



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U S ARMY SUPPORT ACTIVITY, FORT DIX
5417 ALABAMA AVENUE
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE- DIX- LAKEHURST, NJ 08640-5000

April 21, 2021

Congressman Christopher Smith
Representative 4th District New Jersey
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith,

Construction of the Route 539 overpass will improve range training capabilities and the safety and egress of military vehicles along County Route 539 corridor. This area of Route 539 is where the Army Equipment Concentration Site (ECS), Combined Logistics and Training Facility (CLTF) and ASA Fort Dix range areas are strategically located in Ocean County, NJ. In March 2017 Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst identified the need for this project and tasked HDR to conduct a traffic study and Design Charrette to evaluate existing conditions along this section of roadway and open up and improve access to critical areas.

The 0.95-mile segment of County Route 539 analyzed is bounded by County Route 528 to the north and State Highway 70 to the south, and has shared use between military and civilian vehicles. The area includes two existing un-signalized intersections that provide access to ASA Fort Dix ranges and Lakehurst facilities. Existing issues along the corridor include speed of civilian vehicles, heavy traffic during rush hour, summer shore traffic, poor lighting conditions, and poor sight distances along County Route 539. Additionally, during training periods 300 – 350 military training vehicles enter and exit the vehicle storage and maintenance facilities daily in route to training areas.

Presently twenty-two percent of the US Army Reserve and Army National Guard are located within three hundred miles of ASA Fort Dix and with over two hundred thousand troops annually training on ASA Fort Dix construction of the 539 overpass will significantly enhance and expand range utilization and capabilities which will exceed ten to fifteen thousand additional soldiers, per year, through ASA Fort Dix. This additional surge will be accomplished through the accessibility of remote training areas and expanding range capabilities allowing Brigade level field training exercises to include Exportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC).

The proposed overpass is in direct support of the Army's readiness mission to improve operational capability. The point of contact for this action is Ms. Barbara Folk who can be reached at (609) 562-2351 or stephen.g.melly.civ@mail.mil

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon A. Brierton".

Jon A. Brierton
Colonel, U. S. Army
Commanding



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY SUPPORT ACTIVITY FORT DIX
5417 ALABAMA AVENUE
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY 08640-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF :

AMIM-DIG-ZA

21 April 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR Army Reserve Installation Management Division, Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, 6075 Goethals Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

SUBJECT: Access Road Needs Report for Route 539 Overpass, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL), NJ

1. Reference: Joint Regulation AR 55-80/OPNAVINST 11210.2/AF MAN32-1017/MCO 112.10D/DLAR 4500.19 Highways for National Defense, dated 18 July 2003.
2. This Access Roads Needs Report is intended to support funding under the Defense Access Roads (DAR) Program. Funding will be used to construct a highway overpass on Route 539 to provide critically needed safe access to Army training areas located on the Lakehurst side of JB MDL. Further, the overpass establishes a direct link between the Army Range Complex and the collective training areas located on Lakehurst. Current access between the Range Complex and Lakehurst poses a significant risk to Soldiers and members of the public driving on Route 539.
3. In November 2015, JB MDL funded an area traffic study to develop requirements and evaluate courses of action for the overpass. The local municipality does not have sufficient funds to construct the overpass. If conditions remain, the result is continued risk to Soldiers and the public driving on Route 539.
4. Recommend the 539 Overpass be validated as a DAR project. The proposed overpass is in direct support of the Army's readiness mission to improve operational capability. The Air Force is the Joint Base supporting command and their stance is the Army should fund the project.
5. The point of contact for this action is Ms. Barbara Folk, at (609) 562-5736 or barbara.a.folk.civ@mail.mil.

Encl
HDR Traffic Study/Design

JON A. BRIERTON
COL, EN
Commanding