Public Information Center

Openaki Road Bridge (Morris County Structure No. 1400-779) over the Den Brook
Township of Denville, Morris County, New Jersey
Tuesday, November 17, 2026 | 6:00-8:00 PM

PROJECT BACKGROUND
The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance transportation needs, the environment, community concerns, and costs, is holding a **Public Information Center (PIC)** to provide residents, public officials, and the business community with information on the **Openaki Road Bridge (Morris County Bridge 1400-779) over the Den Brook bridge replacement project.**

PROJECT OVERVIEW
The project is currently in the Preliminary Engineering phase. An Alternatives Analysis was conducted during the Local Concept Development phase, and a design was chosen that meets the project purpose and need.

PURPOSE AND NEED
- Bridge was built in 1903 but not to standards that are in use today.
- Provide a structurally adequate bridge meeting current safety standards.
- Construct a wider bridge to correct the roadway width discontinuity.
- Improve geometric deficiencies for a safe and reliable transportation facility for local and neighboring communities.

DESIGN OVERVIEW
The Preliminary Preferred Alternative comprises:

- A new 30-foot wide, two-lane, single-span bridge consistent with Openaki Road approaches.
- Reconstruction of adjacent dam and spillway to correct deficiencies and restore reliability of the Openaki Lake Dam. Since 2023, the Dam has operated in a temporary beach condition and water lowered in the lake to address its previous unsatisfactory rating while the project team finalizes its replacement design. Currently, the dam is rated in poor condition.

PROJECT SCHEDULE
- Final Design: estimated 2027 to 2028
- Construction: estimated 2029/2030

PUBLIC MEETING DETAILS
The **Virtual PIC meeting** is open to all members of the public. A recording of the PIC meeting will be posted on the Morris County website for viewing from November 18 through December 9. Please visit the following website during the 30-day comment to provide questions or feedback on the bridge design:

https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Engineering-Transportation/Reports-Projects

Both the live virtual PIC and recording posted online provide an opportunity to view a presentation, review project information, and submit comments or questions. Property owners with rental units are advised that tenants are also invited and encouraged to participate.

Please contact NJDOT using the following email address or phone number if you are unable to view the presentation online but are interested in learning more about this project.

Please submit comments by mail or email by January 7, 2027 to:

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