



## The Delaware River and Bay Authority

# PRESS ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

James Salmon  
302.571.6409

### **DRBA Schedules Public Hearings on Proposed Delaware Memorial Bridge Toll Increase** *Necessity of Toll Increase; Discussion of Critical Infrastructure Investments*

**NEW CASTLE, Del.** – Today, Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) officials announced the schedule for two public hearings to discuss the goals and objectives of a proposed toll increase and detail the critical infrastructure investments required at the bi-state agency's crossing facilities, the Delaware Memorial Bridge and Cape May – Lewes Ferry.

"We are in the fifth year of a ten year complete overhaul of the Delaware Memorial Bridge, which is dictated by its age, condition, operating environment and heavy volume of usage," said DRBA Executive Director Tom Cook. "Among the components of this overhaul are a ship collision protection system, suspender rope (vertical cable) replacement, major steelwork repairs, paint removal and recoating and a bridge deck repair. All of these projects are necessary to ensure public safety and uninterrupted traffic flow."

**What:** The DRBA will hold public hearings in Delaware and New Jersey to inform our stakeholders concerning the goals and objectives of a toll increase at the Delaware Memorial Bridge, detail vital capital infrastructure investments at the Authority's aging and heavily utilized crossing facilities, provide information on the proposed new rate structure, and solicit public comment.

**DE:** On Wednesday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m., a public hearing will take place on the main floor of the Vincent A. Julia Center adjacent to the Delaware Memorial Bridge Toll Plaza, conjunction of I-295 and U.S. Route 9 in New Castle.

**NJ:** On Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m., a second public hearing will take place at the Salem Community College Davidow Performing Arts Theatre located in Davidow Hall 460 Hollywood Ave in Carneys Point Township.

**Why:** Revenue projections are insufficient to provide borrowing capacity or cash revenue to fund necessary infrastructure investment projects. Based on the current toll structure at the Delaware Memorial Bridge, future revenues will be inadequate for the Authority to fund the essential capital infrastructure projects at the crossing facilities, which are expected to cost more than \$440 million over the next five years. The following are some of the major capital projects planned at Delaware Memorial Bridge and Cape May – Lewes Ferry during the next

several years: Bridge Paint Removal and Recoating (\$48.2); Suspension Rope Replacement (\$24.5 million); Bridge Steelwork Repairs (\$40.5 million); Pin and Link Rehabilitation on Both Structures of DMB (\$19.7 million); Ship Collision Protection System (\$45.2 million); Bridge Deck Repair (\$21.5 million); Transfer Bridge Repairs at the Cape May – Lewes Ferry (\$4.3 million); and Ferry Repowering Program (\$9.5 million).

**About the Delaware River and Bay Authority**

The DRBA, a bi-state governmental agency created by Compact in 1962, owns and operates the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Cape May- Lewes Ferry, and the Forts Ferry Crossing. The DRBA also manages corporate and aviation properties through its economic development powers - two airports in New Jersey (Millville Airport and Cape May Airport) and three in Delaware (New Castle Airport, Civil Air Terminal and Delaware Airpark). All DRBA operating revenues are generated through the bridge, ferry and airport facilities. For more information, visit [www.drba.net](http://www.drba.net).