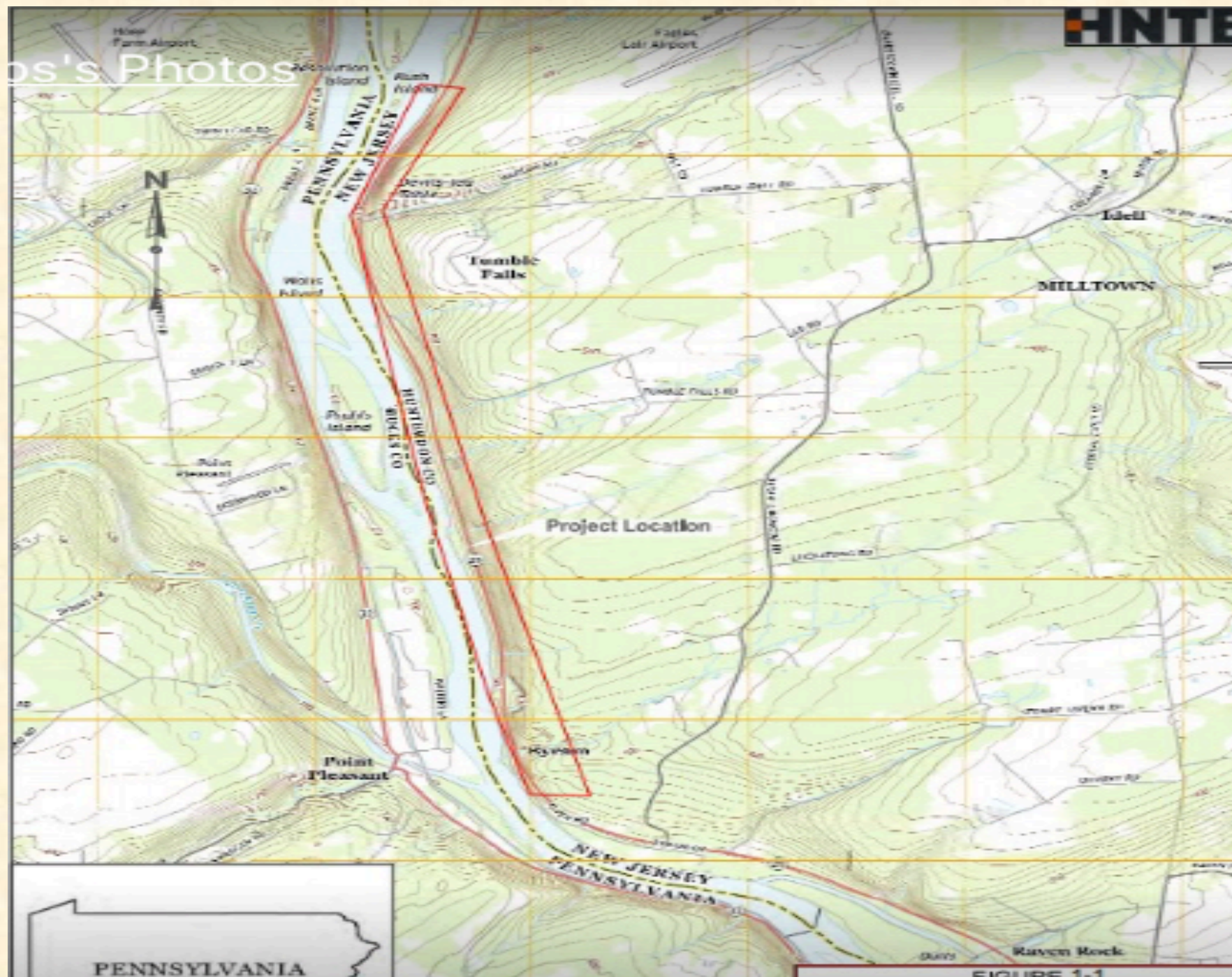


NJDOT Rte. 29 Rockfall mitigation project Kingwood Twp. NJ (Byram to Devils Tea Table)





From Rockfall Hazard Mitigation Report Rte. 29 Kingwood Twp., April 2015 HNTB Corp Parsippany NJ

Table 1-1 – Project Limits and Slope Summary

Area	Southern Mile Post	Northern Mile Post	Measured Slope Length (ft.)	Approximate Slope Height At Tallest Location (ft.)	2004 Golder Report MP Limits	2003 Rockfall Hazard Rating
A	27.31	27.40	500	75	27.4 to 27.5	310
B	27.48	27.59	580	75	27.5 to 27.65	316
C	27.84	28.50	3450	50	27.78 to 28.48	628
D	29.86	30.43	3000	260	29.85 to 30.45	470

Types of remediation proposed A, B, C & D

(From 2015 HNTB report, 2016 Dewberry scope of services report, PP at Aug 2019 meeting and in Sept 2019 NJ.com article.)

- Tree and vegetation removal
- Rock removal (trim blasting combined with intense scaling)
- Rock reinforcement (rock bolts / rock dowels bars, shotcrete or concrete grade beams, and Shotcrete or concrete post-tensioned buttresses)
- Rockfall control (cable net, ring net, hybrid drape)
- Create catchment ditches
- Cement the base of the Devils Tea Table (D only)

AREA A & B



Fraction of area C



Example of a scaled, trim blasted area and rock face draped with fencing



Devils Tea table area, section D, to be aggressively impacted.



Shotcrete



river lovers flock to enjoy the Delaware



Example of color coordinated rockfall fencing being suggested for some areas



Table 4-1 – Rockfall History to 2014

from 2015 HNTB

Report

Area	Location	Date	Weather Related	Description
A	604' South MP 27.43 Post	Dec. 2013	During Harsh Winter	1 CY Reached NB Lane
B	Throughout Area	-	-	Rock Blocks Close to Toe
C	100' N of MP 28.00 Post	April 2014	Spring Thaw after Harsh Winter	5'x4'x4' Rock Block reached SB Lane, several ± 2'x2'x2' Blocks in NB Lane, Source 25' above Highway Grade
D	MP 30.2	3/16/96	Extremely Harsh Winter	Covered Entire Roadway
	MP 27.9 (Not in area D. ?)	3/21/96	Extremely Harsh Winter	Softball to Basketball Sized Rock Blocks
	Throughout Area	-	-	Piles of rockfall debris, generally particles smaller than 6", placed west of the SB shoulder during cleanup.

- Four incidents going back 19 years used for justification.
- All after severe storms, spring or other dramatic thawing events (predictable by DOT)
- The two events in section D, both in mid-March 1996 after record breaking late winter snowstorm and rapid thaw.
- One of two events reported as area D justification was 2 mile south of area D (MP 29.86) in area C.

Rockfall evidence 2014 – 2019, 2019 PP

- 29 new rockfall events
- All found by engineers or consultants involved in mitigation project
- None by police, firemen or local maintenance departments
- Most rocks small---- some incidents questionable
- 24- less than 1CY – DOT's smallest category
- 19 events - rocks on shoulder
- 6 events didn't make it to shoulder
- 5 events in driving lane – at least one is clearly erroneous

Area A 14 <1 CY -- 19 of 29 events on shoulder

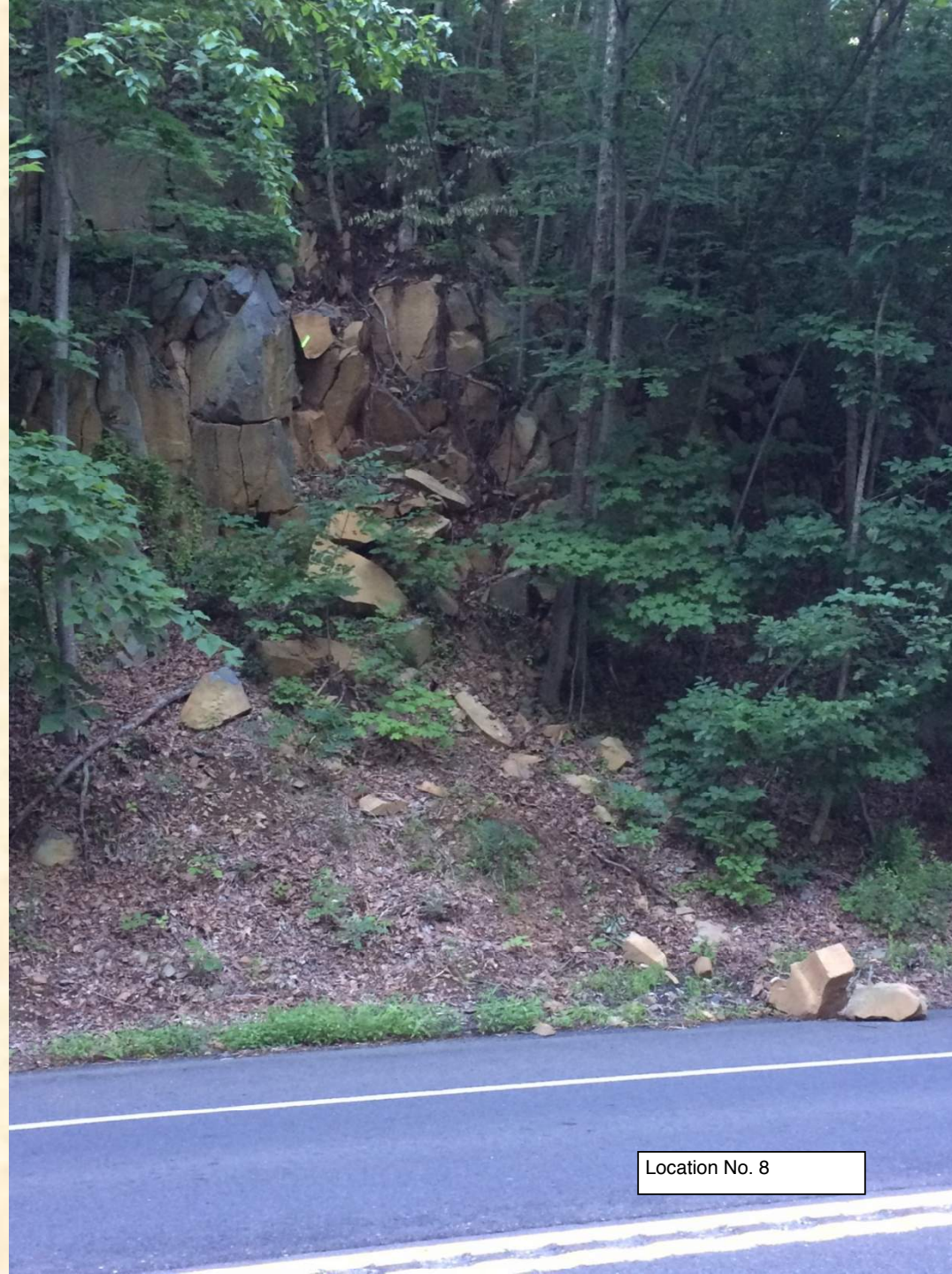




Area C

6 of 29 events off shoulder

Location No. 5



Area A NB Lane ?
1 of five in lane events

Location No. 8

Area C: Rockfall History



MP 28.0 (2014)

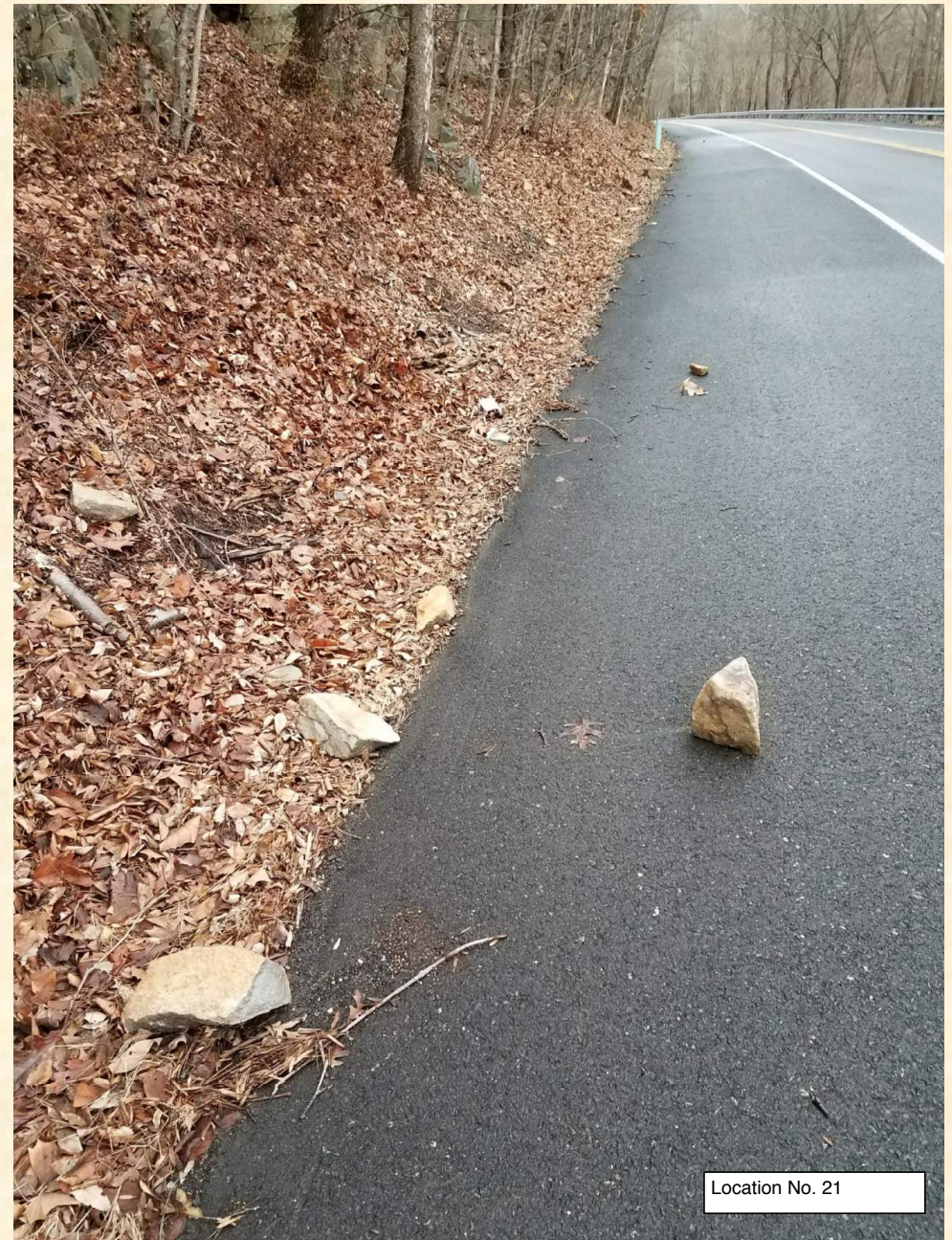


MP 27.9 (2018)



Location No. 15

Area D 17 above, A 18 right



Location No. 21



Area B Shoulder

Location No. 19

When?

Dec 2020 NJDOT website still shows Kingwood construction starting **2022**

Sept 2019 NJ.Com interview with DOT official -- construction starting **2024**

Other reports **2026**

Cost?

\$33 million Per NJTPA TIP web site 3-24 -2021 (yesterday)

\$8 million pre 2015. Wilson Article

August 2019 Frenchtown public information meeting

- Packed house
- Consultants for NJ DOT presenting
- Critique of 2015 HNTB report on alternative solutions planned –**“Oh that’s no longer our plan”**
– **“we will let local officials know when we finalize plans.”**
- DOT consultants PP presentation petty clear: defoliation, intensive scaling, trim blasting, shotcrete, bolting, fence draping , catchment ditches, Tea Table in color coordinated cement.
- Will there be public hearings **“No, not required”**.
- Residents questioned: damage to wild life, wells, views, deforestation, easements over private land and other issue–**“we are looking into all of that- but EIS or EA not required”**
- Fire chief of 25 years says **“no injuries or accidents from rock falls during his tenure...”**
- Most left meeting feeling worried and condescended to.

HNTB 2015 report shows several possible solutions

- A low cost, low impact solution for electronic monitoring and frequent inspections. **“not recommended” ?**
- Section D moving the road slightly west or raising the road a little creates catchment ditch - very effective, little negative impact **“Not recommended”?**
- Building a shed over areas of concern - very effective, little visual impact. **“not recommended”?**
- NJDOT prefers the most expensive most disfiguring plan of all, SOP
- Recommended solution requires on going maintenance- forever.

Route 29 Rockfall Mitigation Project - Environmental

Environmental Resources

- ▶ Wild and Scenic River corridor
- ▶ New Jersey Scenic Byway
- ▶ D&R Canal State Park
- ▶ Threatened & Endangered Species
 - ▶ Bald Eagle, Bog Turtle, Yellow Lampmussel, Indiana Bat, Shortnose Sturgeon
- ▶ (2) Natural Heritage Priority Sites
 - ▶ Byram
 - ▶ Devil's Tea Table
- ▶ NJDEP Green Acres and Open Space



Other environmental impacts needing further review from January 2016

Dewberry Inc. Scope of Services report and local residents

- Three Delaware river tributary streams in the area will be impacted
- Considerable deforestation will occur
- Ground water and wells may be affected
- World famous Van Houten geological structures disrupted (Dr. Gail Ashley)
- Historical and archeological sites damaged,
- Tourism property values impacted, lengthy traffic disruption

American Bald Eagle soars in impacted area

several fish and nest in the area after a half century of recovery from near extinction







The OPRA game, 9 requests filed 3 answered

- **NJDOT has no records of accidents or injuries**

Colleen Wilson USA Today Network


4 recent articles 12-2020, 1-2021











 Ongoing rockfall projects  

Pinned on the map are the general locations of proposed rockfall mitigation projects around New Jersey. 

4,635 views

[SHARE](#)

 **Projects list**

-  Route 80 - Knowlton-Hardwick
-  Route 78 - Bethlehem
-  Route 29 - Kingwood
-  Route 80 - Rockaway/Denville/Parsippan...
-  Route 206 - Andover
-  Route 280 - West Orange
-  Route 29 - Lambertville/West Amwell
-  Route 22 - Phillipsburg
-  Route 15 - Jefferson/Sparta/Lafayette
-  Route 23 - West Milford

Takeaways from Wilson's recent articles on 10 NJ DOT rockfall projects

- Plans all start small and grow exponentially in scope and cost.
- Data on deaths, injuries, accidents minimal or nonexistent, and often anecdotal.
- Problems don't seem to justify the costs and environmental damage.
- The same group of big name contractors manage and benefit from all projects.
- Contrary to NJDOT, Federal funds **can** be re-purposed.
- Environmental Impact Statements harshly resisted.
- NJDOT consistently resists informing public, elected officials or community groups about project plans.

other communities push back

- I80 Delaware water gap Knowlton plans started a little before Rte. 29 in Kingwood.
- 2015 Knowlton Twp. passes resolution opposing project that many rallied around
- 2019, I80 Coalition formed, many news stories, much support from elected official in PA and NJ
 - Pushing for EIS looks very promising
 - Requesting OIG investigation claims of fraud around these projects
 - DOT hired a major league lobbying firm MBI to sell project to the community and political leaders-- with tax dollars ?
- Both I80 and Rt 29 project in the same DOT “preliminary engineering” phase
- Aug 2020, Bethlehem Mayor Walter Baumgarten - unaware of a \$46 million NJDOT rockfall project on Route 78 until less than two months before construction was scheduled to begin.
- March 10, Warren County NJ past a resolution requesting the The I80 water gap project be restarted at its original budget, with open community and public involvement. Encouraged other counties to follow suit.

Conclusion Rte. 29 Rockfall Mitigation project

- Scary project, seems unnecessary with no injuries of record
- Severely damaging in many ways
- NJ DOT avoids all public disclosure or involvement. An active strategy to avoid accountability
- There are many other real public safety project that need doing
- State needs to require cost benefits analysis and real EIS and to involve affected communities in setting priority and evaluating options.
- Not to be dramatic, but I fear time is running out to organize opposition to this baseless project that threatens to destroy forever some of the most beautiful an important features of the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic corridor.

Questions

To help or ask question email us at:

DTTART29@gmail.com

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter at:

The Devil's Tea Table Alliance



The Devil's Tea Table Alliance -- Mission

- Inform communities about this project
- Encourage Towns, Townships & Counties negatively impacted by the NJ DOT plans to pass resolutions opposing the project.
- Request federal and local elected officials, community groups, Native American Tribal groups and the National Park Service to require a true EIS and public hearings.

NJTPA FY 2020-2023 TIP Project Status Report

Project Title:
Route 29, Rockfall Mitigation, Kingwood Twp

Project ID:
11413B

Routes:
29

Mile Posts:
27.4-30.4

Initiated by the Rockfall Hazard Management System, the project will provide rockfall mitigation within the project limits.

Forecast Phases of Work

2020	2021	2022	2023
		CON	CON

NJDOT Project Manager's Comments

SUBJECT	ISSUE	COMMENT
---------	-------	---------

Study and Development Dates

Title	Projected	Actual
Authorize FD	Mar 2, 2022	Apr 5, 2022
Authorize ROW	Jul 26, 2022	Aug 22, 2022
Contract Awarded	Jan 31, 2024	Jan 31, 2024
Environmental Document Complete	Sep 30, 2021	Sep 30, 2021
Hold Public Information Center	Jan 19, 2021	Feb 8, 2021
PS&E Certified	Oct 16, 2023	Oct 16, 2023
Receive Authorization to Advertise	Oct 17, 2023	Nov 15, 2023
ROW Availability	Sep 29, 2023	Sep 29, 2023
Substantial Completion	Apr 9, 2025	Apr 9, 2025

Project Cost *

PE Estimate	FD Estimate	ROW Estimate	CON Estimate	Total TIP
		\$0.500M	\$32.469M	\$28.883M

* Currency values are shown in millions

NJTPA FY 2020-2023 TIP Project Status Report

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Route 29, Rockfall Mitigation, Kingwood Twp

Routes:

29

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Forecast Phases of Work
NJDOT Project Manager's Comments
Study and Development Dates

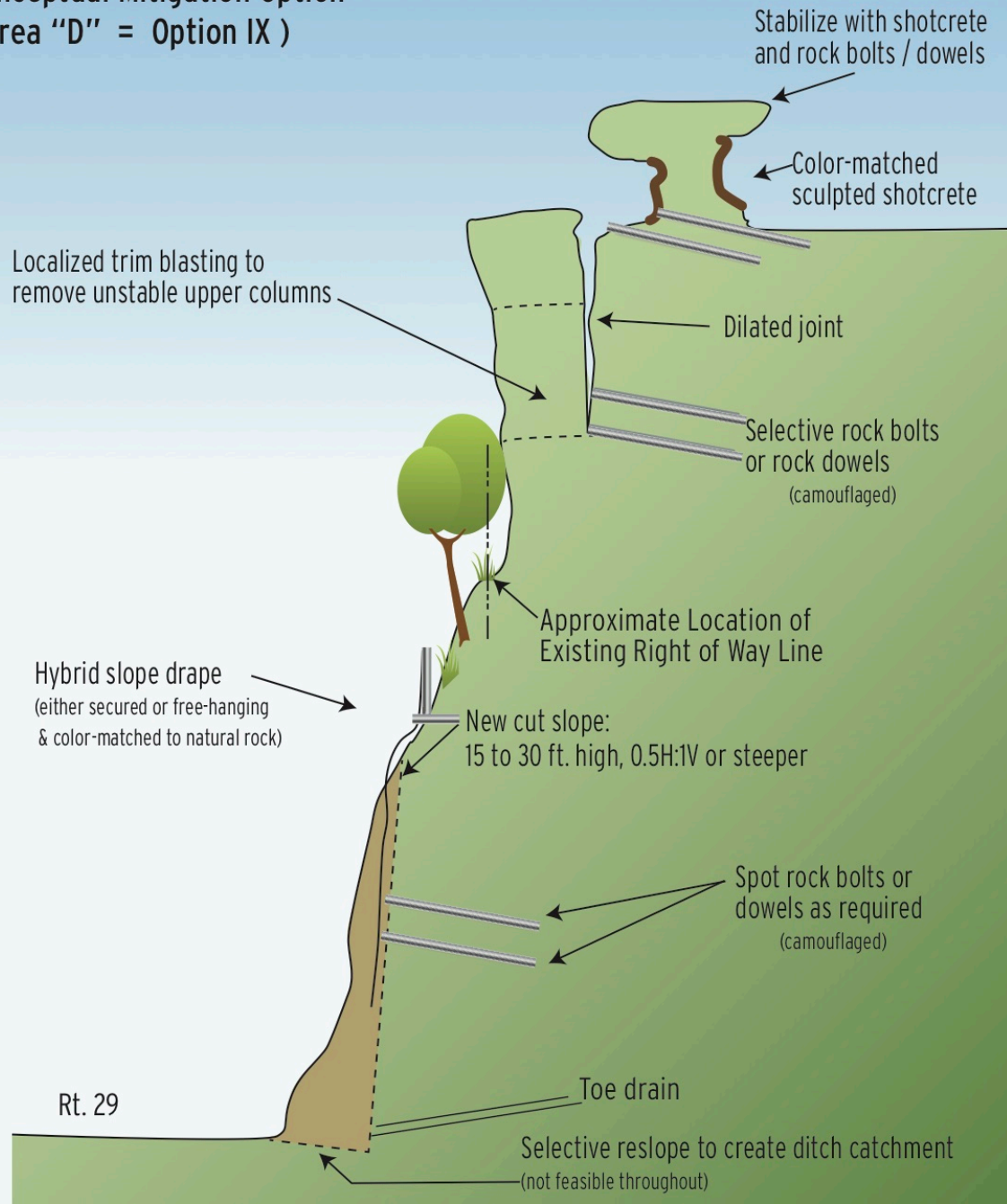
2020	2021	2022	2023
		CON	CON

Colleen Wilson Articles 12-2020, 1-2021

- ARTICLE #1 - [NJ DOT spends millions on falling rocks on highways, but why? \(njherald.com\)](#)
- ARTICLE#2 - : [Consulting firm cashed in \\$7M for NJ DOT project still being planned \(northjersey.com\)](#)
- ARTICLE#3 - [Local officials say they're left out of NJ DOT rockfall plans \(northjersey.com\)](#)
- ARTICLE#4
- <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/transportation/2021/01/27/nj-lawmakers-question-dot-projects-stop-falling-rocks-highways/4157717001/?fbclid=IwAR0BikrcRq1IPL6Tk13caC5C7q4z44tbz-wk5PLTahX0mHb0AMlKvs6eV> E

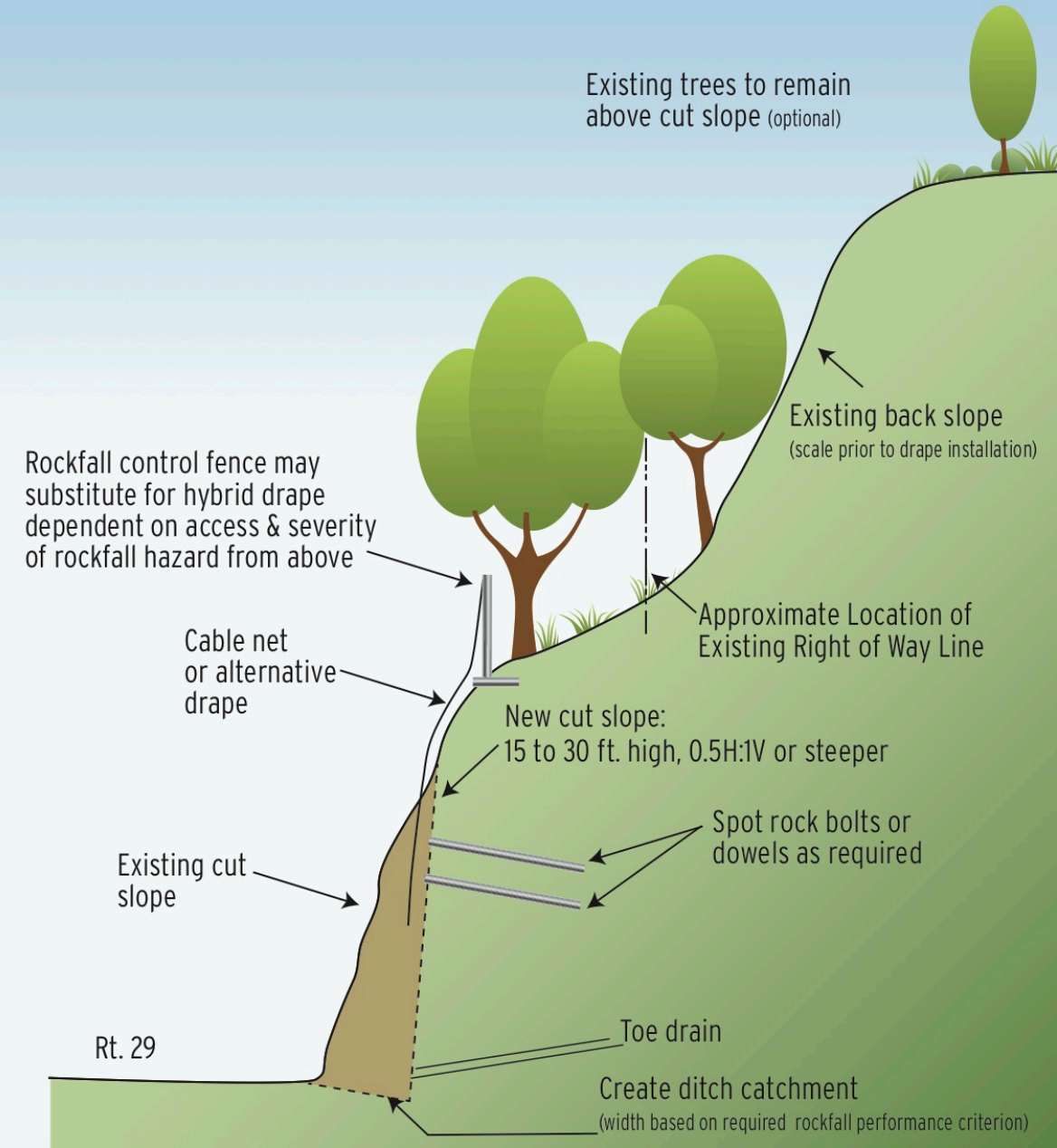
**Preliminary Preferred
Conceptual Mitigation Option
(Area "D" = Option IX)**

Figure 6-3
(NTS)

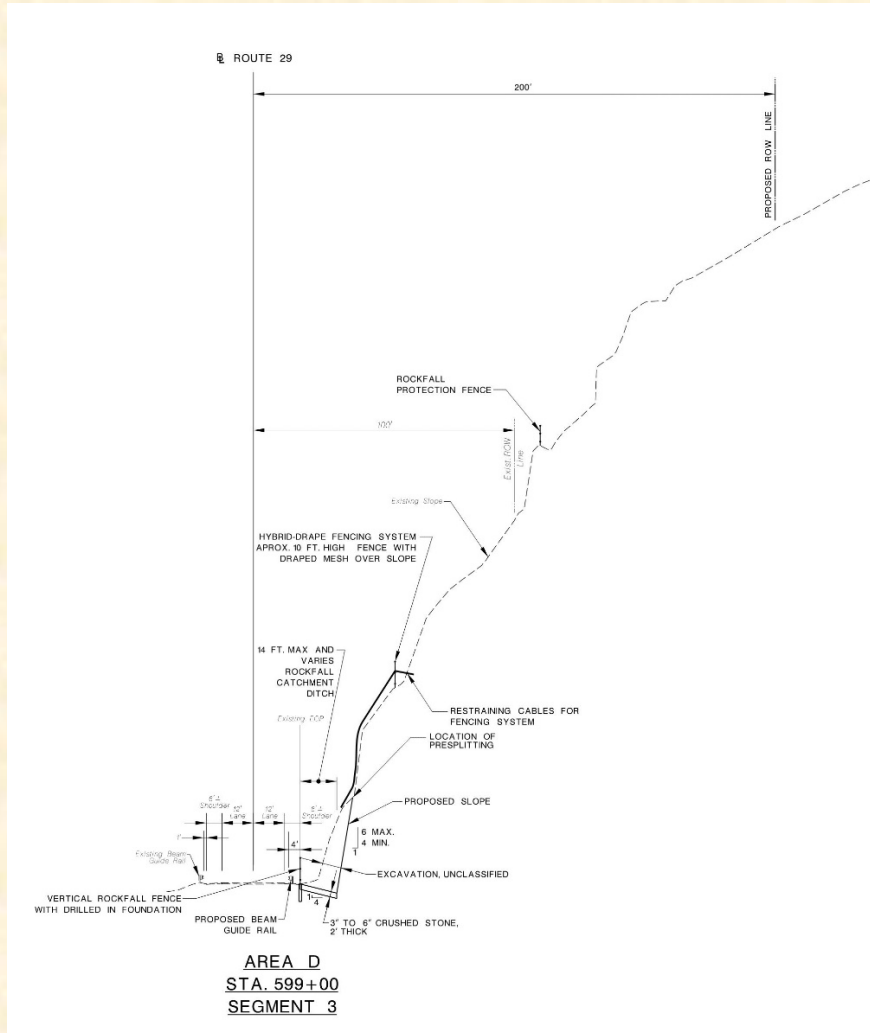


**Preliminary Preferred
Conceptual Mitigation Option
(Area "A" = Option V)**

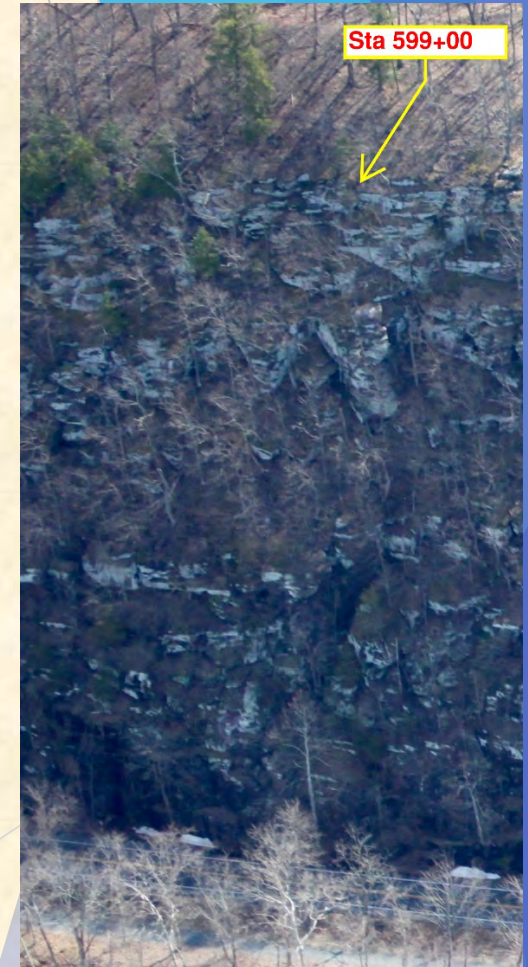
Figure 6-1
(NTS)



Sta 599+00 Segment 3



- ▶ 5 to 15 ft wide ditch 6V:1H cut rock slope, 20 to 80 ft high
- ▶ Upslope 10 ft high hybrid (drape) rockfall fence
- ▶ Roadside rockfall barrier fence, 8 to 10 ft high
- ▶ Remove or stabilize high-risk columns, pinnacles, and chimneys.
- ▶ Length of 400 ft.



Route 29 Rockfall Events from 2013 - July 2019

Table of Rockfall Events

No.	Date Observed	Source of Information	Area	Approximate Station	Mile Post	Approximate Volume (CY)	Fall Location (furthest extent)
0	February-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	N/A	237+12	23.40	<1	NB shoulder
1	December-13	NJDOT Maint/CD/NJDOT Eng. Geo.	A	449+00	27.30	4	NB Lane
2	December-13	NJDOT Engineering Geology	A	452+00	27.40	2	NB Lane
3	April-14	NJDOT Maint. (CD Report)	C	486+00	28.00	6 (total 10 CY)	NB & SB lanes
4	November-14	NJDOT Engineering Geology	A	451+00	27.30	<1	SB lane
5	March-15	NJDOT Engineering Geology	C	501+50	28.30	<1	NB shoulder
6	March-15	NJDOT Engineering Geology	A	448+50	27.30	1	Off NB shoulder
7	March-15	NJDOT Engineering Geology	C	484+00	28.00	<1	Off NB shoulder
8	July-16	NJDOT Engineering Geology	A	449+00	27.30	<1	NB lane
9	February-17	NJDOT Eng. Geo. and H&A	C	501+50	28.30	<1	Off NB shoulder
10	February-17	H&A and Dewberry on site	B	457+90	27.50	<1	NB shoulder
11	November-17	H&A site visit	D	585+80	30.00	<1	Off NB shoulder
12	November-17	H&A site visit	D	605+50	30.30	1	NB shoulder
13	November-17	H&A site visit	D	608+50	30.40	<1	Off NB shoulder
14	December-17	NJDOT Engineering Geology	C	503+50	28.30	<1	NB lane
15	December-17	NJDOT Engineering Geology	D	605+00	30.10	<1	SB lane/shoulder
16	December-17	NJDOT Engineering Geology	A	453+00	27.40	<1	NB shoulder
17	January-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	B	460+00	27.50	<1	Roadway Centerline
18	January-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	C	484+00	28.00	<1	NB shoulder
19	February-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	B	459+00	27.50	<1	NB shoulder
20	February-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	D	612+00	30.45	2	NB shoulder
21	February-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	A	451+50	27.40	<1	NB shoulder
22	February-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	D	608+00	30.40	<1	NB shoulder
23	February-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	D	606+00	30.35	<1	NB shoulder
24	February-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	D	610+50	30.45	<1	NB shoulder
25	February-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	D	608+50	30.40	<1	NB shoulder
26	February-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	D	611+00	30.45	<1	NB shoulder
27	May-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	D	611+50	30.45	<1	NB shoulder
28	September-18	Dewberry site visit	A	443+00	27.30	<1	NB shoulder
29	September-18	NJDOT Engineering Geology	C	479+80	27.90	2	NB Lane
30	February-19	NJDOT Engineering Geology	A	443+00	27.30	1	NB shoulder
31	May-19	NJDOT Engineering Geology	A	448+50	27.30	2	NB shoulder
32	July-19	NJDOT Engineering Geology	C	505+50	28.40	<1 (various)	NB shoulder

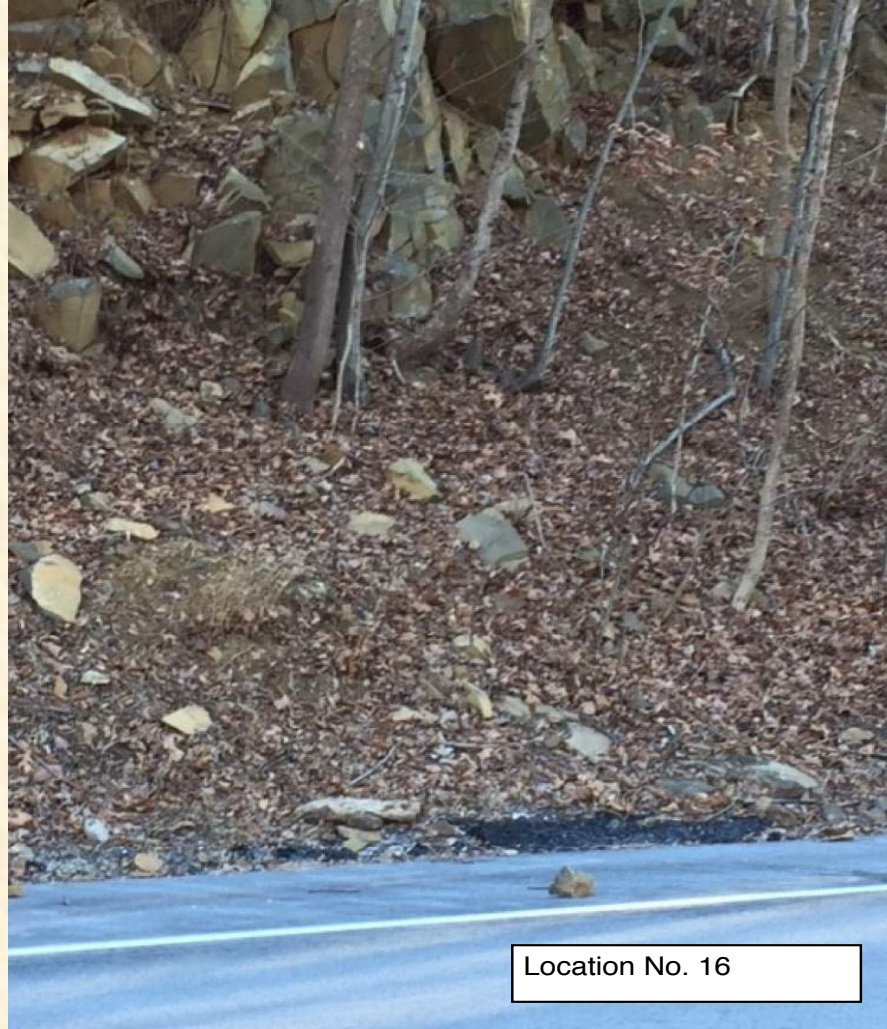
2016 Kingwood becomes aware of the rockfall mitigation project, Quote from RD
December 2020 articles by Colleen Wilson

“ So, how many people were killed by rockfalls in the area ?

None that we know of,” response Dodds received.

“If you would ask how many people were injured or cars were damaged by deer entering the same stretch of Route 29 — the number is astronomical”, he said,

He added, “ and nothing has been done to address that issue.”



Area A

Location No. 16

links and sources cited.

Rockfall Hazard Mitigation Report Rt 29 Kingwood Twp., April 2015 HNTB Corp Parsippany NJ
<https://www.nj.gov/transportation/business/procurement/ProfServ/documents/Rt.29RockfallMitigation-RockEngineeringReportPart1of2.pdf>

<https://www.nj.com/news/2019/09/28m-rockfall-mitigation-project-could-improve-traveler-safety-on-route-29-dot-says.html>

January 2016 Dewberry Inc. Scope of Services report, from NJDOT OPRA request

[NJ DOT spends millions on falling rocks on highways, but why? \(njherald.com\)](#)

[Consulting firm cashed in \\$7M for NJ DOT project still being planned \(northjersey.com\)](#)

[Local officials say they're left out of NJ DOT rockfall plans \(northjersey.com\)](#)