



COUNTY OF PASSAIC
Local Preliminary Engineering for the
Sixth Avenue Bridge Replacement over the Passaic River
City of Paterson, Borough of Prospect Park and Borough of Hawthorne, New Jersey

PROJECT INFORMATION



Passaic County is advancing the design for the replacement of the Sixth Avenue Bridge over the Passaic River in the City of Paterson, Borough of Prospect Park and Borough of Hawthorne. The replacement of the bridge will address structural, geometric, and operational deficiencies, enhance safety, and provide efficient crossing for all modes of transportation.

The Sixth Avenue Bridge (Structure No. 1600-012) on designated County Route 652 crosses over the Passaic River, connecting the City of Paterson with the Borough of Prospect Park and intersecting a portion of the Borough of Hawthorne in Passaic County. The Sixth Avenue Bridge is the main crossing from Paterson to points west, including William Paterson University and the Passaic County Vocational & Technical High School. The bridge is an important connection between the Bunker Hill section of Paterson and the communities of Hawthorne and Prospect Park.

Project Background

The Sixth Avenue Bridge was originally constructed circa 1900 and consisted of a four-span steel arch structure supported on stone masonry piers and abutments. In 1987, the four-span steel arch structures were replaced with temporary four-span continuous steel Acrow panel trusses. The bridge roadway deck was replaced with an open-grid steel decking system. The Sixth Avenue Bridge is classified as fracture critical due to the non-redundant continuous steel Acrow panel trusses. The Acrow panel trusses were installed over 30 years ago, which is beyond the typical temporary time period. The Acrow panel trusses are showing signs of age, fatigue, rust, missing/dislodged components and loose/shifted pins. The Sixth Avenue Bridge's overall condition is rated as fair due to the condition of the superstructure and substructure. The bridge is functionally obsolete due to inadequate deck geometry.

A Local Concept Development (LCD) study for major rehabilitation or replacement of the bridge was completed in Spring 2018 through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) using federal funding, with Passaic County as the project sponsor. During this phase, a well-defined Purpose and Need Statement was developed, focusing on the need to improve safety and maintain the current crossing over the Passaic River. A number of conceptual alternatives were developed to meet the project goals and objectives. In coordination with the NJTPA, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, local officials, community stakeholders, and permitting agencies, it was agreed, upon completion of an alternatives analysis, that the recommended Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) to address the structural deficiencies is to replace the bridge with a new structure. Resolutions of support were passed

by the City of Paterson, Borough of Prospect Park, and Borough of Hawthorne municipal councils and by the Passaic County Board of County Commissioners.

Local Preliminary Engineering Phase

The project is now in the Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) phase. The LPE phase involves performing engineering and environmental tasks and documentation in order to obtain National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance for the project. Based on the PPA, a number of activities are simultaneously set in motion: community involvement (meetings with affected property owners and business owners), agency consultation, environmental documentation, design level mapping and design services. To inform and to encourage community consensus, community stakeholder and public information center meetings will be conducted.

The tasks conducted during the LPE Phase consist of, but are not limited to:

- Development of design level base plans and structural studies to document the selection process and recommended structure and aesthetic elements
- Geotechnical studies (soil boring and analysis) for foundation and pavement design
- Utility discovery and verification
- Preliminary drainage work
- Access impact evaluation
- Development of property acquisition cost estimates and project cost estimates
- Technical environmental studies (including Section 106 and Section 4(f) Evaluation)
- NEPA Document (Categorical Exclusion)

Local Preliminary Engineering Phase – Anticipated Project Schedule (Major Milestones)

Approved Environmental Documentation	Spring 2026
Approved Local Preliminary Engineering Report & Completion of LPE Phase	Spring 2026

Anticipated Community Involvement Schedule

Local Officials Meeting No. 1 Local Officials Meeting No. 2	Spring 2025 Winter 2026
Community Stakeholders Meeting	Spring 2025
Public Information Center Meeting	Winter 2026

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For additional information, please visit the project website: www.sixthavenuebridge.com