



16591

16 JAN 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE D05PN-01-2026

All interested parties are notified that an application dated August 8, 2025, has been received from Cape May County, New Jersey by the Commander, Coast Guard East District, for approval of the location and plans for rehabilitation of the existing 96th Street (CR 657) Bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States. The proposal includes construction of a temporary fixed bridge to be used to maintain vehicular traffic during the rehabilitation project.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Great Channel (New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway), mile 2.5, 96th Street (CR 657), Borough of Stone Harbor and Township of Middle, Cape May County, New Jersey.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The proposed project involves rehabilitation and partial replacement of the existing bridge. The scope of work includes replacing the existing double-leaf bascule main span with a wider double-leaf, simple fixed trunnion span with a closed deck system at the same location. The proposed project also replaces the superstructure in spans 1 and 14, the existing operator’s house, flanking spans, easternmost approach span, fender systems, pedestrian railings, warning gates, bridge deck resurfacing, as well as a new north side cantilevered sidewalk, generator reconstruction with platform at the Bridge Tender’s Residence, and roadway improvements and modifications to substructure components at the approach ends including scour countermeasures. The bridge width thus increased slightly, but the length is unchanged.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES - REPLACEMENT DRAWBRIDGE:

	Vertical	Horizontal
Existing	Open – Unlimited Closed – 8.70 ft above mean high water at the face of the fender and 10.70 ft at the centerline of the channel.	50.00 ft between fenders, normal to axis of the channel
Proposed	Open – Unlimited Closed - 9.64 ft above mean high water at the face of the fender and 11.22 ft at the centerline of the channel.	52.00 ft between fenders, normal to axis of the channel

North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) (Existing and Proposed bridges)

During periods of construction, vehicle and marine traffic will be impacted. A temporary fixed bridge will be required with dimensions of 11.4 feet of vertical clearance above mean high water, 50.0 feet horizontal clearance between fenders, 116.0 feet long, and 35.5 feet in width (24.0 feet curb to curb). The project team has designed the project to minimize impacts to both to the extent feasible. The following are the major notional project phases. The bridge owner/contractor will be required to thoroughly coordinate all construction activities with the Coast Guard.

October 1, 2027 – May 20, 2028: Bascule span removal; vehicular traffic detoured, marine traffic with unlimited vertical clearance.

May 21, 2028 – September 7, 2028: Temporary bridge installation; vehicular traffic resumes, marine traffic limited to 11.4 feet of vertical clearance above mean highwater. All vessels will have access to unlimited vertical clearance every Wednesday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. during this period as the temporary span is removed and reset.

September 8, 2028 – May 21, 2029: Temporary bridge removal; marine traffic with unlimited vertical clearance, however, there will be times when channel access is limited to ½ of the channel width as the bascule leaves are set. Vehicular traffic detoured.

May 22, 2029 – August 20, 2029: New span open to vehicles, marine traffic limited to rehabilitated bascule span. This will be a period of testing the new bascule and fine tuning of the systems. As such, movable bridge operations will occur during the daytime (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.). Testing of the bridge systems will occur during the nighttime (7 p.m. to 6 a.m.) and vessel access will be restricted at times during this overnight testing period.

Once the movable machinery is tested and commissioned, the bridge will resume normal operations.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES – PROPOSED TEMPORARY FIXED BRIDGE:

	Vertical	Horizontal
Existing	N/A	N/A
Proposed	11.39 ft above mean high water at the face of the existing fender throughout the channel.	50.00 ft between existing fenders, normal to axis of the channel

North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Coast Guard, as the lead Federal agency, has made a tentative determination that the proposed bridge construction warrants a categorical exclusion for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it satisfies criteria for such actions listed in the Coast Guard's NEPA Implementing Instructions.

The bridge is located within the base floodplain, but there is no significant encroachment. The 100-year flood elevation level is + 9.20 ft from datum and low steel of the bridge in the navigation span is elevation +11.81 ft from datum. Elevations are referenced to NAVD88 datum.

A water quality certificate was issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Land Resource Protection via Waterfront Development – Individual Permit #0500-24-0001.1 LUP240001 dated October 30, 2024. The bridge construction site lies inside of a designated Coastal Zone Management area. The applicant provided the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Land Resource Protection with the project location information. The Bureau of Coastal Permitting Division of Land Resource Protection issued a finding on October 30, 2024, that the project is consistent with the state's Coastal Zone Management Plan.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a combined Department of the Army Regulatory Section 404 (NWP#15) permit decision and Section 408 permission decision on September 10, 2025. They have no objection to the proposed minimum horizontal and vertical clearances.

The Coast Guard, in consultation with the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, on behalf of the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Officer, determined the proposed project that constituted an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 resulting in an adverse effect on the Great Channel Bridge Historic District. To mitigate the potential adverse effects to historic properties, the Coast Guard entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office on August 7, 2025.

Informal consultations were completed with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and the Department of the Interior, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). NOAA Fisheries indicated the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species under their jurisdiction. NOAA Fisheries also recommended essential fish habitat (EFH) conservation recommendations be incorporated into the project to minimize adverse effects on EFH. USFWS indicated the proposed project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the northern long-eared bat.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

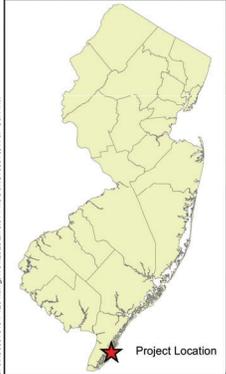
Mariners and waterway users are requested to comment on the proposed navigation clearances, the proposed temporary bridge, placement of a bridge protective system and other navigational safety issues, including the need for clearance gauges, extent of nighttime navigation to determine the need for bridge lighting, and operating schedules or regulations.

Interested parties are also requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible environmental impacts, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of the reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed work. Comments will be received for the record at the office of Commander (dpb), Coast Guard East District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 via email at D5Portsmouth-BridgesPublicNotice@uscg.mil, through **February 17, 2026**.

PITTS.HAL. Digitally signed by
R.11212672 PITTS.HAL.R.112126
7272
Date: 2026.01.13
13:44:20 -05'00'

HAL R. PITTS
Bridge Program Manager
By direction

Attachments: (1) Location/Vicinity Maps and Plan Sheets



Legend

- Eligible Historic District
- Historic Property - Eligible HD
- Historic Property - Listed INDV
- 96th Street Bridge Limit of Disturbance
- Wildlife Management Area

N
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0 125 250 500
Feet

NOTES:

- CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT.

Digitally signed by Marc S Esposito
 DN: cn=Marc S Esposito, o=Unaffiliated,
 email=steve.esposito@wsp.com
 Reason: I approve this Document
 Location: N.J. Lic. No. 24GE04845300
 Date: 2025.09.22 12:05:51 -04'00'

PREPARED BY: WSP USA, INC.
 200 GLENVIEW DRIVE, LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ, 08046

MARC S. ESPOSITO
 NJ LICENSE NUMBER: 24GE04845300
 DATE: 9/22/2025

wsp

CAPE MAY COUNTY

GJZ	KG	SE
Designed by	Drawn by	Checked by

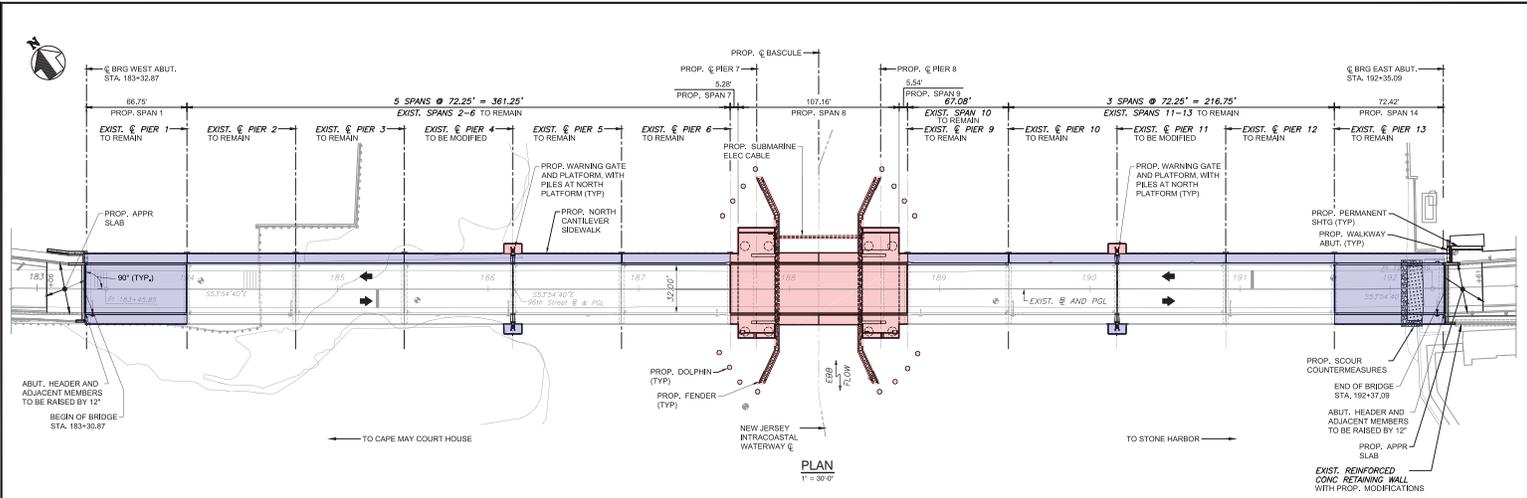
JOB: REHABILITATION OF 96TH STREET (CR657) BRIDGE OVER GREAT CHANNEL
 STR. NO. 0500-006 MP 2.5

PROJECT LOCATION: STONE HARBOR BOROUGH AND MIDDLE TOWNSHIP, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

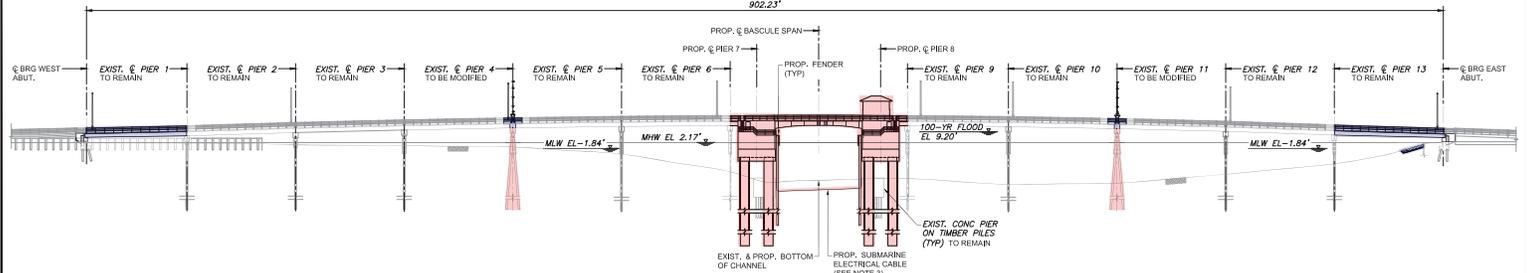
DRAWING TITLE: VICINITY MAP

DATE: 03/02/25
 SCALE: AS SHOWN
 SHEET REFERENCE NO.: 81 of 88
 SHEET NO.: 1 of 8

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PLAN
1" = 30'-0"



SOUTH ELEVATION
1" = 30'-0"

GREAT CHANNEL	ELEVATION (FT)
100 YEAR FLOOD	9.20
MHW	2.57
MW	2.17
MLW	-1.84
MLLW	-1.99

- LEGEND:**
- LIMITS OF SIGNIFICANT BRIDGE WORK WITHIN OR NEAR NAVIGATION CHANNEL.
 - LIMITS OF ADDITIONAL BRIDGE WORK NOT ANTICIPATED TO IMPACT NAVIGATION CHANNEL.

- NOTES:**
1. CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT.
 2. RELATIVELY MINOR ITEMS OF BRIDGE WORK ARE NOT SHOWN IN COLOR ON THIS SHEET AS THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED PERTINENT OR IMPACTFUL TO THE NAVIGATION CHANNEL. REFER TO THE GENERAL PLAN AND ELEVATION FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE DRAWING DEMONSTRATING THE SCOPE OF THE BRIDGE REHABILITATION WORK.

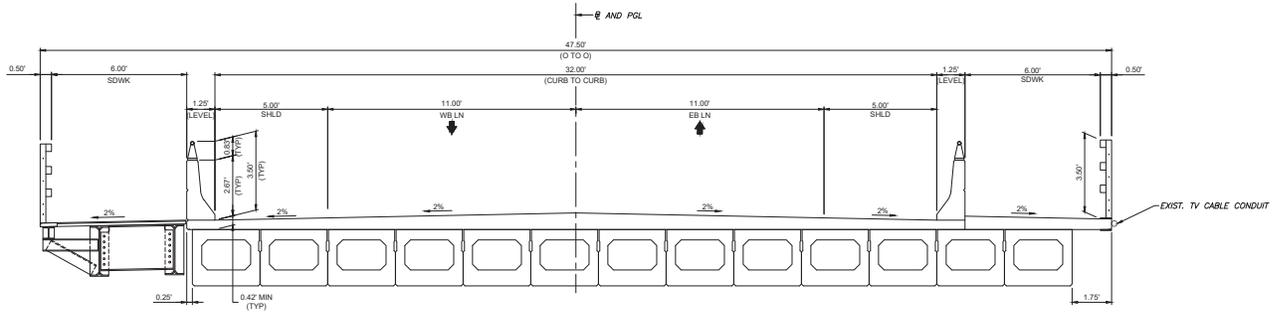


PREPARED BY: WSP USA INC. 200 LINDEN DRIVE, LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ, 08846 	CAPE MAY COUNTY GIZ KG SE Drawn by: _____ Checked by: _____	JOB: REHABILITATION OF 96TH STREET (CR657) BRIDGE OVER GREAT CHANNEL STR. NO. 0500-006 MP 2.5	PROJECT LOCATION: STONE HARBOR BOROUGH AND MIDDLE TOWNSHIP, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY DRAWING TITLE: LIMITS OF PROPOSED BRIDGE WORK DATE: 03/10/2015 SCALE: 1" = 30'-0" SHEET REFERENCE NO.: 65 OF 68 SHEET NO.: 3 OF 8
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NOTES:

1. CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT.



TYPICAL SECTION - PROPOSED SPAN 14
(LOOKING EAST, PROPOSED SPAN 1 SIMILAR)
1/2" = 1'-0"

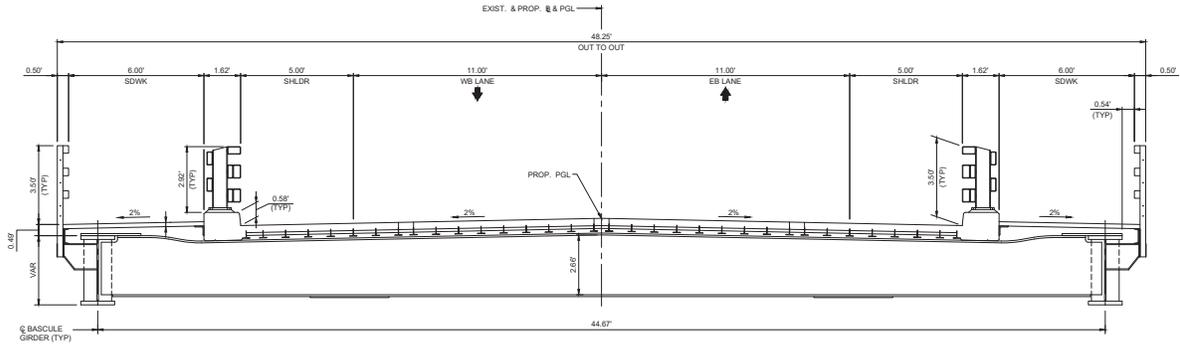
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PREPARED BY: WSP USA INC. 200 GLENVIEW DRIVE, LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. 08461 WSP MARC S. ESPOSITO N.J. LICENSE NUMBER: 1460480001 DATE: 9/22/2015	 CAPE MAY COUNTY GIZ KG SE Designed by: _____ Drawn by: _____ Checked by: _____	JOB: REHABILITATION OF 96TH STREET (CR657) BRIDGE OVER GREAT CHANNEL STR. NO. 0500-006 MP 2.5	PROJECT LOCATION: STONE HARBOR BOROUGH AND MIDDLE TOWNSHIP CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	DATE: 10/1/2015
			DRAWING TITLE: TYPICAL SECTIONS - 1	SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0" SHEET REFERENCE NO.: 85 OF 88 SHEET NO.: 5 OF 8



NOTES:

1. CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT.



TYPICAL SECTION - BASCULE SPAN
(LOOKING EAST)
1/2" = 1'-0"

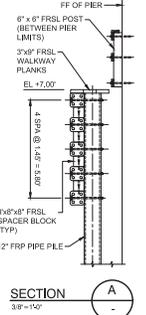
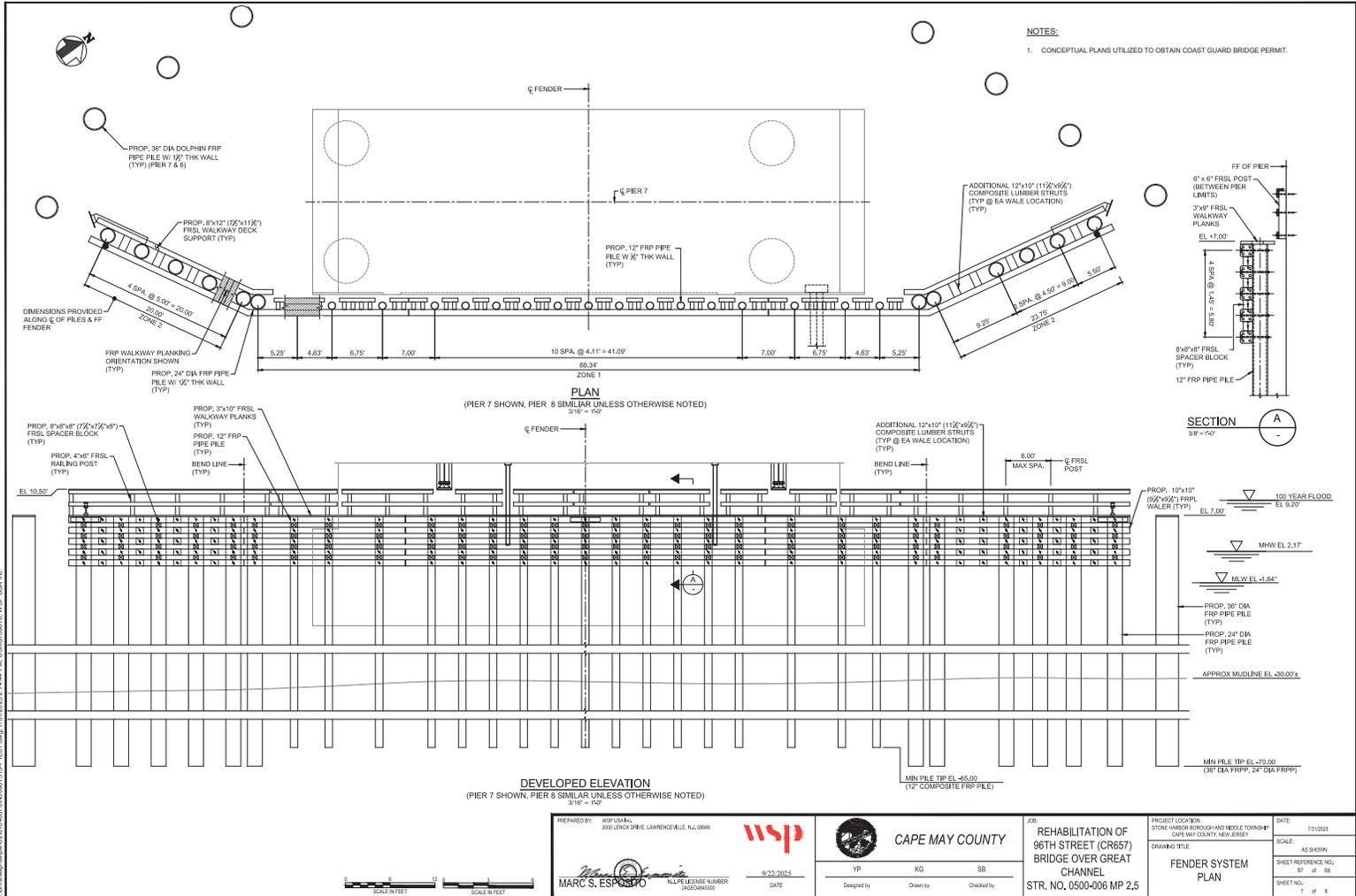
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PREPARED BY: WSP USA, INC. 200 GLENVIEW DRIVE, LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. 08048 WSP DATE: 9/22/2012	 CAPE MAY COUNTY YP KG AK Drawn by: _____ Checked by: _____	JOB: REHABILITATION OF 96TH STREET (CR657) BRIDGE OVER GREAT CHANNEL STR. NO. 0500-006 MP 2.5	PROJECT LOCATION: STONE HARBOR BOROUGH AND MIDDLE TOWNSHIP CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY	DATE: 7/31/2012
			DRAWING TITLE: TYPICAL SECTIONS - 2	SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0" SHEET REFERENCE NO.: 66 OF 68 SHEET NO.: 6 OF 8



NOTES:

1. CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT.



DEVELOPED ELEVATION
(PIER 7 SHOWN, PIER 8 SIMILAR UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)
3/16" = 1'-0"

PLAN
(PIER 7 SHOWN, PIER 8 SIMILAR UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)
3/16" = 1'-0"

PREPARED BY: WSP USA, INC.
200 LINDEN DRIVE, LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ, 08464
DATE: 9/22/2023

CAPE MAY COUNTY

YP KG SB
 Drawn by: _____
 Checked by: _____

PROJECT LOCATION: STONE HARBOR BOROUGH AND MIDDLE TOWNSHIP, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

REHABILITATION OF 96TH STREET (CR657) BRIDGE OVER GREAT CHANNEL

STR. NO. 0500-006 MP 2.5

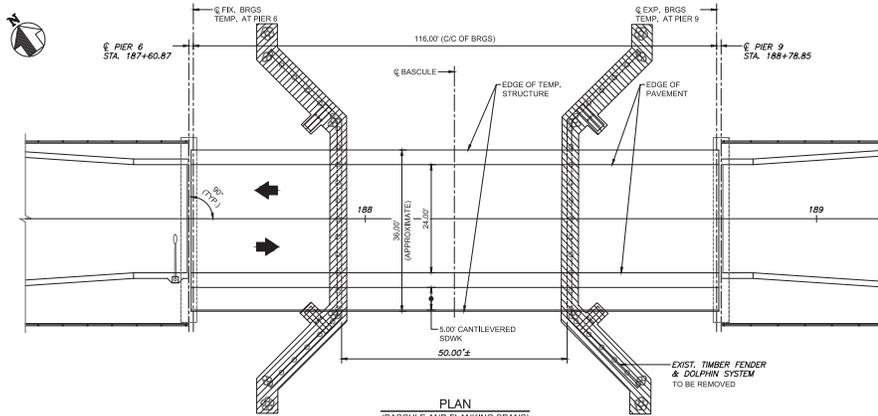
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SCALE: AS SHOWN

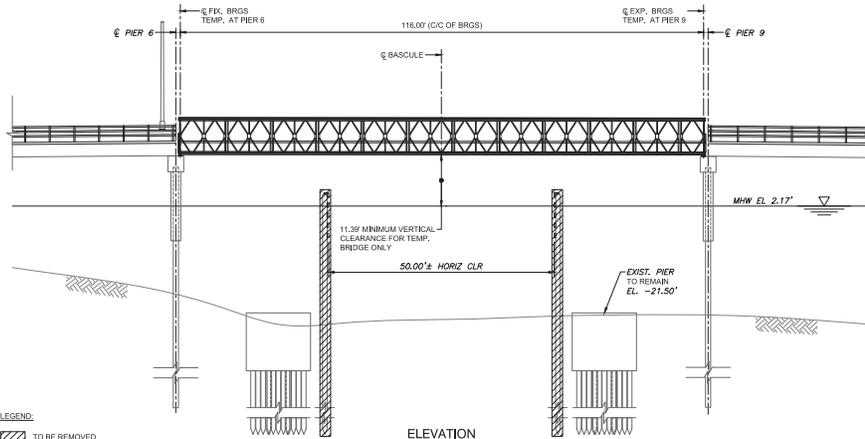
SHEET REFERENCE NO.: 81 of 88

SHEET NO.: 7 of 8

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PLAN
(BASCULE AND FLANKING SPANS)
1" = 10'±



ELEVATION
(BASCULE AND FLANKING SPANS)
1" = 10'±

NOTES:
1. CONCEPTUAL PLANS UTILIZED TO OBTAIN COAST GUARD BRIDGE PERMIT.

LEGEND:
[Hatched Box] TO BE REMOVED



PREPARED BY: WSP USA INC.
200 GLENVIEW DRIVE, LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. 08048

MARC S. ESPOSITO
LICENSE NUMBER: 3460483000
DATE: 9/22/2025



CAPE MAY COUNTY

YP

KG

GJZ

Drawn by: _____
Checked by: _____

**REHABILITATION OF
96TH STREET (CR657)
BRIDGE OVER GREAT
CHANNEL
STR. NO. 0500-006 MP 2.5**

**PROJECT LOCATION:
STONE HARBOR BOROUGH AND MIDDLE TOWNSHIP
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**
**DRAWING TITLE:
TEMPORARY BRIDGE
GENERAL PLAN &
ELEVATION**

DATE: 7/31/2025
SCALE: 1" = 10'±
SHEET REFERENCE NO.: 88 of 88
SHEET NO.: 8 of 8