

**Monmouth County Oceanic Bridge (S-31) Replacement
On Bingham Avenue - Locust Point Road (CR8A) over the Navesink River
Borough of Rumson and Township of Middletown, New Jersey
*Local Preliminary Engineering Phase***

PROJECT INFORMATION



Monmouth County is advancing the design for the replacement of the existing Monmouth County Oceanic Bridge (S-31) on Bingham Avenue – Locust Point Road (CR8A) over the Navesink River to address its structural deficiencies and to maintain an important transportation connection between the Borough of Rumson, Township of Middletown, and the surrounding communities. Due to its age, the bridge has deteriorated over time and routine maintenance is no longer sufficient.

Constructed in 1939, repaired and rehabilitated at various times, the bridge is in need of replacement. The overall condition of the bridge is critical due to the condition of the superstructure and substructure.

The condition of the superstructure is “serious” due to heavy rust throughout steel members with small corrosion holes in girder webs, section loss to floor beam bottom flanges, and areas of severe section loss to rivet heads at connections and bottom flanges. There are several concrete approach spans that exhibit large spalls with exposed rebar and cracking in T-Beams. The counterweights in flanking spans exhibit up to 60% section loss to rivet heads and knife edge web plates. The steel approach spans feature main girders, floor beams, stringers, and cantilever brackets which exhibit heavy paint peeling, severe rusting with section loss and steel delamination. Girders show through-hole rust in the web and in the bottom lateral bracing, and heavy rust with up to 80% section loss to rivet heads at the girder to floor beam connection at the piers. Floor beams, shear keys, and suspended span rocker bearings exhibit heavy rust as well.

The substructure was found to be in “poor” condition due to wide cracking and deep spalls with exposed and severely rusted reinforcing steel (100% section loss to many bars) in the concrete columns, towers, and pier caps; severe spalling, missing or severely deteriorated steel pile jackets; heavy spalling of concrete encasements exposing steel H-piles; severe decay in timber piles in tidal zone with 75% section loss; deteriorated fender systems at the bascule piers and; missing fenders in bascule and flanking spans. Steel jackets have been installed around numerous piles to repair severe section loss in the tidal zone. This section loss is due to constant wetting and drying from tide cycles.

The Project Background

A Local Concept Development (LCD) study for major rehabilitation or replacement of the bridge was completed in Summer 2023. During this phase, a Purpose and Need Statement was developed, focusing on the need to address structural and operational deficiencies of the Oceanic Bridge (S-31) over the Navesink River. A number of conceptual alternatives were developed to meet the project goals and objectives. Upon completion of an alternatives analysis, the recommended Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA), now referred to as the Preferred Alternative (PA), is to replace the existing bridge with a new bridge structure to address the structural deficiencies. Resolutions of support were passed by the Borough of Rumson, Township of Middletown and the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners. Monmouth County, in coordination with the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the North Jersey Transportation Authority, received federal funding to advance the Preferred Alternative (PA) to the Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) phase.



Community outreach is an essential component of the project. To best obtain input, community outreach will continue on three levels: outreach with Local Officials, outreach with Community Stakeholders, and Public Information Center Meetings for the general public. In addition, the project website and email address are available for information sharing and to submit questions and comments.

Local Preliminary Engineering Phase

The project is now in the Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) phase, which began in Spring 2025. The LPE phase involves performing engineering and environmental tasks and documentation required to obtain National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance for the project. Based on the PA, a number of activities are simultaneously underway: design level mapping, engineering studies, environmental documentation, agency consultation, and community involvement. As part of this phase, there will be a community stakeholders meeting combined with a public information center (PIC) meeting, an EA (Environmental Assessment) public hearing and a final public information center meeting to share project information and obtain input.

The tasks conducted during the LPE Phase consist of, but are not limited to:

- Technical environmental studies (including Section 106 and Section 4(f) Evaluation)
- NEPA Document - Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Development of design level base plans
- Utility discovery and verification
- Preliminary drainage design
- Hydraulic and hydrologic studies
- Structural studies that document the structural selection process and the recommended structure and aesthetic treatments
- Access impact evaluation
- Development of property easement cost estimates and project cost estimates

Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) Phase – Anticipated Project Schedule (Major Milestones)

Approved Environmental Documentation	Fall 2027
Approved LPE Report & Completion of LPE Phase	Fall 2027

LPE Phase - Anticipated Community Involvement Schedule

Local Officials Meeting No. 1 – Middletown and Local Officials Meeting No. 1 - Rumson	Fall 2026
Local Officials Meeting No. 2	Spring 2027
Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting No. 1	Fall 2026
Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1	Summer 2027
Anticipated EA Public Hearing or Public Information Center Meeting No. 2	Summer/Fall 2027

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For additional Information visit the project website: www.monmouthcountyoceanicbridge.com
 To submit questions or comments via email, send to: MonmouthCountyOceanicBridge@gmail.com

