I-295/I-76/Route 42
Direct Connection
Camden and Gloucester Counties

Best Management Practices
for a Successful EIS Process
• Project Overview
• Communications Process
• Environmental Process
• Measures of Success
Project Overview

Presented by:
Craig Johnson, Dewberry
Project Overview
Project Overview
Purpose and Need

• Improve Traffic Safety
  – Accident rates four to seven times the statewide average

• Reduce Congestion
  – An average of 250,000 vehicles use the interchange daily

• Meet Driver’s Expectations
  – No direct connection for I-295 thru-traffic
OBJECTIVE
Select a shortlist of feasible alternatives that satisfy the project purpose and need with minimal impacts to the natural and built environment to be studied through the EIS process.
Project Overview
Selection Criteria

- Constructability
- Maintainability
- Compliance with Standard Design Criteria
- Comparison of Order of Magnitude Construction Cost
- Right-of-way Acquisition
- Wetlands Preservation
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Socioeconomic Conditions
- Environmental Justice
- Archaeological Resources
- Historic Resources
- Potential Hazardous/Contaminated Sites
### Project Overview

**Alternatives Screening Matrix**

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**I-295/I-76/ROUTE 42 DIRECT CONNECTION**

#### Initial Alternatives Screening Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPACTS</th>
<th>ALTERNATIVES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constructability</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain and Operate</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparison of Estimated Construction Cost (x100,000)</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compliance with Design Criteria</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of conflict points</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right-of-Way</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Facilities</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cemetery Plots</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- School</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Parks</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Total</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplains</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual/Contextual Impacts</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeological Resources</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Prehistoric Resources</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Historic Resources</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Architecture</td>
<td>♦</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:**
2. The terms High, Moderate, and Low Sensitivity are used relative to the sensitivities of the other alternatives under consideration. An item labeled ‘L’ means only that the potential impacts are lower than those of alternatives labeled ‘M’ or ‘H’.
3. Alternative K is assumed to be a bored tunnel underneath the cemetery.
4. Alternatives E and E2 impact both the New St. Mary’s Cemetery and the Resurrection Cemetery.
5. * Although all alternatives meet current geometric design standards, certain design features applicable to open roadways may not be applicable in a tunnel (shoulders).
Project Overview
Feasibility Assessment

• Supplemental Boring Program
• Wetlands Delineated
• 30 Scale Mapping with Supplemental Survey
• Level of Design for Five Alternatives
• Accelerated Construction Technology Transfer (ACTT) Workshop
Project Overview
## Project Overview
### Schedule and Cost Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Construction Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced ITS</td>
<td>May 2012 to December 2012</td>
<td>$7.0 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>September 2012 to December 2014</td>
<td>$176.5 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>March 2014 to January 2017</td>
<td>$253.0 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>September 2016 to January 2019</td>
<td>$162.1 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March 2018 to November 2020</td>
<td>$222.1 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$820.7 M</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Communications Process: The Key to Building Stakeholders Trust

Presented by:
Craig Johnson, Dewberry
Communications Process
Project Management and Communication Strategy

• Project Management Team
  – NJDOT PM (Engineering)
  – NJDOT Environmental Lead
  – Consultant PM (Engineering)
  – Consultant DPM (Environmental)

• 4-Way Communication
  – Everyone knew how engineering decisions could impact the environment
Communications Process
Obstacles to Community Support

• Community perception
• Past Projects
• Perception that Regional Benefits Outweigh Local Impacts
Communications Process
Strategy for Obtaining Public Support

• Develop Open & Honest Communication and Public Involvement Process
• Build Trust with Residents and Local Governments
Communications Process
The Right Public Involvement Team

- NJDOT OCR
- NJDOT PM
- NJDOT SMEs
- Consultant Community Relations Specialist
- Consultant Engineering and Environmental Staff
Communications Process
The Right Strategy

• Local Officials Briefing
• Community Advisory Committee
• Partnering Sessions
• Tailored Outreach and Communication Approaches
  – bus tour
  – publicized balloon study
  – photo simulations
Communications Process
Communication Tools

Balloon Study
Bellmawr Baseball League Fields
Communications Process
Communication Tools

Balloon Study
New St. Mary’s Cemetery
Communications Process
Communication Tools

Existing conditions
Browning Road looking west
Communications Process
Communication Tools

Photo Simulation
Browning Road looking west
Communications Process
Communication Tools

Photo Simulation
Browning Road looking west
Alternative G2, H1 with noise walls
Communications Process
Additional Communication Tools

• Proactive Public Relations Campaign
  – Publicize Detailed PIAP and Process Flow Chart
  – Website
  – Links to other Web Sites & News Letters AAA, DVRPC
  – Local Newspaper Articles/Interviews
  – Press Releases
  – Newsletters
  – Personalized Responses to Stakeholders Inquiries
Communications Process
Additional Communication Tools

• Well Publicized Public Involvement Activities
  – 5,000-person mailing list
  – Large Ads in local papers
  – Fliers distributed in local stores, libraries, community centers, etc.

• Relevant Information Posted in Public Areas
  – Local Libraries
  – Municipal Buildings
Communications Process
Additional Communication Tools
Communications Process
Additional Communication Tools

• Website
  – Well Designed, Easy to Navigate
  – Detailed Project Information Database
  – Photo Simulation
  – Public Meeting Minutes
  – FEIS and TES
  – Updated Regularly
  – Easy To Remember E-mail Address (FIX295.COM)
Communications Process
Additional Communication Tools

• Meetings with Impacted Stakeholders
  – Bellmawr Park Mutual Housing Corporation
  – Annunciation Church
  – Mt. Ephraim Senior Housing
  – New St. Mary’s Cemetery
  – Bellmawr Baseball
  – Bellmawr Board of Education
  – Private Property Owners
• Bellmawr Mutual Housing Corporation
  – Explained 106 Process in detail
  – Conducted Site Search for Replacement Housing Units
  – Explained ROW Process
  – Resolved Replacement Parking/Modified Access
• **New St. Mary’s Cemetery Coordination**
  – New Grave Sites Altered Alignment
  – 295 Bridge 20’ from Mausoleums
  – Early ROW Acquisition
  – Meetings with Family Members
Environmental Process

Presented by:
Ileana S. Ivanciu, Dewberry
Environmental Process
NEPA Process

Purpose & Need

Develop Alternatives

Technical Studies/Alternatives Analysis

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Distribution/Public Hearing

Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision

Design Include NEPA Commitments

Construction Implement NEPA Commitments
Environmental Process
Agencies Involved

• NJDEP
• EPA
• US Army Corps of Engineers
• US Fish and Wildlife Service
• Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
• Delaware River Basin Commission
Environmental Process
Permits Required

• NJDEP
  – Freshwater Wetlands
  – Flood Hazard Area
  – Waterfront Development

• USACE Section 404 and Section 10 Permits
• Select Best Alternative to Avoid, Minimize and Mitigate Impacts to the Greatest Extent Possible
• Minimize Environmental Review Time
• Minimize Change at the FEIS and Permitting Stage
Environmental Process
Streamlining the Environmental Process

• Typical Strategies
  – Early Agency Involvement
  – Partnering

• Our Approach
  – Develop a Streamlined Environmental Review Process
  – Active and Consistent Agency Participation
  – NEPA/404 Merger
Environmental Process
Streamlining the Environmental Process

• Review of Streamlining Process in other States
• Mid-Atlantic Transportation and Environment (MATE)
• USACE, EPA and FHWA Meeting
Environmental Process
Team Strategies

• Adopt Common Guiding Principles
• Develop Process with Buy-in from All Participants
• Consensus-Based Approach
• Build Trust and Respect with All Parties
• Deliver on Commitments
Environmental Process
Streamlining Principles

• Scoping is ongoing and continuous
• Agencies will define their roles early and come to the table with open mind
• Each agency will be respected for its role and responsibility
• Work together to find acceptable, though not necessarily perfect, solutions compatible with agency mission and with project purpose and need
• Agencies will strive to provide sufficient staffing to be an effective player

• Conflict resolution can be initiated by any agency at any stage to resolve any concerns

• Agencies will work together to seek an equitable balance of impacts to all resources
• At major milestones, agencies will participate in a formal concurrence process
• After formal concurrence, agencies agree to not revisit a milestone unless there is substantive new information that warrants reconsideration
• Each agency recognizes that success is directly related to the level of ownership, effort and resources provided by the agency itself
Environmental Process
NEPA/404 Merger

Purpose & Need

Concurrence Point

Develop Alternatives

Concurrence Point

Technical Studies/ Alternatives Analysis

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Distribution/Public Hearing
USACE Section 404 Conceptual Permit Application

Shortlisting of Alternatives

Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Record of Decision

Design
Incorporate NEPA Commitments

Construction
Implement NEPA Commitments

Incorporate NEPA Commitments
Summary of Approach
Optimize Collaboration

• Strategies for Effective Meetings
• Multiple Design Workshops
• Stakeholder Consensus
• Iterative Alternatives Screening/Alternatives Analysis Process
• Informed Qualitative Decision-Making Approach
Project Overview
Benefits of Environmental Streamlining

• Better Define Project Scope
• Identify Issues and Address Agency Concerns Early
• Eliminate Posturing and Last Minute Surprises
• Team Spirit
• Trust, Mutual Respect
Project Overview
Benefits of Environmental Streamlining

• **Time Savings**
  – Address Issues Up-front to Minimize Typical End of Process Rework When Most Time-consuming Delays Occur

• **Cost Savings**
  – Minimize Re-engineering
  – Escalation Costs are over $20M/year

• **A Better Project that Not Only Addresses Transportation Needs but also Protects Community Interests and Local Environment**
Measures of Success

- FHWA Approved Independent Utility Statement
- Concurrence on Project Purpose and Need
- Concurrence on Long List of Alternatives
- Concurrence on Alternatives Recommended for Further Study AND Preferred Alternative
- ROD with Minimum Comments
- Conceptual Section 404 Permit along with ROD