



The Delaware River and Bay Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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DRBA Completes I-295 Southbound Reconstruction Project *\$35.9 million infrastructure investment improves capacity, efficiency and safety*

NEW CASTLE, Del. – Today, Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) announced the recent completion of last phase of the I-295 Southbound reconstruction project west of the Delaware Memorial Bridge (DMB) toll plaza. The three-year reconstruction project, which began in February 2016, was completed at a cost of \$35.9 million by the Authority’s contractor, Mumford & Miller Concrete, Inc. of Middletown, Delaware. This final phase work covered both DRBA and Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) portions of I-295 Southbound. For ease of administration, the DRBA handled the full length of highway work. DelDOT is reimbursing the Authority \$6.5 million related to its section of highway reconstruction.

“Like our customers, we’re happy that the Jersey barriers and construction barrels are gone from the Interchange and the I-295 Southbound Reconstruction project has concluded,” said Brent VanLith, Senior Project Engineer for the DRBA. “We do empathize with travelers who are inconvenienced by construction activity and try to design these projects with as few delays as possible. Our contractors worked hard to get this done as quickly as possible and we hope our customers can appreciate the end product.”

VanLith noted that the extremely rainy 2018 construction season negatively affected the work schedule, which targeted completion by December 2018.

Built in the 1960s, the original I-295 highway and associated ramps were rehabilitated and modernized to comply with current Federal and State highway standards. Among the improvements in the three-year road reconstruction effort include the removal of four (4) existing overpasses, replacement of one (1) existing bridge, and elimination of the weaving patterns for increased traffic capacity and safety. The highway through-lanes were increased from two (2) to three (3), providing greater lane capacity to meet future traffic demands. Additionally, the ramp from U.S. Route 13 northbound to I-295 southbound, known locally as the Baltimore ramp, was eliminated. A new ramp was constructed further north to connect and merge with I-295 southbound.

Another element of the construction work was the connection of the Industrial Track Greenway Trail between the New Castle County and DelDOT sections as the Authority completed a 300 foot long, 10 foot wide illuminated tunnel under I-295.

The DRBA collaborated with DelDOT to complete a portion of the state highway improvements at the same time to minimize the impact this project imposed on the traveling public. With the completion of this fourth and final phase of highway construction work, the DRBA has invested more than \$90 million to improve the region's infrastructure during the course of the I-295 Delaware Memorial Bridge Approach Road Rehabilitation Program. The Authority owns and maintains 7 miles of I-295.

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.