

Crossing Into a New Future



"STATE OF THE BRIDGE" REPORT 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Burlington County Bridge Commission is to provide Burlington County's residents, commuters, and visitors with safe, accessible, and affordable bridges, roads, and facilities. We are dedicated to serving our customers courteously, and to helping Burlington County prosper by saving taxpayers money through innovative financing programs and by fostering and assisting our neighbors in their economic development and community revitalization projects to ease the burden on local property taxpayers.



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*NOTE: In an effort to be environmentally and fiscally responsible,
we chose to post this report to the Commission's website only.
No copies were printed.*



LETTER FROM BURLINGTON COUNTY FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR **JOSEPH B. DONNELLY:**

If you live in Burlington County, especially along the riverfront, you already know that the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges help connect us with our Philadelphia neighbors and all the city has to offer, as well offer safe and efficient travel for the motoring public.

What you may not know is that Burlington County Bridge Commission, which operates both bridges and was created under the authority of the County Freeholders, also serves as the County's improvement authority and economic development arm.

The Bridge Commission participates in Shared Service initiatives that have provided more than \$30 million in property tax relief—\$15.9 million dollars from pooled financing savings and \$14.8 million dollars in grant monies—for local towns and property taxpayers.

In fact, the Commission's collaboration with County government serves as a model for how the two can work together and accomplish great things.

As you'll read in this report, the Commission's unwavering commitment to bridge maintenance and implementation of smart technology on its historic bridges have made those structures safe and helped it remain the "best bargain around." Just as the Freeholders have held the line on property taxes—recently being recognized by the non-partisan Pew Research Center for having the lowest taxes in the region—the Bridge Commission has held the line on tolls to ease the burden on working families in these difficult economic times.

We look forward to continuing to work together to provide safe, secure, and affordable bridges and to pursue shared services and other tax-saving initiatives to benefit Burlington County towns and property taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Joseph B. Donnelly
Freeholder Director
Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders



LETTER FROM BURLINGTON COUNTY BRIDGE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JOHN B. COMEGNO II:

We are fully aware of the significant responsibility we have to those who travel our bridges and to the taxpayers of Burlington County. Again this past year, the Commission has operated with that responsibility in mind.

Our focus has been and remains safe and efficient travel. And I'm proud to lead an agency in which that focus is a unified focus, a nonpartisan focus.

By maximizing our resources, remaining mindful of our expenditures, and making tough choices, we accomplished much this past year. We incorporated additional smart technology on our bridges. We rolled out new programs and initiatives to help municipalities and businesses in Burlington County. We stayed the course with established programs that save our taxpayers money. And we held the line on tolls, offering savings to our motoring public for the thirteenth consecutive year.

Our historically significant bridges have become teaching tools for the future of our country, inspiring young engineers and piquing the curiosity of children who may explore the world of engineering.

Programs at Palmyra Cove Nature Park, our outdoor science lab and natural treasure, continue to grow and expand in ways that could never have been conceived when it opened ten years ago.

Through the economic development responsibilities and improvement authority powers granted to the Commission, we continue to collaborate with the Burlington County Freeholders on programs and shared service initiatives that are saving Burlington County taxpayers millions of dollars annually.

We welcome you to revisit this past year at the Burlington County Bridge Commission through this report. And, as always, we invite your comments and feedback. You can reach me at chairman@bcbridges.org.

Sincerely,

John B. Comegno II
Chairman, Burlington County Bridge Commission

BRIDGES AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

An aggressive capital program ensures that the Commission’s historically significant bridges remain safe for the motoring public, a testament to the Commission’s unwavering commitment to safety.

Every other year, in-depth bridge inspections are performed on all Commission bridges and facilities. 2012 was the year that all structures—Tacony-Palmyra Bridge, Burlington-Bristol Bridge, Riverside-Delanco Bridge, and five minor bridges located on County Route 543—underwent those biennial inspections.

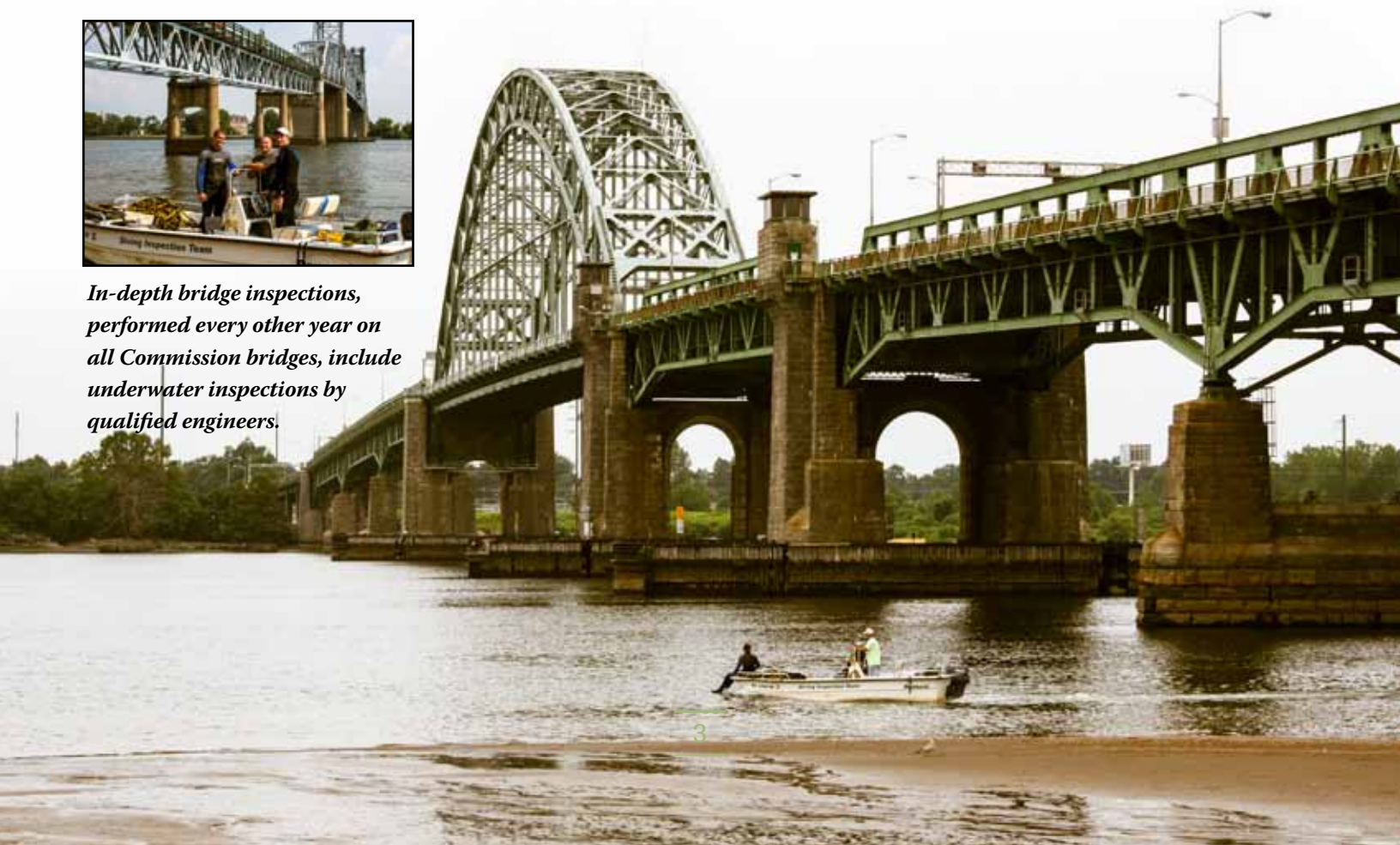
In August, work began on the 77-year-old Riverside-Delanco Bridge to not only replace the swing span’s concrete bridge deck, but also to equip the movable structure with “Smart Technology.” Sensors in the new concrete deck will monitor bridge conditions, enable proactive maintenance, and ultimately extend the life of the bridge. Commission engineers will be able to monitor the characteristics of the reinforced steel that is embedded inside the concrete deck and monitor the moisture level and salt content, which are two main causes of steel corrosion in bridge decks.

The Commission’s own maintenance staff is involved in most of the routine and unique projects to maintain and improve all eight of the Commissions’ bridges, usually working in tandem with outside contractors hired for their specialized expertise and experience.

One example of the maintenance staff’s contribution to major bridge projects was the preparatory work on the Riverside-Delanco Bridge. In-house staff handled the preparation for the replacement of that structure’s resistor bank,



In-depth bridge inspections, performed every other year on all Commission bridges, include underwater inspections by qualified engineers.





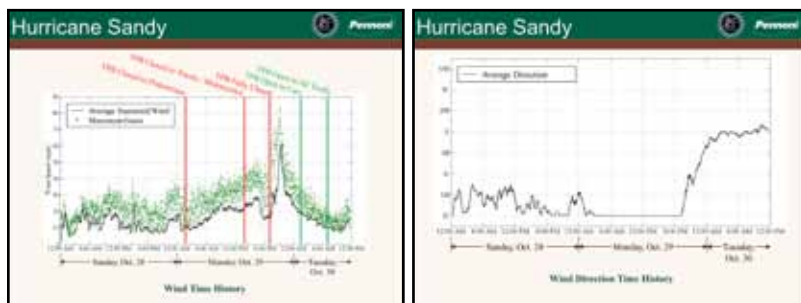
The Commission's in-house maintenance staff plays a significant role in major bridge projects, including preparatory work seen here on the Riverside-Delanco Bridge. Here they prepared the swing-span structure for replacement of the resistor bank, which controls the speed at which the bridge opens to marine traffic.



which limits the speed with which that particular bridge opens to allow passage for marine traffic. A swing span, the Riverside-Delanco pivots horizontally, opening as would a gate; the resistor bank controls the speed at which the movable bridge section pivots.

Bridges Survive Superstorm Sandy

Smart technology already installed on the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges proved its worth during Superstorm Sandy that hit the region in October. Thanks to sensors installed on the Commission's bridges, real-time data



Data from smart technology sensors on the Commission's bridges confirmed that there was less stress on the structures from hurricane force winds than from the daily sunrise.

provided critical information for Commission engineers and staff, to determine that the structures were safe for travel and when to close and reopen the structures to vehicular traffic. Engineers indicated that it was because of that data that they were confident determining the timing of intermittent closures and, ultimately, when bridges were safe for travel.

“Our people were ready for anything,” Chairman John Comegno said, “but being armed with real-time data that gave us a clear idea of what was happening in such extreme conditions made for truly informed decisions that ultimately provided a safe environment for our customers.”

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Inspections made after the storm showed no effect to the bridge structures, which confirms data showing more stress to the bridge from the sun coming up than from the hurricane force winds. “Not only were we prepared for this storm, we also had the right information at the right time,” Comegno said. “Our engineers tell us that the real-time monitoring of our bridges sets us apart from other agencies. All I know is it gave us sight in a blinding storm. And with that vision, we were able to provide safe and efficient travel for those who use our bridges.”

Commissioners credited its Police, Maintenance, and Tolls Departments, as well as the engineers from Pennoni for their commitment and expertise in keeping the public's safety first and foremost.

In 2012, the Commission also received international recognition from a worldwide transportation association for its response to another natural disaster, the 5.8 magnitude earthquake that unexpectedly hit the East Coast in August 2011. The International Bridge, Tunnel, and Turnpike Association (IBTTA), a worldwide association of 250 members in 23 countries, awarded a Certificate of Merit for its 2012 Toll Excellence Award to the Bridge Commission. For the Commission's entry entitled "Smart Technology Response to a Natural Disaster," the IBTTA's Awards Committee was "very impressed" with the Commission's "outstanding accomplishment."



Bridge Projects

This year, the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge bascule span deck replacement was completed, upgrading the current deck from the 1960s with a concrete deck embedded with smart technology sensors. The project, which was the Commission's largest construction project since 1995, included miscellaneous structural repairs and created 30 jobs for the nine-month long project.

All eight piers that support the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge were further buttressed this year. The project included repointing of piers which involved replacing the masonry in between the stones that comprise the piers.

Smart technology on the Burlington-Bristol Bridge was expanded this year, with the installation of electronic load cells capable of monitoring bridge loads. Specifically, expansion bearings on the tower and lift spans were replaced with bearings fitted with load cells (smart technology).

And a project started last year was completed. The operating ropes—all sixteen steel wire rope cables that enable the bridge to raise for ships to pass—were replaced, along with all the components of the operating rope system. The six-month long project created about fifteen jobs.

The Tacony-Palmyra Bridge's bascule span deck was replaced this year; the project was the Commission's largest construction project since 1995.

Infrastructure Improvements

The largest infrastructure project this year was a security and communications upgrade. While this is discussed in more detail under “Safety and Security,” the project basically provided a sophisticated security system of cameras, access systems, and fire and burglar alarms.

And Keim Boulevard in Burlington got much-needed attention; the asphalt surface was replaced and joint repairs were made.

Toll booth safety enhancement projects were completed on both the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges. This involved improvements to existing toll booth protection systems to include state-of-the-art crash guards, which offer the latest technology for shielding hazards, as well as jersey barriers, pavement markings, and illuminated signs.

Worthy of mention is the work of the Commission’s own maintenance staff on those illuminated toll plaza signs, which saved the Commission an estimated \$50,000 to \$75,000.

That work, on seven signs at the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge and four signs at the Burlington-Bristol Bridge, included removal of the existing signs, pre-mounting new signs on steel supports, and then installing those signs in the toll lanes. In fact, 90% of the entire project was handled by in-house staff, which resulted in substantial savings to the Commission and tollpayers.

All eight piers that support the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge were repointed this year, all part of the Commission’s comprehensive capital and maintenance program.

State-of-the-art crash guards were just one element of the toll booth safety enhancements completed on both the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges this year.





SECURITY AND SAFETY:

Committed to keeping motorists and their passengers safe and secure as they travel all of our bridges, the Commission’s police department operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They perform motor vehicle stops, issue warnings and summonses, handle security details and traffic accidents, and control traffic flow during bridge openings.

The Commission’s bridges and infrastructure received extra protection this year, thanks in part to a FEMA Port Security Grant that provided \$1.4 million dollars for a comprehensive security and communications upgrade. The project included a sophisticated security system of cameras, access systems, and fire and burglar alarms, as well as some upgrades to the electrical infrastructure.

To ensure operation with the upgraded security systems, the Commission also made improvements to the Police Dispatch, Police Command and Control Center, and the Commission’s Information Technology system.

The Commission also values providing continual training and education for its officers as well. This year officers attended advanced training in Homeland Security and Emergency Management courses. And the department now has the necessary equipment and officers who can train and certify others in CPR, a shared service that will soon be offered to police departments in the County.

Innovative New Service to Bridge Travelers

In 2012, the Commission launched a new community information service, using the well-known Nixle system, that texts or emails customers of the Tacony-Palmyra and Burlington-Bristol Bridges about bridge openings & traffic issues that might affect their commute. There was considerable interest in the new service—motorists began signing up May 9th and by June 26th there were more than 3,300 devices receiving the Commission’s alerts via Nixle. By year’s end there were more than 5,000 signed up.



Crisis Negotiations Prove Life-Saving

When Bridge Commission Police were alerted by a 911 call that a person was on the Burlington-Bristol Bridge mid-span on the outside of the rails, Officer David George responded within one minute. Officer George found the man below the travelled portion of the roadway and began a conversation. The man planned to jump in order to take his own life. Officer George began crisis negotiations with the 50 year old male, deescalated the precarious situation and ultimately saved the man from taking his life.

Chairman Comegno, Vice-Chairman Fattorini, and Commissioner Singleton all publicly commended Officer George for his quick response, expert negotiations, heroic actions and outstanding police work.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

Over the Labor Day weekend, Commission Police enforced the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign which was funded by a state grant program. The campaign included conducting sobriety checkpoints and roving patrols in an effort to detect motorists who may be driving while intoxicated. A concentrated national effort, the campaign helps to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving through high-visibility enforcement and public education tools, including posters, banners and mobile video display signs. Commission police made four DWI arrests, 21 fugitive arrests, and two drug arrests; they also ticketed 55 motorists for speeding, 29 for suspended licenses, and more than 100 for other motor vehicle violations.

HIGH-TECH TOLLING:



Motorists can pay cash or use E-Z Pass at either of the Commission's toll bridges, which provide passage over the Delaware for much less than other area bridges spanning that river. At \$2, the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge and Burlington-Bristol Bridge remain the "best bargain around."

In 2012, 10,366,456 vehicles crossed the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge and 4,310,644 vehicles crossed the Burlington-Bristol Bridge. That's up 3.9 percent from last year.

With its state-of-the-art E-Z Pass system, the Commission boasts not only satisfied customers, but almost no violations for non-payment.

That's partly thanks to the only toll system in the region that practically guarantees payment because toll gates only lift if payment is received. All motorists pay, so there are fewer scofflaws and toll cheats. And less money expended by the agency to catch them.

As a result, there were fewer than .01 percent violations in 2012. That's one out of 6,300 vehicles, on average, a figure that sets the Commission apart from similar agencies.



Aside from \$2 tolls to cross the Delaware River, the Commission's bridges also boast fewer scofflaws and toll cheats than area spans. No wonder traffic was up 3.9 percent from the previous year.

FISCAL OVERSIGHT:

The Commission continues to operate as a model financial operation, thanks to the appropriate controls, procedures, and checks and balances in place.

Evidence of that is found in the Commission's financial audit for the previous fiscal year. While it reported no "Findings or Recommendations," auditors also complimented the Commission for the manner in which records were organized and maintained. While Chief Financial Officer Christine Nociti credited the continued improvement of the reporting system, the quality of internal control, and the upgrade of the computer system, she also attributed team effort and the high quality work of management and staff as contributing factors critical to the successful audit.

No Toll Increase

When the Commission introduced its fiscal year 2013 budget in June, Chairman Comegno was proud to announce that the budget reflected no toll increase for the twelfth consecutive year.

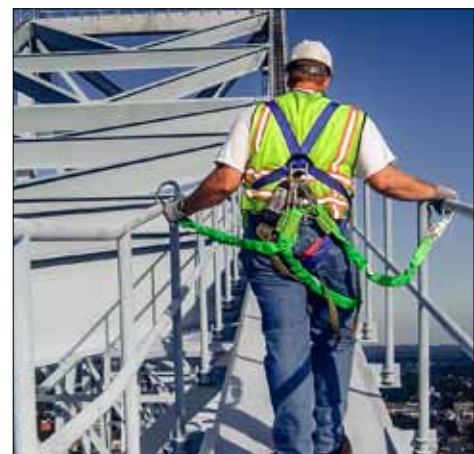
He credited the finance staff and all department heads who worked together to present a zero-increase budget. Vice-Chairman Fattorini was proud to introduce a budget that provides state-of-the-art improvements to the Commission's bridges and substantial assistance to County taxpayers, yet holds the line on tolls. Commissioner Singleton congratulated the team effort and acknowledged the benefit to the County and taxpayers while still creating jobs through the aggressive capital programs.

The Commission's budget was approved by the State of NJ in September, after which it was formally adopted by Commissioners at the September 2012 Commission meeting.

Good Neighbor

Sharing the County's commitment to lightening the burden on residents and taxpayers during difficult financial times, the Commission offered the County continued assistance with regard to the operation and maintenance of County bridges and roadways that feed traffic to Commission bridges.

For this reason, the Commission appropriated three million dollars to assist the County with an extensive list of repair and maintenance items that includes bridge and culvert repair, guiderail repair and replacement, and road surface repair, among other items.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY:

Because of economic development and improvement authority powers granted to the Commission in 2002, Burlington County public entities have benefitted—through innovative pooled financing options and assistance with economic development, redevelopment, and community revitalization projects.

To date, those financing options alone have saved taxpayers of Burlington County more than \$15.9 million dollars.

This is in addition to the \$14.8 million dollars the Commission has obtained for Burlington County municipalities by providing grantwriting services that have yielded 159 grants for 47 towns, schools, and other agencies. The Commission has been providing this service to towns free of charge since 2006, with an impressive return on investment: for every one dollar the Commission invests, \$17 are received for Burlington County taxpayers.



Congressman Jon Runyan addressed participants at Burlington County's first-ever Economic Summit in September, providing an overview of the economic impact that the Joint Base has on the region.

Economic Development & Regional Planning

Although moving offices of the Economic Development and Regional Planning department (EDRP) from Mount Holly to Mount Laurel provided much needed space, the move had another unexpected benefit. The close proximity of the new economic development office to the County Engineer's office also allowed for greater collaboration for countywide planning efforts.

The planning services provided by EDRP are a significant benefit to many Burlington County towns. Many municipalities often lack the in-house expertise and staff, or the funds to hire outside consultants to prepare planning documents, which are critical to their growth, development, and preservation. EDRP provides services for preparing zoning ordinances, master plans, redevelopment studies and plans, and other planning documents at no cost to the municipalities/taxpayers.

In some cases, EDRP is the sole provider of the planning service, such as it was for Eastampton. There, EDRP prepared the amendments to the town's redevelopment plan. In other instances, EDRP collaborates on a project with a municipality's planner, thus adding value by providing professional planning services without increasing costs. Like in Mansfield Township, where EDRP participated in the development of a transfer development rights program with the township's planner, all at no cost to the property taxpayers of Mansfield Township.



Among the projects completed in 2012—all at absolutely no cost to municipalities and property taxpayers—are:

- **Bordentown City:** historic preservation plan element of master plan and redevelopment study
- **Bordentown Township:** draft redevelopment plan
- **Cinnaminson Township:** medical office location study
- **Eastampton Township:** two redevelopment plans and redevelopment of planned “town center” in collaboration with municipal Economic Development Committee
- **Edgewater Park Township:** redevelopment study
- **Florence:** redevelopment of Roebling Superfund Site in collaboration with municipal governing body
- **Joint Base:** participation in development of wastewater management plan scope of work and memorandum of agreement
- **Mansfield Township:** transfer of development rights analysis
- **Maple Shade Township:** land use analysis, two redevelopment studies, two redevelopment plans
- **North Hanover Township:** transfer of development rights analysis
- **River Route:** decennial census analysis

One major shared service initiative of the EDRP moved this year from the planning to implementation phase—the Northern Burlington County Growth and Preservation Plan (GAPP). The GAPP resulted from the Freeholders’ recognition of the need to balance growth and preservation in the County and the need to work with municipalities to develop a plan to accomplish this balance. This past year, an advisory committee and four subcommittees formed to ultimately provide recommendations regarding plan implementation.

To provide a more accurate measure of the value of services provided to Burlington County towns, the EDRP staff implemented a new tracking system for the time its staff spends on projects like those listed above. Specifically, the system accounts for the number of hours that the Regional Planning Coordinator and two GIS Specialists spend on planning services for municipalities.

Since recording hours at the beginning of April 2012, the department saved Burlington County municipalities and the County approximately \$274,800, the “market” value of planning services provided. As indicated, this figure reflects the department’s planning initiatives only; adding the value of economic development initiatives on the part of the department Director would result in even more savings to Burlington County taxpayers.

One study completed by the EDRP department received peer recognition this year. The “Joint Land Use Study” of the Joint Base (McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst) received PlanSmart NJ’s Regional and Community Planning Achievement Award, a prestigious regional and community planning achievement award for joint land use study.

Completed in April 2009, the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) was a collaborative project with Ocean County, a co-recipient of the award. Another successful shared services initiative, the Joint Land Use Study empowers members of the local community to work with their neighboring military base so that together they can make decisions about how land will be used.

Technology Enhances Ability to Grow Business in Burlington County

The EDRP launched a new web presence this year, as part of the Commission's existing website, but offering a feature never before seen in the county.

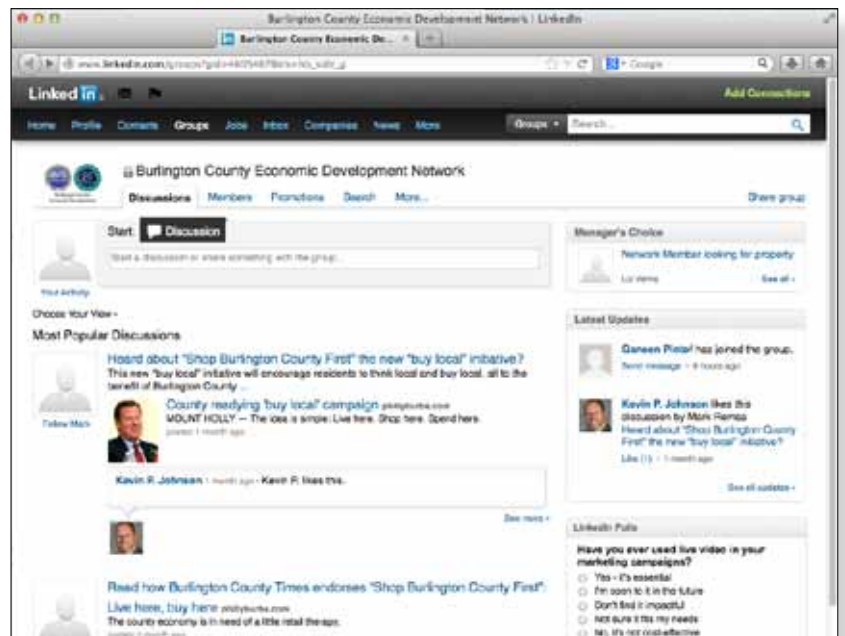
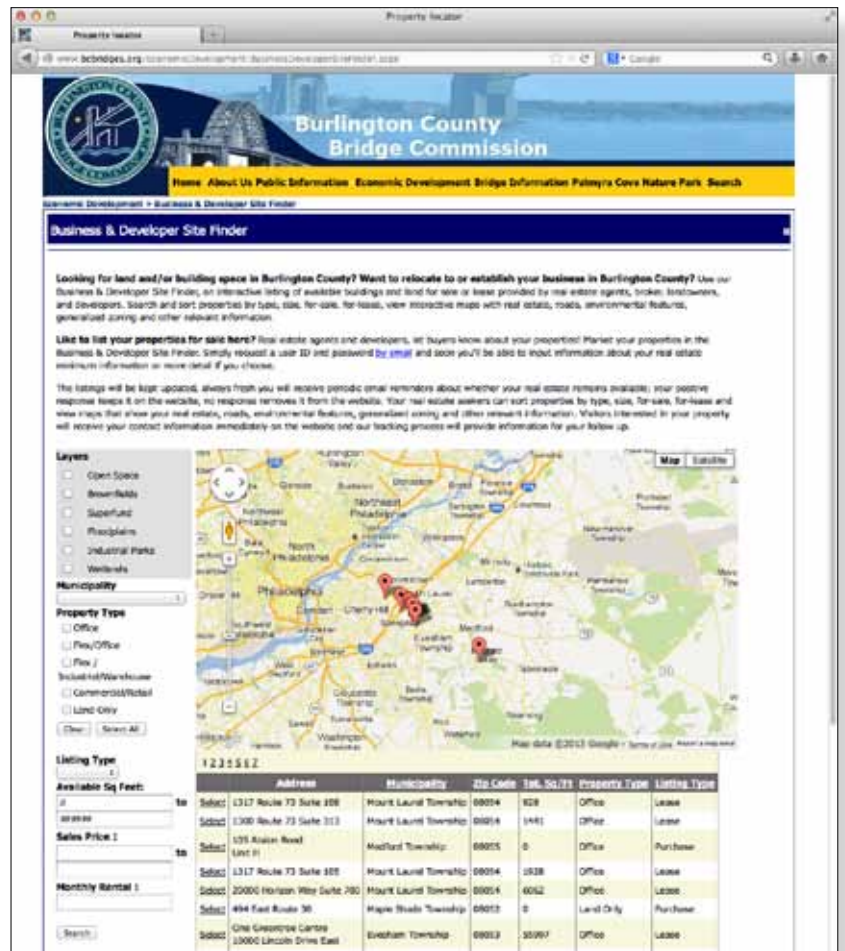
In addition to providing demographics, resources, and key links for visitors wishing to relocate to or expand in Burlington County, the EDRP now offers an interactive internet tool to help businesses find just what they need.

The "Business and Developer Site Finder" allows real estate agents, brokers and property owners to enter information about their properties and enables users to search properties by type, size and price range. All at no cost. There are no fees for those wishing to post available property on the site. As of year's end, about 100 registered users had posted approximately 80 properties in 17 different towns in Burlington County.

"There is no question that this is a unique website with advanced features," said Chairman Comegno. "It is a one-of-a-kind clearinghouse, intended to match available lands and buildings with the businesses and developers who are looking for them. As the County's agent and partner in economic development, the commission is proud to bring this initiative to the table," Comegno continued.

This year, the EDRP also made a foray into the world of social networking. In late 2012, the "Burlington County Economic Development Network" came to the popular business-oriented professional networking site, LinkedIn.

Another collaborative effort with the Freeholders, the "Burlington County Economic Development Network" established a professional networking outlet for Burlington County businesses, organizations, and individuals. Members can share critical information and ideas and make important connections. Ultimately, the network will serve as a virtual meeting place for businesses and professionals in Burlington County. By the end of the year, 60 members had joined the network.





First-Ever Economic Summit Held

In September, the Freeholders and Bridge Commission co-sponsored the Burlington County Economic Development Summit, with the theme, “Growing Business Grows Jobs.” More than 75 attendees participated in the Summit, which was chaired by Burlington County Freeholder Director Bruce Garganio and introduced the new initiative “Economic Gardening.”

The Summit touched on topics like low-cost business loan programs, tax credits and financial incentives for hiring new workers, and the collection of helpful business databases available at the County Library in Mount Holly. Speakers included Robert Prunetti, President and CEO of the Mercer County-based MIDJersey Chamber of Commerce, and Congressman Jon Runyan (R-3rd), who provided an overview of the economic impact that the Joint Base has on the region.

Making Burlington County Our Business

One goal of the EDRP is to make Burlington County home to as many businesses and quality jobs as possible. In addition to attracting new businesses, the EDRP also works with companies already in Burlington County, making sure they stay in the County and assisting with their goals to expand.

But the EDRP is also a strong advocate for businesses in Burlington County, helping businesses navigate local, state, and federal approval processes, apply for state financial incentive programs, and participate in discussions and negotiations between businesses and local governments regarding land use and development matters.

In 2012, the EDRP pursued fourteen companies that inquired about relocating or starting their businesses in Burlington County. While three of those business attraction inquiries were in Florence, there were two each in Burlington Township, Mansfield, and Mount Holly, and one inquiry each in Burlington City, Cinnaminson, Delanco, New Hanover, and Willingboro.

As for business retention and/or expansion, the EDRP pursued three inquiries, one in each of the three towns of Burlington City, Moorestown, and Westampton. In the area of business advocacy, the EDRP assisted Eastampton and Mansfield with two projects each and assisted each of the following towns with a business/project: Burlington Township, Edgewater Park, Florence, Hainesport, and Westampton.

Strengthening the Job Force

Burlington County's Workforce Investment Board is a partnership of local education, government, and business leaders working together to serve job seekers and employers in the County. They ensure the workforce readiness of today's and tomorrow's employees.

As a participating member of WIB, the EDRP most recently contributed to the development of an employer survey for use in improving and refining job training and employer services provided by the WIB. The survey revealed the types of skills that employers need future employees to possess and what skills are currently lacking in the workforce.

Shared Services

Shared services bring property tax relief. That's why the Commission remains committed to working collaboratively with the Freeholders on shared service initiatives that ultimately save municipalities thousands, if not millions, of dollars. 2012 was no exception.

Early in the year, when it became clear that Burlco towns stood to lose \$14.7 million dollars in affordable housing trust fund dollars unless they committed those funds, the Commission and Freeholders sprang into action.

They offered a free service to municipalities to help them make sense of the maze of Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) rules and ultimately determine if they have trust fund dollars at risk.

Specifically, the shared service initiative provided a free review and update of towns' existing spending plans, the creation of a new spending plan, and help identifying appropriate cost-effective ways to commit their trust funds dollars. Community Grants, Planning & Housing provided the service, which was sponsored by the Commission and offered free to Burlco municipalities.

In March, the Commission agreed to assist Palmyra Borough with the four-month long revitalization project of its Market Street corridor, which will save the borough approximately \$270,000.00.



Market Street in Palmyra, which feeds traffic to the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge, is getting a makeover with help from the Commission, which will repave the three-quarter mile stretch, saving the borough about \$270,000.



The Commission agreed to repave the three-quarter mile stretch of Market Street, which feeds traffic to the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge. The Borough will do the remainder of the work, which includes replacement of the sidewalk, installation of 38 handicap ramps, addition of “period” lighting and the rehabilitation of Ethel Hardy Playground.

At the Commission’s March meeting, Palmyra Borough Mayor Karen Scheffler and Administrator John Gural thanked the Commission for its valuable assistance, indicating that the Borough would not have been able to proceed with the revitalization without the Bridge Commission’s generous contribution to this project.



In 2012 alone, more than \$2.6 million dollars have been received by 49 entities in Burlington County. And all with an impressive return on investment—for every one dollar the Commission invests, \$17 are received for Burlington County taxpayers.



In addition to helping towns like Palmyra, the Commission also assists the County with shared services initiatives. One such initiative took advantage of the Commission’s main area of expertise, the maintenance of bridges; the Commission helped the County complete three emergent maintenance projects identified by the County Engineer for three bridges in Burlington County.

Work included emergency repair scour damage at abutments on the Croshaw Road Bridge CR 666, emergency road repair required by damage sustained during Hurricane Irene to the Bayberry Bridge CR 667, and installation of stringers and decking in connection with certain necessary repair work on the Smithville Park pedestrian bridge.



In August, the Commission offered a shared service that could save Burlington County towns anywhere from \$150 to \$700 per police vehicle. That's the estimated cost to apply professional striping, lettering and graphics to towns' police emergency vehicles. Work is done at the Commission's maintenance department by the same fully trained maintenance personnel who currently stripe and letter all Commission vehicles.

Perhaps the Commission's most successful shared service is the grantwriting services offered free of charge to all Burlington County towns that have garnered \$14.8 million dollars for those towns to ease the local property tax burden.

Thanks to the Commission-sponsored work of Community Grants, Planning, and Housing since 2006, 159 grants have been received for 47 towns, schools, and other agencies.

In 2012 alone, more than \$2.6 million dollars have been received by 49 entities in Burlington County. And all with an impressive return on investment—for every one dollar the Commission invests, \$17 are received for Burlington County taxpayers.

Forty-nine Burlington County towns and schools received nearly \$2.5 million dollars in grants for energy audits and energy-saving and cost-saving improvements for municipal and school buildings.

This shared service provided the upfront payment for the energy audit that many municipalities and schools were unable to afford and helped entities navigate what can be an overwhelming application process for subsidies and grants from state and federal programs.

The total \$2,475,695 in grant funds came from two programs: the NJBPU's direct install subsidy provided \$1.34 million to 35 towns and schools and the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) brought \$484,000 to 34 entities.

Another \$178,000 was received by Burlington City, Mansfield Township, Mt. Laurel Township, and Palmyra Borough from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's (DVR-PC) Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI).

TCDI grants provide support for local development and re-development efforts, and provide funding for municipalities to implement their local planning objectives: Burlington City \$64,000 for a zoning update, Mansfield Township \$50,000 to update township's Master Plan, Mt. Laurel \$32,000 to develop a new bikeway plan, and Palmyra Borough \$32,000 to explore traffic calming measures to address heavy and fast-moving traffic along Broad Street.



The 49 towns and/or Boards of Education that participated in the “Greenbacks to Go Green” program include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bordentown City | Moorestown |
| Bordentown Twp | Moorestown BOE |
| Bordentown BOE | Mt. Holly |
| Burlington City | Mt. Holly BOE |
| Burlington Twp | Mt. Laurel |
| Burlington Twp BOE | New Hanover |
| Cinnaminson Twp | North Hanover |
| Delanco | Palmyra Borough |
| Delran | Pemberton Borough |
| Delran BOE | Pemberton Twp |
| Edgewater Park | Rancocas Valley High School |
| Evesham | Riverside |
| Evesham Fire District | Riverton |
| Evesham BOE | Riverton BOE |
| Evesham MUA | Shamong |
| Fieldsboro | Southampton |
| Florence | Springfield Twp |
| Goodwill Fire Company (Browns Mills) | Tabernacle |
| Hainesport | Tabernacle BOE |
| Hainesport BOE | Washington Twp |
| Lenape Regional High School District | Washington Twp BOE |
| Mansfield BOE | Westampton |
| Medford Lakes | Willingboro |
| Medford Twp | Woodland Twp |
| | Wrightstown |

Tax-Saving Financing Programs

The Commission offers several business loan programs and partners with local financial institutions and state and local agencies to assist businesses interested in expanding or locating in Burlington County. All with the focus on job creation and retention.

The Commission, which acts as the County's Improvement Authority, also offers pooled lease purchase and governmental loan financings which are designed to achieve a lower cost of capital money through economies of scale, lower interest rates, and/or lower cost of issuance—with no shared liabilities. That means that public entities can get and do what they need—all with the benefit of property tax relief.

Since 2002, financings on behalf of 25 municipalities/fire districts of more than \$521 million have saved taxpayers more than \$15.9 Million.

Available programs include the Burlington County Small Business Loan Program, the Burlington County Route 130 Revolving Loan Fund Program, and the Pooled Lease Purchase and Governmental Loan Financings.

The Burlington County Small Business Loan Program provides low-interest loans for small businesses in the County. In 2012, eleven inquires were made to the EDRP about these loans and three small business loans (total amount of \$107,500) were finalized and five new jobs resulted.



Since 2002, financings on behalf of 25 municipalities/fire districts of more than \$521 million have saved taxpayers more than \$15.9 Million.

The Burlington County Route 130 Revolving Loan Fund Program provides zero-interest loans in the form of gap financing for businesses locating or expanding in the Route 130 corridor, a region in the county targeted for economic growth. Loans can be for acquiring real estate (land and/or buildings), for improvements or renovations to real property (land and/or buildings), or for working capital and fixed assets. As of year's end, there are two Route 130 Revolving Loan Fund Loans pending, in the total amount of \$1,025,000. Forty new jobs are anticipated to result.

The Commission also provides a comprehensive benefit, loan servicing for all its loan programs. This includes the ongoing intake and recording of loan payments and updating insurance and other documents to be provided by borrowers as well as the preparation and submission of periodic reports to the United States Economic Development Agency.

Pooled Lease Purchase and Governmental Loan Financings provide much-needed funds to municipalities, school districts, local authorities, and fire districts to use for road improvements, recreational facilities and equipment, computer equipment, office furniture, vehicles (trucks, fire trucks, school buses), buildings (new construction, rehabilitation), and property. These financings encompass the following: Governmental Pooled Lease Financing, Governmental Pooled Loan Financing, Stand-alone Governmental Lease Financing, Stand-alone Governmental Loan Financing, and Not-for-profit (501C3) Financings.

Since 2002, the Commission has issued more than \$521 million in bonds in these pooled financing programs to benefit local governments and nonprofits in Burlington County. By using the credit strength of the County, these initiatives have resulted in direct taxpayer savings of more than \$15.9 million dollars.

PALMYRA COVE NATURE PARK



Palmyra Cove Nature Park

In 2012, more than 6,000 visitors attended planned programs at Palmyra Cove Nature Park. Thousands more visited the Park as a recreational destination throughout the year.

Environmental Education and Park Programs

Environmental education programs include family activities, cleanups, day care groups, scouts, summer recreational groups, and Fall and Spring school field trips. More than 4,608 visitors attended those programs in 2012, more than any other year. And 3,766 of those visitors came for school field trips alone.

Available to any grade level, environmental education programs work in conjunction with the school's curriculum to design lessons that correspond to specific sites in the Park. PCNP staff work hard to make programs hands-on for children, standards-based, interdisciplinary, programmed for kindergarten through adult, and personalized for each individual group.

Another 352 visitors attended unique Palmyra Cove Nature Park programs for children and adults. Among the offerings are Cove Caterpillars, a program for preschool children ages 2 to 5 that explores a different nature-themed topic each

week. Nature, Craft, and Story Time is another weekly outing at which preschoolers and their parents listen to a nature-related story, enjoy a craft, play games and even venture outside in good weather.

Fifteen children attended weeklong summer camps for students going into grades 3 through 8 which featured seining, wetland exploration, interpretive hikes, scavenger hunts, and nature-related crafts. Nine children attended the weeklong Engineers of Tomorrow Camp, and seven attended a weeklong Photo Camp.



PCNP Naturalist Kristina Merola works with students during a recent field trip. This year, 3,766 students came to the nature park on school field trips.

Beginning Birding for Adults tracks the season's bird species who make the Park their home or a migratory stop.

Owl Prowls include an hour-long presentation inside the Environmental Discovery Center on the "Owls of Palmyra Cove," followed by an hour-long hike around the Park in search of just those owls. Family Hikes gather the whole family for an outdoor hike in the Park, usually around a seasonal theme.

An annual event, Bird Quest is a light-hearted competition at which teams identify as many different species of birds as possible. Participants discover unique birds that live in and migrate through the County and learn to identify those birds by sight, sound, behavior and habitat.

PCNP Adds "Institute for Earth Observations" to its Educational Offerings

As part of PCNP's expanding effort to bring high quality educational experiences to teachers and students in the region, PCNP introduced its Institute for Earth Observations. John Moore, PCNP's Director for Geoscience STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) Education, leads the Institute, which is intended as an ongoing educational endeavor to engage teachers and students in an innovative study of Planet Earth from both earthbound and space borne perspectives, using state-of-the-art technologies and educational resources.

Building on established Geoscience related field studies, observations, and measurements, the Institute for Earth Observations expands the study of our planet through the use of remote sensing and geospatial technologies and provides leadership for developing STEM applications in the classroom.

One of the offerings of the Institute for Earth Observations is the GeoSTEM Teacher Professional Development Series for teachers and administrators. Participants are eligible to receive continuing education credits.

Classes and workshops offered by John Moore, PCNP's Director for Geoscience/STEM Education, were attended by 215 teachers in 2012.

Professional development courses offered included two 12-week courses for science teachers, a two-day GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Teacher Training Workshop for six teachers from Pennsylvania, and a NASA-funded course, "Eyes in the Sky II" program.

In September, PCNP was the site for a taping of a segment of NJTV Network's "Classroom Close-Up" that aired at the end of the year. Moore facilitated multigenerational lessons with middle school students from Moorestown, high school students from Burlington County Institute of Technology, and college students from Drexel who gathered to tape the segment called "CubeSat" (CubeSat is a type of miniaturized satellite used to perform space science and exploration). The segment can be viewed at <http://www.njea.org/about/classroom-close-up> (click on "current show" or Show #8, and advance to the 8-minute mark).

Another highlight of 2012 was Weatherfest, a program held at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia that focused on weather, satellite cameras, and GLOBE programming. The event drew 120 teachers. Among the presenters were PCNP's John Moore; Kathy Orr, Channel 3's meteorologist; and Jin Kang, Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the US Naval Academy. The focus of the conference was on weather science and climate issues.

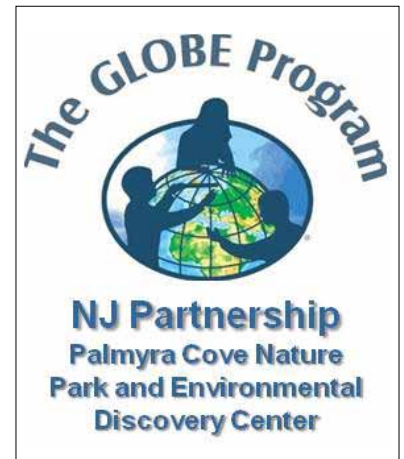
Other Happenings at PCNP

Another 800 visitors came to PCNP in 2012 for additional events, programs, and meetings.

PCNP's annual fundraiser, Frost & Feathers 2012, was a great success, attended by 121 guests in February. Held in the Fall, the Oktoberfest fundraiser was a successful event attended by more than 150 guests.

The Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup drew 100 participants, and the Delaware River Sojourn stopped along the banks of PCNP and stayed for an overnight visit.

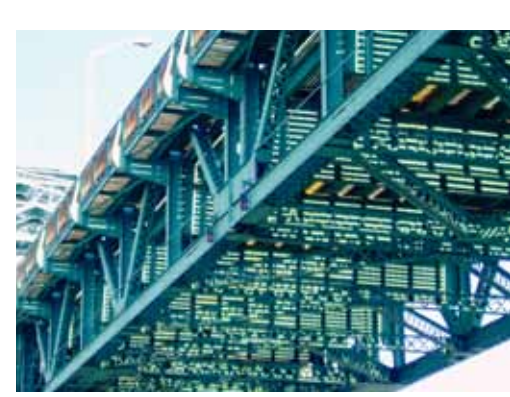
PCNP also draws visitors of a different kind and 2012 proved to be no exception. In July, the Peregrine falcon that was banded by PCNP in May 2008 was spotted nesting in Silver Spring, Maryland. In December, a rare visitor to New Jersey also came to PCNP: the Rufus/Allen Hummingbird, whose usual habitat range is west of the Rocky Mountains. PCNP staff has helped it survive the winter by placing a feeder close to the Environmental Discovery Center building with a light on it for warmth. This particular hummingbird was quite an attraction for birders who are visiting the Park, in some cases just to see her.



PCNP holds the distinction of being the only GLOBE partner in New Jersey.



A segment for NJTV Network's "Classroom Close-Up" was taped at PCNP; area middle school, high school, and college students participated in the multigenerational lesson on miniaturized satellites used to perform space science and exploration.



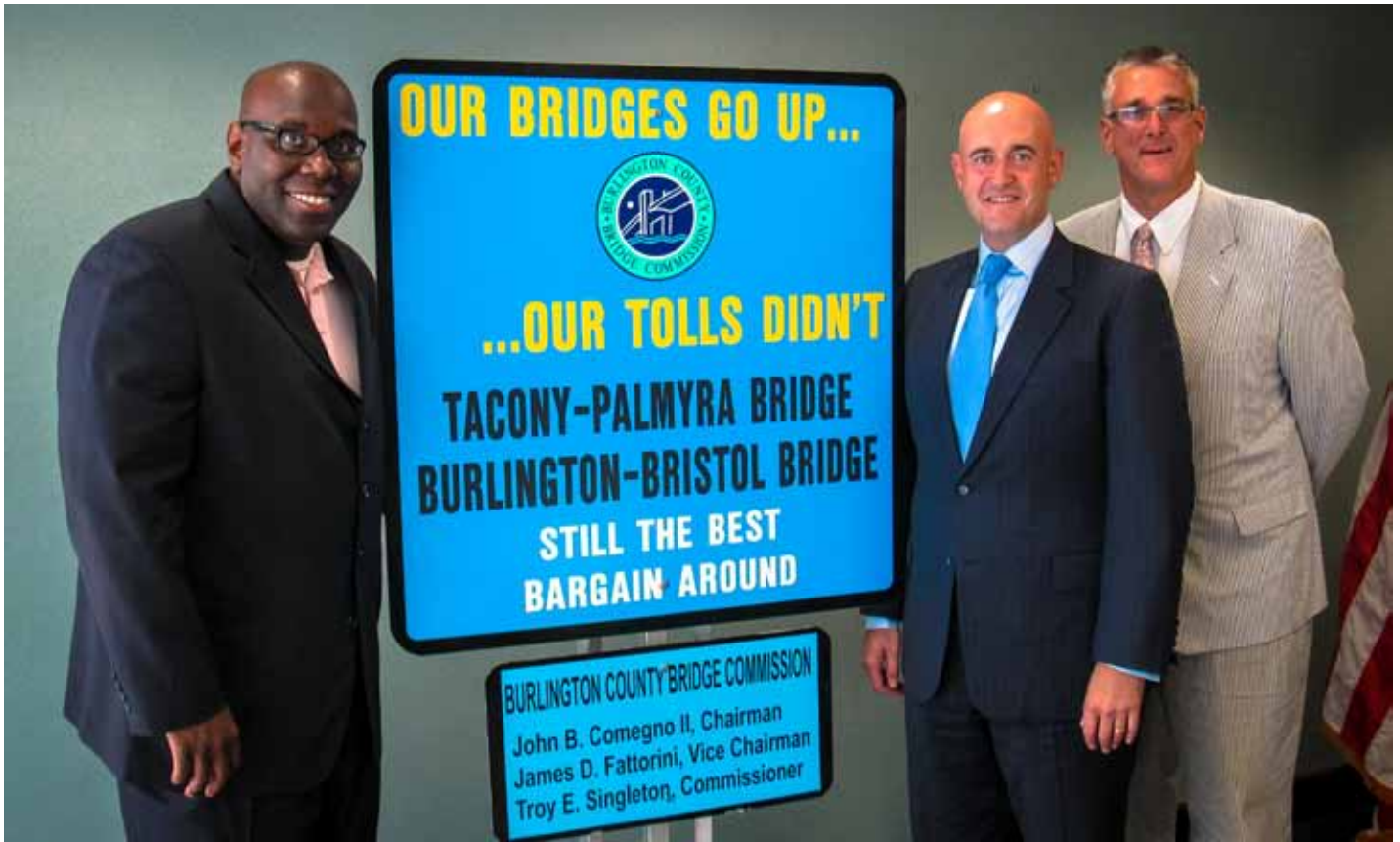
IN SUMMARY:

No toll increase. Safe bridges and facilities. Property tax relief. Shared services.
Helping our neighbors. Accountability.

That's what the Burlington County Bridge Commission is all about.

And that's what we shared in this State of the Bridge. We invite you to travel our historically significant bridges and surf our website, www.bcbridges.org, where we'll keep you updated on our progress, making Burlington County better for the people who call it their home.

PEOPLE AT THE COMMISSION:



Having worked hard to keep tolls at the Commission's bridges just \$2, Commissioner Troy Singleton, Chairman John Comegno, and Vice-Chairman James Fattorini are proud to claim the Commission's bridges are "still the best bargain around."

Current Commissioners/Staff

Burlington County Bridge Commission

John B. Comegno II, *Chairman*
James D. Fattorini, *Vice-Chairman*
Troy E. Singleton, *Commissioner*
Kathleen M. Wiseman, *Secretary*
Christine J. Nociti, *Treasurer*

John D. Jeffers, *Executive Director*

Burlington County Bridge Commission Administrative Staff

Christine Nociti, *CFO & Compliance Officer*
Elizabeth Verna, *Director of Communications*
Clara Ruvolo, *Director of Palmyra Cove Nature Park*
Stanley Ozalis, *Manager, Technical Operations*
James E. Fletcher, *Manager of Tacony-Palmyra Bridge*
Phillip Adams, *Manager of Burlington-Bristol Bridge*
Patrick Reilly, *Director of Public Safety and Security*
Constance Borman, *Human Resources Director*
Robert Rein, *Director of Tolls and Tower Operations*
Ellen Blau, *Health & Benefits Coordinator*
Scott Greenwald, *RPPQ, QPA, Contract Officer*
Michelle Chiemiego, *RPPS, QPA, Procurement Officer*
Russell (Kraig) Adams, *Maintenance Superintendent*