



WESTERN PARKWAY

Public Workshop

February 11, 2008

WELCOME

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Project Manager



Project Purpose

- ◆ **Western Parkway**
 - **IDENTIFY, SELECT and PROTECT a 4-lane north-south roadway corridor**
 - **Improve mobility for local residents and businesses**
 - Relieve existing and future congestion along Plantation Road, Robinsonville Road, Cedar Grove Road and other local roads
 - Provide north-south access between Lewes/Five Points and destinations along SR 24 and US Route 9, including medical, educational, residential and commercial development
 - **Accommodate planned/approved local growth**
 - Development and local population growth will continue
 - Develop transportation improvements for growth in local traffic

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Why is this project important NOW?

- ◆ Congestion exists now . . . and will only get worse
- ◆ Development will continue to take place
- ◆ DelDOT can influence but cannot stop future development
- ◆ Property owners have the legal right to develop their land
- ◆ If DelDOT does not **Identify, Select and Protect** a corridor, the only option open in the future will most likely be upgrading existing roads such as Plantation Road

What are we asking of you?

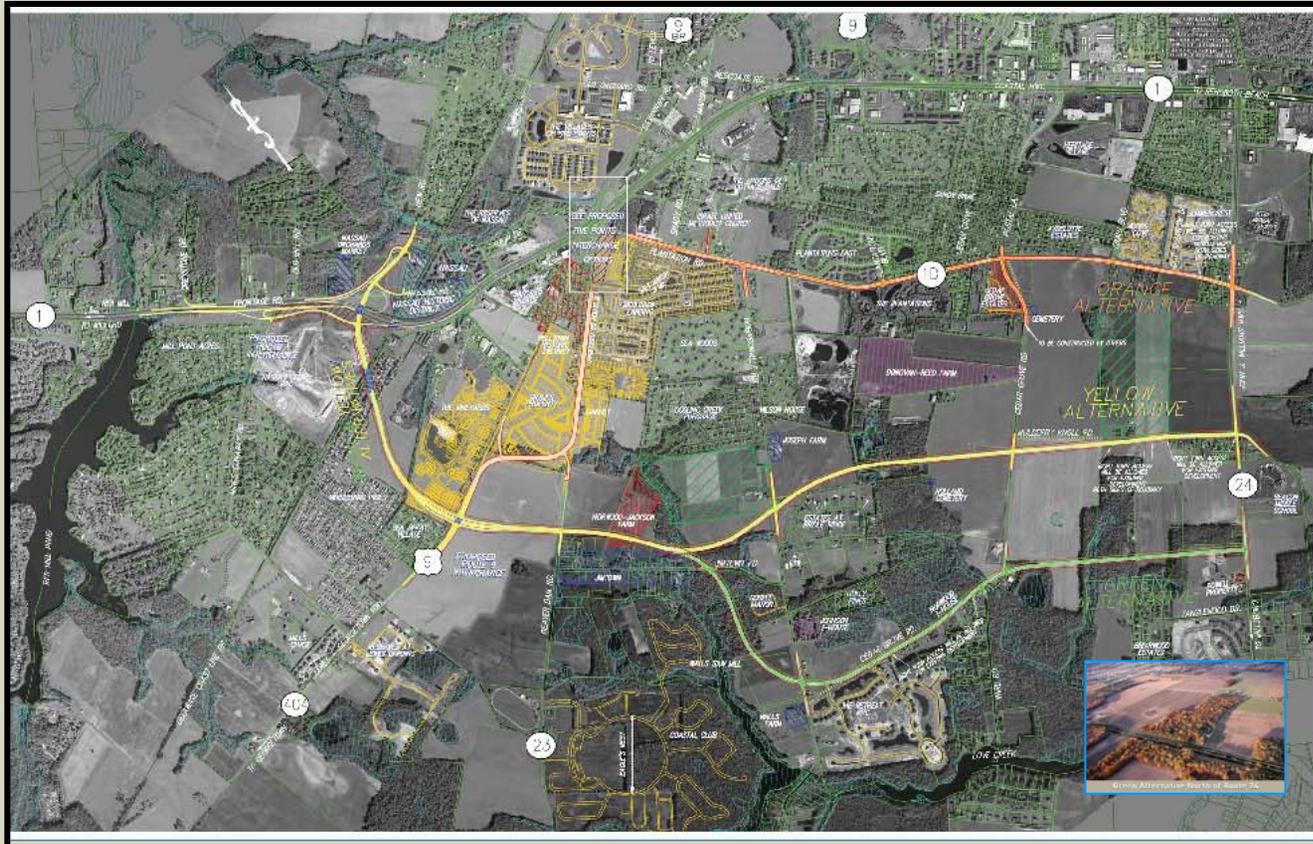
- ◆ Given that future development is already planned or has underlying zoning, **what do you want DeIDOT to do?**
 - **Do nothing** – Do not plan now for any north-south road capacity improvements. We accept increased congestion and gridlock (**No-Build Alternative**)
 - **Plan for the Future Now** – Plan to improve, upgrade Plantation Road (**Orange Alternative**)
 - **Plan for the Future Now – Identify, Select and Protect** a new north-south road corridor in the area west of Route 1 and east of Love Creek that could be built in the future as conditions dictate and development moves forward (**Green or Yellow Alternative**)

Why is this project important now?

◆ TRAFFIC FACTS

- **The Western Parkway is NOT a SR I Bypass**
 - Fact – 2/3rds of all traffic projected to use a new Western Parkway will begin or end their trip in the project area
- **The Western Parkway is NOT a road to nowhere**
 - Fact – The Western Parkway will allow greater mobility on the east and west side of SR I by allowing local residents an additional way to get to homes, businesses, medical facilities and schools between Lewes, US Route 9 and Route 24
- **The No-Build Alternative WILL lead to increased congestion**
 - Fact – Currently there are 11,000 vehicles on Plantation Road on an average summer Saturday. Under the no-build alternative, there will be 23,000 vehicles on Plantation Road on an average summer Saturday in the year 2030

Alternatives Retained For Detailed Study

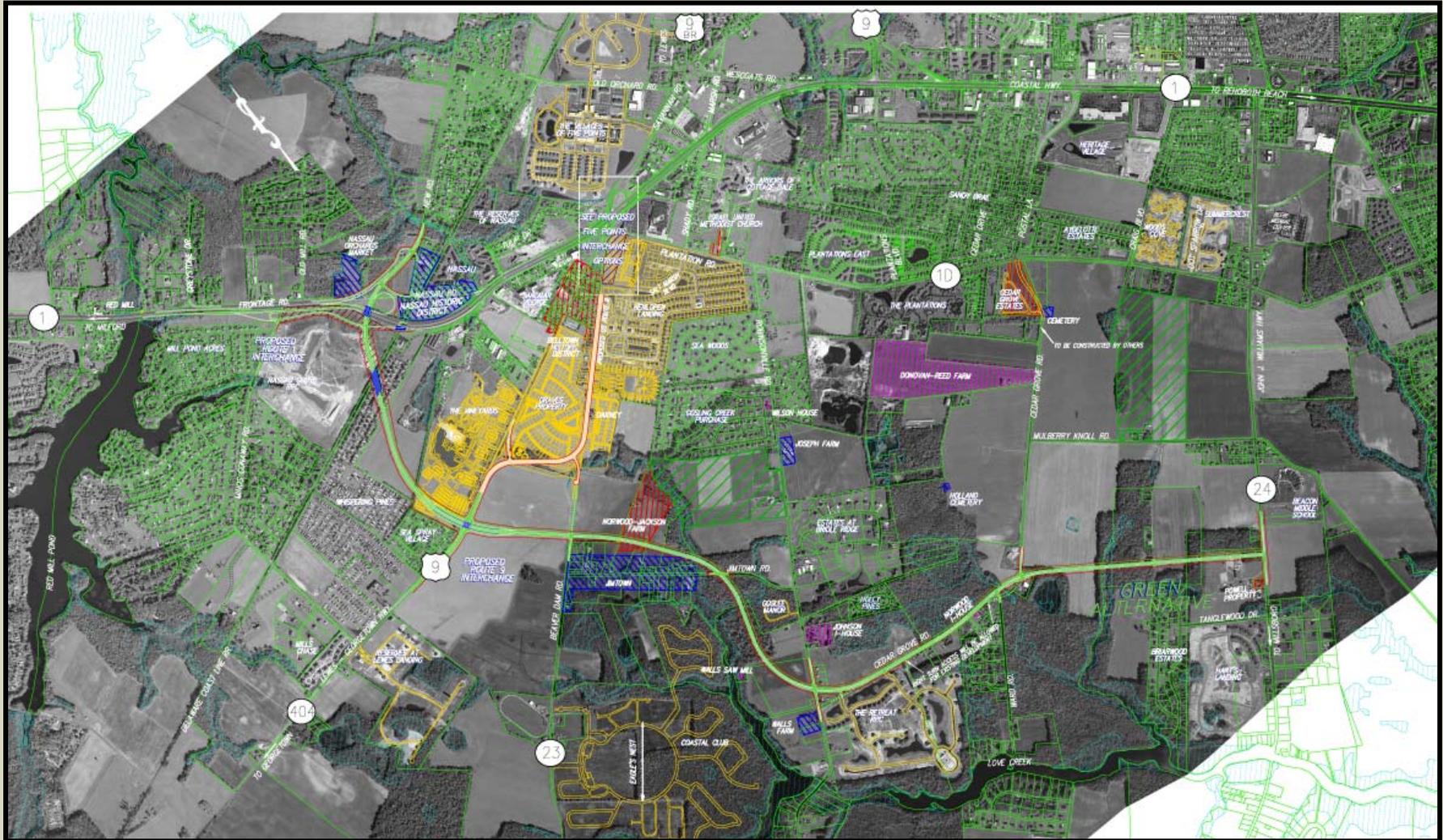


No-Build Alternative



WESTERN PARKWAY

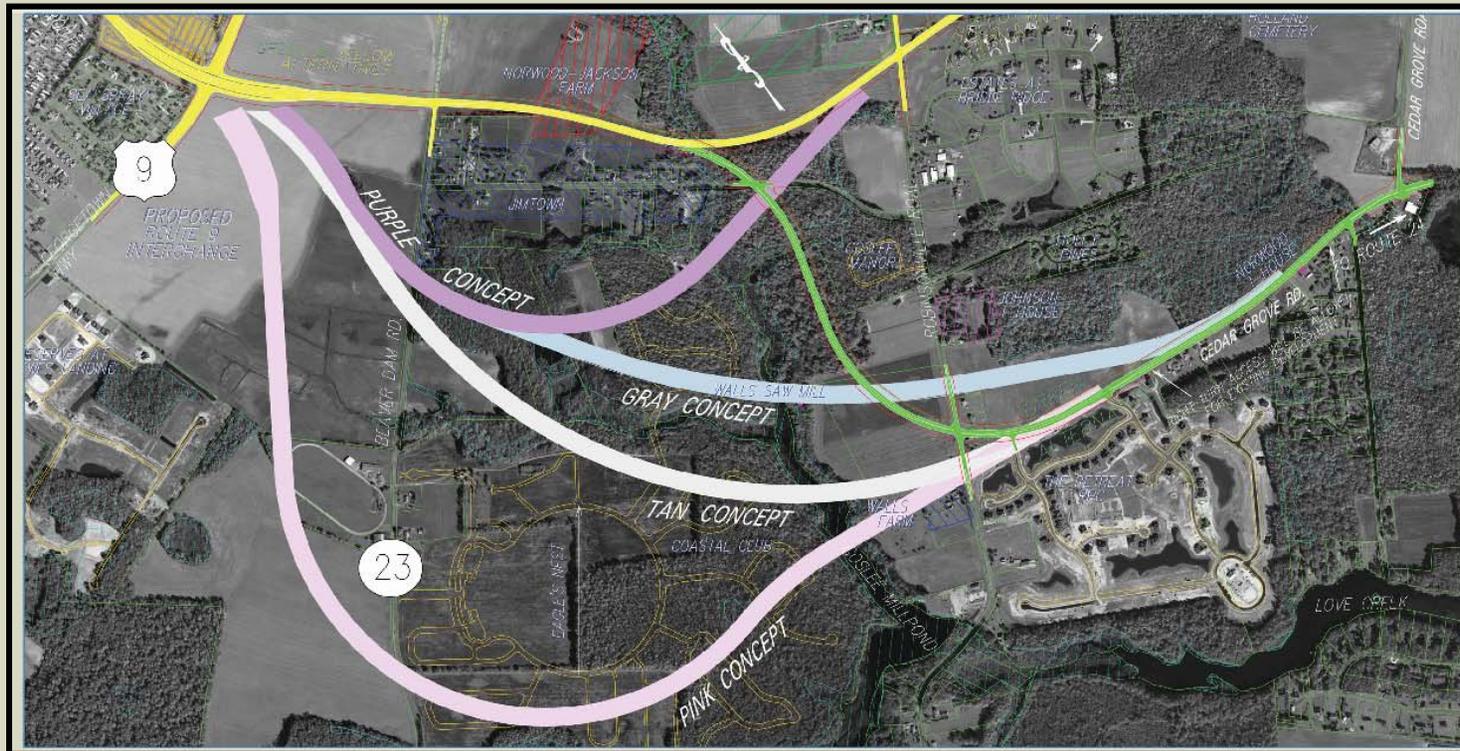
Green Alternative



Project Status

- ◆ January 22, 2007 public workshop
 - 375 attendees and 300 comment forms received
 - Presented four (4) Western Parkway alternatives (Orange, Yellow, Green and No-Build)
 - Presented interchange option at Five Points
- ◆ What has happened since then?
 - Developed four (4) new concept alignments west of Jimtown
 - Developed five (5) additional interchange options at Five Points
 - Continued field work and developed impact matrix for environmental and natural resources

Concepts West of Jimtown Road



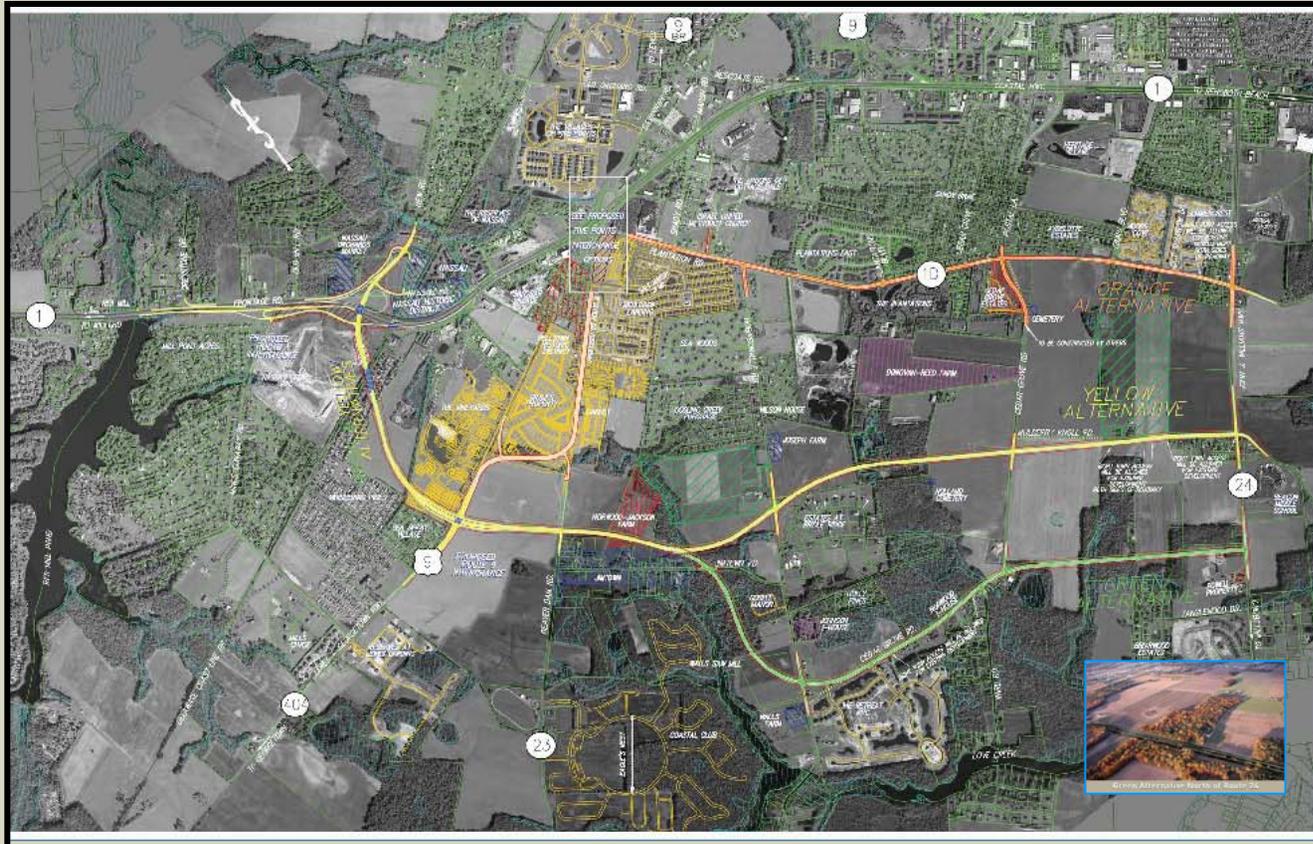
Alignment Concepts west of Jimtown Road between Robinsonville Road and Route 9

- Jimtown Community Meeting May 31, 2007 at Beacon Middle School
- Field meeting held July 12, 2007 to review alignments with interested residents of Jimtown and environmental resource agencies.
- Comments received and analysis resulted in the elimination of the Purple, Gray, Tan, and Pink Concepts
 - **Not supported by Jimtown residents that provided comments**
 - **Not supported by the resources agencies**

Project Status

- ◆ Alignment concepts west of Jimtown Road between Robinsonville Road and US Route 9
 - Community Meeting May 31, 2007 Beacon Middle School
 - Field meeting held July 12, 2007 to review alignments with interested residents of Jimtown and environmental resource agencies
 - Comments received and analysis resulted in the elimination of the Purple, Gray, Tan, and Pink Concepts
 - Not supported by the community
 - Not supported by the resources agencies

Alternatives Retained For Detailed Study

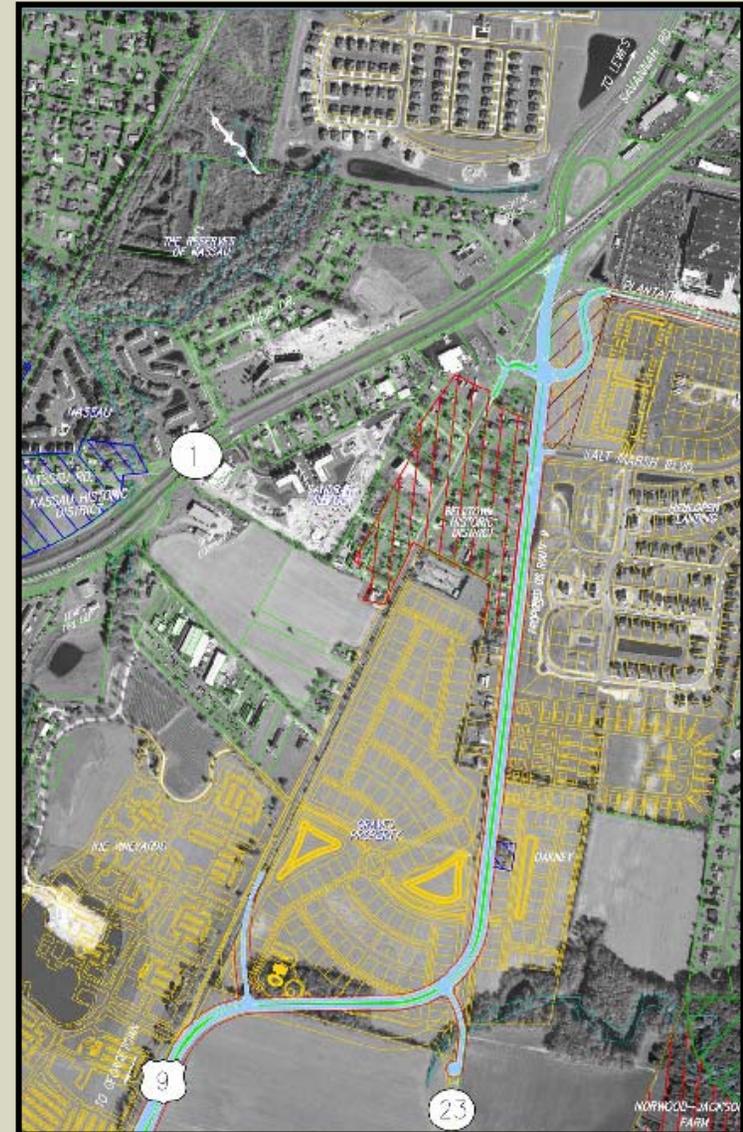


Project Purpose

- ◆ **Five Points Interchange**
 - **Improve mobility and relieve existing and future congestion**
 - Existing traffic exceeds intersection capacity during peak period
 - Provide improved north-south and east-west mobility
 - Address safety issues identified by annual Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
 - US Route 9 has 5 ½ times greater accident rate than similar roads
 - SR 1 has 2 times greater accident rate than similar roads
 - **Accommodate planned growth in this area**
 - Develop transportation improvements for existing and future local and regional traffic

US Route 9

- ◆ Interim Five Points Intersection Improvements
 - Major traffic movements will not pass through Belltown
 - Eliminates one leg of the Five Points intersection
 - Accommodates all interchange options



Timing of Improvements

◆ Western Parkway

- The need exists to protect a Western Parkway corridor
- Funds are available to complete environmental studies and select a preferred alternative
- There are limited funds in DelDOT's Transportation Program for FY 2008-2013 for preliminary engineering (\$1M) and property acquisition (\$1M) to design and protect the selected alternative
- **There are NO FUNDS available for construction**
- The construction of the Western Parkway (including the acquisition of right of way) is dependent on the pace of growth and future development in the project area
- The necessary funds must be obtained from developers as mitigation for traffic impacts from their projects

Timing of Improvements

- ◆ **Five Points Interchange, US Route 9 Interim Improvements**
 - There is an existing need for improvements to US Route 9 and for a Five Points Interchange
 - Funds are available to complete environmental studies and select a preferred Five Points Interchange Option
 - There are funds in DelDOT's Transportation Program for FY 2008-2013 for preliminary engineering for the relocation of Five Points intersection and for concept development of a Five Points interchange
 - Funds for right of way and construction must be budgeted and obtained from developers as mitigation for traffic impacts from their projects

Next Steps

- ◆ At the conclusion of the official comment period, DelDOT will review all comments received from the public. Based on the public input, DelDOT will work to improve each of the Western Parkway Retained Alternatives and Five Points Interchange Options
- ◆ DelDOT will also meet with the environmental resource and regulatory agencies to refine each of the Western Parkway Retained Alternatives and Five Points Interchange Options
- ◆ DelDOT will complete and circulate a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which may include a Recommended Preferred Alternative for the Western Parkway and Five Points Interchange
- ◆ DelDOT will hold a Public Hearing on the DEIS and Recommended Preferred Alternative for the Western Parkway and Five Points Interchange
- ◆ DelDOT will select a Western Parkway and a Five Points Interchange Preferred Alternative and complete the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

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Thank You

We appreciate your input!

Please be sure to provide your comments by

March 17, 2008

- ◆ Tonight in the comment boxes
- ◆ Mail to address provided on comment form
- ◆ Complete comment form on the project website
- ◆ E-mail comments to: dot-public-relations@state.de.us