



## COUNTY OF MERCER

McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
640 SOUTH BROAD STREET  
P.O. BOX 8068  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08650-8068  
Telephone: (609) 989-6518  
Fax: (609) 278-4819

BRIAN M. HUGHES  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

KELVIN S. GANGES  
Chief of Staff

ANDREW A. MAIR  
County Administrator

September 14, 2010

Honorable Bob Martin, Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
401 East State St.  
7th Floor, East Wing  
P.O. Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Martin:

I would like to thank you and your staff for meeting with us last Friday, September 10, to discuss many of the issues regarding Jacobs Creek Bridge in Hopewell Township. As we discussed, we have worked closely with Hopewell Township as well as NJDEP in developing alternatives that are sensitive to the environment yet can safely accommodate traffic, including school buses that carry students attending the Bear Tavern Elementary as well as emergency vehicles, and local deliveries. Since 2004, we have intently listened and seriously considered residents' concerns, attended numerous public meetings, and have complied fully with NJDEP regulations and requirements. We completed a Historic Bridge Alternative Analysis and Phase 1A Archeological Survey, the findings of which were accepted by your staff. Although not required by NJDEP, Mercer County also completed a Phase 1B Archeological Survey to alleviate any additional concerns that important historic and archeological significant artifacts would be disturbed as a result of the project. Based on our meeting discussions, it is my understanding that the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) concurs with the findings in the Phase 1A and Phase 1B Archeological Surveys that the project site has a low potential to contain significant archeological resources.

As a result of our meeting and prior to expending additional funds on design of the project, I would like to confirm that NJDEP has no objection to the County's preferred Alternative 5A/5B Modified 3 from an environmental permitting perspective. It is my understanding that HPO concurs with the submitted Historic Bridge Alternative Analysis report and that the selection of Alternative 5A/5B-Modified 3 (New Single Span/relocate

