



September 13, 2022

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 AND HARRISON, 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-foot 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:

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

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 an 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, water-fowl 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 October 13, 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.

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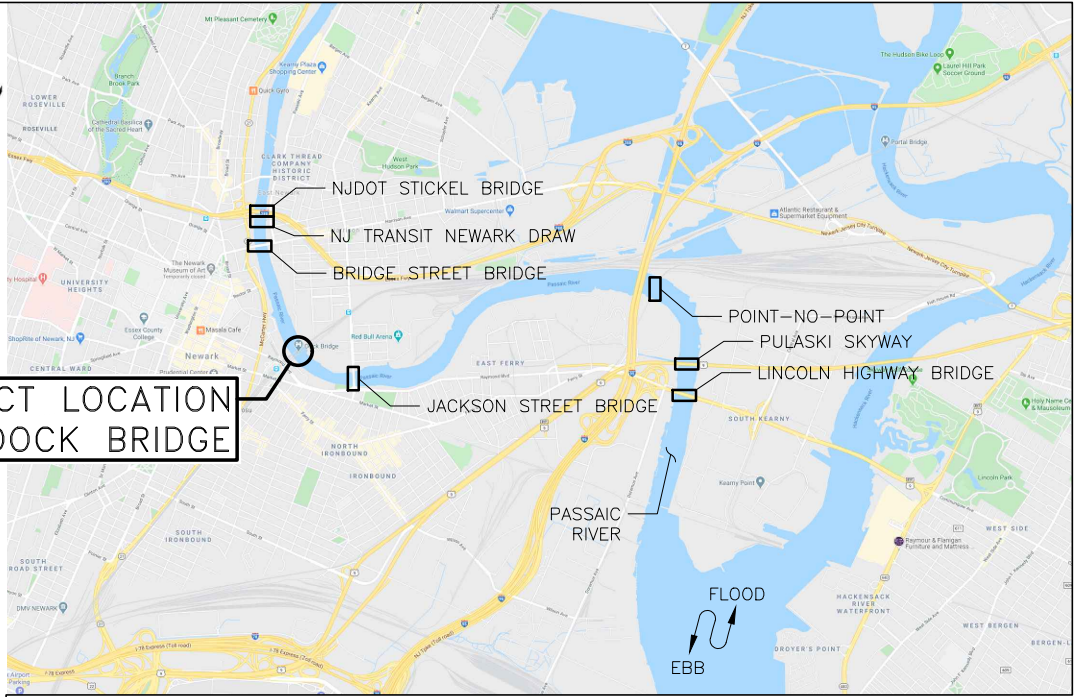
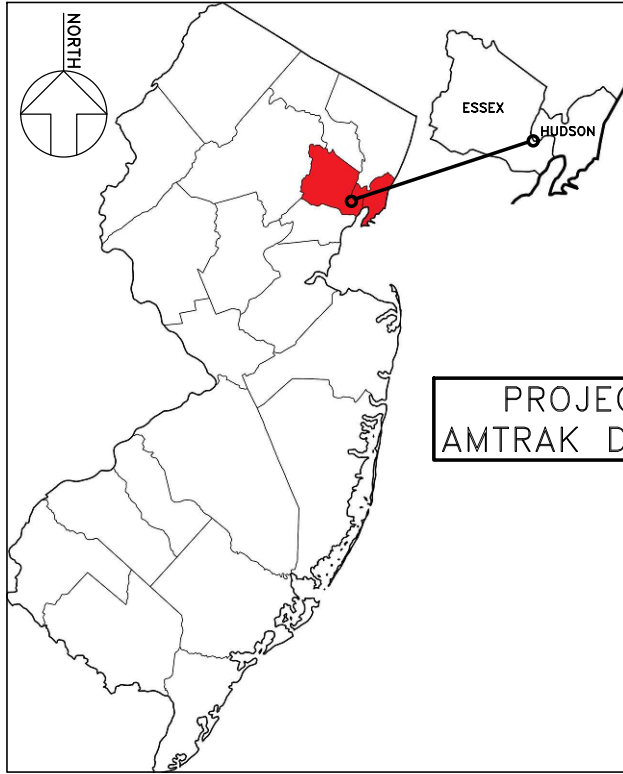
D. A. Fisher
Bridge Program Manager
U. S. Coast Guard
By direction

Amtrak
 Office of Chief Engineer
 STRUCTURES
 National Railroad Passenger Corporation
 30th Street Station, Philadelphia, PA 19104

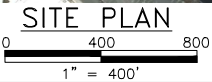
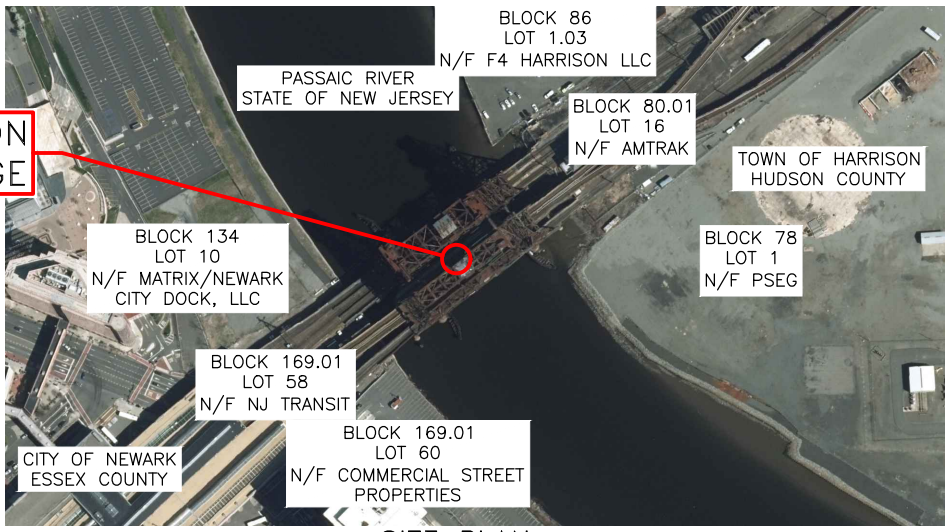
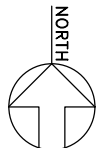
HARDESTY & HANOVER, LLC
 ENGINEERING
 1501 Broadway New York, NY 10036

NEWARK, NJ (ESSEX CO.) AND HARRISON, NJ (HUDSON CO.)
AMTRAK DOCK BRIDGE OVER THE PASSAIC RIVER (RM 5.0)
 LOCATION AND VICINITY MAP
 DESIGNED PJT DRAWN PJT CHECKED PJC DATE 10/30/2020
 Dwg. No. **P-001**
 Project Code: **STA_PROJ**
 WBS: **1** OF **3**

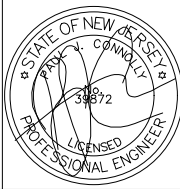
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PROJECT LOCATION AMTRAK DOCK BRIDGE



NOTE:
 DOCK BRIDGE WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1937 AND IS LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INDIVIDUALLY (1980) AND AS PART OF THE NEWARK PENN STATION AND DOCK BRIDGE (BOUNDARY INCREASE AND DOCUMENTATION, 2012)



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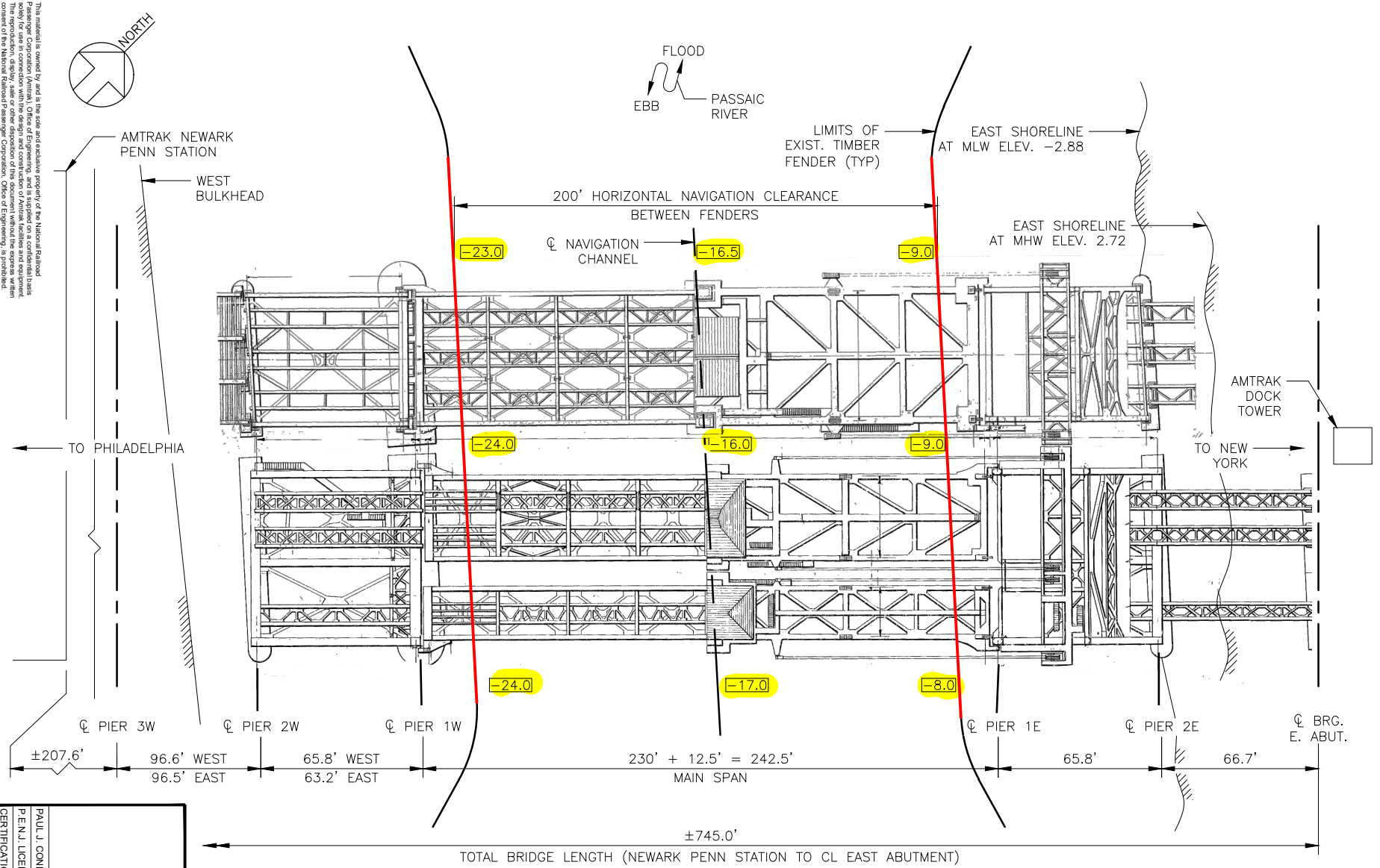
DATUM: NAVD88

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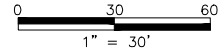
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DESIGNED PJT DRAWN PJT CHECKED PJT
 BRIDGE PLAN
 NEWARK, NJ (ESSEX CO.) AND HARRISON, NJ (HUDSON CO.)
 AMTRAK DOCK BRIDGE OVER THE
 PASSAIC RIVER (RM 5.0)
 Project Code: STA_PROJ
 WSS: 2 OF 3
 Sheet No. P-002

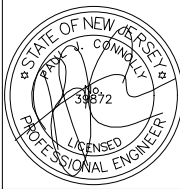
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BRIDGE PLAN - HORIZONTAL NAVIGATION CLEARANCE



LEGEND:
 -18.0 APPROX. WATER DEPTH AT M.L.W.
 DATUM: NAVD88



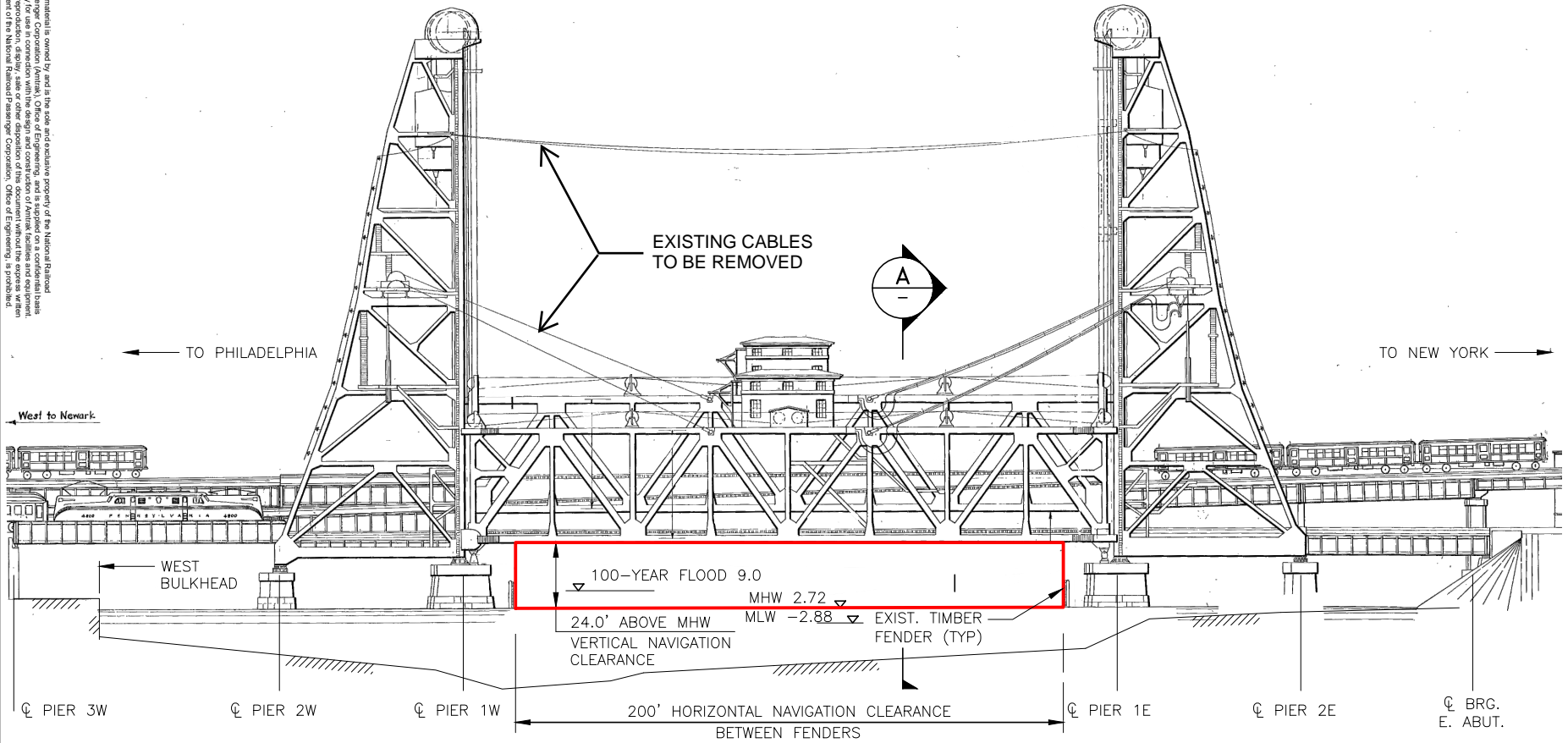
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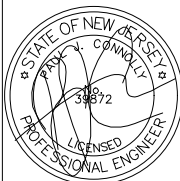
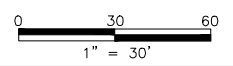
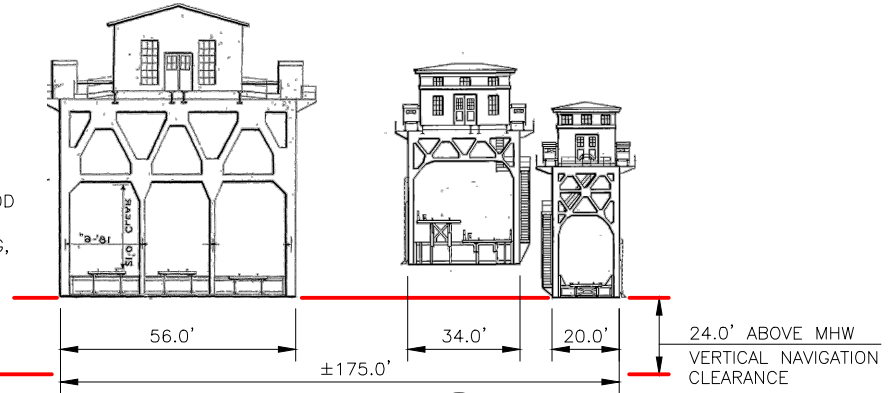
NEWARK, NJ (ESSEX CO.) AND HARRISON, NJ (HUDSON CO.)
AMTRAK DOCK BRIDGE OVER THE PASSAIC RIVER (RM 5.0)
 SOUTH ELEVATION AND TYPICAL SECTION
 DESIGNED PJT DRAWN PJT CHECKED PJC DATE 10/30/2020
 Dwg. No. **P-003**
 Project Code: **STA_PROJ**
 WBS: **3 OF 3**
 Sheet No. **3 OF 3**

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SOUTH ELEVATION - VERTICAL NAVIGATION CLEARANCE

NOTE:
 100 YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION DATA WAS TAKEN FROM THE FEMA NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS (FIRM) ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY PANEL 156 OF 200 (MAP NUMBER 34013C0156G, 2007) AND HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY PANEL 81 OF 118 (MAP NUMBER 34017C0081D, 2006).



PAUL J. CONNOLLY, P.E.
 P.E. N.J. LICENSE NO. 24GE0987200
 CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION NO. 2465A28200200
 10/30/2020

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