

IV. Chronology and Coordination

This section details the agency, stakeholder and public involvement coordination for the I-95/SR 1 Interchange/Turnpike Mainline Project.

A. Agency Coordination

Throughout the project planning effort, agencies have been involved in the development process for the I-95/SR 1 Interchange/Turnpike Mainline Project. DeIDOT maintained contact with regulatory agencies through coordination meetings, review packages, and quarterly Joint Permit Review (JPR) meeting presentations. Presentations and discussions involved the identification of resources, avoidance, minimization and mitigation efforts as well as decisions at formal concurrence points.

Agencies involved throughout the process included:

- Federal Highway Administration
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of the Interior - Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- Delaware State Historic Preservation Officer

1. Agency Joint Permit Review Meetings

November 7, 2002 - Initial Project Kick-Off Meeting

The initial kick-off meeting was held on November 7, 2002. Topics discussed included a description of the project, prior planning effort (1991-1995), activities since initial planning efforts (1995-2002) and the restart of the current planning effort. A proposed schedule was presented to the agency representatives and members of the project team were introduced.

January 8, 2003 - Draft Purpose and Need

A draft Purpose and Need for the combined Turnpike projects (the I-95/SR 1 Interchange/Turnpike Mainline Project and Newark Toll Plaza Project combined) was submitted for agency review in January 2003. Subsequent effort resulted in the separation of the Newark Toll Plaza Project from the I-95/SR 1 Interchange/Turnpike Mainline Project.

March 27, 2003 – MATE Process

A meeting was held with all agencies to discuss the MATE process and its role in the planning process for this and two other current DeIDOT projects – Indian River Inlet Bridge and US 113.

April 10, 2003 - Purpose and Need

The final Purpose and Need for the I-95/SR 1 Interchange/Turnpike Mainline Project was submitted for agency review and concurrence on April 10, 2003.

July 10, 2003 - Range of Alternatives

The range of alternatives considered for the project was provided to the agencies for review prior to and again at the Joint Permit Review (JPR) meeting on July 10, 2003.

October 9, 2003 - Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study

The Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study document for the I-95/SR 1 Interchange/Turnpike Mainline Project was presented to agencies for concurrence on October 9, 2003.

January 8, 2004

DelDOT provided a copy of the handout package presented at the December 2003 and January 2004 Public Workshops. The package contained updated information comparing the impacts of the alternatives retained for detailed study.

April 8, 2004

DelDOT provided copies of the DRAFT Environmental Assessment for the I-95/Turnpike Mainline/SR 1 Interchange Improvements as well as copies of the DRAFT Categorical Exclusion for the I-95/Newark Toll Plaza Project.

July 7, 2004

DelDOT provided copies of the May 10, 2004 Public Workshop materials, copies of comments received, and changes that had been made to the April 8, 2004 draft documents. DelDOT requested comments on the various environmental documents previously distributed to the agencies. Included in the presentation was an update on the wetlands mitigation site search and discussion of the preferred alternatives for the project. DelDOT received formal comments on the draft EA from the ACOE on September 2, 2004. No other agencies have provided comments to date, and all ACOE comments have been addressed in this document.

October 14, 2004

DelDOT presented its preference for Alternative 3 as the Preferred Alternative for the I-95/SR 1 Interchange improvement, based on engineering aspects, lesser environmental impacts and ease of MOT during construction. The SHPO indicated ongoing coordination with DelDOT regarding a finding for the project. DelDOT provided updated information regarding the existing wetlands and waters within the project area, RTEs in the project area, Wild and Scenic River coordination, the mitigation site search and the two potential preferred mitigation sites. Information on the mitigation sites included cultural resources investigations, hazardous materials investigations, soils survey information, tide gauge data, topographic surveys, wetland delineations and forest stand delineations.

2. Other Agency Coordination Meetings

Field Tour

An agency/team field tour was provided on January 23, 2003. DelDOT provided a bus tour of the interchange, mainline from SR 141 through Churchmans Marsh to SR 1, and mainline from SR 896 to MD 279, including the toll facility. Participants were provided a tour through the existing Toll facilities, including the administration building and toll tunnel and booths.

Delaware SHPO and Division of Cultural Affairs

A field tour was held on April 17, 2003 to determine the preliminary Area of Potential Effects (APE) for both projects.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdictional Determination

Field coordination and field delineations were conducted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Project Team representatives on September 10 to 12, October 17, December 18, 2003 and on February 27, 2004. A Jurisdictional Determination field review was conducted with DNREC on March 5, 2004 and March 12, 2004. The current determinations are provided on Table 13 in

Chapter III of this document. Results of the Jurisdictional Determination are documented in the *Final Wetland Delineation Plans* (May 2004). Coordination included the identification of mitigation sites for potential impact areas. DelDOT is continuing to coordinate with the ACOE while awaiting final written approval.

Delaware State Historic Preservation Officer Cultural Resources Field Confirmations

Coordination between the Project Team and DE SHPO is being conducted to determine the presence of cultural resources and potential effects of the alternatives. Following the field confirmations, both the architectural report (*I-95/Delaware Turnpike Project - New Castle County Delaware – Historical Architectural Investigation, March 2004*) and the archaeological survey report (*I-95/Delaware Turnpike Project – New Castle County, Delaware – Phase I Archaeological Survey, October 2004*) have been submitted to the SHPO for final concurrence. DelDOT submitted a formal request for concurrence to the SHPO on November 22, 2004. Formal concurrence was received from the SHPO in a letter dated December 29, 2004.

B. Public Involvement

Public involvement has included numerous meetings with elected officials and a series of public workshops.

Public Workshops

Three sets of public workshops were held to provide a venue for informing the public of the project and inviting their comments.

April 2003

Two workshops were held on Monday April 28, 2003 at the Glasgow High School and Tuesday April 29, 2003 at the DelTech Wilmington Campus. These workshops introduced the public to the two Turnpike projects (the I-95/SR 1 Interchange/Turnpike Mainline Project and the Newark Toll Plaza Project), the various components of the project, presented the project history and current effort, goals of the project, preliminary resource inventories and preliminary alternatives. Fifty-five individuals signed in and ten comments were received at the workshops.

December 2003/January 2004

Two workshops were held on Monday December 1, 2003 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Newark and Tuesday December 2, 2003 at the Cavalier Country Club. A third workshop was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel on January 8, 2004. These workshops introduced the alternatives retained for further study, provided comparisons of the potential impacts for each alternative as well as engineering components, construction phasing and maintenance of traffic, and cost comparisons. Handouts provided the information contained in the displays for take-home reading, and DelDOT provided a brief PowerPoint presentation of the project twice during each workshop. A total of 164 individuals attended the three workshops, and forty-three comments were submitted for consideration during the workshops. Since the workshops were held, an additional fourteen comments have been received.

May 2004

A public workshop was held on May 10, 2004 to present the preferred alternatives and draft Environmental Assessment (EA), following presentation of this same material to the environmental resource agencies at the April 8, 2004 quarterly Joint Permit Review (JPR) meeting. Handouts were provided which summarized the environmental impacts for the combined interchange and mainline project's preferred alternative and provided the rationale for DelDOT's selection. A total of 34 individuals attended the workshop, and nine comments were

submitted during the workshop. None of the comments received at the workshop commented adversely on the interchange and mainline improvements. No additional comments were received during the remainder of the comment period.

Comments were elicited from the public on the draft EA. The comment period ended on June 10, 2004. No comments were received from the public on the draft EA. The ACOE was the only agency that provided comments on the draft EA.