

NJDOT Map Request Update

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How fast are you receiving your map requests from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Trenton office? NJSPLS has received several reports, dating back to November 2016, that surveyors across the state have waited up to five weeks or more to receive requested documents from the NJDOT Office. There was also confusion because surveyors were making map requests to the Engineering Documents Unit (EDU) as we had been doing in the past and the request were getting kicked back. With the returned requests we were being told to submit OPRA requests instead.

In search of answers, Mark Husik, Ambrose Gmeiner and I sat down with members of NJDOT including Assistant Commissioner Dave Lambert III, P.E.. I explained to everyone what was going on and that the time it was taking to get the documents we needed to prepare our surveys was affecting turnaround time, closing dates, causing delay on design for new projects and overall just affecting how our companies do day to day business.

To our relief at the time, there wasn't a person in the room from the NJDOT that knew it had been taking so long for us to receive our requested documents. They were also very sympathetic to what we had to say and ensured us that they would be taking care of the delay in receiving requested documents. We agreed that all requests were to be sent to the EDU as we had been doing in the past.

Since we had our meeting with the NJDOT in March the EDU has been responding to requests with an email stating estimated turnaround time for requests. This response and additional information is great, however the turnaround times being indicated have been growing since March. Earlier this week we received a five-week or more estimated time to receive a set of requested documents.

The NJSPLS plans to continue to work with the NJDOT to improve the time it takes to receive requested documents. I've advised colleagues that if you aren't getting a quick enough response from the EDU to try reaching out to your regional office. We have found this to be very helpful in some cases. Typically, you will need to make a trip to the regional office to pick up the plans and pay for prints.

Asst. Commissioner Lambert has informed us that a number of unfortunate circumstances with their staff have caused these delays. They are in the process of hiring two new employees that should fix this problem. He is sorry for the inconvenience and thanked us for our patience.