

**ROUTE 52 CAUSEWAY REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM  
MEETING NO. 2 REPORT**

DATE: March 26, 2003  
TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Mac's Restaurant, Somers Point, NJ

**ATTENDEES:** Listed at the end of the report

### **1. PURPOSE OF MEETING**

To present the results of the Task Force Meetings; to discuss the project status and proposed improvements; and to discuss community issues and next steps for public outreach. (Agenda and PowerPoint Presentation Slides attached)

### **2. MEETING SUMMARY**

Martine Culbertson, opened the meeting on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Participants then introduced themselves and who they represent. Martine reviewed the agenda and explained the materials distributed for their CPT Handbooks. She then introduced Mike Sidani, the Project Manager from the engineering firm Michael Baker, Jr. to present the project status.

#### Project Status:

Mike Sidani began by presenting the sequence of events since the first CPT meeting. He reviewed the CPT Team Charter, the five Task Forces and their respective goals. (See powerpoint presentation attachment.) Mike then noted the modifications to the IPA (Initially Preferred Alternative) as a result of the input from the first CPT meeting and the task force meeting discussions. The CPT requested revised conceptual drawings and maps for the CPT Handbook. Mike introduced Fred Gottemoeller to present the conceptual drawings for the causeway aesthetics, visitors center and gateway areas for Somers Point and Ocean City.

#### Causeway Aesthetics and Visitors Center:

Fred Gottemoeller reviewed the guiding principles for aesthetic design elements (see powerpoint presentation attachment). He emphasized the conceptual visual theme for the causeway as a "ribbon in space". Given the guiding principals and proposed bridge design, there are two options to consider for the piers: (1) fan approach at top of pier or (2) octagonal shape column. There are two types of open railing to consider: (1) modern vertical rails or (2) more historic railing similar to porches in the area. Fred presented three lighting options: (1) single center roadway lighting emphasizing points of light concept, (2) underdeck superstructure lighting and (3) pier lighting.

There is a fourth alternative being developed that combines points of light concept along with the pier lighting. Fred reviewed the Ocean City Visitors Center renderings and the MacArthur Boulevard area widening with a landscaped median in one area and the serpentine sidewalk. He also presented the aesthetic concepts for the Ocean City gateway area and the Somers Point gateway area (see attached powerpoint presentation and artist renderings).

Questions were raised as follows:

- Q - Who is responsible for maintenance of the proposed picnic and parking area near the Somers Mansion Site?
- A - A jurisdictional agreement would be drafted indicating that Somers Point would be responsible for maintenance once constructed by the State.
- Q - Landscaping has been shown for the Mansion site. What will the landscaping look like at the other locations around the Somers Point circle.
- A - NJDOT will continue to work with the local community in refining the aesthetic treatments and show the improvements from each perspective.
- Q- Will utilities be taken down or put underground?
- A - The location of utilities will be determined once final design is completed. The movement of utilities lines is considered a betterment, so such an enhancement would have to be examined for benefits and costs. The costs for betterment would have to be borne by the City of Somers Point.

Mobility, Circulation and Access:

Tim Lidiak presented the modifications to the design pertaining to access and circulation issues in Somers Point. MacArthur Boulevard changes are proposed to create a right angle intersection at Braddock Avenue. As a result, the Casual Furniture store's parking lot will be altered. Additionally, Tim reviewed the access flow for each of the businesses around the Somers Point circle namely, Joe's cafe, Point Diner, Circle Liquor, Passport Inn, and Crab Trap. He explained the displacement and relocation of parking spaces at each of the properties and the inclusion of shared access between businesses to improve access.

Tim presented the circulation and access for Ocean City. An issue was raised regarding the proposed take of one condo unit at the Bridgeport Plaza Condominiums in order to accommodate a suggested sidewalk on the south side of the causeway on to 9th Street. It is possible to remove the one unit and have the other units to remain intact. The owners of the end unit proposed to be removed were present at the meeting and expressed strong desire to stay in their current location. Further evaluation is underway. Tim explained the bike connectivity to the regional bike trails on both sides of the causeway. He also spoke of fishing access on Rainbow Island and bumps outs on the causeway. He closed explaining the need for traffic calming techniques to allow pedestrian and cyclists to cross at busy intersections.

### CPT Discussions over Lunch:

The CPT moved to round tables for lunch and discussion on the causeway aesthetics. Each table was asked to discuss the options for the design for the piers, railings, and lighting. In returning to the presentation room, Martine asked for input on the aesthetic elements. The results are as follows:

- Octagonal straight piers preferred over fan piers.
- Historic patterned railing preferred over the straight railing provided the views are not obstructed.
- Center roadway lighting appearing as a "string of pearls" preferred to lighting of the piers and understructure.
- As a side discussion, the owners of the Chinese Restaurant showed up and expressed their desire to stay in their current location.

### Traffic Staging and Management:

Al Klag presented the staging of the bridge. There will be two lanes of traffic in both directions throughout the project during the peak summer seasons, and during the off season phase, traffic could be one lane in each direction as needed. This task force will be active in providing traffic management plans and coordination throughout the various stages and phases of construction. Traffic signal timing will be examined under current conditions and adjusted at appropriate times to assist in efficient flow of traffic during construction staging. Devices will be used to provide early warning to motorists such as radio announcements, VMS signs, and an evacuation plan.

### Public Information and Awareness:

Bill Felix reviewed the guiding principals for public information and awareness. He emphasized the importance of community outreach with effective communication. The web site will provide current information on the project including meeting reports and a mechanism for submitting public comments and questions. There will be Public Officials Meetings and Public Information Center Meetings to be held in the upcoming months. This task force will continue to work on getting the word out through press releases, TV, informational flyers, and local newsletters. A concern was raised that the public meetings held during the week make it difficult for the summertime residents to attend. It was suggested to consider hosting a Friday evening or weekend public meeting to obtain comments from the sector of the public. Tony Marsella noted that written comments on the proposed improvements can be submitted at anytime. There is a thirty day comment period after the public meeting in which written comments mailed to NJDOT will be addressed and there is a formal process for providing responses to comments for any written comment submitted within thirty days of the public meeting. The project website for Route 52 can be accessed through direct links from the Ocean City and Somers Point web pages or from the following website address:

**[www.state.nj.us/transportation/works/studies/rt52/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/works/studies/rt52/index.html)**

### Environmental Process:

Marshall explained that the environmental process is a continuation of the EIS mitigation from the historic impacts. Fishing access on Rainbow Island and at the Visitors Center have been coordinated with DEP as well as protection of species. The project team will be meeting with permitting agencies and applying for permits over the next 90 days.

### Community Input:

Martine asked CPT members to provide input on the task force information presented or other issues. The following comments were noted on newsprint:

- Access to fishing along bridge
- Boating
- Privacy issue of neighborhoods - visual and lighting
- Privacy screens
- Parking lot configurations
- Fishing pier - how far out for efficient use
- Boating speeds
- Connecting of bike paths - Shore Rd. needs more examination - AI
- Sidewalk issue
- Screening issue
- Lighting - more lights out there, more maintenance
- Lighting sensitivity for residents
- Vibration monitoring and control
- Consistent and constant information (fear what they don't know)
- Concern for Palen Road with 9th Street due to sight distance - better configuration for parking spaces on other side of roadway
- Signage - directional and standard signs, regulations and aesthetics - AI
- Homeland security to be addressed, maintenance and cost efficiency
- Examine maintenance of lighting, and railing - AI - NJDOT
- Provide updated maps for CPT Handbooks
- 900 block Palen Road is often under water - needs to examine storm drains - AI
- Consistent information for both communities is important
- Property impacts
- Review stakeholders for representation on the CPT
- Maintenance of recreational areas
- Sidewalk illumination

### Meeting Schedule:

Regarding the meeting schedule, Mike Sidani noted the next step will be for the Steering Committee to hold a meeting for preparation of the local officials briefing and public information center meetings. The final design will be presented to the public for comment in the spring at a Public Information Center meetings. There will be an additional meeting of the CPT to present results of the public meetings and to review the project status.

In summary, Martine asked members to sign sheets which indicate support for the Team Charter. It will be displayed at the public meetings with additional information on the Community Partnering Team and its accomplishments and on-going outreach efforts. A meeting report will be distributed with a revised list of the CPT members, Task Force members, and revised maps and conceptual drawings.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Power Point handout
2. Project schedule milestones handout
3. Flow chart handout
4. Review stakeholders/members - contact info
5. Mtg. report and revised materials
6. Set dates for task forces - 3rd week in Jan.
7. Steering Committee meeting
8. Review handbooks and stakeholders

Final comments were made by Dave Lambert thanking CPT members for their participation and continued support for the project. Team members will be notified of the dates of the public information center meetings. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

## **3. ACTION ITEMS**

- CPT Members review CPT Handbook materials with their constituents and contact Dave Lambert with any project questions or Martine Culbertson with CPT comments or needs.
- Project Study Team will review issues and comments from the meeting at next Steering Committee meeting.
- Martine Culbertson and Carol Beske will provide CPT meeting report, assist with CPT materials for the review and notify members of the next CPT meeting date.

## **4. NEXT MEETING**

Date: April 23 and 24, 2003 (Local Officials meetings)  
May 20 and 28, 2003 (Public Information Center meetings)  
Time: to be determined  
Location: to be determined - Ocean City / Somers Point

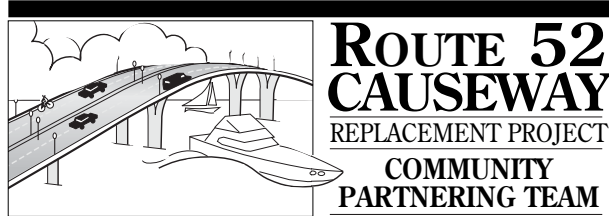
## **5. LIST OF ATTENDEES**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>	<b>Phone No.:</b>
<b>CPT MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS</b>		
Georgia Arnold	O.C.	
Chief Robert Blevin	Ocean City, Police Department	609-525-9100
Mark Benevento	Somers Point, Planning Board	609-601-8500
Michelle Berenato	Ocean City, Community Services	609-525-9297
Chris Betterelli	Leg.Aide, Asm. Nick Asselta	609-844-7377
Jim Boyer	Army Corp of Engineers	215-656-5826
Gus Bruno	Ocean City, Business Rep.	609-399-7968
Dan Campbell	Somers Mansion Historic Site	609-927-2212
Tim Chelius	SJTPO	856-794-1941

Joseph D'Abundo	Atlantic County Engineering	609-645-5898
Michael Datillo	Ocean City, Community Services	609-525-9297
Matthew Davidson	Ocean City, Mayor's Advisory Com.	609-814-1500
J. Ronald Deeney	Ocean City, Rep. for Richard Deaney	609-525-9324
Joann DelVescio	Ocean City, Chamber of Commerce	609-398-1412
Jude Depko	NJHA	
Andrew Didun	Division of Fish & Wildlife	609-984-2413
Dennis DiOrio	DiOrio's Circle Cafe	
Hon. John DiMaria	Somers Point, Mayor	609-927-9088x121
Mark Dransfield	Ocean City, Mayor's Advisory Com.	609-391-7992
Todd Dwyer	S.P. Economic Dev.	
John Exadaktilos	Point Diner	
Ray & Barbara Fender	Bridgeport Plaza	
Art Ford	Somers Point, Economic Dev. Commission	609-398-8166
Dale Foster	Cape May County Engineering	609-465-1035
Jay Gillian	Ocean City, Tourism	609-399-7082
Ron Grunstra	Ocean City, Mayor's Advisory Com.	609-398-5433
Robert Himmelstein	Somers Point, Business Rep.	609-927-4000
Andy Jernee	Ocean City, Planning Board	609-395-8521
Michele Jones	Ocean City, Public Information	609-525-9300
John Kelly	O.C. Chamber	
Steve Lin	Pearl Chinese Restaurant	
Frank McCall	Cape May Co. Emer. Mgmt. Officer	
Mary Lou McDowell	Ocean City, Historic Rep.	609-399-3164
Rich Melini	NJ Transit	
Michael Neals	NJSP	
Jeff Normant	NJDEP	
Dave Parker	City of Somers Point	609-927-6129
Robert Patterson	Cape May Co. Chmbr. of Commerce	
John Peterson	Atlantic County Planning	609-645-5898
Carlo Poppolezio	U.S. Dept, of Interior, Fish and Wildlife	609-646-9310
Dan Reilly	Somers Point, Councilperson	609-927-0224
John Reinoehl	Somers Point, Emregency Mgmt. Office	609-927-6814
Chuck Riebel, Jr.	Somers Point Business Association	609-601-8060
Roger Rinck	Ocean City, Public Works Engineering	609-525-9400
Dave Smith	NJDEP, Green Acres	609-984-0534
James Smith	Cape May County Planning	609-465-1085
Harry Starn		
David Swift	Ocean City, Councilperson	609-391-0190
Wes Swain	Somers Point, Administrator	609-927-9088x128
Greg Sykora	Somers Point, Planning Board	609-653-9968
John R. Walker	Somers Point & Ocean City Engineer	609-390-1927
Sgt. Richard Washart	Ocean City Police Department	609-525-9137
Ken Wallace	Crab Trap Restaurant	
John Williamson	Atlantic Audubon Society	
Peggy Worthington	O.C. Brideport Plaza	
Harvey Wright	Councilman	

## **CPT MEMBERS-STEERING COMMITTEE AND PROJECT SUPPORT**

Shay Burrows	FHWA	609-637-4237
Dave Lambert	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-4235
Tony Marsella	NJDOT, Community Relations	609-530-6116
Mike Sidani	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	609-734-7964
Marshall Robert	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	609-734-7946
Sylvester Fryc	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	609-734-7971
Al Klag	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	609-734-
Timothy Lidiak	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	215-568-0539
Fred Gottemoeller	Rosales Gottemoeller & Associates	301-490-6088
Anne Magliaro	Amy S. Greene Env.	
Bill Smejkal	Amy S. Greene Env.	
Carol Beske	ACT Engineers, Inc.	609-918-0200
Martine Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485
Phyllis St. Onge	M. A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485
Don Allen	NJDOT, ROW South	856-486-6748
Elise Bremer-Nei	NJDOT, Bike & Pedestrian Programs	609-530-2765
Scott Deeck	NJDOT, Scope Development	609-530-4579
David Earl	NJDOT, Landscape & Urban Design	609-530-5547
Brenda Hammer	NJDOT Landscape/Urban Design	
Doug Fadool	NJDOT, Value Engineering	609-530-8295
Ahmad Qureshi	NJDOT, E-Team	609-530-3716
Roderick Lewis	NJDOT, Structural Engr.	
Charles Phy	NJDOT	
Tom Reese	NJDOT	
Pankaj Shah	NJDOT	
Walter Sharpe	NJDOT, ROW South	856-486-6622
Stan Worosz	NJDOT, Traffic Safety	



## **CPT MEETING No. 2 AGENDA**

March 26, 2003

Mac's Restaurant, Somers Point, NJ 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Objective: To present the results of the Task Force Meetings; to discuss the project status and proposed improvements; and to discuss community issues and next steps for public outreach.

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - Agenda and Goals
  - Project Progress
  - CPT Update and Team Charter
- II. Route 52 Causeway Replacement
  - Project Status and Schedule
  - IPA Modifications
- III. CPT Task Force Accomplishments
  - Causeway Aesthetics and Visitors Center Task Force
  - Mobility, Access and Circulation Task Force
  - Staging and Traffic Management Task Force
  - Public Information and Awareness Task Force
  - Environmental Process Task Force
- IV. CPT Group Discussions
  - Outstanding Interests or Issues
  - Public Information Center Meeting
- V. Summary and Close
  - Action Items / Meeting Schedule
  - Feedback and Closing Comments