PUBLIC NOTICE (1-191)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION (AMTRAK) DOCK BRIDGE OVER THE PASSAIC RIVER, MILE 5.0 BETWEEN NEWARK, ESSEX COUNTY AND HARRISON, HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, First Coast Guard District, has received an application from AMTRAK (National Railroad Passenger Corporation) for approval of the location and plans for modification of three parallel movable spans of the railroad bridges to a fixed bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: - Passaic River, 5.0 miles above the mouth of the waterway.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant proposes to modify AMTRAK’s Dock Bridge to convert three vertical-lift spans that provide 135-feet vertical clearance (VC) to fixed spans at 24-feet above Mean High Water (MHW). No in-water work will be required. The miter-rails will be replaced with straight (tangent) rails; and the lift span adjustments include locking the spans and counterweights and the removal of the cables. The current horizontal clearance of 200-feet will remain. The existing spans carry 6 railroad tracks. The proposed modification will collectively carry trains for Amtrak, NJ Transit and PATH on the same 6 tracks. The existing bridge operation regulation 33 CFR Section 117.739(e) will be removed upon completion of the project. The change in navigation regulations for the existing bridge will increase reliability for Northeast Corridor (both Amtrak and NJ Transit) and PATH railroad passengers, while accommodating the needs of the maritime community.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

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<th>Existing</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
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<td>Horizontal:</td>
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<td>(normal to axis of the channel)</td>
<td>200 feet</td>
<td>No Change</td>
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<td>Vertical (above MHW)(NAVD88)</td>
<td>135 feet (open)</td>
<td>24 feet fixed</td>
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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is the lead Federal agency for satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. section 4321 et seq. (as amended) and other applicable laws. The FRA is acting on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard for all environmental control laws. This project will not involve any construction on the waterway. A Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) was issued by the FRA for this project dated July 25, 2020. The U.S. Coast Guard has tentatively determined that the proposed action will not have any significant impact for purposes of NEPA and plans to issue a CATEX for the project. Projects categorically excluded are not judged to be environmentally
controversial or inconsistent with any Federal, State, or Local regulatory ordinances, programs, or laws, including Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and are not anticipated to cause significant environmental impacts on any mode of transportation or cause significant adverse impacts on natural, cultural, recreational or the scenic environment. Environmental documents are available for review via Wisam.Kaskas@amtrak.com.

The project is considered an encroachment, but not a significant encroachment on the 100 year floodplain. The 100-year flood elevation is +9 feet (NAVD88) while elevation of the low member of the navigation span is +2.72 feet; clearance of the navigational span of the proposed bridge is 24 feet at MHW.

A Water Quality Certificate from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is not required as per correspondence dated October 28, 2020. No wetlands will be taken or affected by this project.

The decision as to whether to grant approval of the location and plans for the proposed action rests primarily upon the effect it has on navigation

**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:**

Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed navigation clearances, placement of a bridge protective system and other navigational safety issues, including the need for clearance gauges and extent of nighttime navigation to determine the need for bridge lighting. Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible impacts to navigation.

We will forward comments of an environmental nature such as those regarding wildlife refuges, waterfowl refuges, public parks, historic sites, wetlands, floodplain issues, air, water quality, etc. to the Federal Railroad Administration. Comments should be addressed to Donna D. Leoce, Bridge Management Specialist and emailed to the Commander (dpb), First Coast Guard District at: D1Boston-Bridges-PublicNotices@uscg.mil through September 11, 2022.

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.

A map and plan sheets of the proposed project are included in this public notice.

//D. A. Fisher//

D. A. Fisher  
Bridge Program Manager  
U. S. Coast Guard  
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.