



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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CAROLANN WICKS, P.E.
SECRETARY

May 12, 2009

Dear US 301 Project Participant:

First, let me thank you for your recent involvement in the Department's US 301 project development effort over the past couple of months. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the results of the March 23, 2009 public workshop and the Department's April 30, 2009 recommendation to the General Assembly.

The public workshop was very well attended (almost 450 people), and we received many excellent comments from over 280 individuals, as well as a number of petitions from various communities. A majority of the comments received at the pre-workshop community meetings, at the public workshop and during the subsequent comment period supported the Spur Road over the other alternatives. There was less support for Alternative 2 (the Upgrade of Existing US 301), in lieu of building the Spur Road and virtually no support for No Build Alternative 1 (No Spur Road and No Upgrade of Existing US 301) and Alternative 3 that shifted the limited access Spur Road to the east, along existing US 301.

After considering the excellent comments received, along with the results of our detailed evaluation of the Spur Road and the three Alternatives to the Spur Road, the Department has recommended proceeding with the Green North + Spur Alternative. We believe the Spur Road best manages traffic by maximizing the removal of thru traffic, especially truck traffic, from local roads in the project area, while providing important local access to and from the Westown area, thus improving safety and reducing congestion. Additionally, the Spur Road has less community and environmental impacts than Alternatives 2 and 3.

Subject to availability of funding, the Department has recommended completing final design and right-of-way acquisition for the entire US 301 project. This will ensure we are "ready to go" to construction, when the economy recovers and we have an improved opportunity to sell long-term bonds supported by toll revenues.

The US 301 project is a transportation initiative of which the entire state can be proud. After 40 years of debate and indecision, the Department and local community completed an effort that resulted in the Federal Highway Administration approval of an alternative (Green North + Spur) that best meets the growing transportation needs of southern New Castle County. This result was accomplished with the support of the majority of local residents and state and federal environmental resource and regulatory agencies.

As a result of prior public input, we are working to refine the Green North + Spur Road Alternative to reduce the impacts and will continue striving to do so throughout the design process. We look forward to continuing to work with you, as the project moves forward. Major transportation undertakings, such as US 301, are only possible when community members like you provide input, guidance and ideas.

To read the Department's report to the General Assembly and to stay up to date on the US 301 project, please visit www.us301.deldot.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark Tudor
Project Director

