

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (COAST GUARD) FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (COAST GUARD) FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED NEWARK BAY-HUDSON COUNTY EXTENSION INTERCHANGE 14 TO 14A/NEWARK BAY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND ASSOCIATED IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS NEWARK BAY, MILE 3.8, BETWEEN NEWARK, ESSEX COUNTY, AND BAYONNE, HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

**P(2-25-1)
(Coast Guard is Lead Federal Agency)**

The Coast Guard proposes to issue a permit authorizing the replacement of the Newark Bay Bridge (officially the Vincent R. Casciano Memorial Bridge) and its approaches, including improvements to the New Jersey Turnpike Newark Bay-Hudson County Extension from Interchange 14 to 14A.

Summary of the Results of the Environmental Impact Evaluation: The Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed bridge replacement and roadway improvements and examines a No Action Alternative. Other alternatives were considered but screened out from further environmental review due to failing to meet the stated purpose to improve long-term integrity of the structures on the NB-HCE between Interchanges 14 and 14A and/or provide the necessary capacity to meet projected 2050 traffic demand.

Mitigation Commitments (Including Monitoring), if Any that Will be Implemented to Reduce Otherwise Significant Impacts: The FEA provides a comprehensive suite of mitigation actions to be undertaken to avoid, minimize, or otherwise compensate for adverse impacts of the preferred alternative. These mitigation actions are summarized in the Mitigation Summary Matrix, Table ES-3, of the FEA. The FEA also provides an Adaptive Management Plan with ongoing mitigation, monitoring, and enforcement provisions to support this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Adaptive Management Plan is Appendix H of the FEA. Mitigation for potential effects on historic and/or cultural resources are included in the Programmatic Agreement prepared in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C § 305101 et seq), as amended, and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800).

Specific topics included in the FEA and Adaptive Management Plan:

- Property acquisitions and easements;
- Potential effects on public access to tidal waterfront areas;
- Potential for adverse effects on adjacent residential communities;
- Demolition of the existing Newark Bay Bridge;
- Potential disturbance of archaeological resources;
- Potential disruptions to traffic, railways, and utilities during construction;
- Effects on air quality from equipment emissions during construction;
- Effect on air quality from roadway traffic after completion of construction;
- Effect on noise from equipment during construction;
- Effect on sound levels from roadway traffic after completion of construction;
- Potential disturbance of contaminated soil or groundwater during construction;
- Potential effect on surface waters during construction;
- Potential effect on surface waters following completion of construction;
- Placement of temporary and permanent fill in wetlands and subtidal, intertidal, and tidal waters during construction;
- Potential effect from the placement of fill in the floodplain;
- Potential effect of in-water construction on fishes and fish habitat; and
- Potential effect of construction on terrestrial wildlife and their habitat.

This project has been thoroughly reviewed by the Coast Guard, and it has been determined by the undersigned that this project will have no significant effect on the human environment.

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on the Coast Guard prepared final environmental assessment (FEA), which has been determined to adequately and accurately discuss the environmental issues and impacts of the proposed project and provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an environmental impact statement is not required.

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I reviewed the FEA, which is the basis for this FONSI, and submitted my written comments to the Proponent.

See e-signature

Date

Matthew S. Robertson
Environmental Reviewer¹

Bridge Management Specialist

Title/Position

Level II

Provisional,
Interim, I, II, or
III

I reviewed the FEA, which is the basis for this FONSI, and submitted my written comments to the Proponent.

See e-signature

Date

Shelly H. Sugarman
Senior Environmental Professional¹

Chief, Permits & Policy

Division

Title/Position

Level II

Interim, II, or III

In reaching my decision/recommendation on the Coast Guard's proposed action, I considered the information contained in this FONSI and considered and acknowledged the written comments submitted to me from the Environmental Reviewer(s). Based on the information in the FEA and this FONSI document, I agree that the proposed action as described above, and in the FEA, will have no significant impact on the environment. ²

See e-signature

Date

Brian L. Dunn
Proponent

Chief, Office of Bridge Programs

Title/Position

¹ Signature of the Environmental Reviewer/Senior Environmental Professional for the Bridge Administration Program may be that of the Preparer's. All signatories must be Coast Guard military or federal employees. Contractors must not sign Coast Guard environmental planning documents.

² The Coast Guard is aware of the November 12, 2024, decision in *Marin Audubon Society v. Federal Aviation Administration*, No. 23-1067 (D.C. Cir. Nov. 12, 2024). To the extent that a court may conclude that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA are not judicially enforceable or binding on this agency action, the Coast Guard has nonetheless elected to follow those regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508, in addition to the Coast Guard's procedures/regulations implementing NEPA at COMDTINST 5090.1, to meet the agency's obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.

On 21 January 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14173 (Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity). EO 14173 revoked EO 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations). As a result of the revocation and in alignment with DHS, environmental justice has not been considered as part of this USCG permit action.

In addition, President Trump signed Executive Order (E.O.) 14148, Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions. E.O. 14148 rescinded the following Executive Orders E.O. 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad; E.O. 14013, Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration; E.O. 14027, Establishment of the Climate Change Support Office; E.O. 14030, Climate-Related Financial Risk; and E.O. 13990, Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis. In alignment with the rescission of the Executive Orders listed, the USCG has eliminated the use of climate change terminology in this USCG NEPA document