



COUNTY OF HUDSON / COUNTY OF ESSEX
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for the
Clay Street Bridge Replacement over the Passaic River
Borough of East Newark and City of Newark, New Jersey



PROJECT INFORMATION

Hudson County and Essex County are advancing the design for the replacement of the existing Clay Street Bridge over the Passaic River to address its structural deficiencies and maintain an important transportation connection for local residents and regional commuters in Hudson County and Essex County. Due to its age, the bridge has deteriorated over time and routine maintenance can no longer address the deficiencies.

The Project Background

A Local Concept Development (LCD) Study for major rehabilitation or replacement of the Clay Street Bridge was completed in 2020 using federal funding through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), with Hudson County as the project sponsor and Essex County with shared jurisdiction. During this phase, a well-defined Purpose and Need Statement was developed focusing on the need to improve safety and maintain the current crossing over the Passaic River. A number of conceptual alternatives were developed to meet the project goals and objectives. In coordination with the NJTPA, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, local officials, community stakeholders, and permitting agencies, it was agreed, upon completion of an alternatives analysis, that the recommended Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) to address the structural deficiencies is to replace the bridge with a new bridge structure. Resolutions of Support were passed by both the Borough of East Newark and City of Newark for the PPA. Improvements to the approach roadway intersection are also proposed in the vicinity of the bridge in East Newark and in Newark to better accommodate vehicular flow and mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Local Preliminary Engineering Phase

The project is now in the Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) phase. The LPE phase involves performing engineering and environmental tasks and documentation in order to obtain National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance for the project. Based on the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA), a number of activities are simultaneously set in motion: community involvement (meetings with affected property owners or business owners), agency consultation, environmental documentation, design level mapping and design services. To inform and to encourage community consensus, a community stakeholders meeting and a public information center meeting will be conducted, which may lead to minor refinements of the approach roadway intersections of the PPA. The Borough of East Newark and the City of Newark will be asked to maintain the resolutions of support for the PPA and for any design refinements.

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 (Categorical Exclusion)
- Development of design level base plans
- Utility discovery and verification
- Geotechnical studies for foundation and pavement design
- Preliminary drainage work

- Structural studies that document the structural selection process and the recommended structure and aesthetic treatments
- Access and right of way impact evaluation
- Development of property acquisition cost estimates and project cost estimates

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

Environmental Documentation Completed	Spring 2026
Submission of Local Preliminary Engineering Report	Winter 2026
Completion of Local Preliminary Engineering Phase	Spring 2026

Anticipated Community Involvement Schedule

Local Officials Meetings	January 2024, April 2026
Community Stakeholders Meeting	July 2025
Public Information Center Meeting	April 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

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For additional information, please visit the project website: www.claystbridge.com

To submit questions or comments via email, please send to: claystbridge@gmail.com