



# TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

## MERCER COUNTY

201 Washington Crossing Pennington Road  
Titusville, New Jersey 08560-1410  
609.737.0605 Ext. 664  
609.737.6839 Fax  
October 18, 2010

Hon. Robert Martin, Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
401 East State Street  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, east Wing  
PO Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Martin:

In a letter dated September 29, 2010, Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes offered Hopewell Township the opportunity to assume ownership of the Jacobs Creek Bridge and the segment of County Route 579 between the Ewing Township boundary and its intersection with County Route 546 (copy attached). During a work session discussion of this offer by the Hopewell Township Committee at its meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2010, several questions were raised concerning the disposition of the existing bridge given the October 1, 2010 letter from SHPO in which it approved the potential eligibility for the Jacobs Creek Crossing Rural Historic Landscape.

Definitive answers to the questions raised were not available at the meeting. Therefore the Committee requested that the questions be forwarded to the Department to obtain the necessary information, since it is only the Department of Environmental Protection that can provide the answers. We are sending this letter to you, in your capacity as Commissioner, because we believe that the answers may come from several different divisions or agencies (such as SHPO and Land Use), and in the interest of expediency we believed that a single letter to your office would be the best way to navigate the Department for the answers.

These are the questions that can be answered by NJDEP officials that we would like to have answers to before we can respond to the County Executive's offer to transfer ownership of the bridge:

1. Does the eligibility status permit the reconstruction of the bridge as presently planned by Mercer County?
2. Does the eligibility status permit reconstruction of the bridge to Alternate 3B status as recommended by the Hopewell Township Committee?
3. Does the eligibility status affect the maintenance of roadways, their embankments, and drainage systems within and along the length of the corridor? Adjacent to the corridor?

Hon. Robert Martin, Commissioner

October 18, 2010

Page 2 of 2

4. Does the NJDEP have any other guidance for the regulatory impacts related to the eligibility status that are not listed in the questions above?
5. What is the timeline for determining whether the eligible area will be included on the New Jersey and National Registers?

Hopewell Township has requested an extension of the County's offer pending receipt of the answers to these and other questions. Therefore, we respectfully request a response from the Department as soon as possible. Hopewell Township thanks you and the Department for your continued support in this process.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Markulec', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Markulec, Mayor

C: Hopewell Township Committee