

# Consideration of Shared Use Path on the New Delaware River Bridge



The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and New Jersey Turnpike Authority are evaluating whether there is sufficient transportation demand to justify adding a shared-use (bike/pedestrian) path to the new Delaware River Bridge.

## Key Findings

### 1. Outstanding Issues from the 2003 Record of Decision (ROD)

- All previously identified issues remain unresolved.
- Major barriers include:
  - Regulatory restrictions: Both PA and NJ prohibit bicycles and pedestrians on Turnpike facilities; changes to laws/policies would be required.
  - Limited regional planning coordination: No regional plans (including Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's [DVRPC's] Circuit Trails) identify a need, location, or funding for a crossing or connecting trails.
  - Funding gaps: No funding has been identified for a shared use path.

### 2. Transportation Demand Analysis

- A 5-mile study area was analyzed due to the distance an average bicyclist would feel comfortable commuting to their destination.
- Some census tracts within the 5-mile study area have higher rates of households without vehicles.
- Essential services are available within both states. Existing transportation options (walking, biking, transit) provide adequate access to these services without needing to cross the river.
- Turnpike users (motorists) typically travel longer distances (>5 miles), indicating the bridge primarily serves regional, not local, trips.

## Additional Considerations

- Despite the lack of transportation demand for a shared use path, there are recognized recreational and mobility benefits from improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure within the project area.
- The project team plans to collaborate with regional partners (e.g., DVRPC and local agencies) to support:
  - Trail and bike/ped improvements near the bridge
  - The goal is to maintain North and South trail connections during construction
  - Safer crossings along major routes
  - Completion of local trail segments, especially in high-stress cycling corridors

# Potential Bike/Pedestrian Connections Near the Delaware River Bridge

