

Community CONNECTION

SPRING 2010

Elevators on Twin Spans to be replaced

NEW CASTLE, DE — With the Phase III, northbound approach road work all but completed, the DRBA has turned its attention to the Delaware Memorial Bridge elevator replacement project.

This project will replace the antiquated and inadequate original elevators that are located within the bridge towers. The elevators are vital to future maintenance and rehabilitation work on the spans as they help move workers and materials to the top of the towers.

The eight new elevators, which will be double the size of the current ones, will be built on and attached to the outside of the towers; the old ones are located inside the towers and are so small that it is difficult for people and materials to fit inside them.

"Without the elevators, workers would not have the necessary access to the entire bridge tower, from the water level pier to bridge deck to the top of the tower, to perform inspections and make repairs," according to Joseph Volk, senior engineer for the DRBA. He noted the new system will be vital to support the upcoming first structure improvement program.

The DRBA plans on opening the main bridge cables, repainting both structures and replacing the roadway deck of the first structure.

This project is a diversity success story with a Women Business Enterprise firm, Cornell and Company, winning the



Boeing opens Chinook facility at Millville Airport, creating new jobs



CELEBRATING JOB CREATION — New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and a number of other elected officials, US Army representatives, and DRBA leaders gathered at Boeing's new facility at Millville Airport to celebrate the opening of the new facility and the creation of several dozen new jobs. A Chinook helicopter sits in the background.



MILLVILLE, NJ — New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Congressman Frank Lo Biondo, NJ Senate President Stephen Sweeney and other state and local elected officials joined with Boeing executives, US Army representatives and DRBA officials to celebrate the opening of Boeing's new Chinook Helicopter Modification Facility at the Millville Airport on April 7.

The new Boeing facility is expected to add 45 manufacturing jobs in 2010 and has the potential to create as many as 100 total new jobs for the region during the course of the four-year contract.

In February, Boeing Global Services and Support signed a lease for two aviation hangars at the airport in which to perform modifications on Chinook helicopters for its client, the US Army. The

modern, state-of-the-art hangar facilities, now referred to as the Boeing Chinook Modification Center, contain approximately 80,000 square feet of usable space. The initial contract term is for four years with two additional option periods of two years each.

The Chinook helicopters will receive about 10 upgrades at the Millville facility, among which is a defensive system used to hide the helicopters' infrared signatures so they can avoid infrared-targeting systems used with rocket-propelled grenades and other anti-aircraft weapons.

Millville Airport is centrally located between Ridley Park, PA, where the helicopters are manufactured and Baltimore, MD, from where the modified Chinooks will be shipped to Iraq and Afghanistan.

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MV Cape Henlopen returns to home port after being in dry-dock for upgrades



CAPE MAY, NJ — The Cape May-Lewes Ferry welcomed home the MV Cape Henlopen following a three-month dry-docking in Staten Island, New York. The Henlopen is the last of the CMLF fleet to be totally refurbished. The final cost of the work was approximately \$1.7 million, about \$600,000 less than the contract award price.

Under the direction of Jim Gillespie, CMLF Port Engineer, the vessel had work completed that included:

- Installing a new air conditioning

system. The vessel had been without air-conditioning previously.

- Mounting an energy-efficient ceiling in the main salon.
- Installing compact fluorescent light fixtures to enhance overhead lighting for passengers.

The vessel also underwent a rigorous and extensive internal inspection by the US Coast Guard and the American Bureau of Shipping, a process that must occur every five years. The Henlopen passed all inspections and examinations and was issued a 6-year Class Certificate

The vessel is now back in service.

Welcome Aboard!

DRBA names new port captain and new marketing manager



CAPE MAY, NJ — Cape May-Lewes Ferry officials have announced the promotion of Bryan C. Helm of Ocean

City, NJ, to Port Captain (at right) and Michael J. Porch (at left) of Wildwood, NJ, has been named Marketing Manager for the CMLF operation. Both men began their official duties in their new roles in April.

The Port Captain is responsible for ensuring that the DRBA vessels, including the CMLF fleet and the Three Forts Ferry service, are crewed, operated and maintained in accordance with regulatory requirements, DRBA standards, and customer expectations.

Captain Helm is a 1988 graduate of the US Merchant Marine Academy with a B.S. degree. He began his employment at the CMLF in 1988 as a temporary able bodied seaman.



Mr. Porch is responsible for increasing public awareness and usage of the ferry through comprehensive marketing, advertising and public relations. Prior to joining the CMLF, Mr. Porch was executive director of Main Street Wild-

wood, a position he held for 10 years. In addition, he has more than 10 years experience in managing retail operations. He is a graduate with a B. A. degree from The College of William and Mary.

Verizon Wireless acquires 11.7 acres at Salem Business Centre



NEW BUSINESS AT SBC — Verizon Wireless plans to build a 40,000-square-foot building on its recently acquired land at the Salem Business Centre shown above.



CARNEY'S POINT, NJ — The DRBA and Verizon Wireless recently completed negotiations and settlement on an 11.7-acre parcel of land at the Salem Business Centre (SBC) where Verizon plans to construct a 40,000-square-foot building which will house a new network switching facility.

According to Frank W. Minor, DRBA Deputy Executive Director, the Authority is an economic development catalyst that laid the foundation for the Business Centre to be an engine for future growth. "The Authority invested its resources in the project to spur development and its

associated job growth for area residents," Minor said. "The timing and conditions are right for the private sector to help further the Authority's initiative. We're pleased that Verizon Wireless sees the same potential that we do."

The Verizon facility is planned to enhance the company's ability to stay ahead of the substantial increases in voice and mobile broadband usage expected by existing and potential new customers, according to Ed Chan, a Verizon Wireless executive.

Verizon joins Atlantic City Electric, North American Energy Services and Clement Pappas, Inc. at the SBC.

Improvement program approved



NEW CASTLE, DE — The DRBA Commission has approved a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) of approximately \$248 mil-

lion for the Authority's crossing facilities. The entire plan is available on the Authority's website, www.drba.net.

These capital investments are essential to properly maintain and improve the agency's aging infrastructure.

The Twin Spans and the Cape May-Lewes Ferry are both located in harsh marine environments and were built in the 1950s and 1960s — a combination of age and location that requires constant maintenance and rehabilitation. James N. Hogan, Chairman of the DRBA, noted "We have a fiduciary responsibility to keep them in good condition and the implementation of the 5-Year CIP will assure that the public continues to enjoy quality transportation services safely and efficiently."

The 2010 CIP for the Bridge and the CMLF is approximately \$33 million and includes the following:

- Phase IV, Delaware Approach Widening, I-295 southbound
- Steelwork Full Overcoat Rehabilitation System, 2nd Structure
- Miscellaneous Steelwork/Elevator Replacement/Security Improvements
- Traffic Management System
- 1st Structure Improvements
- Rehabilitation of Approach Roads, Cape May, and
- Fendering Improvements.

Freeman Highway Bridge rehabilitation project under way



LEWES, DE — Rehabilitation of the Freeman Highway Bridge is under way and will continue through the summer. The project work is being carried out by Mumford & Miller of Middletown, Delaware, at a cost of about \$1.8 million.

The Authority is working to keep traveling inconvenience to a minimum during the various phases of work. Uniformed police officers will be on the scene to regulate traffic, if necessary. The project

is scheduled to be completed by the end of September this year.

The span was originally constructed about 45 years ago and was last painted in 1978. The work under way includes cleaning, repainting and rehabilitation. Bridge parapets will be replaced and upgraded to current standards. Freeman Highway guiderails also will be replaced during the bridge rehabilitation project.

The project is part of the DRBA's Capital Improvement Program for 2010.



DRBA
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DRBA launches new, improved website

Contains new features, is user friendly



NEW CASTLE, DE — The DRBA officially launched the bi-state agency's new website in March at www.drba.net. The newly-improved site reflects an innovative design, an enhanced search engine, additional information and archived reports, and user-friendly navigation.

The redesign allows visitors to surf the site more quickly and easily and it also provides a greater amount of resources and information about the DRBA, its current projects and the agency's commitment to the community than before.

For instance, in the "Working with the DRBA" section, a key component of the new website, visitors can find details on current solicitations, supplier diversity information, consultant registration, construction supplier registration and procurement policy. In the future, this section will also feature new tracking abilities to improve efficiencies and better manage the various components of the procurement process. The site also incorporates RSS (Real Simple Syndication) feeds.

Diversity is priority for DRBA



NEW CASTLE, DE — Using a diverse pool of suppliers saves money and promotes small businesses. That was the message DRBA employees heard during a training session, led by regional consultants Goeins-Williams Associates.

One of only two recipients of the 2008 Federal Aviation Administration's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Advocate and Partner Award, the DRBA has made supplier diversity a priority. Budget planning for 2010, for example, set goals for spending with disadvantaged, minority and women-owned enterprises.

Nearly 20 percent of the 23 million small business in the U.S. are owned by minorities, according to census data, but receive only 1 percent of corporate procurement.

The DRBA's goal for this training was to raise awareness among front-line employees on the importance of diversity.