



EO 172 and No Net Loss Public Forum for Grade Separated U-Turn Program at M.P. 29.1

Grade-Separated U-Turn Program
Borough of Lawnside

January 28, 2025

Introductions



Meeting Overview



- Purpose
 - Public Forum for the No Net Loss Restoration Act and EO No. 172
- Open House
- Presentation
 - Program Overview
 - Purpose and Need
 - Outreach Process
 - Map and Schedule
 - MP 29.1 U-Turn Overview
 - No Net Loss Process and Obligation
 - Mitigation Options and Strategy
 - Public Comments

Grade Separated U-Turn Program Overview



- The NJTA has initiated the Grade-Separated U-Turn Program to provide for safe travel movements for emergency response and maintenance personnel.
- The Program replaces 23 “cut-throughs” in the median barrier with 7 new U-Turns.
- Placement was optimized to meet NJTA maintenance and emergency response needs while also limiting right-of-way, utility, and environmental impacts.
- U-Turns exist north of Interchange 4 and are required by NJTA design standards.

Grade-Separated U-Turn Program Median Cut-Throughs



Grade Separated U-Turn Program Overview



- The Program has coordinated extensively with emergency response personnel, including State Police, County OEM coordinators, first responders, and the DVRPC Transportation Group.
 - July 2022: NJ State Police
 - Nov 2022 – Jan 2023: County Offices of Emergency Management
 - March 2023: DVRPC Transportation Group Leadership
 - Fall 2024: DVRPC Transportation Group – Full Membership
 - November 21, 2024: Burlington County
 - December 6, 2024: Camden, Gloucester, Salem

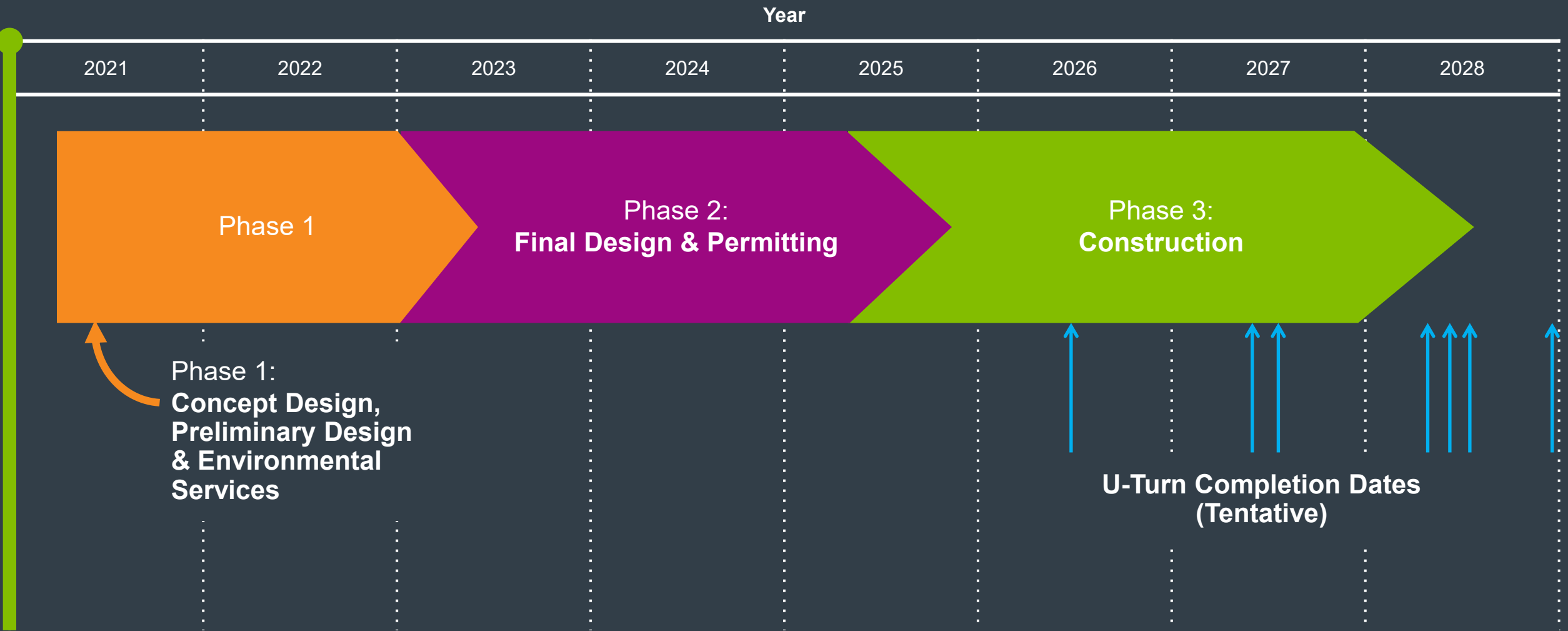
Grade Separated U-Turn Program Overview



- Replace median cut-throughs (23) with grade-separated structures (7 new)
- Final Design began in March 2023, Construction at MP 29.1: 2025-2026
- Current Status: Phase C Design (90%)



Grade-Separated U-Turn Program Schedule



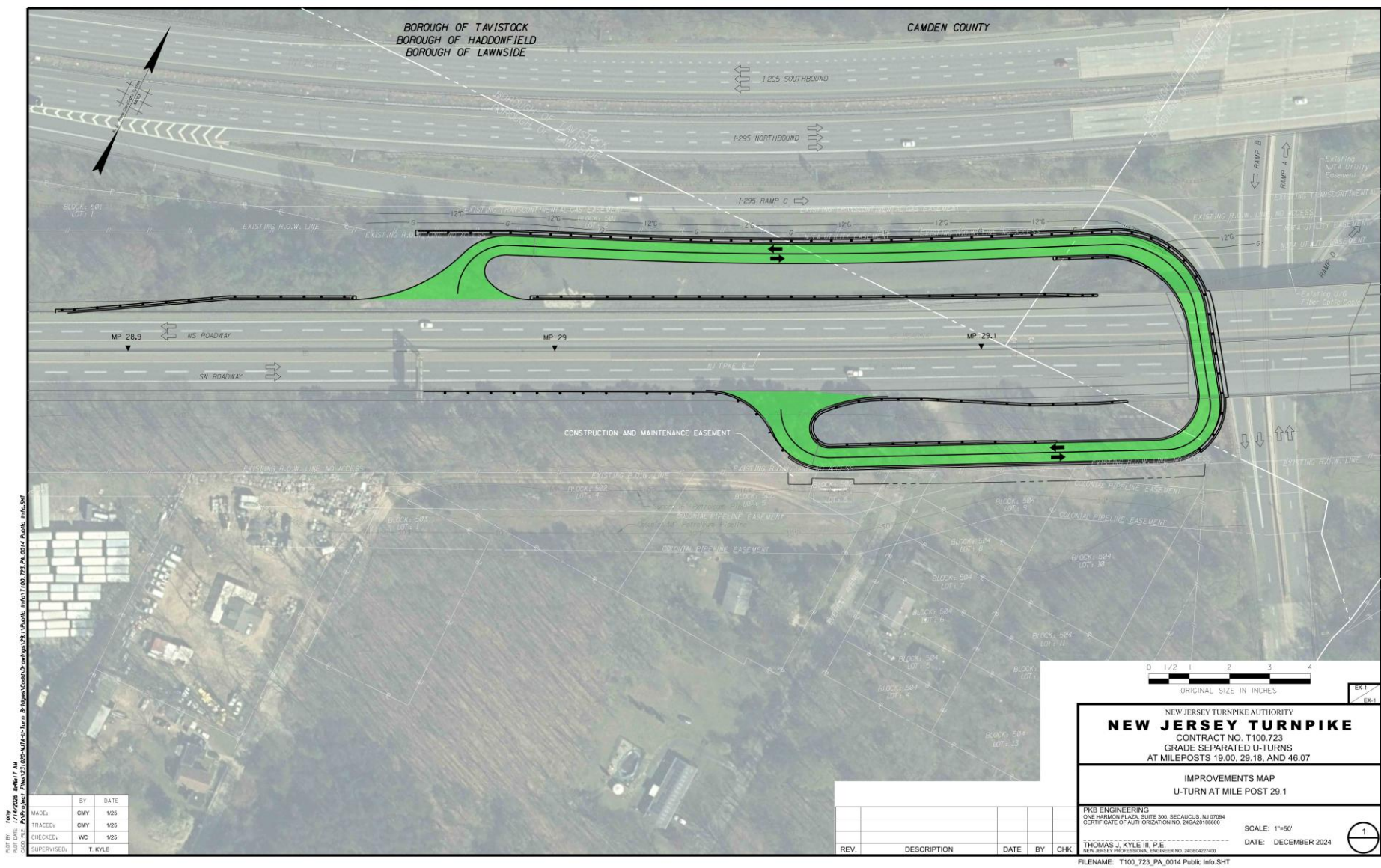
Median cut-through closures will follow U-Turn completion

MP 29.1 U-Turn – Background



- Essex Road Overpass (I-295 Exit 31) built in 1982 to accommodate U-Turn Ramp underneath the structure – U-Turn not constructed at the time.
- NJTA advanced the U-Turn to 30% Final Design (Phase A) in 2018 under OPS No. T3664. Not advanced due to reprioritization of funding.
- Included in Current Grade-Separated U-Turn Program.
- 1-4 Capacity Enhancement Improvements allow for Improved U-Turn Design – i.e. vertical clearance, turning movements.

Grade-Separated U-Turn at MP 29.1



17/1/2025 8:46:17 AM
Project File: T100_723_PA_0014 Public Info.SHT

BY	DATE
MADE: CMY	1/25
TRACED: CMY	1/25
CHECKED: VC	1/25
SUPERVISED: T. KYLE	

REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	CHK

NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE
CONTRACT NO. T100.723
GRADE SEPARATED U-TURNS
AT MILEPOSTS 19.00, 29.18, AND 46.07

IMPROVEMENTS MAP
U-TURN AT MILE POST 29.1

PKB ENGINEERING
ONE HARMON PLAZA, SUITE 300, BEAULIEU, NJ 07004
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION NO. 246A28186600
THOMAS J. KYLE III, P.E.
NEW JERSEY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER NO. 3486042926
FILENAME: T100_723_PA_0014 Public Info.SHT

SCALE: 1"=50'
DATE: DECEMBER 2024

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MP 29.1 U-Turn – Images



MP 29.1 U-Turn – Images



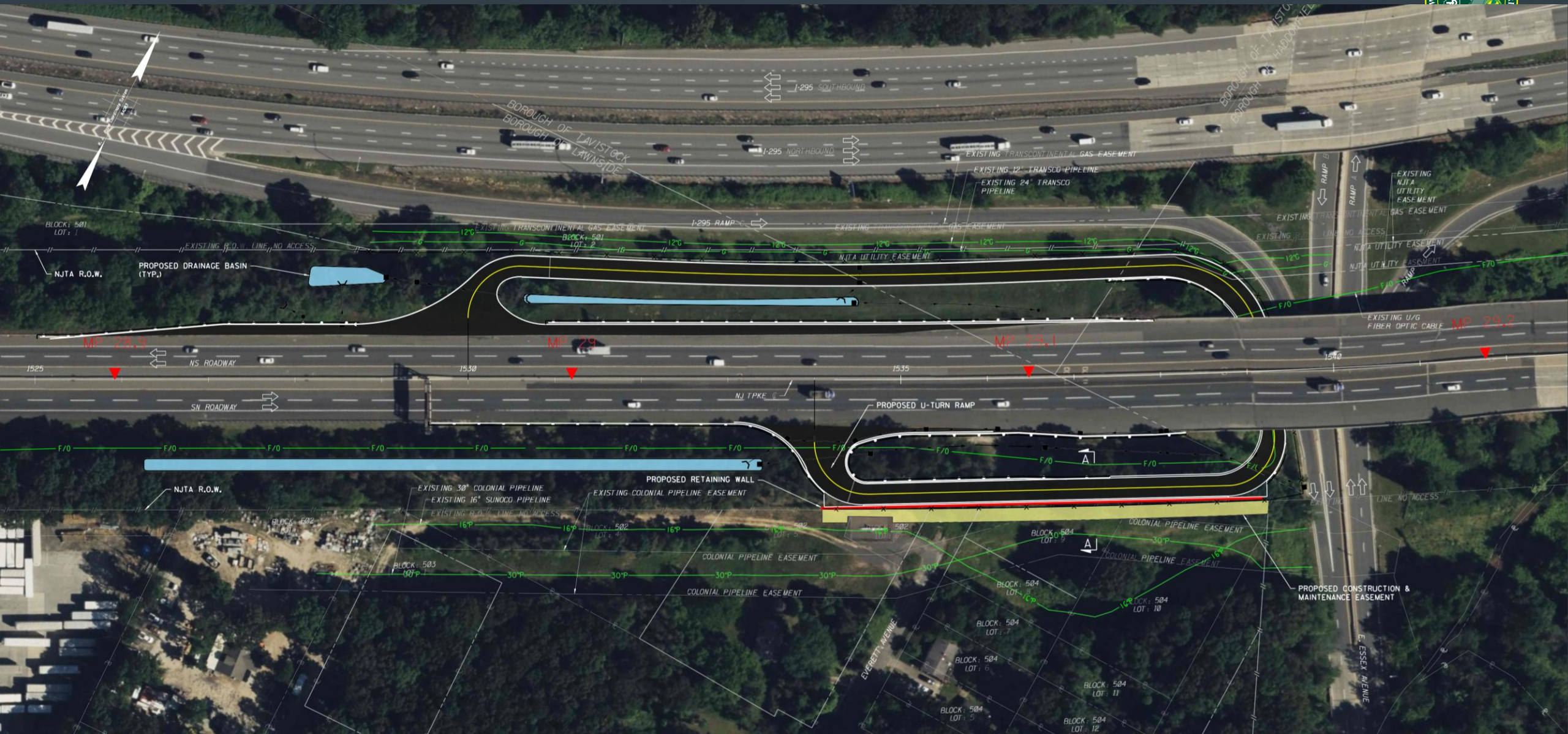
MP 29.1 U-Turn – Images



MP 29.1 U-Turn – Images



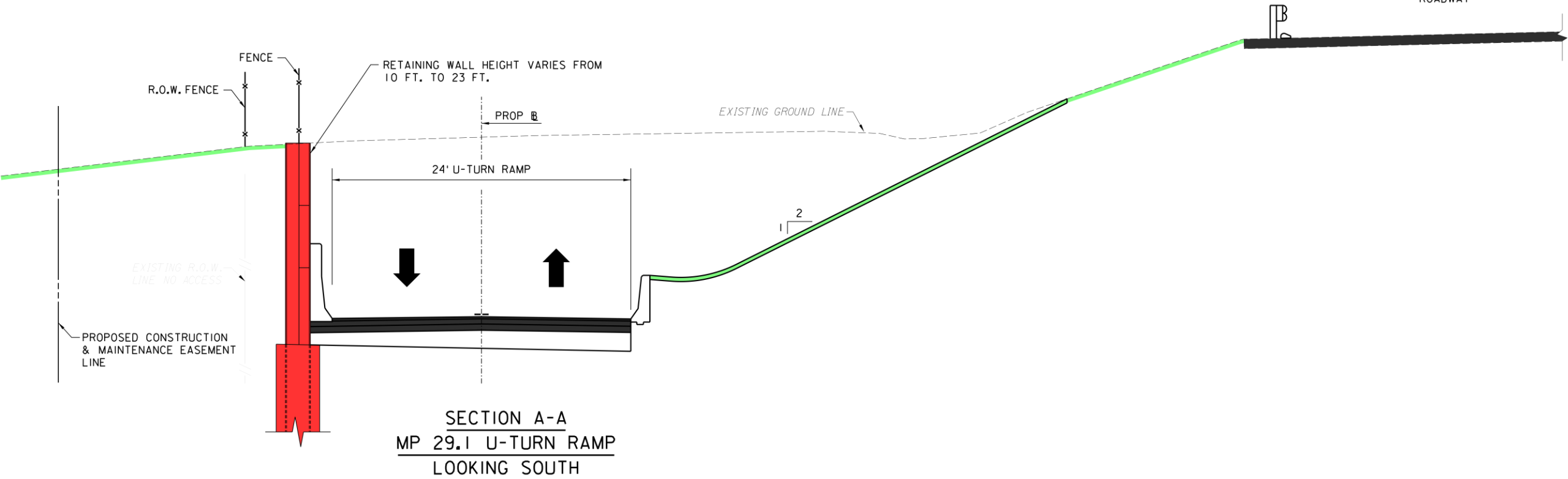
MP 29.1 U-Turn Plan



MP 29.1 U-Turn Plan – Retaining Wall



TURNPIKE MAINLINE
ROADWAY



- A retaining wall will be constructed on the east (northbound) side of the Turnpike for the U-Turn ramp as it descends toward the underpass.
- Wall will not be visible from ground level.

Environmental Commitments and No Net Loss



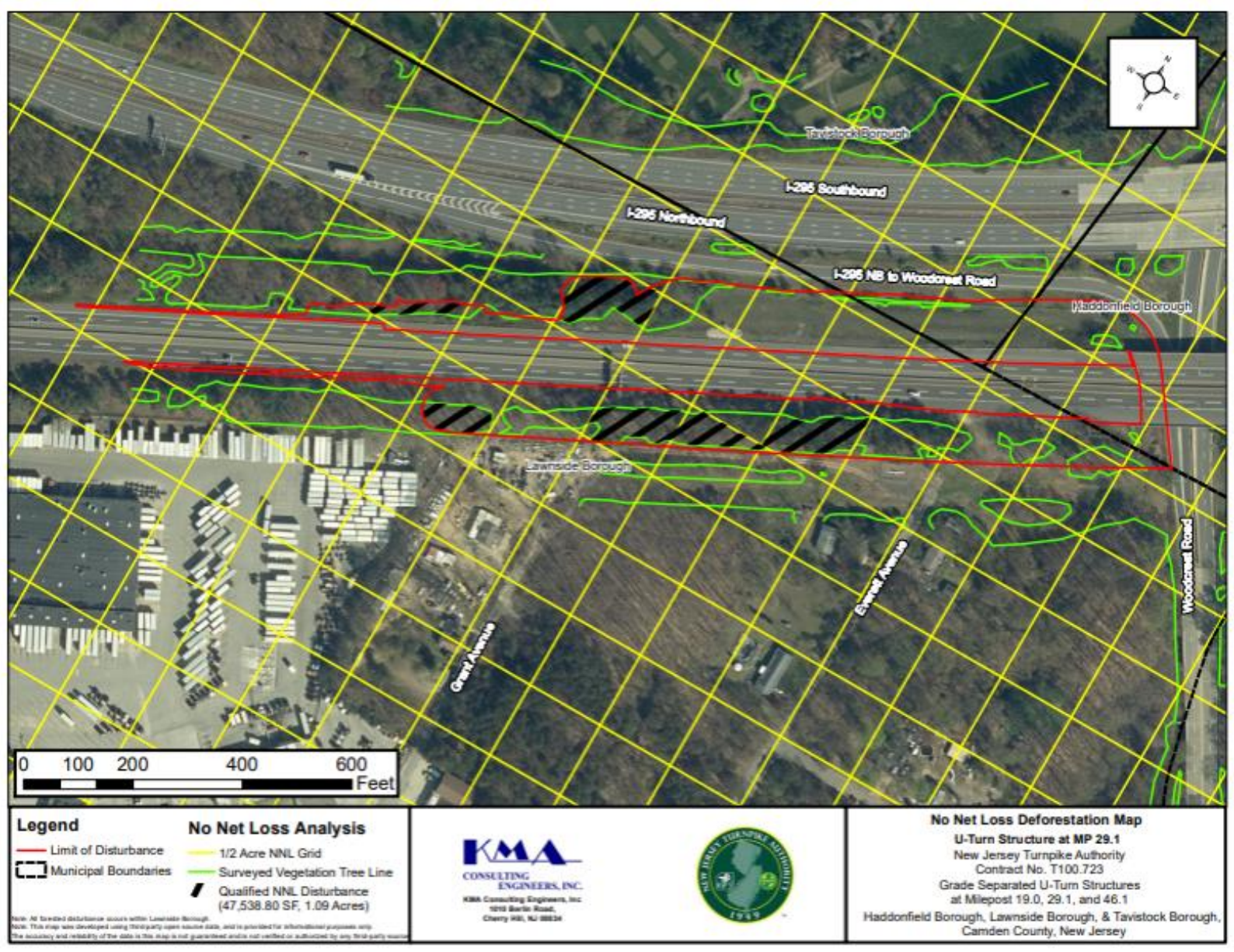
- The MP 29.1 U-Turn is subject to the following environmental commitments:
 - NJDEP Land Use Freshwater Wetlands General Permit 10A
 - NJDEP Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit
 - Stormwater Management
 - Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
 - No Net Loss Reforestation Act – Application Submitted on October 30, 2024
 - Amendment provided to NJFS on January 9, 2025
- State entities are required to abide by the No Net Loss Reforestation rules when trees are removed for projects under the following conditions:
 - One-half acre or more of forested land is affected, and
 - Land will be owned or maintained by a State entity
- A public forum is required when tree clearing is greater than 1 acre

Measuring Tree Impacts – “Qualified Forest”



- NJDEP has established a statewide GIS grid, which is used to identify “qualified forest.”
- Qualified forest that is cleared must be addressed under No Net Loss.
- Within a given grid, an area is considered qualified established forest if it has:
 - 33% or more canopy cover, and
 - Trees predominantly 4" or greater in diameter.
- 1.1 acres will be impacted by the MP 29.1 U-Turn.

Tree Impact Map



Tree Impact Mitigation

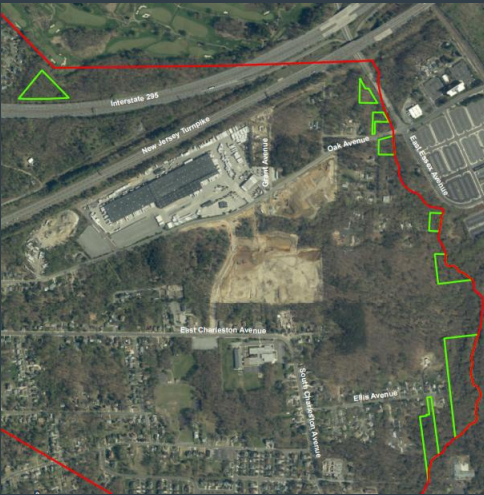


- Under No Net Loss, the following options exist for mitigation:
 - Planting on-site
 - Planting off-site on public land (State, County, or municipal)
 - Monetary compensation to the NJDEP State Forestry Fund, which provides grants to municipalities
- Planting on-site at MP 29.1 is infeasible due to site constraints and design requirements.
- The Program Team reviewed potential suitable public locations with the Borough for off-site planting.

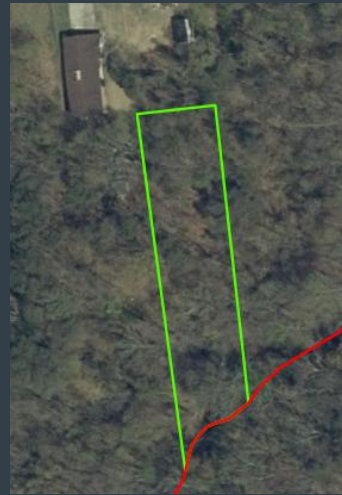
Off-Site Mitigation Options



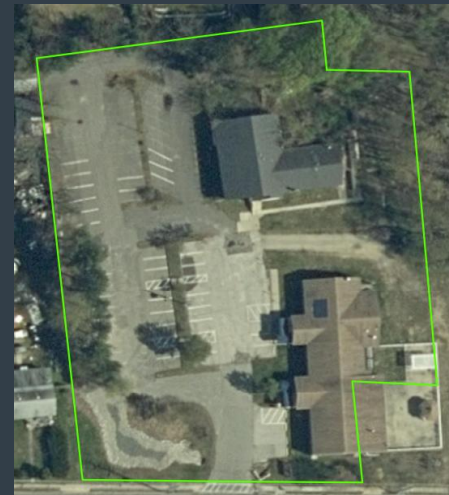
- A review of Lawnside Borough Open Space was conducted to determine if alternative-site locations were viable for reforestation under the NNL Rules.
- The following parks were determined ineligible as they all contained either:
 - Already forested areas (e.g. Cooper River Park & Block 802, Lot 44); or,
 - Active recreational areas (e.g. Lawnside Community Center & Lawnside Recreation Complex).



Cooper River Park



Block 802, Lot 44



Lawnside Community Center



Lawnside Recreation Complex

Compensation to State Fund for Reforestation



- If re-planting within the municipality is not viable, impacts can be mitigated through a contribution to the New Jersey Forestry Service, which provides grants to municipal and county governments.
- Compensation is calculated as follows:
 - $\text{Reforestation Cost} = \text{Compensatory Reforestation Obligation (trees)} \times \text{Per Tree Rate (\$300)}$
 - $\text{Monetary Compensation} = \text{Reforestation Cost} + (10\% \text{ Reforestation Area})$
 - NJTA's anticipated contribution for MP 29.1 = \$74,250

Compensatory Reforestation Monetary Contribution	
Forest Impacts (acres)	1.1
Proposed Monetary Compensation	\$67,500
Total Monetary Contribution Calculation	\$67,500 (Sub-Total)
	\$6,750 (10% Reforestation Cost)
	\$74,250

Public Comments



- All public comments will be officially recorded by the certified court reporter.
- The comment period will remain open for sixty (60) days, closing on March 29, 2025.
- If you would like to make a comment in person, please:
 - Come to the front
 - State your name and address
 - Public comments requiring responses will be provided as a written response to the commenter and included in the Public Hearing Report.

Thank you for your participation.

