

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
I-295/I-76/Rte 42 Interchange Reconstruction
Fifth Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
March 23, 2004 6pm -9pm
Bellmawr Senior Citizens Center**

MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

CAC Meeting Attendees

Edward Costigan (Gloucester City Senior Citizens' Association)
Diane Garcia (Mt. Ephraim resident)
Richard Middleton (Bellmawr Baseball, Inc.)
Michael Gaglianone (Mt. Ephraim Borough Council)
Raymond Stanaitis (Gloucester City Resident)
Joseph Ciano (Bellmawr Public Works)
George Coleman (Bellmawr Sewer Department)
Robert Stokes (Mt. Ephraim Resident)
Harry Moore (Bellmawr Park Mutual Housing Corp.)
Robert Guerrieri (Diocese of Camden – Dept. of Real Estate)
Daniel Eggers (Mt. Ephraim resident substitute for Lillian Eggers)
Leonard Bandoch (Annunciation Church)
Hayley Knopple (Korman Interstate Business Park)
Bruce Huntsinger (Gloucester City Resident)
Leonard Bandoch (Bellmawr Resident)
Florence Korostynski (Bellmawr Senior Citizen Association)
Dale Keith (Senior Citizens United Community Services of Camden, Inc.)
Bernard Tetreault (Southern NJ Chamber of Commerce)
Linda Reis (Mt.Ephraim resident)

Project Team Attendees

Mike Russo, (New Jersey DOT)
Nick Caiazza, (New Jersey DOT)
Bruce Riegel (New Jersey DOT)
Steve Maslow (New Jersey DOT)
Patricia Feliciano (New Jersey DOT)
Lou Robbins (Dewberry)
Craig Johnson (Dewberry)
Ileana Ivanciu (Dewberry)
Jeff Hewitson (Dewberry)
Linda McDonald (Transportation Marketing Strategies)
Patricia Saulino (Dewberry)

SUMMARY

Mike Russo recapped for the group the project process including the current status; the resources in the project area and discussed the environmental studies necessary to advance the project. He told the group we need their assistance in identifying areas where we need improvement in defining the project with the goal being to do a better job getting the information to the public.

All attendees introduced themselves and stated their respective affiliations. Mr. Russo then turned the meeting over to Ms. Ileana Ivanciu of the Project Team.

- Ms. Ivanciu informed the CAC that the role of both the NJDOT Core Group and the Dewberry Project Team is to communicate to the public precisely the tasks of the project--what we are doing and what we are required to do in developing a short list of alternatives that will ultimately be evaluated in the selection of the alternative that will be built. As we embark on the project, we must communicate the impacts of the project to the public and solicit information from the CAC members on how to minimize and mitigate those impacts. We will make commitments and follow through on those commitments. She added the fact that we are here two years down the road is a testimony to the fact that we are standing by this project and are going to work with the CAC members for the next few years to select the Alternative that will be constructed by NJDOT. She explained that the CAC can help us by communicating to us the desires, needs and issues of their constituents and by taking back to the groups the information we discuss at the meetings.
- We must take into consideration other goals imposed on us by regulatory agencies who will ultimately be issuing the construction permits.
- Craig Johnson informed the group that Balloon tests will be performed sometime in April, 2004 on the Alternatives which significantly raise the roadway over today's heights. The stacked alternatives (G2 and H1) represent the highest elevations. The heights will range from 40' to 80' depending on the elevation of the Alternatives. We will notify the group of the exact date as soon as it is scheduled.
- Results of the balloon tests will be used by the Team to determine the Area of Potential Effect (APE) in concert with SHPO.
- Mike Russo of NJDOT informed the group of the ongoing plan to inform and educate the people in the community as well as the various groups with whom they have previously met as to the project's purpose, current status and ongoing progress. A network needs to be developed to inform all people of activities to date as well as future activities; i.e., the balloon testing to take place in April, 2004.

- Further Mike Russo informed the group that the CAC acts as a conduit to the public by evaluating and disseminating the information they receive at the CAC meetings and in turn integrating that information in a timely fashion into the groups which they represent. The CAC helps to get the approval and perspective of others and facilitates the project by making connections into the community via meetings such as those already held with representatives of the Bellmawr Park Mutual Housing group, impacted residences/businesses, schools, churches, cemeteries and Shining Star Park. The CAC can provide the valuable feedback that is necessary in this project's progress.
- NJDOT wants to improve the process so that the CAC represents the medium through which public awareness can be raised and issues addressed. Mike questioned the group "Are we living up to your expectations? Are the people in your groups aware of the project? Are we assisting you in acting as a conduit....do we need to provide more information and more materials tailor-made to your specific groups?"
- Harry Moore representing Bellmawr Park Mutual Housing (BPMH) responded that he was told about the individuals making statements at the PIC meeting regarding this project and the lack of communication from the members of the BPMH board to the residents. That is totally false and the individual who made this statement was not present at the last BPMH meeting and further although there are 500 residents, they do not even get a quorum of residents attending their meetings.
- Linda McDonald of Transportation Marketing Strategies asked Ray Stanaitis if it was a matter of people not caring because they feel it doesn't affect them and Ray responded in the affirmative.
- George Coleman said people tend to lump together all transportation projects under the I-295 umbrella and react to I-295 when in fact it is not this specific project but others such as Missing Moves, etc.
- Lenny Bandoch feels all information should be sent out to everyone.
- Ms. McDonald informed the group that the next newsletter will address some of these various related/unrelated projects.
- Lou Robbins of the Project Team suggested we place an article in the local papers; i.e., Camden Courier Post, et al announcing the "Balloon Test".
- Use flyer insertions in various newsletters; i.e., Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and Camden County newsletter as well as other groups identified through Public Involvement's efforts.

- Mike Russo and Craig Johnson suggested we do a flyer announcing the balloon test giving details on where, when and why.
- Place information/short listed Alternatives boards in public places with contact/information sheet delineating ongoing activities as well as other appropriate handouts; i.e., Town Hall; BPMH office conference room; and Library(s). Public announcements should be made on Cable Channel 19.
- Lenny Bandoch of Annunciation Diocese suggested that a few members of the project team make themselves available to explain the project (mini, brief form of the presentation) and answer questions to various groups.
- George Coleman suggested representatives from core group/project team plan on attending one of the Business Alliance meetings and said he would provide the scheduling information to the project team (pre-approval also necessary).
- Bruce Huntsinger, a resident of Gloucester City, suggested that we include a description of all five short listed Alternatives in the next newsletter. Ms. McDonald explained that we had already planned to illustrate each Alternative.. Also described would be the status of the project now entering into the Technical Environmental Studies (TES) phase. The Spring newsletter will use less text and more graphics and will be presented in a legible, user-friendly way.
- Lou Robbins explained that photo simulations are planned so that the public will be able to see what the area currently looks like versus what it will look like under each Alternative scenario.
- Mr. Robbins went on to explain that the noise levels will be recorded using a tape recorder that records at various decibels and the group will be able to hear them at a future CAC meeting. Nick Caiazza of NJDOT reported this will be done for each alignment and results will be available as soon as the Technical Environmental Study stage is completed.
- Ms. Ivanciu asked the CAC members for their help in reaching out to the community and for suggestions on what additional things the core group and project teams can do collectively.
- Mr. Stanaitis feels that the people in the areas to be affected by the noise do not realize that they may be affected. He feels that the specifically affected neighborhoods should be more informed.
- Mike Russo explained that they have already met with representatives of several groups; i.e., BPMH, churches, and property owners of residences and businesses.

- Craig Johnson queried Bernie Tetreault of the South Jersey Chamber of Commerce on how to disseminate information back to the people.....As Mike Russo has met twice with this group, we would like to know whether or not you feel that enough information has been provided to the people. Mr. Tetreault responded in the affirmative.
- Harry Moore said the next Bellmawr Park Mutual Housing Corporation (BPMHC) meeting was scheduled for April 13th and that he was amenable to a few people representing the core group and project team attending and speaking to the residents with a short presentation.
- Robert Guerrieri suggested that we get the word out to the public with the “who, what, when, where and why” announcing that we are doing the “Balloon Tests”.
- Jeff Hewitson of the Project Team asked Rich Middletown of Bellmawr Little League if it would be possible to have him distribute handouts to the coaches and managers of both the boy’s and girl’s little league teams to give to their parents.
- Michael Gaglianone from Mt. Ephraim suggested that we use the schools as a source by which to deliver project information, obviously with the approval of the superintendent(s).
- Lenny Bandoch said he would be glad to distribute handouts at Annunciation Church and suggested we send him about 400 copies.
- Ed Costigan of Mt. Ephraim Senior Citizens’ said we could do a brief presentation at any one of their meetings.
- It was decided that we would provide CAC members with copies of both the Newsletter and Flyers to have on hand to distribute as they see fit.
- Mike Russo informed the CAC members that at the PIC on January 28, 2004 the group had been asked to make the CAC names available (perhaps using the Newsletter as a vehicle). He asked if anyone objected. Diane Garcia noted that it should already have been made part of the public record and that by law even their phone numbers should be disclosed. Lenny Bandoch stated that the Annunciation parishioners were already aware of his membership. No one voiced objection to making their identities public.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

