



## **OVERVIEW**

Since the opening of the New Jersey Turnpike in 1951, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA) has completed many widening programs over various portions of the Turnpike – with the exception of the corridor from Interchange 1 to 4. Despite significant growth in population and traffic in the region, this corridor has remained the same four lane (two in each direction) roadway, while other corridors have been widened to six (three in each direction) or twelve (six in each direction) lane roadways. Between Interchanges 11 and 14, the road has been widened to 14 lanes wide (seven in each direction).

As the result of Needs Assessment and Operational Studies of Interchanges 1 to 4 – which have identified safety, mobility and operational needs – the NJTA is undertaking a widening program involving 17 municipalities throughout a four-county region along approximately 37 miles of the southern end of the Turnpike. AECOM, an international infrastructure consulting firm, was issued a Professional Services contract in March 2021 to lead program management and environmental studies, among other duties. The capital plan for this program is estimated to cost \$1.2 billion.

## **WIDENING PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS**

To advance mobility and safety measures, numerous improvements will be made, most notably one additional lane in each direction, easing traffic congestion to and from the Delaware Memorial Bridge. This improved mobility and flow will minimize congestion and improve air quality. Other project improvements include: geometric and capacity improvements at Interchanges 1, 2, 3 and 4; Interchange 1 plaza improvements; and replacement of most of the 52 structures over/along the Turnpike (reducing maintenance below and on the deck of these structures). Additional environmental benefits include the incorporation of green infrastructure opportunities such as EV charging facilities, water quality improvements and automated vehicle planning.

## **TIMING**

The program, which began May 2021, is slated for completion in 2029. Program Phases include: Phase 1: Conceptual planning, preliminary design and environmental services; Phase 2: Design engineering and permitting; Phase 3: Construction.

During the Concept Design Phase (approximately six months), environmental studies, conceptual design, Initially Preferred Alternative (IPA), and MOU or agreements will take place.

Throughout the duration of the program, a dialogue with numerous state, federal, county and municipal groups, as well as utilities and other transportation entities will be underway. Stakeholder engagement with regard to construction activity is paramount. It is anticipated that scoping meetings will occur in September/October 2021, followed by Public Information Centers from February to April 2022, Final Design Meetings in late 2022, and Public Hearings in 2023.

## **INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES**

To keep the lines of communication open, resources such as a website, newsletter and virtual and/or in-person public meetings will be available.

Please visit [www.njta.com/our-projects/new-jersey-turnpike](http://www.njta.com/our-projects/new-jersey-turnpike) or contact the Project Team by voicemail at 855.277.8282 or [NJ1to4WP@actengineers.com](mailto:NJ1to4WP@actengineers.com).