



# State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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May 28, 2019

The Honorable Paul A. Sarlo  
The New Jersey State Legislature  
Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee  
Senator, District 36  
496 Columbia Boulevard, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075

Dear Senator Sarlo:

This letter is in response to questions presented by Senator Bob Andrzejczak during the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearing on May 9, 2019.

Question 1: "Please provide a list for the last four years of each Department of Transportation (Department) dredging project and the cost of the dredging project. Also please include the amount of capital funds appropriated for dredging in each year."

Response: Funding for dredging is included under the "Maritime Transportation System" line item in the capital program. The amount of funding appropriated by the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund (NJTTF) for this program over the last four years is as follows:

FY-2016	\$1,000,000
FY-2017	\$1,000,000
FY-2018	\$9,000,000
FY-2019	\$9,000,000
Total	\$20,000,000

In addition to the \$20 million in NJTTF appropriations over the last four years, the State Channel Dredging Program is supported by prior-year NJTTF balances; State dredging bond funds, a Treasury intergovernmental account; and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement for dredging undertaken as a result of Super Storm Sandy and Winter Storm Jonas (which occurred on January 5, 2016).

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The following is a list of the last four years of department dredging projects and the associated construction costs. Please note that there were no projects bid in 2016 due to the NJTTF shutdown.

Project	Bid/Start Date	Construction Cost
Shrewsbury sleeve (JOC)	2/2/2017	\$ 371,175.86
Forked River	4/28/2017	\$ 4,684,907.50
Shrewsbury (sand)	7/3/2017	\$ 963,076.81
Jonas	8/8/2017	\$ 1,842,204.00
Ocean City	8/15/2017	\$ 6,084,665.12
Waackaack	10/26/2017	\$ 324,237.99
Cape May Excavation	3/4/2018	\$ 1,292,086.00
Gateway North	7/2/2018	\$ 1,782,483.03
Metedeconk	7/26/2018	\$ 16,251,270.00
JOC Large	8/16/2018	\$ 3,000,000.00
Gateway Bridge	4/12/2019	\$ 3,659,130.86
		\$ 40,255,237.17

Question 2: “State revenue from boat registration fees were previously dedicated to the Maritime Industry Fund to support the I BOAT NJ program, which is intended to provide grants and other support for the State boating industry. What is the current status of the I BOAT NJ program, and what other programs are in place at the Department to support the boating industry, including support for dredging of inland waterways and at marinas?”

Response: In FY 2011, budget language was added that offsets a portion of Department’s Maintenance and Operations budget with boater registration fee revenue that otherwise would have been deposited in the Department Maritime Industry Fund. The Motor Vehicles Commission collects the boater registration fee. Prior to FY 2011, the Department utilized this revenue to administer the I BOAT NJ program which provided grant funds to selected eligible applicants to promote, improve and enhance the marine industry in the State of New Jersey for the benefit of the general boating public.

The I BOAT NJ program is no longer issuing grants. However, the Department continues to support safe navigation in the NJTTF funding, and federal funding through the Federal Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (approximately \$200,000 annually). Funding provided through the NJTTF to the Maritime Transportation System line items in the Capital Program has increased from \$2 million in FY 2011, to \$9 million in FY 2019, to a programmed amount of \$15 million in FY 2020.

Question 3: “Cape May County is at an elevated risk from hurricanes due to its location along the ocean and at the mouth of the Delaware River. Hurricane season also overlaps with peak tourism season, placing a significant seasonal burden on the road network. Following the removal of the Beasley’s Point Bridge, Cape May has less roadway network capacity to evacuate in the event of a Hurricane or other major emergency. Please provide any information or

analysis that the department has concerning the adequacy of the roadway network to accommodate emergency evacuation needs for Cape May County permanent and seasonal residents during the months of August and September. Also please identify any projects currently active or in development that would increase the roadway network capacity for emergency evacuation from Cape May County.”

Response: There are two reverse lane strategy (contraflow) plans that support the evacuation of Cape May County’s permanent and seasonal residents, which involves Routes 47, 347 and the Garden State Parkway. The plans provide additional capacity for evacuation of the population prior to the onset of a Hurricane, by turning traffic away from the coast using all lanes. The Department has strategically positioned resources for the implementation of the plan and annually exercises the plan to maintain a level of readiness. The Department continues to refine the plan by coordinating and communicating with our partners: Cape May County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the New Jersey State Police, Department of Corrections, Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office, etc. The Cape May County OEM would be consulted prior to the decision to implement the plan.

There are no known projects that would increase the roadway network capacity. A project called the Route 47/347 & Route 49/50 Corridor Enhancement Project is set to be bid in September 2019. This project would not provide additional capacity through adding lanes, but it would provide additional dynamic messaging signs (DMS) and interconnects traffic signals in Dennis Township. This area is a notorious bottleneck during the summer season. The messaging would aid in the evacuation process. Also, there are Cape May County Projects (not NJDOT) which would raise the entrances to barrier islands to help during flooding situations, specifically, Sea Isle City Boulevard and Wildwood.

Thank you for your inquiry. If you have any additional questions/concerns, please contact the Department’s Office of Government and Community Relations at (609) 963-1982.

Sincerely,



Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti  
Commissioner

c: Frank Haines, Legislative Budget and Finance Office  
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