional supports to the stringers adjacent to the bearing due to significant deterioration at the ends of the stringers. Additional priority repairs were completed in 2018 which included installation of additional supports to address increased areas of deteriorated beam ends.

Due to the extent of the deterioration and the emergency / priority repairs that were performed, the structure will require extensive on-going maintenance to keep the structure in a state of good repair. The bridge is nearing the end of its service life.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In addressing the Purpose and Need, the design of the project will also consider additional goals and objectives obtained via stakeholder and public outreach. While the project may not be able to fully satisfy all these additional goals and objectives, as many as possible should be addressed. The identified goals and objectives are as follows:

- Avoid or minimize impacts to vehicular, pedestrian and bicyclist traffic during construction.
 - Maintain the required clearances to the Norfolk Southern tracks.
 - Avoid or minimize social, economic and environmental impacts.
 - Enhance bicycle and pedestrian compatibility.
 - Consider the context of the project area and identify aesthetic enhancements.
 - Avoid or minimize impacts to residents of Harmon Cove Tower.
 - Maintain emergency vehicle access due to limits of north/south connections in the project area.
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