



Commander (dpb)  
First Coast Guard District  
1 South Street  
Battery Park Building  
New York, NY 10004-1466

July 22, 2020

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## PRELIMINARY PUBLIC NOTICE 1-180

The United States Coast Guard is soliciting public comments on a proposal by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK) to replace a pair of vertical lift bridges, known as AMTRAK's Dock Bridge, with a fixed bridge and to change the operating regulation. The AMTRAK Dock Bridge carries AMTRAK, New Jersey Transit (NJT), and Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH) trains. The reason for this proposal is due to the limited number of requests to open the bridge during the last five years. The purpose of this project is to provide a safe, functional and efficient crossing that serves the needs for public commuter railway traffic, commerce and marine traffic. The need for this proposal is to support continued operation and expansion of passenger rail services without limiting marine traffic. An initiation request to replace the movable bridge with a fixed bridge, to change the regulation and a draft navigational impact report has been submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard. A Coast Guard Bridge Permit application has not yet been submitted but would be required for this project.

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** Passaic River, mile 5.0 between Newark, Essex County and Harrison, Hudson County, New Jersey.

**MINIMUM IGATIONAL CLEARANCES:**

	<u>Existing (movable)</u>	<u>Proposed (fixed)</u>
Horizontal: (normal to axis of the channel)	200 feet	200 feet
Vertical: (above MHW (NAVD88))	24 feet (closed) 138 feet (open)	24 feet

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION:**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is the lead federal agency for satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This project has been classified as categorically excluded under regulations implementing NEPA by letter dated June 25, 2020.

**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:**

Mariners are requested to comment on navigational access and safety issues, including the need for clearance gauges and extended nighttime navigation through the bridge.

Boat owners in the project vicinity are requested to provide information about their vessels including type of vessel, length overall, draft, beam, and height from the waterline to the highest fixed point and to appurtenant structures (e.g. tuna towers, flying bridges, fixed antennas and radar units) and whether these appurtenant structures can be disassembled, dismantled or lowered. Also provide where the vessel is primarily moored and the frequency of passage under the proposed bridge (i.e. number of times per month).

Interested parties are requested to express their views in writing on the proposed bridge project, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of or opposition to the proposed work. Comments will be received at the office of the Commander (dpb), First Coast Guard District, Battery Park Building, One South Street, New York, NY 10004-1466 or by email to [donna.d.leoce@uscg.mil](mailto:donna.d.leoce@uscg.mil) through August 23, 2015.

It is requested that this information be brought to the attention of any person having an interest in this who may not have received a copy of this public notice.

The location of the proposed project is included in this public notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT COMMANDER:

J. L. Rousseau  
Supervisory Bridge Management Specialist  
By direction

This is a web-searchable copy and is not the official, signed version; however, other than the signature being omitted, it is a duplicate of the official version.

For bascule bridges, whose spans do not open to a full upright or vertical position, unlimited vertical clearance is not available for the entire charted horizontal clearance.

**WARNING**

The prudent mariner will not rely solely on any single aid to navigation, particularly on floating aids. See U.S. Coast Guard Light List and U.S. Coast Pilot for details.

Joins page 8



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Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.

Printed at reduced scale.

SCALE 1:20,000  
Nautical Miles

See Note on page 5.

