



Christina River Bridge

Wilmington, DE

Delaware Department of Transportation

Top: The Christina River Bridge will encourage pedestrian activity and open up economic opportunities along the riverfront. Rendering by Delaware DOT. Bottom: The Riverwalk Trail and East Coast Greenway will be connected to the bridge via ramps and stairs. Rendering by Delaware DOT.

The Christina River Bridge will encourage economic development and mobility around the Wilmington Riverfront.

CONTEXT

- Urban setting.
- Northeast.
- Under construction; estimated spring 2020 completion.
- \$28 million (anticipated).



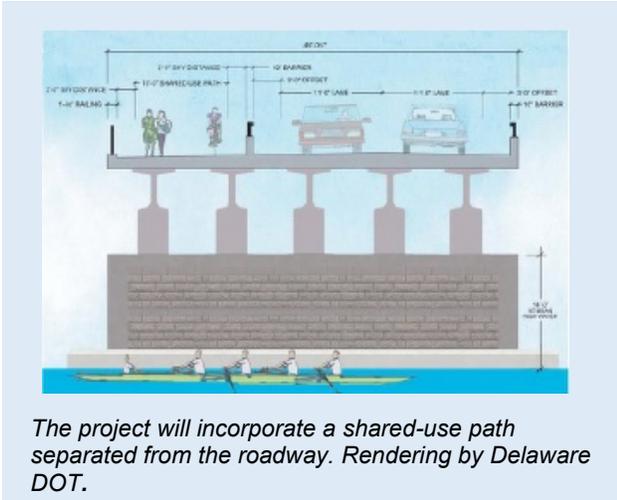
NEW BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

- The project will link the two sides of the Christina River to enhance mobility between neighborhoods and provide access to economic centers.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT DRIVER?

The Christina River Bridge will be a multimodal crossing that seeks to ease traffic congestion and provide another access point to the Wilmington Riverfront. The project is an investment that will contribute to revitalization on both sides of the Christina River while supporting the area's growing transportation demand.

The project is the result of a partnership among the City of Wilmington, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DOT), and multiple private investors to improve transportation and promote economic development in the area.



The project will incorporate a shared-use path separated from the roadway. Rendering by Delaware DOT.

In 2012, the Delaware DOT conducted an **Environmental Justice assessment** that identified the Wilmington area’s transportation needs for minority populations and low-income populations. The assessment recommended economic initiatives to provide transportation linkages between both banks of the Christina River, improve community mobility and multimodal access, and relieve traffic congestion along the Wilmington Riverfront.

HOW WILL THIS CONNECT THE COMMUNITY?

The Christina River Bridge is expected to be completed in 2020, and will be jointly maintained by the City of Wilmington and the Delaware DOT. The new bridge will feature a **Complete Streets** design and carry pedestrians, bicyclists, automobiles, and bus routes across the Christina River. Residents will be able to move between the southeast riverbank and the west riverbank’s emerging entertainment district that features a minor league baseball stadium, retail stores, restaurants, and employment opportunities. The bridge will be a catalyst for the development of 60 acres of land in the area via new commercial and residential developments on both sides of the river.

This project and the planned developments will increase the long-term sustainability of the area by coordinating housing, transportation, and environmental investments to protect public health and the environment, promote equitable development, and provide a new route to I-95, I-495 and US-13.

WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED BENEFITS?



INVEST

When completed, the Christina River Bridge will increase mobility options for residents and visitors by creating a link to the Riverwalk Trail and the East Coast Greenway and providing a safe route for bicyclists heading to destinations north and south of the city on both sides of the river. The project’s construction will also provide environmental remediation by adding new layers of top soil over the former industrial site.

By adding a new river crossing between the west and east banks of the Christina River, the project will improve regional connectivity by complementing the two existing bridges that are a mile in either direction from the planned bridge site. Travel distances will also be drastically reduced, as the new connection across the river will create the only route that avoids downtown Wilmington. The new connection will improve emergency response times and access to the stadium and redevelopment areas.

The adjacent communities of Southbridge and Browntown are also expected to benefit from the shorter, more direct route across the river. Several capital improvements on the west bank have occurred, such as enhancements to the Russell W. Peterson Wildlife Refuge, development of the Dupont Environmental and Education Center, and the new Jack A. Markell Trail, which allows for pedestrian and bicycling connectivity from Wilmington to New Castle. In addition, multiple commercial and residential developments are planned.

For more information: <https://www.deldot.gov/information/projects/crb/index.shtml>