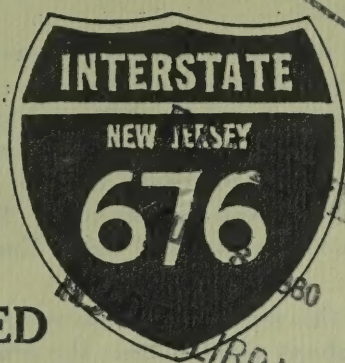


OPENING CEREMONY



DEPARTMENT OF
N.J. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

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I-676 - Dedication Ceremony

Today's ceremony marks the completion of the final section of I-676. Camden/Philadelphia bus commuters and motorists will now have a direct connection between the Walt Whitman (I-76) and the Benjamin Franklin Bridges. Using this roadway will also improve access to I-295 and U.S. Route 30.

This closing link completes a roadway that has been in various phases of planning and development for over 20 years. The section of I-676 from just east of the Walt Whitman Bridge in Gloucester northerly to Morgan Boulevard was completed and opened to traffic in 1957. Another section of I-676 from Atlantic Avenue north to the Benjamin Franklin Toll Plaza was completed in 1977.

The 1.6 mile section opened today will be beneficial in many aspects but especially in reducing local highway traffic. Air quality in Camden will be improved and an additional route will be available for local emergency services. The commuter bus lines (G, S, J, T, F) traveling Camden's Broadway will use I-676 as the route between downtown Camden and Philadelphia. These lines serve commuters in Camden, Gloucester and Salem Counties.

A unique feature of this section is the noise barrier. For the first time in New Jersey highway construction, the project planning considered noise control a factor to be incorporated into the concept of the highway. The barrier will effectively reduce the noise at neighboring homes. It is constructed of precast concrete sections, 8-12 feet in height and stained a brown earth tone. The barrier site facing the residential area will be suitably landscaped.

Local community interest and involvement during the planning stage helped the New Jersey Department of Transportation minimize relocation disruption. Local parkland was preserved. In conjunction with this roadway's construction, a small park consisting of two tennis courts and a small picnic area will today be turned over of the City of Camden.

The project was constructed at a cost of \$24,500,000 and funded with ninety percent federal funds and ten percent state funds.



PROGRAM

*Interstate 676
Opening Ceremony
Friday, August 8, 1980 10:30*

*Master of Ceremonies: Louis J. Gambaccini, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Transportation*

*Invocation: Reverend J. Allen Nimmo
10th Street Baptist Church
Camden, N.J.*

*Speakers: Brendan T. Byrne, Governor
State of New Jersey*

*Angelo J. Errichetti, Mayor
City of Camden*

Honored Guests

Walter Rand

N.J. Assemblyman

Ernest F. Schuck

N.J. Assemblyman

Daniel J. Dalton

N.J. Assemblyman

Dennis L. Riley

N.J. Assemblyman

Presentation of Park Conveyance Certificate

*Benediction: Monsignor William Baezela
St. Joseph's
Roman Catholic Church
Camden, N.J.*

Official Opening

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Brendan T. Byrne, Governor

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Louis J. Gambaccini, Commissioner

John R. Jamieson, Deputy Commissioner

Russell H. Mullen, Assistant Commissioner, Highways

Jack Freidenrich, Director of Engineering and Operations

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Neil Goldschmidt, Secretary

Federal Highway Administration

John S. Hassell, Jr., Federal Highway Administrator

John G. Besgen, Jr., Deputy Regional Administrator

John J. Kessler, Jr., Division Administrator

Paul J. Kliminski, District Engineer

DOT Secretarial Representative

Ms. Lois Cohen, U.S. Department of Transportation

CONTRACTOR

Rockland Construction Company
North Wales, Pennsylvania