News from
SALEM COUNTY
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OFFICIALS GATHER FOR RIBBON CUTTING OFFICIALLY OPENING THE NEW & IMPROVED LONG BANK BRIDGE

(LOWER ALLOWAYS CREEK TWP., NJ)-- Freeholder Director Lee Ware today welcomed Assemblyman Douglas Fisher, County employees, and local officials to the ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of the complete replacement of the Long Bank Bridge in Lower Alloways Creek Township. The bridge was made to be wider so it could accommodate more traffic flow.

"The replacing of the Long Bank Bridge has been a complete success from start to finish," said Director Ware. "The bridge construction started in December and finished six months ahead of time."

The funding for this Bridge project came from revenues outside of the County tax base. The majority of funding for this project came from the revenues generated from the Statewide Transportation and the Local Bridge Bond Act of 1999. The purpose of the Bond Act was to assist counties and municipalities with projects involving local bridges, transportation infrastructure improvements, and public transit projects. The total revenue produced from the Bond Act was $500 million, and this project cost over $1.3 million.

"The State recognized that county and municipalities should not have to bear the cost of these renovations alone," said Deputy Director Bruce Bobbitt, Chairman of the County Public Works Committee. "We all benefit from having a safe, secure, and efficient transportation infrastructure. While the monies came from outside of the County budget, it nonetheless came from tax payers and that is why we moved this project along quickly and efficiently. The success of this project has been a result of a team approach to excellence within the County."

The Long Bank Bridge was under budget for design, and stayed within budget for construction which began in December 2005. During the construction of the bridge, traffic was shifted to ensure that both sides of the road were never closed.

"Our roadways are critical for the safety and convenience of our residents," said Deputy Director Bobbitt. "This bridge is an important roadway and we needed to ensure that while making the necessary improvements to the bridge our residents were not unnecessarily inconvenienced."

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Assemblymen Douglas H. Fisher was also on hand to celebrate the opening of the new bridge.

“The expansion of the Long Bank Bridge is one of many roadway improvement projects occurring in the region due to an increase in traffic,” said Assemblyman Fisher. “The timely and efficient manner of the bridge’s reconstruction sets a high standard for addressing all of our road repair projects.”

Assemblyman John J. Burzichelli, who could not attend the event, said in a prepared statement, “The bridge’s proximity to the nuclear plant and its importance as an evacuation route for residents made this an extremely necessary project,” said Assemblyman Burzichelli. “Providing a safe and sound exit route for citizens is of both local and state concern. It has been a long time in coming.”

Senator Stephen M. Sweeney, who could not attend the event, said in a prepared statement, “The Bridge Bond Act of 1999 was designed to target local bridge and roadway rehabilitation projects that are considered both essential and are in severe need of funding. I am pleased that the Department of Transportation Funding Act has been such a valuable resource to Lower Alloways Creek and Salem County. The residents have waited a long time for this project to get started.”

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