

# **US 113 NORTH/SOUTH STUDY**

## **September 2013 Public Workshops / Hearings Summary**

### **OVERVIEW**

In September 2013, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) conducted two Public Workshops/Hearings for the US 113 North/South Study, Millsboro-South Area. The first workshop was held at the Millsboro Civic Center on September 18<sup>th</sup> and the second was held at the Selbyville Fire Hall on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the workshops/hearings was to update the public on activities that have occurred since the May 2010 workshops, review the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study (ARDS), and obtain comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Blue Alternative, DelDOT's Recommended Preferred Alternative. The Blue Alternative consists of a long eastern bypass of Millsboro, Dagsboro and Frankford and On-alignment improvements through Selbyville.

A total of 371 people signed in on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 221 people signed in on September 19<sup>th</sup>. A total of 142 comment forms were submitted at the workshops and during the workshop comment period that extended to October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Comments were also provided via 51 online comments, 20 email messages, 28 letters and two voice mails. Two petitions signed by a total of 630 people were also received. In addition, public and private testimony was given by 64 people during the two public hearings.

### **COMMENT FORMS, E-MAILS & LETTERS**

There were a total of 142 comment forms, 51 online comment forms, 20 email messages and 47 letters received during the workshops/hearings and subsequent comment period. Some of the letters were duplicates and/or signed by multiple individuals, which accounts for the difference in the number of letters mentioned in the overview above. A majority of the comments received voiced opposition to the Blue Alternative and many of those supported widening existing US 113 or the on-alignment alternative.

### **VOICE MAIL**

Two voice mail messages were received during the comment period. One was in favor of the Blue Alternative and one was opposed to the Blue Alternative while also being in favor of widening existing US 113.

## **PETITIONS**

Two petitions were received during the comment period. One petition was submitted, signed by 297 people, opposing the Blue Alternative in the Millsboro-South Area and recommending a new optional alignment for an *Environmentally Friendly Green Alternative*. A second petition, signed by 333 people, was submitted opposing the Blue Alternative and recommending the modified on-alignment alternative.

## **TESTIMONY**

As part of the public hearing, attendees could provide private or public testimony that was recorded by a stenographer. Public testimony was given by 22 people on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 16 people on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Private testimony was given by 13 people on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 13 people on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMENTS SUMMARY**

Many reasons were given for supporting or opposing the alternatives. Some were very personal pertaining to property impacts, others were more general related to environmental impacts, business impacts, community impacts, traffic conditions, development issues, and concern over accommodation of tourists rather than meeting the needs of local residents.

Views ranged from indicating that improvements are needed now to stating that improvements are not needed. Some people see the need for the full Blue Alternative, essentially a new highway, while others want to see existing roads maintained and improved. Differing views were offered regarding the importance of the environment and the impacts to people and property. Additionally, concern was expressed for the State's ability to pay for needed improvements.