

APPENDIX E

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN

Monmouth County Three Bridges (W-7, W-8 and W-9)
Over The Glimmer Glass and Debbie's Creek
Brielle and Manasquan Boroughs
Monmouth County

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN (PIAP)

Phase: Scoping Last Update: August 1, 2024

PIAP Purpose:

The plan described below will serve as the PIAP for the project. The plan is based on the information known about the project at the time this document is drafted/updated. Its purpose is:

- To communicate project information to the community (local officials, stakeholders, and the public) and solicit project feedback.
- To facilitate advancement of project Purpose, Needs, Goals and Objectives developed by The Project Team in consultation with the community (local officials, stakeholders, and the public).
- To facilitate an efficient and effective public involvement process by advancing the project to conclusion.

The PIAP is a “work in progress” document that will be amended in consultation with the Project Team, as the project advances. Public involvement in the scoping process is intended to achieve:

- A partnership review of conceptual alternatives.
- Selection of the best alternative that meets the Purpose and Need as developed in project scoping for advancement to design.
- Municipal Resolutions of Support for the recommended Preferred Alternative.
- Federal Highway Administration approval of the NEPA document (Environmental Assessment (EA)).
- Comply with federal and state regulations regarding public outreach, including but not limited to (Section 106, Section 4(f), NJ Register Act and NEPA).

The plan includes a number of strategies intended to provide opportunities for the local officials, stakeholders and communities, particularly those to be impacted by the project, to maintain effective dialogue with the Project Team.

Project Team

The Project Team includes:

- North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)
- New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)
- Monmouth County
- Consultants - Scoping Phase
Mott MacDonald - Engineering
NV5 (Formerly The RBA Group) - Environmental and Public Involvement

Project Description:

Monmouth County is proposing to improve (rehabilitate/replace) three bridge structures located at the border between the Boroughs of Brielle and Manasquan. The project area has been collectively known as “**Three Bridges**” to the residents of Brielle and Manasquan Boroughs since the late 1800s and it encompasses the following three water crossings linking the two boroughs:

- Green Avenue over Debbie’s Creek (Bridge W-7)
- Fisk Avenue Culvert (Structure W-8)
- Brielle Road over The Glimmer Glass (Bridge W-9)

The three roadways form a “T” intersection, with Fisk Avenue and Brielle Road comprising the flange of the “T” (east/west direction) and Green Avenue being the stem (north/south direction).

All three structures require improvement. The bridge approaches and connecting roadways also need improvement as the three structures help link the Boroughs of Manasquan and Brielle and serve as a primary access for commercial, recreational, and emergency response vehicles, as well as bicycles and pedestrians.

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the project is to provide safe and efficient crossings for all modes of travel within the project limit by addressing the geometric, structural, and operations and maintenance deficiencies of Bridge W-7 (Green Avenue over Debbie’s Creek), Structure W-8 (Fisk Avenue Culvert) and Bridge W-9 (Brielle Road over The Glimmer Glass).

History of Public Involvement to Date:

A project website has been available since May 2016 with project contact information for input.

Covid 19 Pandemic – It is noted the project was not advanced and was delayed at times during the Covid 19 Pandemic

Outreach Meetings 2018

01-16-2018: Manasquan Local Officials Meeting

01-16-2018: Brielle Local Officials Meeting

02-15-2018: Public Information Center Meeting at Brielle, Curtis House

02-15-2018: Public Information Center Meeting at Manasquan Borough Hall

Outreach Meetings 2016

04-04-2016: Manasquan Local Officials Meeting

04-04-2016: Brielle Local Officials Meeting

04-21-2016: Stakeholders Meeting @ Manasquan Borough Hall

05-24-2016: Public Information Center Meeting @ Brielle, Curtis House

05-24-2016: Public Information Center Meeting @ Manasquan Borough Hall

Project Shutdown - It is noted that the project was not advanced from June 30, 2016 to October 14, 2016 since this project was funded through the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) and was subject to a shutdown under Governor Christie’s Executive Order No. 210 and lifted under Executive Order No. 216.

11-10-2016: Manasquan Local Officials Meeting

11-10-2016: Brielle Local Officials Meeting

11-29-2016: Stakeholders Meeting @ Brielle, Curtis House

12-15-2016: Public Information Center Meeting @ Brielle, Curtis House

12-15-2016: Public Information Center Meeting @ Manasquan Borough Hall

Outreach Meetings 2002 - 2009:

08-19-2002: Manasquan Local Officials Meeting
08-19-2002: Brielle Local Officials Meeting
07-08-2003: Public Information Center @ Manasquan Borough Hall
08-20-2007: Project Update at the Manasquan Council Meeting
03-19-2008: Public Information Center Meeting @ Brielle, Curtis House
03-20-2008: Public Information Center Meeting @ Manasquan Borough Hall
04-14-2008: Project Update at the Manasquan Council Meeting
06-09-2008: Project Update at the Brielle Council Meeting
12-01-2008: Consulting & Interested Parties Meeting @ Manasquan Borough Hall
09-25-2009: Consulting & Interested Parties Meeting @ Manasquan Borough Hall

Resolutions of Support

Existing Resolutions

- The Boroughs of Manasquan and Brielle adopted resolutions which supported replacement of all three bridges, W-7, W-8 and W-9.
 - Borough of Manasquan - August 8, 2003
 - Borough of Brielle - September 8, 2003
- The Boroughs of Manasquan and Brielle adopted resolutions which supported replacement of the Glimmer Glass Bridge (W-9) with a 32' minimum width including a 4' wide bike/pedestrian lane.
 - Borough of Manasquan - September 15, 2014
 - Borough of Brielle - October 13, 2014

Resolutions of Support for the Preferred Alternative from the municipalities impacted by the proposed action include:

- Borough of Manasquan, Resolution No. 248-2021, dated October 4, 2021
- Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners, Resolution No. 2021-0596, dated August 12, 2021 (Agenda Item # 34)
- Borough of Brielle, Resolution No. 21-99-C, dated September 13, 2021

Strategies:

I. Scoping Phase

• Identification of Stakeholders

Stakeholders were requested to provide input on existing conditions as well as the development of alternatives. Stakeholders may include local officials, regulatory agencies (i.e. NJDEP, U.S. Coast Guard), concerned and/or affected community organizations and residents, environmental and user groups and other agencies. A Stakeholder database list will be updated as needed with approval of the Project Team.

• Meetings

A. Local Officials Briefings, total six (During Continued Scoping Phase)

First Set - Reintroduced Project (one with Brielle and one with Manasquan). Completed April 2016.

Second Set - Presented Conceptual Alternatives (one with Brielle and one with Manasquan). Completed November 2016.

Third Set - Presented recommended Preliminary Preferred Alternatives (one with Brielle and one with Manasquan). Completed January 2018.

- B. Stakeholder Meetings, total two (During Continued Scoping Phase)
First Set - Reintroduced Project. Completed April 21, 2016.

Second Set - Presented Conceptual Project Alternatives. Completed November 29, 2016.

Presentation: A presentation was made followed by an input / comment session. Meeting notes and the presentation slides are posted on the Project Website.

- C. Public Information Centers (PIC), total six (During Continued Scoping Phase)

First Set - Reintroduced Project (one in Brielle and one in Manasquan) to inform local residents, officials, and the business community about the project Purpose and Need, history, project status and to solicit comments. *Completed May 24, 2016.*

Second Set - Presented Conceptual Alternatives (one in Brielle and one in Manasquan) to present alternatives and solicit comments. *Completed December 15, 2016.*

Third Set - Presented Comparative Matrix and the recommended **Preliminary Preferred Alternative for each structure** (one in Brielle and one in Manasquan) and solicit comments (*Completed February 15, 2018*).

Meeting notifications indicated that those unable to attend the meeting but interested in learning more about the project, or if they are physically challenged and require additional assistance to participate in this meeting, could contact Consultant Project Facilitator (Denice daCunha, NV5 (formerly The RBA Group)) or Monmouth County (Debby DeJong) at respective address and telephone number listed (as of July 2024 update). Property owners with rental units were advised that tenants are invited and encouraged to participate in the process.

Debby DeJong
County Project Facilitator
Monmouth County Engineering Department
Hall of Records Annex
1 East Main Street
Freehold, New Jersey 07728
P: (732) 431-7760 Ext. 7773
E: engineer@co.monmouth.nj.us

Denice daCunha
Project Facilitator
NV5 (formerly The RBA Group)
800 Lanidex Plaza, Suite 300
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054
P: (973) 946-5624
E: MonmouthCountyThreeBridges@nv5.com

A presentation was made followed by an open house format where attendees had an opportunity to review project exhibits, ask questions, and discuss issues with Project Team members. They were encouraged to actively participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail, or by e-mail.

Mailing List: The mailing list includes local residents, technical and elected officials, public interest groups, etc. The Project Team provided guidance on the extent of the geographic range of property owners and other stakeholders included on the mailing list. The geographic range typically includes property owners 250 feet from the project limits; however, since this project involves access via three bridges, we have expanded the area beyond that area. The PIAP also includes notices of the public meetings on local government websites as well as newspaper notices and requests for permission for notices to be physically posted at various sites as discussed in the Media section below.

Date: The PIAP uses several strategies to reach stakeholders. The date of PICs will be selected in an effort to be convenient to stakeholders.

Time: It is anticipated the PICs (one at each municipality) will be scheduled the same day with (approximate times) an afternoon session from 2-4 PM and evening session from 6-8 PM on a weekday. The time of the PICs will be noted and attendees will be asked to come at a time and location convenient for them.

Locations: It is anticipated that the PICs will be held at the same two (2) locations as previous PICs held for this project:

- Borough of Brielle
Curtis House
644 Union Lane
Brielle, NJ 08730
- Borough of Manasquan
Municipal Building
Meeting Room
201 East Main Street
Manasquan, NJ 08736

If these locations are not available, alternate locations will be scheduled. The goal is to conduct the meetings at a location convenient to stakeholders.

An oral presentation was conducted at the recommended Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) PIC.

Display Boards: The displays may include:

- Aerial of the study area
- Photos and Structure Information
- Project Alternatives (Second and Third Set of PICs)
- Comparative Matrix (Third Set PICs)
- Recommended PPA (Third Set PICs)
- Proposed Detour (Third Set PICs)
- Photo simulations (if appropriate, Third Set PICs)

Opportunities for Questions / Comments: Opportunities for questions and dialog with Project Team Members will be offered both at Public Information Centers and for a 30 day period following the meeting. Comments and questions will be documented and appropriately addressed.

The results of each Public Information Center will be documented by identifying the comments, addressing them and providing responses/solutions (if applicable) for them as coordinated with the Project Team.

D. Project Update via Website

In 2024, the Project Team decided that a Project Update via announcements directing the public to visit the project website would be beneficial to stakeholders. The website would review the PPA selected and overall project schedule. It would allow an opportunity for questions or comments, although the intent is not to alter the PPA which previously was selected based upon stakeholder input and presented to FHWA in the Project Alternative Analysis and approved June 17, 2021.

- **Media**

Newspapers will be used to publicize meetings. Local papers will be considered in press release announcements, made by Monmouth County. NV5 - will also coordinate legal notices in the following:

- Star News Group: The Coast Star
- Star Ledger

- **Social Media: The Internet / Project Website**

The Internet

The Internet will be used as part of this PIAP plan to share project information with stakeholders and the community. Comments may be emailed to the Project Facilitator or Team.

Project Website

A project website has been developed: monmouthcountythrebridges.com

It may include items such as:

- Project Information / Summaries
- Contact Information
- Graphics / Visualization
- Relevant Data (such as structure condition, Resolutions, etc.) that the Project Team feels would be helpful / appropriate.
- Schedule of Meetings
- Meeting Notes
- Frequently asked Questions
- Links to Monmouth County Press Releases

At the end of the scoping phase, NV5 will hand over to Monmouth County all website account materials and any information needed to enable the County to take control of the URL/accounts for the next phase of the project.

Other Websites:

1. Project information, such as a link to the Project Website, may also be posted on the websites of the following agencies:
 - NJTPA
 - NJDOT
 - Monmouth County
2. Project information, such as a link to the Project Website, may be requested to be posted on other websites such as:
 - News Websites
 - Manasquan-Belmar Patch
<http://patch.com/new-jersey/manasquan>
 - Manasquan Municipal website
 - www.manasquan-nj.com
 - Request to have municipal e-bulletins notices
 - Brielle Municipal website
 - www.briellenj.com/
 - Community Websites, such as,
 - Brick ShoreBeat
 - brick.shorebeat.com
 - Other websites that the Project Team learns about during process may be added to the PIAP.

- Community Organizations (Stakeholder groups without websites may include those listed below under “Other Parties/Local Associations”)

Outreach to Other Parties / Local Associations (through notices to organization presidents, chairpersons):

- Manasquan Beach Improvement Association
- Save the Glimmer Glass Bridge Committee
- Residents for a SAFE WIDER Bridge
- Historic Societies/Foundations
- **Outreach to Community without Internet:**
 - A. Mailings: Public Information Center invitations will be mailed to stakeholder list
 - B. Notices to Community Centers or gathering areas such as municipal building, libraries, schools, marinas, etc. The notice will be mailed (or hand delivered) and requested to be posted for public viewing. Locations may include:

• <u>Manasquan Town Hall</u> 201 East Main Street Manasquan, NJ • <u>US Post Office, Manasquan, NJ</u> 43 Abe Voorhees Dr. Manasquan, NJ 08736 • <u>Manasquan Public Library</u> 55 Broad Street Manasquan, NJ 08736 • <u>Brielle Borough Hall</u> 601 Union Lane Brielle, NJ 08730 • <u>US Post Office, Brielle NJ</u> 412 Higgins Ave. Brielle, NJ 08730 99 • <u>Brielle Public Library</u> 610 South St. Brielle, NJ 08730	• <u>Manasquan High School</u> 167 Broad St. Manasquan, NJ 08736 • <u>Deep Creek Cove Marina</u> 608 Green Avenue Manasquan, NJ 08736 • <u>Hoffman's Marina</u> 602 Green Ave. Brielle, NJ 08730 • <u>Shop Rite</u> 2433 New Jersey 34 Manasquan, NJ 08736 • <u>ACME Market</u> 71 Taylor Ave. Manasquan, NJ 08736 <i>(Note: Business has since closed as of 2022 update used for notices on earlier Public Information Centers 1 and 2)</i>
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**Additional locations may be added as suggested by Municipal representatives, stakeholders, or the public.*

- **Title VI - Environmental Justice (EJ)**
Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs and activities supported by Federal funding. It specifically states: “no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any programs or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Executive Order 12898 extends the protection of Title VI to low-income populations. With respect to the PIAP, the intent is to not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin or low income and assess if any special accommodations should be taken.

Community Profile (U.S. Census Data)

1. Census Tracts identified within the project limits:

- Census Tract 8094, Block Group 2 – Brielle Borough, Monmouth County, NJ
- Census Tract 8093.01, Block Group 1 and 3 – Manasquan Borough, Monmouth County, NJ
- Census Tract 8093.02, Block Group 1 and 3 – Manasquan Borough, Monmouth County, NJ

2. Most recent data on median household income in the past 12 months shows the following:

	New Jersey	Census Tract 8094 Brielle	Census Tract 8093.01 Manasquan	Census Tract 8093.02 Manasquan
Median household income in the past 12 months (2022 estimate data) ¹	97,126	160,845	127,255	131,667
Median household income in the past 12 months (2019 estimate data) ²	82,545	140,352	117,109	127,708
Median household income in the past 12 months (2012 estimate data) ³	71,637	104,659	70,714	105,052

1. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Form B19013: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), 2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
2. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Form B19013: Median Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2019 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars), 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
3. Reference The RBA Group Memorandum, dated 02-25-2016 for previous 2008-2012 census estimates

Note: 2018 PIAP used 2010 – 2015 US Census data; the 2024 PIAP included 2015 – 2020 US Census data listed below.

This data shows that income in the area is comparable or above that of New Jersey residents in general. The project area does not appear to have an overabundance of low-income households.

3. Poverty level data shows that in the last 12 months:

	New Jersey	Monmouth County	Census Tract 8094 Brielle	Census Tract 8093.01 & 8093.02 Manasquan
Total Population ³ (2022 Data)	9,081,112	636,657	4,957	5,921
Income in the past 12 months below the poverty level ¹ (2022 Data)	879,179 (9.7%±)	40,595 (6.4%±)	38 (0.8%±)	131 (2.2%±)
Total Population ³ (2019 Data)	8,706,202	615,903	4,697	5,829
Income in the past 12 months below the poverty level ² (2019 Data)	869,081 (10.0%±)	42,734 (6.9%±)	88 (1.9%±)	181 (3.1%±)
Total Population ³ (2012 Data)	8,619,763	622,672	4,787	5,904
Income in the past 12 months below the poverty level ⁴ (2012 Data)	850,559 (9.9%)	41,398 (6.6%)	207 (4.3%)	150 (2.5%)

1. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Form B17001, Poverty Status in the past 12 Months by sex by age, 2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
2. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Form B17001, Poverty Status in the past 12 Months by sex by age, 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
3. “Total Population” represents ‘Population for whom poverty status is determined’ per Census Data

The percentage of individuals in the project area with incomes below poverty level is lower than that of greater Monmouth County and of the entire State of New Jersey for the 2022 data. This indicates that impoverished individuals are not disproportionately affected by the proposed project.

4. In general, the portion of the population within the study area that identifies as a minority race or ethnic group is far less than in Monmouth County as a whole, as shown in the following table. This trend continues between the 2010 data to the 2020 data.

	Monmouth County	Census Tract 8094 Brielle	Census Tract 8093.01 Manasquan	Census Tract 8093.02 Manasquan
Total population ² (2020 Data)	643,615	4,982	3,220	2,718
• Population identifying as white	460,825 (71.6%±)	4,500 (90.3%±)	2,779 (86.3%±)	2,556 (94.0%±)
• Population identifying as Hispanic or Latino	80,730 (12.5%±)	226 (4.5%±)	337 (10.5%±)	80 (2.9%±)
• Population identifying as minority, not Hispanic or Latino (for a list of specific identifiers, see attached Census data)	102,060 (15.9%±)	256 (5.1%±)	104 (3.2%±)	82 (3.0%±)

1. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, P2 Decennial Census, Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race [DEC Redistricting Data (PL 94-171)]. Vintage 2020 <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
2. “Total Population” represents ‘Population for whom poverty status is determined’ per Census Data

5. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) was identified using US Census Bureau data concerning languages spoken at home. LEP was assumed for individuals reporting the ability to speak English “less than ‘very well.’” The most current data available (2015 estimates) was used for the following table.

	Monmouth County	Census Tract 8094 Brielle	Census Tract 8093.01 Manasquan	Census Tract 8093.02 Manasquan
Total Population ² (2015 Data)	596,297	4,591	3,030	2,621
Speak only English	493,788 (82.8%±)	4,338 (94.5%±)	2,620 (86.5%±)	2,571 (98.1%±)
Speak English less than “very well” total	39,463 (6.6%±)	126 (2.7%±)	212 (7.0%±)	7 (0.3%±)
• Spanish or Spanish Creole:	19,223 (3.2%±)	92 (3.0%±)	93 (3.0%±)	~
• French (incl. Patois, Cajun):	544 (0.1%±)	23 (0.5%±)	~	7 (0.3%±)
• Chinese:	3,551 (0.6%±)	11 (0.2%±)	118 (3.9%±)	~
• Tagalog:	985 (0.2%±)	~	1 (<0.1%±)	~

1. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, B16001: Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over - Universe: Population 5 years and over, 2015 5-Year Estimate Detailed Tables <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
2. “Total Population” represents ‘Population for whom poverty status is determined’ per Census Data

For the July 2024 update, EJScreen, an EPA Environmental Justice and Mapping Tool (epa.gov/ejscreen) and NJDEP Environmental Justice Mapping, Assessment and Protection Tool (EJMap) (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/548632a2351b41b8a0443cfc3a9f4ef6>), was used to assess if

project outreach needs should include materials and services in alternate languages. EJScreen identifies “Overburdened communities under the NJ Environmental Justice Law” (including areas with low incomes, limited English, etc.) which for the Brielle / Manasquan area where this project is located was not applicable at the time of the July 2024 update.

As a result, it seems no special services, such as bilingual interpreter at meetings, meeting information published in another language will be needed for the PIAP at the time of this update. Furthermore, Monmouth County, Borough of Brielle nor Borough of Manasquan provide interpreters at other public meetings, thus will not be provided at these meetings, unless deemed necessary in the future should circumstances change

For future outreach, the Project Team will continue to review current EJScreen results to assess the need for providing meeting announcements and meeting materials in alternate language(s) as well as interpreter(s) at outreach meetings based upon latest statistics and meeting protocols.

- **Section 106 Process / NJ Register Act**

The PIAP will address provisions of the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the N.J. Register of Historic Places Act and other environmental review processes. They are not separate public processes, but are integrated into the overall public involvement process for this project.

- **Section 4(f)**

The PIAP will address provisions of Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which established the requirement for consideration of park and recreational lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites in transportation project development. The law, now codified in 49 U.S.C. §303 and 23 U.S.C. §138, is implemented by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through the regulation 23 CFR 774.

- **Public Outreach Summary**

NV5 will document outreach efforts including preparing meeting minutes and compiling presentation materials, comments, resolutions and correspondence. Information from Social Media sites as discussed above may also be included such as:

- Number of comments received
- Number of Website hits
- Size of e-mail list (if email blast is incorporated)
- Number of people signing up for email

The summary will also include recommendations for developing the PIAP for the next project phases and address the following:

- Has the Team been effective in helping the public understand the scoping process?
- What more can/should the Project Team do to further involve the public in the next phase of design?

II. FINAL DESIGN

Anticipated outreach

1. Local Officials Meetings (total, two). Project updates will be provided.
Borough of Brielle
Borough of Manasquan
2. Stakeholder Meetings (as needed)
3. Public Information Centers (two)
4. The Internet – Project Website and maybe X (formerly known as Twitter)

A project X account may be considered for reaching out to the public about the project as well as inform them about the public information sessions that will be held for the project. All posts to this account will also be approved by the Project Team.

III. CONSTRUCTION

Monmouth County will work closely with local officials, the business community, and residents to minimize impacts on traffic and businesses caused by construction. Prior to the start of Construction and after the Contractor has been selected and a Resident Engineer (RE) assigned, it is anticipated that 2 PIC's will take place to introduce the Contractor and RE to the community and discuss any traffic restrictions, detours, etc. The goal is to obtain support for the construction schedule with minimal disruption to the community.

1. Local Officials Meetings (two or more). Project updates will be provided.

Borough of Brielle

Borough of Manasquan

2. Stakeholder Meetings (as needed)
3. Public Information Centers (two or more as needed)
4. The Internet – Project Website

The project website will be maintained with periodic updates.

CONCURRENCE / APPROVAL

- A PIAP, updated during the Scoping Phase, received the concurrence/approval of the Project Team, January 29, 2018.
- Updates to the January 29, 2018 PIAP were finalized in May 2022 and received concurrence/approval on May 5, 2022 (via Team email coordination).
- Updates to the May 2022 PIAP were made in August 2024 and received concurrence/approval on August 2, 2024 (via Team email coordination).