

John N. Ernst, P.E., P.P.  
Ocean County Engineer

Mark F. Jehnke, P.E.  
Assistant County Engineer

Thomas E. Hartman, Jr., P.E.  
Chief Engineer

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Chief Engineer

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Traffic Engineer



**OFFICE OF THE OCEAN COUNTY ENGINEER**

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April 13, 2022

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith (NJ-04)  
2373 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Route 539 Overpass - Ocean County

Dear Congressman Smith:

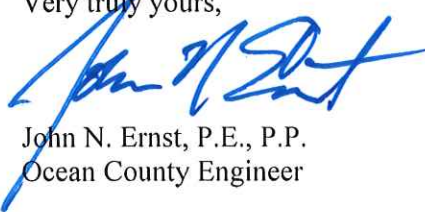
The cost breakdown for the Route 539 Overpass Project located near the NJ National Guard Equipment Concentration Site (ECS) and Consolidated Logistic & Training Facility is as follows:

Grading, Excavation & Fill	\$300,000
Paving Route 539 Approaches	\$425,500
Paving Temporary Detour	\$365,500
Bridge Abutments & Walls	\$4,350,000
Bridge Superstructure, Railings & Deck	\$3,650,000
Subtotal	\$9,091,000
Contingency	\$909,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000,100</b>

This total cost is subject to current cost of materials and labor.

Ocean County is prepared to be the local sponsor for this important infrastructure project. We are also prepared to meet the 20 percent local match with additional support from the State of New Jersey and Burlington County and we have the ability for the funding to be obligated within the time period set forth under Federal Highway Aid or Federal Transit Requirements. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

  
John N. Ernst, P.E., P.P.  
Ocean County Engineer

JNE/kk

cc: Ocean County Board of Commissioners  
Carl W. Block, Ocean County Administrator  
Michael J. Fiure, Ocean County Assistant Administrator



SPECIAL ASSISTANCE/ACCOMMODATIONS available, please call (732) 929-2130.



John W. Bartlett, Chair  
Mary D. Ameen, Executive Director

April 4, 2022

The Honorable Chris Smith  
2373 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

I am writing regarding the proposed inclusion of funding for the Ocean County's County Route 539 (CR 539) Overpass project in upcoming transportation appropriations legislation.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for northern and central New Jersey, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) oversees the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). It is our understanding that any projects receiving member-designated funding through this legislation either be currently in the TIP, or that they can and will be added to it. This letter serves to provide that assurance.

It is our understanding that the proposed project would create an overpass that will benefit Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, America's only Army-Navy-Air Force installation. The overpass would provide military vehicles with a much safer and more efficient connection to thousands of acres of base property on the east side of CR 539, allowing the military to expand and protect its vital national mission at this major training site for Army Reserve and National Guard forces, while also improving safety for travelers on CR 539 and New Jersey Route 70, two of the heaviest-traveled roads for Jersey Shore-bound traffic from the Philadelphia and Trenton areas.

This project is fully consistent with *Plan 2050—People. Transportation. Opportunity.*, the current long-range plan for the NJTPA region. *Plan 2050* encourages investing federal transportation funds to improve safety and to strengthen economic activity and tourism.

Given this project's consistency with our long-range plan, the NJTPA would be able to add it to the TIP in a reasonable timeframe should it receive federal funding.

Thank you for your ongoing support of federal transportation investment in the NJTPA region.

Sincerely,

Mary D. Ameen  
Executive Director

## DIRECTORS

**Jim Daly**  
Frontier Technology Inc.

**Colonel Rich Eckstein**  
USA, Ret.  
ROA

**Dave McKeon**  
Ocean County

**Emil Kaunitz**  
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**Colonel Mike Warner**  
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**Richard Haydinger, Sr.**  
United Communities

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Jim Saxton, LLC

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**George Barrett, CPA**  
United Communities



Defense  
Enhancement  
Coalition

April 13, 2022

Congressman Chris Smith  
2373 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Congressman Smith,

The Defense Enhancement Coalition (DEC), an organization comprised of a union of community leaders and retired military leaders with the mission of strengthening Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst (JBMDL) as it moves into the future, enthusiastically supports the request for funding to an overpass on CR 539 in Ocean County New Jersey.

Route 539, which bisects the Joint Base from north to south in Ocean County is a major artery for shore traffic, especially in warmer weather and on weekends when many reserve component units train at JBMDL. It is therefore difficult and dangerous for units to cross the roadway to fully access the portion of the installation which lies east of the 539 roadway, thus constraining the full use of the installations training areas. This is especially true for long convoys of slow-moving military vehicles.

One of the virtues of the Joint Base is that it permits the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps to have open access to additional training areas. This project will greatly enhance the military value of JBMDL by providing open and safe access to lands that are already part of the JBMDL.

This project is not only supported by the DEC, but also the State and Ocean County Commissioners and local community leaders.

Sincerely,

Jim Saxton  
Member of Congress 1984-2009  
Chairman, Defense Enhancement Coalition

Michael Warner

Executive Director, Defense Enhancement Coalition



## DIRECTORS

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Frontier Technology Inc.

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# THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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April 13, 2022

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith  
Congressman, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
405 Route 539  
Cream Ridge, NJ 08514

(Emailed and mailed)

Dear Congressman Smith:

We are writing regarding the proposed inclusion of funding for the Ocean County's County Route 539 (CR 539) Overpass project in an upcoming transportation appropriations legislation.

Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JBMDL) is the only tri-service military base in the United States that includes active installations of the Air Force, Army, and Navy. As you may be aware, County Route 539 divides the base from north to south and separates the Lakehurst and Fort Dix installations.

Route 539 presents conflicts between military and civilian traffic, particularly in the summer months when the road is heavily used to access shore destinations. Larger military convoys have difficulties crossing Route 539 and instead divert onto State Highway 70 where additional conflicts occur. Additionally, on the east side of Route 539, the NJ National Guard maintains an Equipment Concentration Site and Consolidated Logistics & Training Facility (ECS). There are hundreds of vehicles that regularly access the facility and generate additional traffic during certain times of the year.

In 2016, JBMDL commissioned a study to evaluate crossing alternatives to enhance accessibility to the training areas east of Route 539. The "County Route 539 Traffic Study" was completed in March 2017. The safest and most efficient alternative identified is the construction of a grade separated crossing (overpass) on Route 539.



The Honorable Christopher H. Smith  
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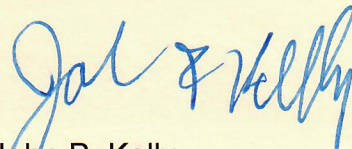
Most importantly, the overpass project will immediately and significantly improve the safety of County Route 539. This overpass will allow paved roadways to connect the eastern and western portions of the 65-square mile base. This will keep military vehicles off both Route 539 and State Highway Route 70. The civilian traffic would overpass the military traffic allowing for large military equipment to cross within the Base boundary.

Additionally, the overpass project would greatly benefit the federal missions of JBMDL. This connection would facilitate the current federal missions and allow greater access and flexibility for future missions by creating the direct link between the Air Force (McGuire AFB), Army, (Fort Dix), and Navy (Lakehurst NAES) areas of operation spanning Burlington and Ocean Counties. The overpass will allow the Army to expand and protect its vital national mission at its largest site that trains troops of both the Army Reserves and the Army National Guard.

The local sponsor will be Ocean County. The estimated cost of the Route 539 Overpass project is \$10 million. We are prepared to meet the 20 percent local match with the additional support from the State of New Jersey and Burlington County, and we have the ability for the funding to be obligated within the time period set forth under Federal Aid Highway or Federal Transit requirements.

Should you have any questions regarding this valuable project, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Respectfully,



John P. Kelly  
Director, Ocean County

JPK/dag

C: Members, Board of Commissioners  
Carl W. Block, Administrator  
Michael J. Fiure, Assistant Administrator