# Public Hearing Pursuant to Executive Order 172 and NJ No Net Loss Reforestation Compensatory Act for Operational Improvements from Milepost 78.8 to 84.5 along the Garden State Parkway

## Boroughs of Beachwood and South Toms River, Townships of Berkeley and Toms River, Ocean County




*Interchange 81 (Lakehurst Road)*




*Interchange 82 (Route 37)*

New Jersey Turnpike Authority

Stantec *In Association with* ARORA and ASSOCIATES, P.C. Consulting Engineers

*September 16, 2026*

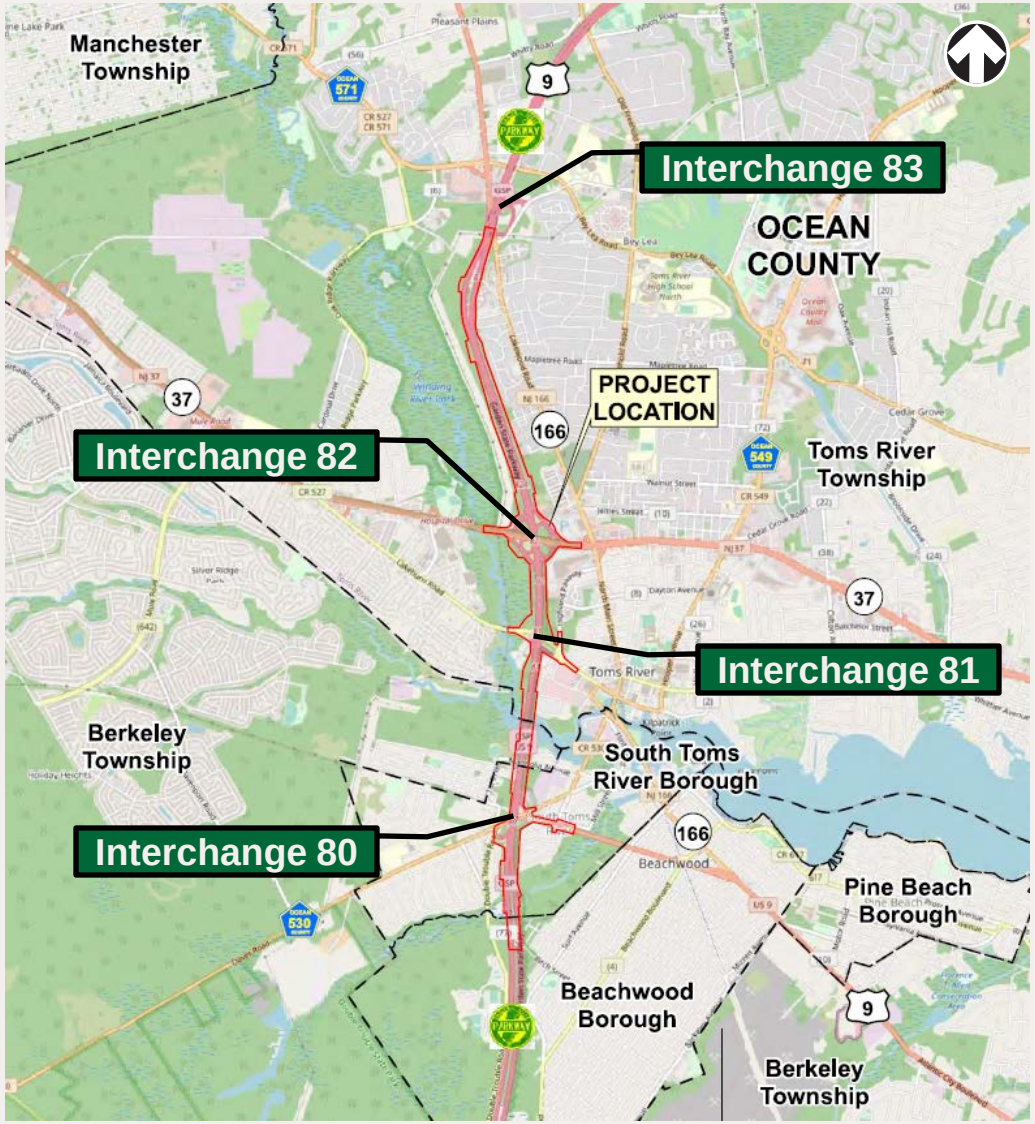
# Agenda / Meeting Purpose

- **Open House: 6:00pm – 6:30pm**
- **Presentation: 6:30pm**
  - **Introduction** — **Vincent Mignella, P.E.**, Project Engineer, Hearing Officer, New Jersey Turnpike Authority (Authority)
  - **Description of Improvements** — **Michael McDonnell, P.E.**, Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
  - **Description of Environmental Permits**
    **No Net Loss Reforestation Act** — **Marshall Robert, P.E., P.P.**, Arora and Associates, P.C.
  - **Public Comments**

    **EO-172 Comment Period (15 days) remains open until October 1, 2026**

    **No Net Loss Comment Period (60 days) remains open until November 15, 2026**

# Project Limits




- **Garden State Parkway 78.8 to 84.5**
- **Includes Interchanges:**
  - 80 (US Route 9 / Dover Road)
  - 81 (Lakehurst Road & Water Street)
  - 82-82A (NJ Route 37)
- **Waterway Crossings:**
  - Jakes Branch
  - Toms River
  - Unnamed Tributary Toms River

# Project Background

- **The project corridor extends approximately 3.5 miles, starting south of Garden State Parkway (Parkway) Interchange 80 at Dover Road and extending to Interchange 83 at Route 9 / Route 166. Within this stretch, there are three interchanges:**
  - Interchange 80: A partial interchange providing access to and from the north with US Route 9.
  - Interchange 81: A full interchange with Lakehurst Road and Water Street.
  - Interchange 82-82A: A full cloverleaf interchange with NJ Route 37.
- **This section of the Parkway experiences heavy traffic volumes, recurring congestion, and elevated crash rates.**
- **The absence of two ramps at Interchange 80 forces motorists to use adjacent interchanges and local roads, increasing travel complexity and contributing to congestion.**
- **The cloverleaf configuration at Interchanges 82-82A creates short distances between entrance and exit ramps, resulting in weaving conflicts, congestion, and increased crashes.**

# Proposed Project Improvements

**The main goals of the project are:**

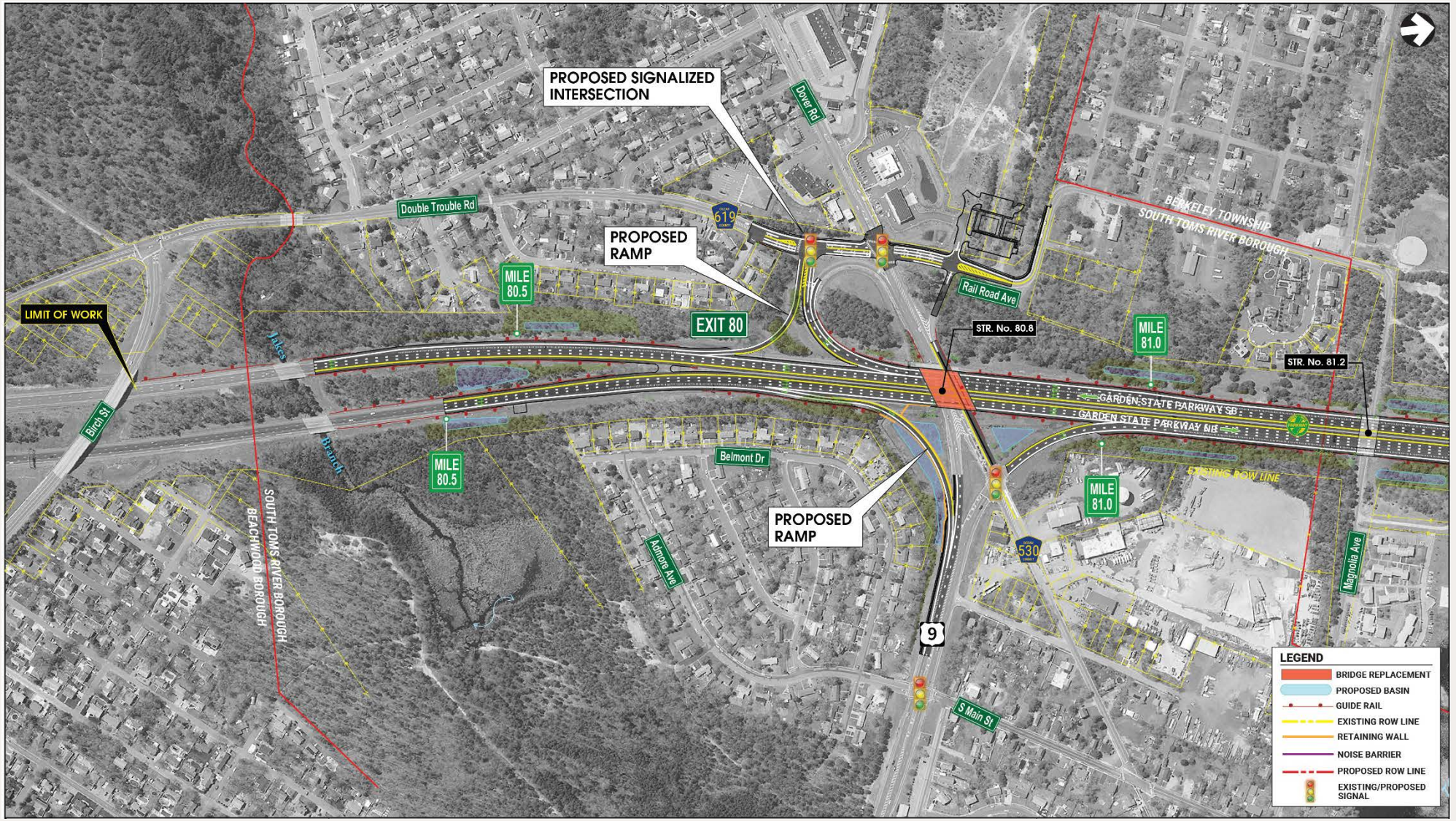
- Improve flow of traffic.
- Enhance accessibility and safety.
- Reduce travel time along the corridor.

**Key improvements include:**

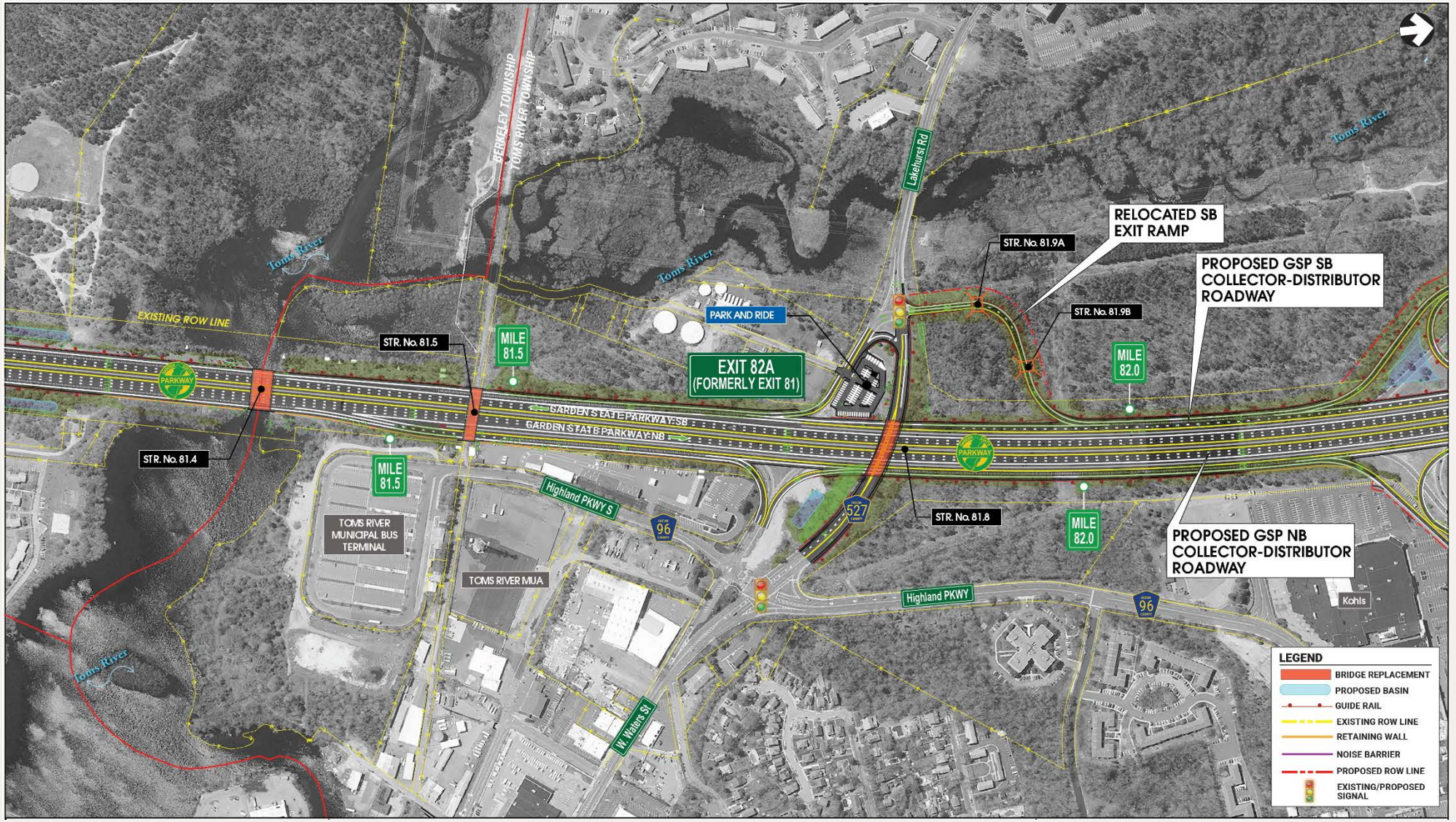
- Constructing the missing movements at Interchange 80 by adding a southbound entrance ramp and northbound exit ramp.
- Relocating the southbound exit ramp at Interchange 81.
- Building Collector-Distributor (C-D) roadways in both directions to connect all ramps at Interchanges 81 and 82, thereby mitigating weaving conditions.
- Adding auxiliary lanes between adjacent interchanges to improve traffic flow.
- Constructing 12-foot left and right shoulders.
- Improving bridge vertical clearances.
- Coordinating with the Ocean County improvements at Interchange 83.

**Estimated Construction Cost: $500 - $600 Million**

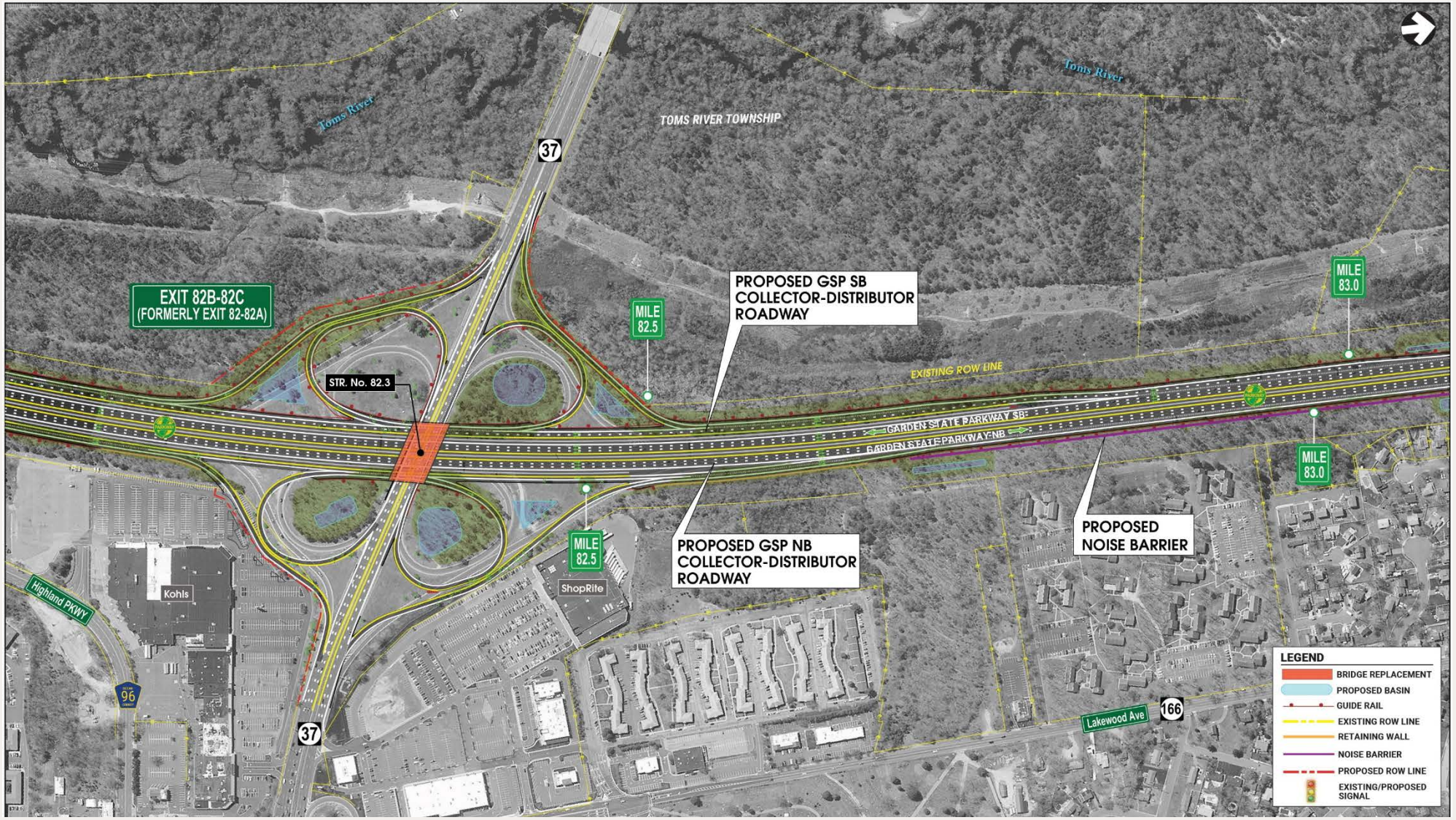
# Project Improvements Plan 1 of 4



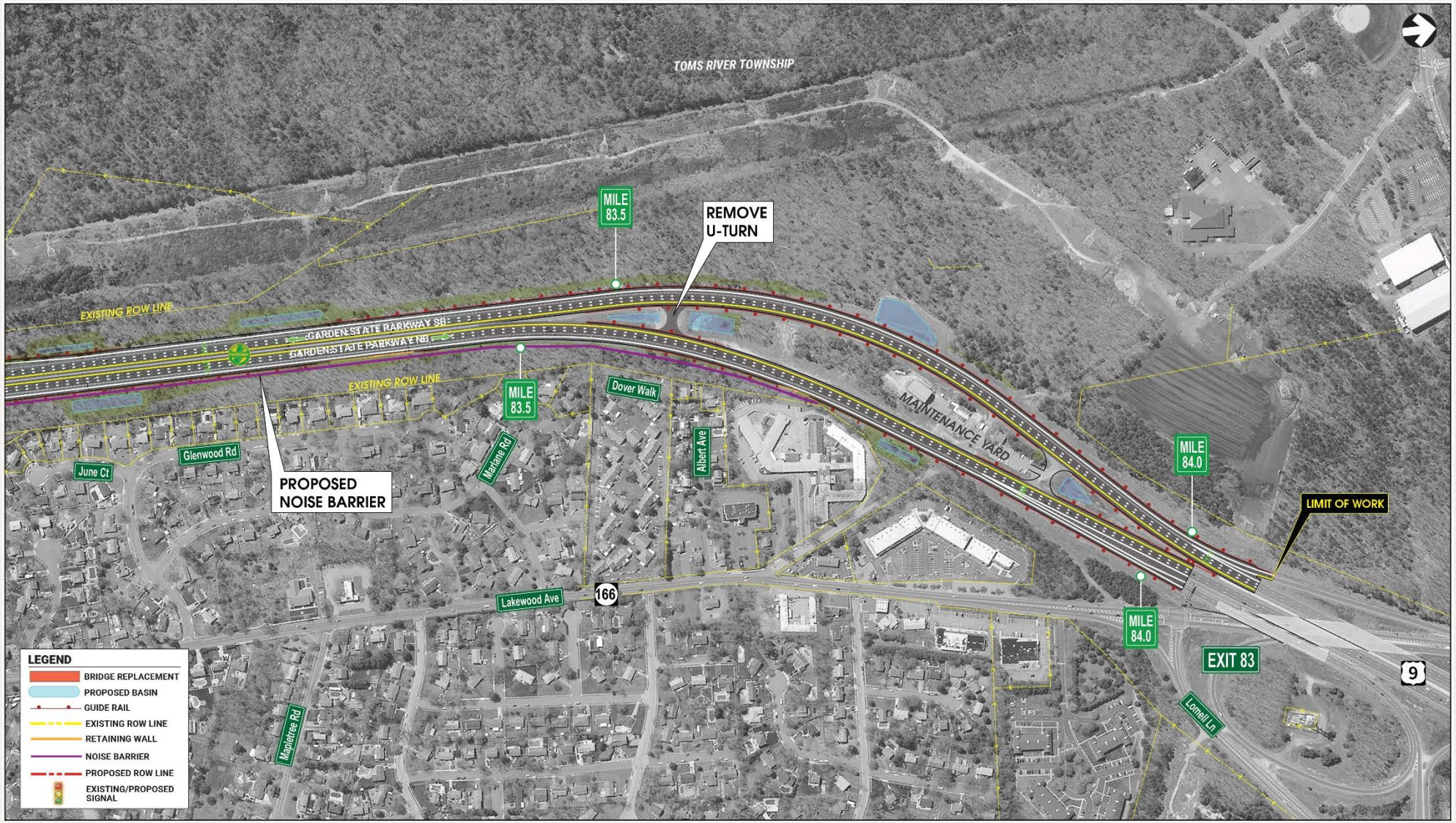
# Project Improvements Plan 2 of 4



# Project Improvements Plan 3 of 4



# Project Improvements Plan 4 of 4



# Project Improvements - Revisions to Exit Numbering

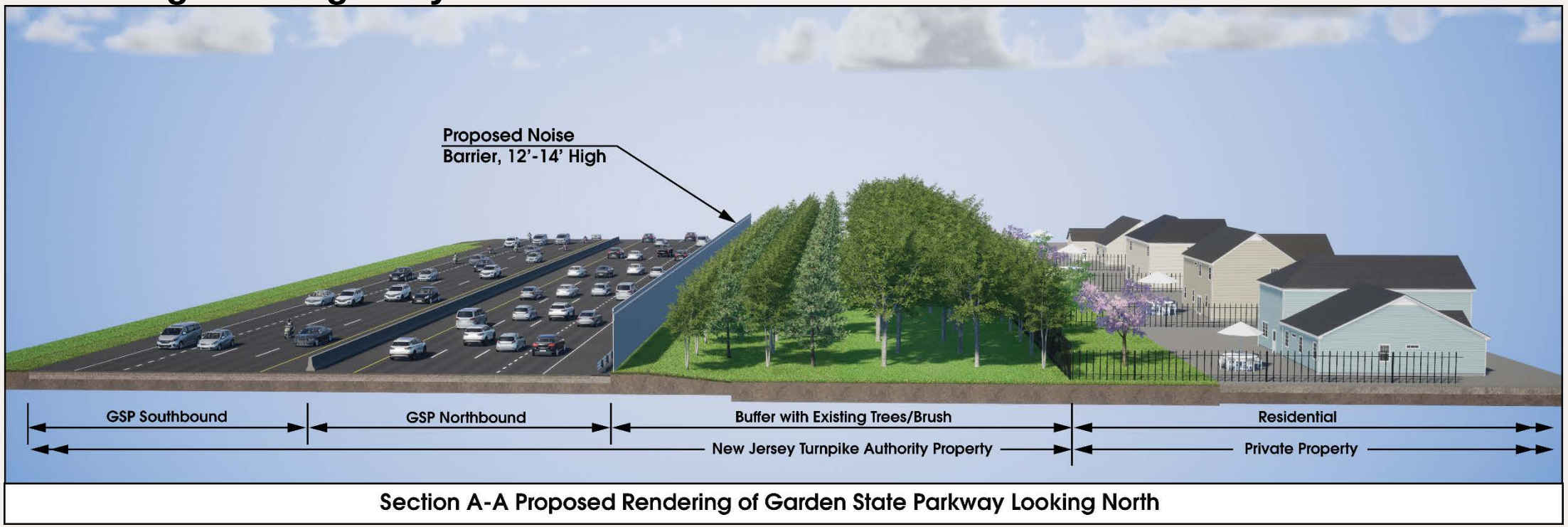
Exit numbering being changed to comply with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)

| Existing Exit Number | Proposed Exit Number |
|---|---|
| 80 | 80 |
| 81 | 82A |
| 82 | 82B |
| 82A | 82C |



# Project Improvements - Noise Barrier

- A meeting was held on June 23, 2026, regarding the noise barrier survey.
- Property owners and residents in the vicinity of the noise barrier were notified of meeting and provided with surveys.
- Under the Authority's Policy for Traffic Noise Analysis and Abatement dated May 2023, absent sufficient survey response a decision on a noise barrier is left to the local governing body.




Section A-A Proposed Rendering of Garden State Parkway Looking North

# Right of Way Requirements (Partial Acquisitions & Easements)

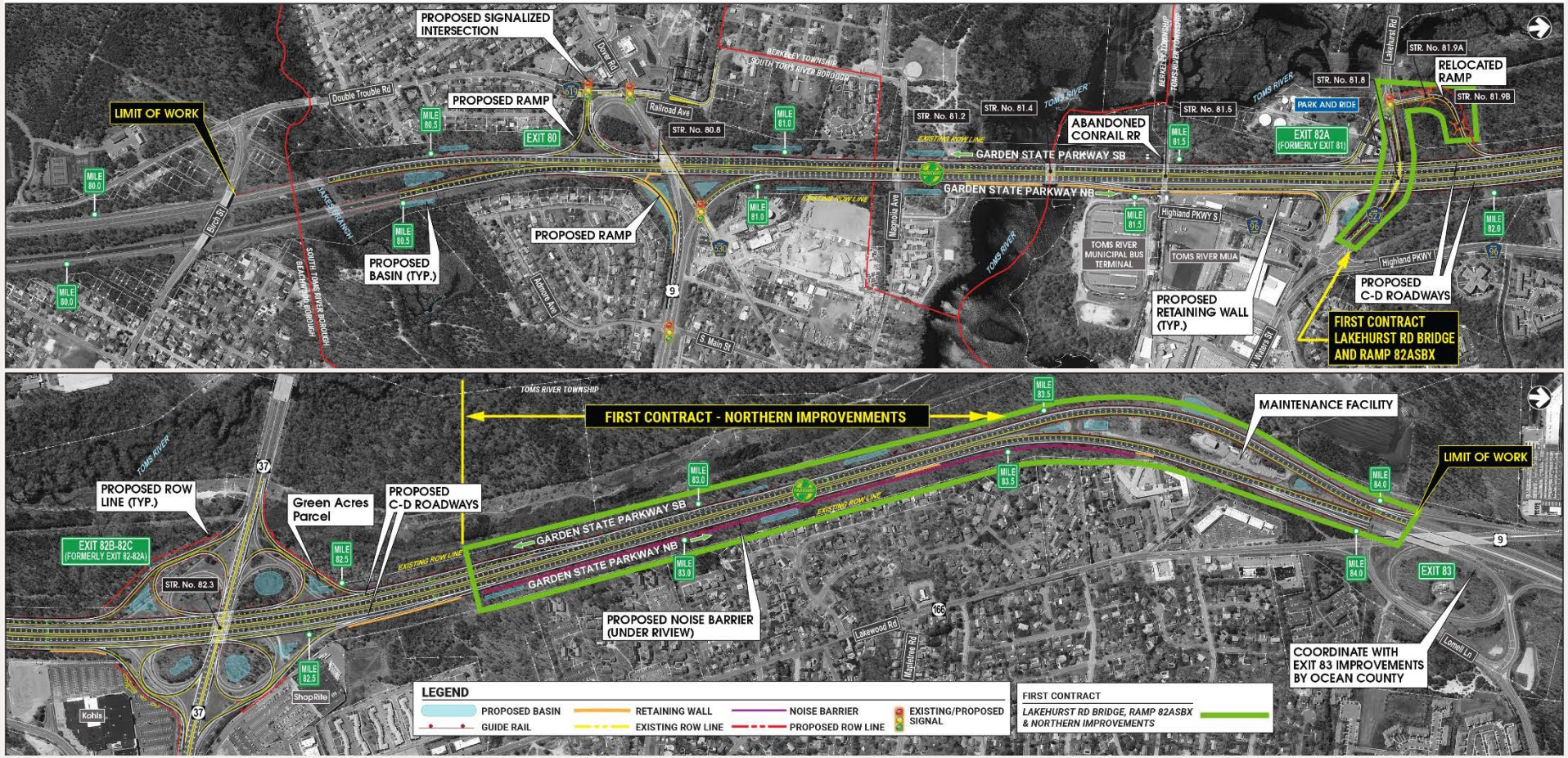


## Summary of Impacts

- 19 Total Lots
- 17 Owners
- Total Impact – 17.10 Acres
- 8.25 Acres Fee Acquisition (7.25 Public Property)
- 8.85 Acres Easement (7.93 Acres Temporary)

| PROPERTY TYPE | PARTIAL FEE ACQUISITION (ACRES) | PERMANENT EASEMENT (ACRES) | TEMPORARY EASEMENT (ACRES) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Public (NJDOT/Ocean County/Tidelands/Green Acres) | 7.25 | 0.09 | 1.87 |
| Commercial | 0.94 | 0.25 | 5.48 |
| Utility Authority/Railroad/ Utility Company | 0.06 | 0.53 | 0.55 |
| Residential | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.03 |
| **Total** | **8.26** | **0.91** | **7.93** |

# Anticipated Project Schedule




**The project will be executed in two contracts:**

**First Contract**: Includes reconstruction of the Lakehurst Road bridge over the Parkway, relocation of the Interchange 81 southbound exit ramp and widening the Parkway north of Interchange 82-82A. **Construction anticipated to start in 2027, with completion in 2030.**

**Second Contract**: Encompasses the remaining improvements at Interchange 82-82A and southward, including the missing ramps at Interchange 80 and the C-D roadways. **Construction anticipated to follow completion of First Contract with an estimated four-year duration.**

# Environmental Commitments and No Net Loss Reforestation Act

- **Project is subject to the following environmental permits:**
  - NJDEP CAFRA / Waterfront Development / Coastal Wetlands / Freshwater Wetlands / Flood Hazard Area Permit, Verification, Compliance & Hardship Exception Request
  - NJ Pinelands Commission Permit
  - US Army Corp of Engineers Permit
  - Ocean County Soil Conservation District - Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Certification
  - NJDEP Highway Agency Stormwater General Permit

- **New Jersey Turnpike Authority will abide by the No Net Loss Reforestation Act when trees are removed for projects under the following conditions:**
  - One-half acre or more of forested land is affected; and
  - The land will be owned or maintained by a State entity

- **A public forum is required when tree clearing is greater than 1 acre**

# Existing Forest Within Project Limits

- **35.9 acres of forest to be removed - all within current or to be acquired right-of-way.**
- **Dominant forests are coniferous or mixed deciduous with crown closure.**

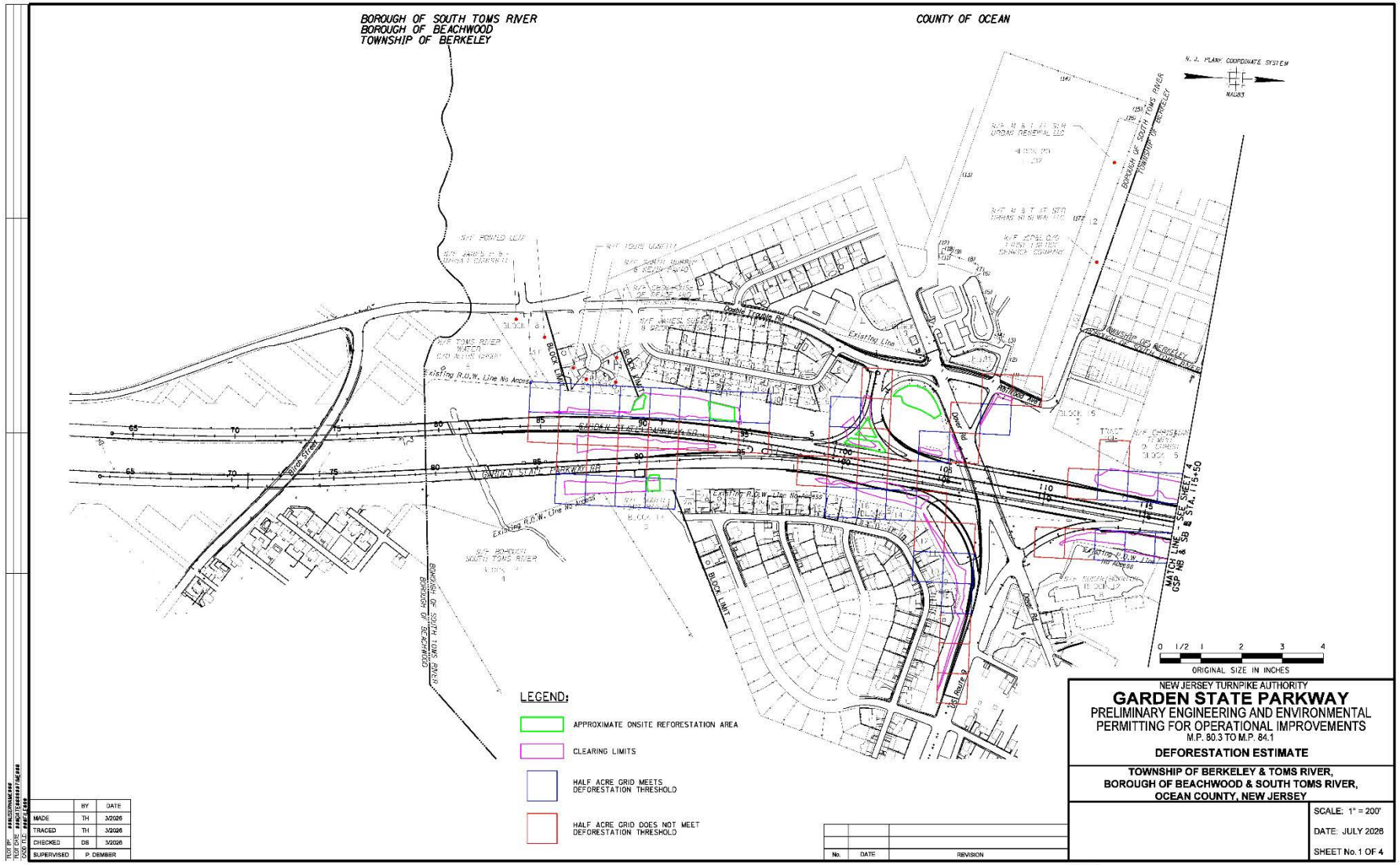


*View looking west at Parkway SB Milepost 81.2*

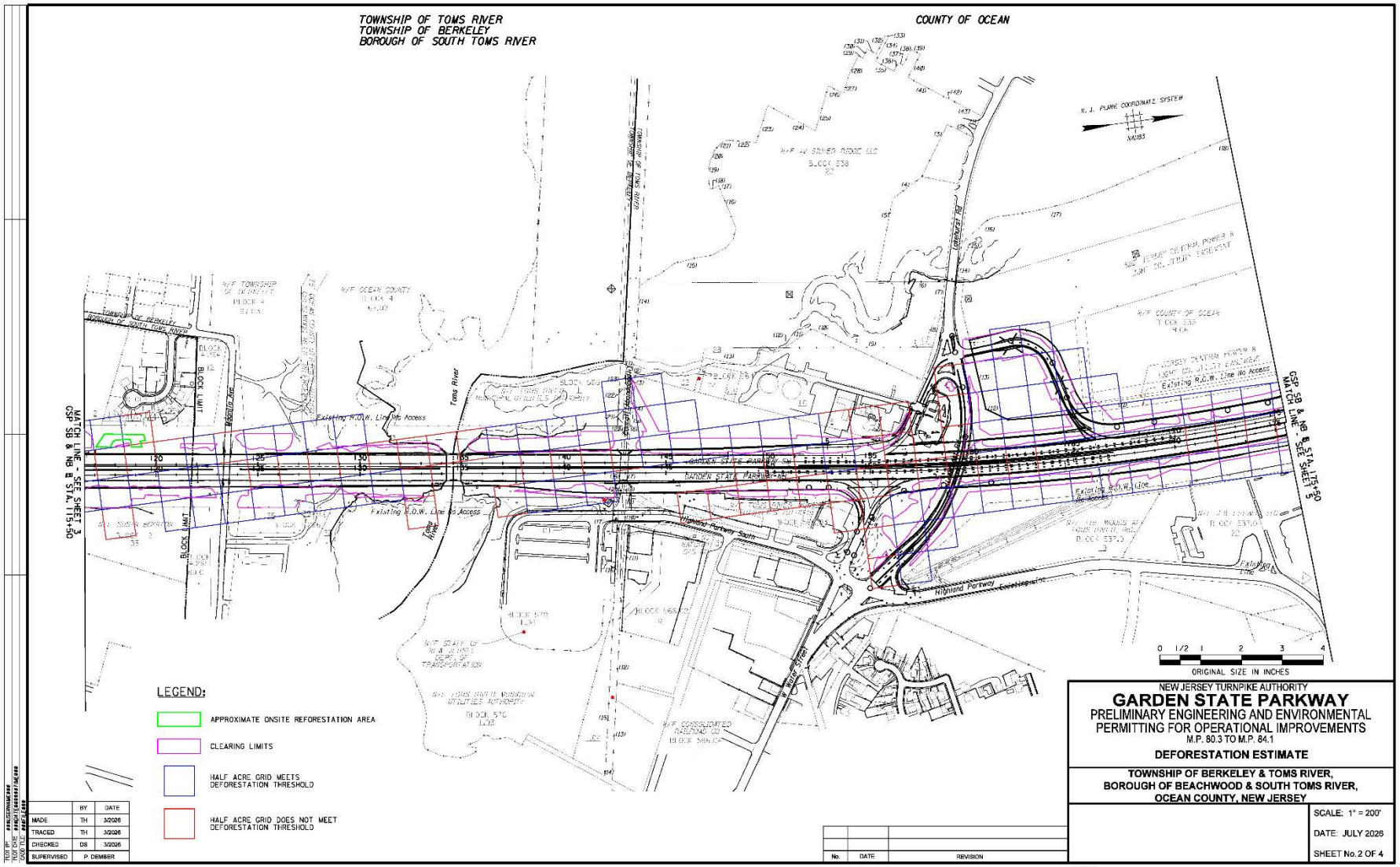


*View looking west at Parkway SB Milepost 82.2*

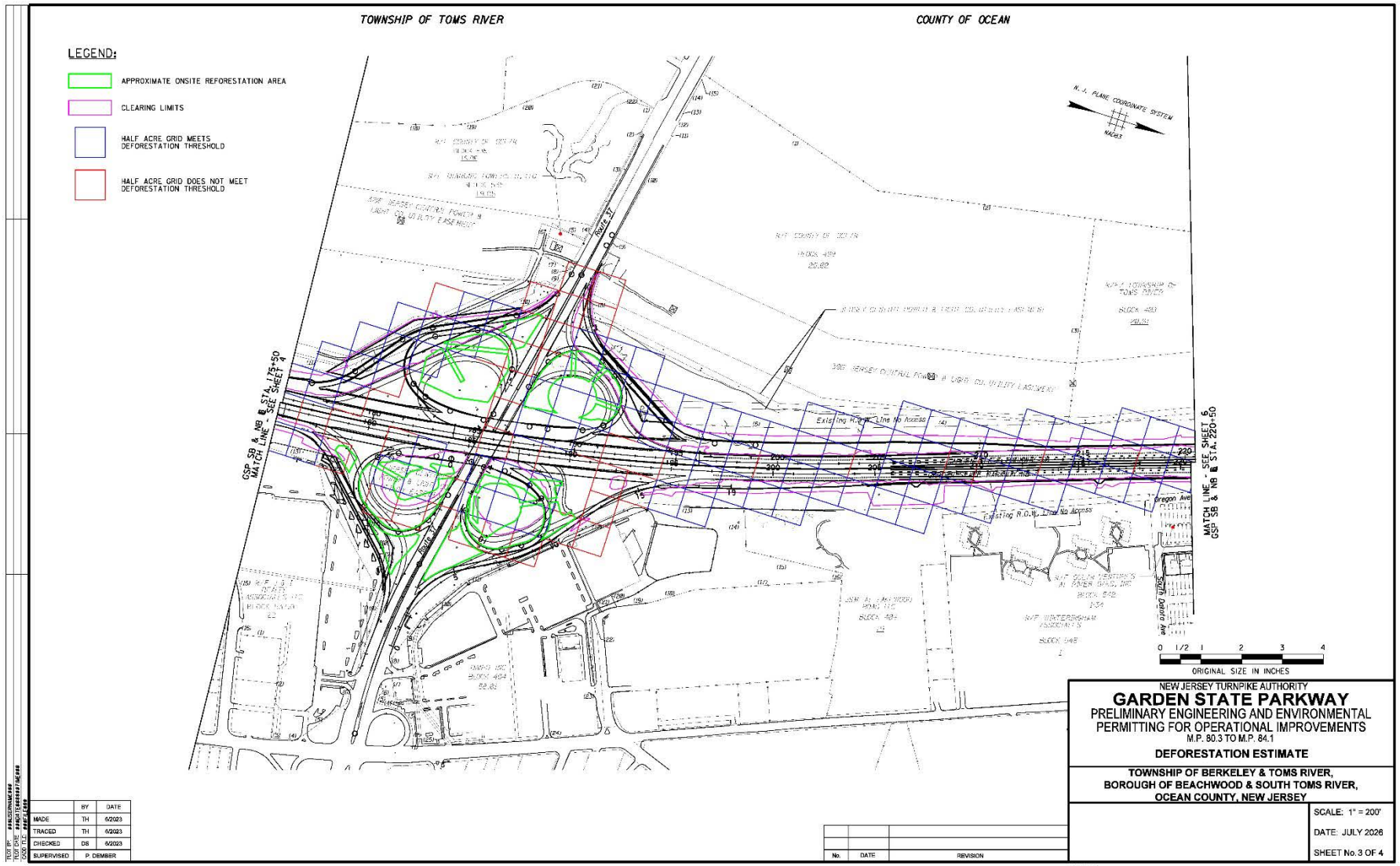
# Deforestation / Reforestation Plan



# Deforestation / Reforestation Plan

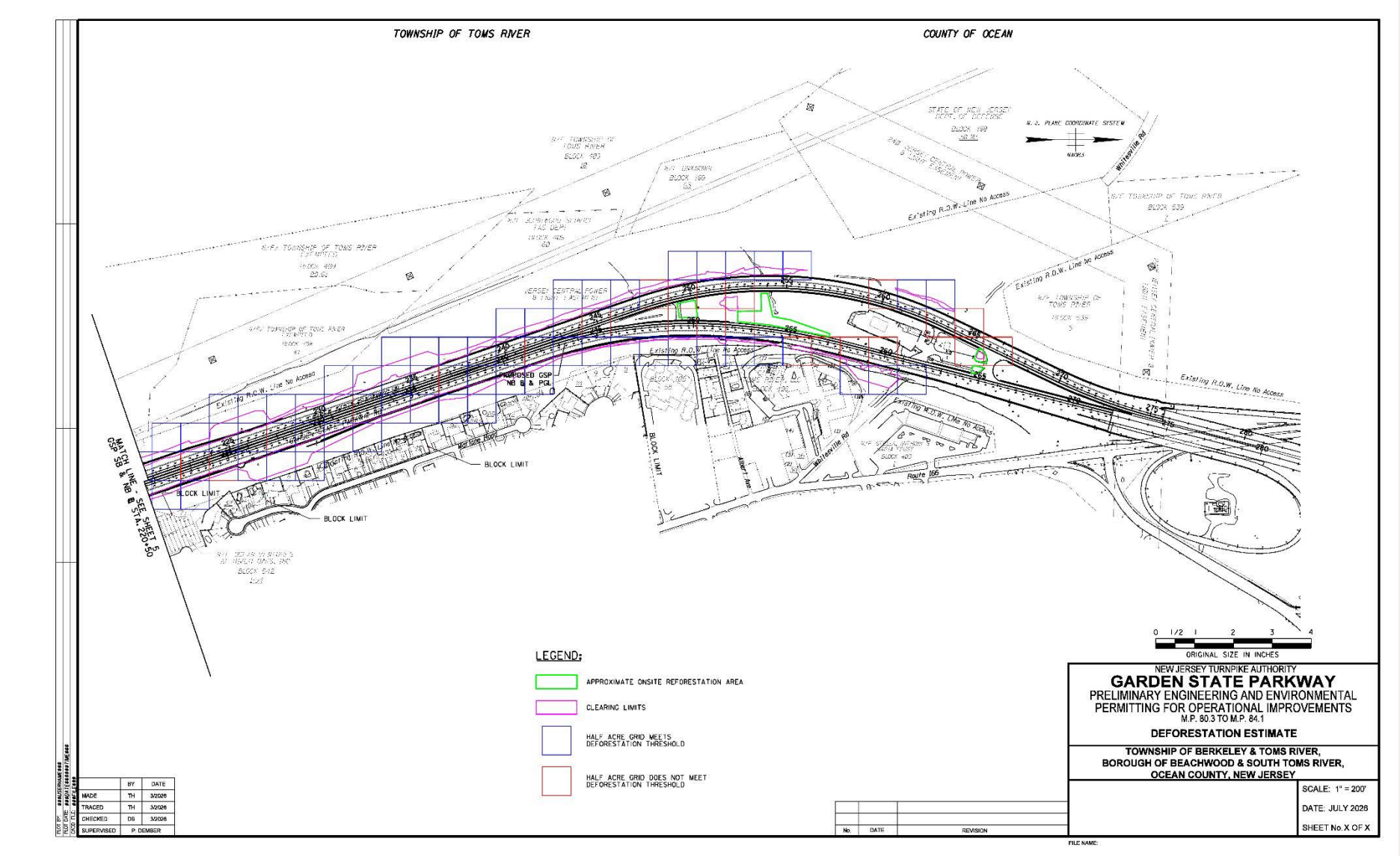


# Deforestation / Reforestation Plan




EO-172 AND NO NET LOSS PUBLIC HEARING FOR PARKWAY OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS, MP 78.8 TO 84.5

# Deforestation / Reforestation Plan




EO-172 AND NO NET LOSS PUBLIC HEARING FOR PARKWAY OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS, MP 78.8 TO 84.5

# Reforestation Obligation

- **No Net Loss Mitigation Priority:**
  - Tree replacement on-site within the Authority's right-of-way.
  - Tree replacement off-site on municipal-owned property, then county-owned property.
  - Monetary compensation to the NJDEP State Forestry Fund, which provides grants to municipalities
- **On-Site Restoration**
  - 11.3 acres are planned (subject to design changes).
- **Off-Site Mitigation**
  - No apparent municipal opportunities - all parcels are either active recreation or currently forested.
  - The Authority's Reforestation Plan stipulates monetary compensation to NJDEP Conservation Fund.

# Alternative Monetary Compensation

- **Compensation is calculated as follows:**
  - Reforestation Cost = Compensatory Reforestation Obligation (trees) x Per Tree Rate ($300)
  - Monetary Compensation = Reforestation Cost + (10% Reforestation Cost)
  - Authority's anticipated contribution = $1,588,752

| MUNICIPALITY | Deforestation (Acre) | Onsite Replacement (Acre) | Offsite Replacement (Acre) | Alternative Monetary Compensation* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Toms River | 29.6 | 10.0 | 19.6 | $1,252,152 |
| Berkeley | 1.4 | 0.0 | 1.4 | $94,248 |
| South Toms River | 4.9 | 1.3 | 3.6 | $242,352 |
| Beachwood | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Total** | **35.9** | **11.3** | **24.6** | **$1,588,752** |

***Assumes all offsite replacement is handled by monetary contribution by the Authority**

# Public Comments

- **All public comments will be officially recorded by the certified court reporter.**
- **The public comment period for the proposed project required by EO-172 will remain open for fifteen (15) days, closing on October 1, 2026.**
- **The public comment period for No Net Loss Compensatory Reforestation Act will remain open for sixty (60) days, closing on November 15, 2026.**
- **If you would like to make a comment in person, please:**
  - Come to the front
  - State your name and address
  - You will have up to 3 minutes to state your comment
  - Public comments requiring responses will be provided as a written response to the commenter and included in the Public Hearing Report
- **Written comments can be mailed to:**

  New Jersey Turnpike Authority, Engineering Department
  1 Turnpike Plaza
  Woodbridge, NJ, 07095
  Attn: Vincent Mignella, P.E., Hearing Officer
  Or submitted electronically to: HighwayDesign@njta.gov

***Thank you for your participation.***