



DELAWARE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS RELEASE

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Deadline for Public Comment on Route 301 Alternatives is Friday, Oct. 14 *Third Set of Workshops Set for December*

Middletown – A set of three U.S. Route 301 Public Workshops held Sept. 12 and 13 in Middletown and Sept. 19 in Townsend drew 1,095 interested residents, including a record 450 people in Townsend. Another 784 people turned out for two workshops in June.

Still more evidence of intense public interest in the project is the fact that in September more than 238,000 hits were recorded on the project Web site, www.us301.org. Since March, there have been more than 700,000 hits.

Meanwhile, as part of an aggressive public process that will result in the selection of a final alternative for an improved U.S. Route 301, a third set of workshops has been set for Dec. 5 and 6 in Middletown and Dec. 7 in Townsend. At those workshops, DelDOT will have narrowed down the seven alternatives (three have two options each).

While the first two sets of workshops are concluded, residents still have time to provide comments on which alternatives to retain for detailed study. **The Deadline to comment on the latest workshop presentations is Friday, Oct. 14.**

Residents can view the alternatives and provide comments by:

Stopping by the U.S. 301 Project Development office in the Middletown Square Shopping Center, 723 North Broad St. Hours are Monday from 10 a.m. 2 p.m., Thursday from 3-7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the office, the workshop boards will be on display along with other information.

Visiting the project Web site at www.us301.org. Project information and the boards from the workshop can be viewed.

After viewing the alternatives, residents can comment by calling 866-485-9988, visiting the Web site, e-mailing dot-public-relations@state.de.us, or writing to DelDOT Public Relations, Attn: U.S. 301 Project Development, P.O. Box 778, Dover, DE 19903.

"We couldn't be more pleased at the public involvement so far," said 301 Project Director Mark Tudor of DelDOT. "Almost 2,000 people have come out to the workshops, not to mention the constant stream of phone calls, e-mails and hits on the Web site. There's still time for people to voice their opinions and it's vital that

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residents continue to stay involved until a final alternative is selected."

Tudor added that while comments so far are varied, the one area of agreement from all is that a new U.S. 301 is needed to address congestion and safety issues.

After the December workshops, DelDOT will consider public comment as well as those comments from the various resource agencies, which must sign off on any final alternative. DelDOT Secretary Nathan Hayward III will make the final decision as to a preferred alternative later this year or early 2006.

The purpose of the project is to address existing congestion and deal with significant safety issues along the 301 Corridor. In the past nine years, traffic on 301/896 has grown by as much as 50 percent south of the C & D Canal, and as much as 30 percent of that traffic is generated by tractor-trailers. Meanwhile, between October 1999 and September 2004, there were 17 fatalities and 1,200 reportable crashes.

Although the US 301 Project Development Phase is just beginning, it builds upon a number of planning efforts for the US 301 Corridor over the past 40 years. The two most recent efforts occurred in the 1990s.

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