Philip D. Murphy, Governor
Sheila Y. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor
Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner
Kevin S. Corbett, President & CEO

NJTRANSIT
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March 11, 2020

Thank you for your interest in the NJ TRANSIT Bay Head Rail Yard electric substation reconstruction project, which is part of the NJ TRANSIT Resilience Program.

Rail substations are vital parts of the NJ TRANSIT infrastructure necessary to provide safe and reliable transportation during and after extreme weather events or other incidents. The Bay Head Rail Yard substation was severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy and, like others across the NJ TRANSIT system, must be replaced. NJ TRANSIT will build a new substation on the footprint of the damaged one, in the northeastern quadrant of the rail yard property.

For any project of this type, NJ TRANSIT obtains and follows all applicable rules and regulations of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and other agencies, including obtaining any required environmental and other permits. The Bay Head substation replacement project complies with state Coastal Zone Management Rules, Freshwater Wetlands Rules and Flood Hazard Area Rules, among others. NJ TRANSIT's Office of Environment, Energy and Sustainability has worked with the DEP and the project team to safeguard nearby wetlands, native plants, and other species.

NJ TRANSIT also works with the local community and has done so in Bay Head since shortly after Sandy's flooding and damage required planning to begin for a replacement substation.

This planning process included extensive and ongoing dialogue starting in 2013 with municipal officials and local Legislators about the design of the replacement substation building. During these discussions, Bay Head Borough officials and community members suggested several changes to the design to better align the new substation with the character of the Borough.

Considering these suggestions, and with guidance from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), NJ TRANSIT lowered the design height of the new building and modified the appearance of the exterior façade.

The discussions with officials and community included concerns about potential environmental effects and culminated with a public community information session held in October 2016, where officials and residents asked questions and provided feedback. The replacement project was scheduled to begin construction in 2017. Unfortunately, procurement issues delayed the start of construction until this year.

NJ TRANSIT communications with the community have continued. On January 8, 2020, NJ TRANSIT met with Bay Head Borough officials and other interested parties to review the substation project construction schedule. On February 13, 2020, NJ TRANSIT participated in an evening public community information session in Bay Head, organized by Mayor Curtis, to listen to community concerns and answer questions about the replacement project.

The substation replacement project also includes a new electrical power line running from Sea Avenue into the rail yard to provide the substation and Bay Head Borough residents with a redundant electrical supply as a backup to the existing power line from Twilight Road. The new poles and replacement poles are located on NJ TRANSIT property. NJ TRANSIT does not typically install high-voltage power lines underground near tracks, signal cables, and other underground infrastructure.

In addition, the small, diesel generator and fuel tank that currently provide backup power to rail crew quarters and for other functions in case of a utility outage will be replaced as part of the substation project. Aside from emergencies, such backup generators run only once a month for mandatory testing. The replacement generator and tank will remain compliant with applicable spill prevention regulations and best practices.

NJ TRANSIT will continue to work with the Bay Head Borough Mayor’s Office and the community as work on the project progresses.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Paul Wyckoff
Chief, Government & External Affairs
NJ TRANSIT