News from
SALEM COUNTY
Office of Public Information

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FREEHOLDER BETH TIMBERMAN ANNOUNCES THAT THE RAILROAD RECONSTRUCTION IS PROCEEDING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE AND UNDER BUDGET

(SALEM, NJ) – Freeholder Beth Timberman, Chair of Planning & Transportation, today announced that the reconstruction of the County owned Railroad is proceeding ahead of schedule and under budget. The 18 mile short line railroad, which runs from Swedesboro to the Salem Port, over the Oldman's Creek Trestle, provides raw materials freight delivery to various businesses in Salem County, including Anchor Glass, Mannington Mills, South Jersey Farmer's Exchange, G. E. Fabricators and others. Currently, the condition of the rail prevents the trains from traveling more than 5 miles per hour, taking the operator nearly half a shift to simply move the cars from Swedesboro to Salem in addition to the time it takes to load and unload cars.

The contractor, Railroad Construction Company, has completed the railroad bed replacement from Welchville Road to Acton Station Road.

"We are making excellent progress on the railroad reconstruction," said Freeholder Timberman. "The current phase of reconstruction involves approximately 4350 feet from Acton Station Road to the tie in of the newly replaced track at Tide Mill curve, which was completed earlier in 2005. Last week approximately 1600 feet was reconstructed. As long as the weather holds out for us we expect to complete over 2000 feet in the next two weeks and on the week of the March 20th we expect that we will be able to tie into Tide Mill curve."

Freeholder Timberman attributes the success of the railroad reconstruction to the skill of the contractors and the project management team as well as the great weather. The early completion of phase I has resulted in an estimated $400,000 surplus in allocated funds, which will be rolled over into the next phase of reconstruction which is expected to commence later this spring.

"Salem County operates on a team mentality and this is truly a team success," said Timberman. "I look forward to the future as we anticipate continued progress in this project. As this project moves forward, we can anticipate that we will continue to retain our local businesses while attracting new employers."

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