



**Route 52 Causeway Aesthetics/ Visitors Center Task Force
Meeting No. 2 Report**

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2003
TIME: 1:30 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Somers Point, City Hall
PURPOSE: **Somers Point Gateway**

ATTENDEES

Jon Austin- Neighborhood Rt. 52
Steven Hardegen- SHPO
Robert Himmelstein- Redevelopment Comm.
Dan Reilly- City Council
Chuck Riebel- S.P.B.A.
Harry Smith- City Council
Greg Sykora - Redevelopment Comm.
Wes Swain- S.P. Administrator
Rich Attenello- NJDOT
Phil Cyr- NJDOT
David Earl- NJDOT
Ahmad Qureshi-NJDOT
Sylvester Fryc- Michael Baker, Jr.
Mike Sidani- Michael Baker, Jr.
Carol Beske- ACT Engineers

MEETING SUMMARY

Fred Gottemoeller presented a board showing the gateway area including the bridge touch-down, pointed out some of the likely concerns and asked for comments. The following comments were made:

1. There was substantial concern and discussion about previous comments that had been made concerning traffic flow and access points as to whether those were being reflected in the ongoing work. Mike Sidani acknowledged the comments and their status, he explained that all of the issues are being evaluated and will be discussed in more detail during Access/Mobility Task Force Meeting. The representatives from Somers Point described a proposal to build a new street from Shore Ave. to MacArthur Blvd. that should relieve some of the pressure on the new intersection. Mike offered to work directly with the city and property owners traffic consultant on traffic patterns and access points.

2. The City clearly prefers the greenway portions of MacArthur Blvd. to look like a historic park, not like the "parkway" look shown in the initial sketch. This should include meandering paths and rolling grading. The neighborhood representative, Jon Austin, asked that the team work closely with his group to develop the details. After the meeting, Fred met with him on the site to discuss their concerns.
3. There needs to be a pedestrian crossing at the Braddock Drive intersection.
4. The City is very interested in putting the electrical lines along MacArthur Blvd. underground. The design team will provide the increased cost of doing so in excess of the costs of the above ground relocation required for the project. It was suggested that the City also approach the utility for support.
5. The lighting should be period lighting similar to that used for the City's bikepath, not the period lighting used on Bay Ave. Outlets and banner arms should be provided on each pole.
6. NJDOT can provide landscaping and special lighting, but maintenance will have to be by the City and/or property owners by agreement with NJDOT.
7. In landscaped areas, receptacles should be provided for tree lighting.
8. It is important to improve both the visual and physical access to the Somers Mansion.
9. Consideration should be given to routing the bikeway/ sidewalk along the west side of Shore Ave. from the bike path to the Mac Arthur Blvd. intersection, with the crossing of Shore Ave. at the intersection.
10. By Council resolution, the City has set the speed limit for MacArthur Blvd. to 35 mph.
11. The City would like to extend and reinforce the pattern of street trees along MacArthur Blvd.
12. There is an existing improvement district covering MacArthur Blvd. which is a potential mechanism for enlisting participation by present property owners and future developers on landscaping on private property that would reinforce the landscaping on MacArthur Blvd. ROW.
13. The City will approach the property owners on the southeast quadrant of the MacArthur Blvd. intersection about the best route for the sidewalk/bikeway from the boardwalk under the bridge to Kennedy Park.

ACTION ITEMS

Mike will arrange with the City for a workshop on traffic and access issues. The design team will develop, in more detail, the features of the gateway based on the above discussion. The need for the follow up meeting will be evaluated.

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the minutes within three (3) working days of receipt. Without notification, we will consider these minutes to be record of fact.

Sly Fryc

Task Force Chairperson