

Date Issued: March 20, 2007

## MEETING REPORT

**PROJECT:** CENTRAL GATEWAY TRAFFIC CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
City of Camden  
Camden County, New Jersey  
McCormick Taylor Project No. 4990-18

**PLACE:** CAMDEN CITY HALL.  
City Council Chamber, Second Floor  
520 Market Street  
Camden, NJ

**DATE/TIME:** Thursday, March 15, 2007, 4:30 PM

**SUBJECT:** **Local Officials Briefing**

**ATTENDEES:** See List

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this meeting was to inform the City Officials of the NJDOT Central Gateway Project. Topics included: transportation and infrastructure, traffic safety and upcoming public outreach initiatives.

**REPORT BY:** Daniel J. Dattilio, P.E. *Daniel J. Dattilio*

### MEETING DISPLAYS/HANDOUTS:

- Existing Conditions Aerial Map
- Existing Circulation Plan
- Conceptual Improvement Plans

### DISCUSSION:

#### Introduction

Patricia Feliciano, NJDOT, welcomed all attendees and explained that it is the NJDOT's policy to inform the elected officials of all transportation projects within the community.

Jody Barankin, NJDOT, informed the Council that the Department is committed to completing the Central Gateway Project. The Gateway Area is viewed as a welcoming sign to the City and this project is intended to integrate land use, transportation, and redevelopment. Transportation is important to the creation of jobs, opportunities and revenue, and providing improved mobility for the motorists.

### Proposed Improvements

Ken Burkhardt, McCormick Taylor, utilized graphics to explain the project limits, existing traffic issues, project objectives, and proposed improvements. The following information was presented utilizing display materials:

Existing Traffic Issues - The existing roadway system is confusing to motorists due to the multiple loop roads, poor signing, counterintuitive routing (i.e. directing traffic to the left to go right and vice-versa), multiple merging, diverging and weaving areas. The network is not a true grid system. The one-way road orientation makes finding ones destination difficult. The system is not pedestrian friendly and is unsafe throughout the area. The wide cross-section along 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets encourages high speeds. Problem areas include the unsignalized intersection of Newton Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> Street. These issues include heavy volumes along Newton Avenue, reduced sight distances, and the lack of adequate gaps due to high speeds along 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The 4-lane section is also a safety issue for crossing movements, however; this condition will be improved when the traffic signals as part of the NJDOT I-676/MLK Blvd Project become functional. Another problem area involves vehicle stacking along Memorial Avenue in the vicinity of U.S. Route 30. This is due to the heavy afternoon volumes from Federal Street and along Memorial Avenue. A traffic simulation analysis was completed to model the existing traffic.

Project Objectives - The objectives utilized while developing the scheme included:

- Improving vehicular circulation
- Providing enhanced access to/from major arterials
- Employ traffic calming measures to enhance safety
- Enhance pedestrian safety/facilities
- Encourage economic development/redevelopment

Proposed Improvements -

- Convert 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Newton Avenue to two-way streets
- Eliminate loop roads connecting 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Street, and Memorial Avenue
- Eliminate the Flanders Avenue overpass over the existing loop roads
- Reconstruct and re-profile Flanders Avenue to an at-grade intersection with Memorial Avenue
- Provide a left turn movement from the I-676 NB exit ramp to 11<sup>th</sup> Street
- Install a traffic signal at Flanders Avenue/11<sup>th</sup> Street & Memorial Avenue
- Install a traffic signal at 11<sup>th</sup> Street/Mt. Ephraim Avenue
- Widen 11<sup>th</sup> Street to accommodate a 5-lane cross-section having 2-11' through lanes in each direction and an 11' left turn lane at the intersections – no ROW required
- Re-align Wright Avenue at it's intersection with 11<sup>th</sup> Street (eliminates confusing diverge along WB 11<sup>th</sup> Street)
- Reconfigure Memorial Avenue intersection area with Route 30

John Mullen, McCormick Taylor, advised that NJDOT has developed comprehensive and aggressive public involvement efforts for this project. Interviews will be conducted at workshops with community leaders, groups and organizations, and others with a presence in the area. Two workshops will be conducted during the last week of March. The Public Involvement Action Plan will target four neighborhoods grouped at two separate workshops: "Gateway" and "Parkside" for the first and "Bergen Square" and "Lanning Square" for the second. The first workshop is intended to solicit any issues, concerns and ideas from the public. At the second workshop, the NJDOT will present a summary of local issues and concerns, and solicit feedback for prioritization of improvements. A Public Information Center for all residents will be conducted during the week of April 30, 2007.



Questions and Answers

Angel Fuentes, Council President, inquired if consideration could be given to providing a “Welcome to Camden” sign at the Federal Street Bridge crossing at Route 30. Jody Barankin explained that the NJDOT is committed to a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) approach to transportation projects. The objective is to develop community specific solutions. Mr. Barankin will coordinate CSS efforts with the City and Council to be considered at the Final Design Phase of project development. Mr. Fuentes offered his appreciation the NJDOT for their commitment and is looking forward to the Project.

The above constitutes our understanding of the main points of discussion. Kindly contact us at once if there is any error or omission. Please contact Evens Marcellus of DPPD at (609) 530-2850.

**ATTENDEES:**

Patricia Feliciano  
Anthony Davis  
Jody Barankin  
Evens Marcellus  
LeRoy H. Gould  
Veronica Murphy  
Dan Dattilio  
Ken Burkhardt  
John Mullen  
Angel Fuentes  
Gilbert “Whip” Wilson  
William W. Spearman  
Curtis Jenkins  
Dana Redd  
Francisco “Frank” Moran

NJDOT – OCR  
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NJDOT  
McCormick Taylor, Inc.  
McCormick Taylor, Inc.  
McCormick Taylor, Inc.  
Camden Council President  
Camden Councilperson  
Camden Councilperson  
Camden Councilperson  
Camden Councilperson  
Camden Councilperson

cc:

Thomas Saylor  
Robert Kelly  
Charles Lyons

NJDOT – DPPD  
Camden County Engineer  
Camden Redevelopment Agency