



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / RESOURCE AGENCY COORDINATION



113 US 113 North / South Study

Community Involvement

DeIDOT has used a number of techniques to involve the community in the US 113 North/South Study. The project has benefited as a result of this widespread citizen participation. A summary of these activities follows:

- ▶ The Project Team interviewed a number of local stakeholders at the beginning of the study.
- ▶ A 29 person Georgetown Area Working Group, and a 28 person Millsboro-South Area Working Group, composed of residents from those communities, and representatives of state and local government agencies were created, and have met 14 times between February 11, 2004, and February 9, 2007.
- ▶ All Working Group meetings are public meetings, and most meetings were attended by citizens from the area and covered by the local press. Meetings were held in the evening to accommodate citizen attendance.
- ▶ Five rounds of Public Workshops (October 2003, June 2004, November 2004, May/June 2005, and June 2006) and two Open Houses (October 2005) have been held and attended by over 800 people in the Georgetown area and over 1,050 people in the Millsboro-South area.
- ▶ Attendees provided written comments through the Workshop Comment Form which were helpful in refining the alternatives.
- ▶ A Project Web site was created in Summer 2003 and updated continuously, making extensive information available to the public about the project and, particularly, the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study. Through February 2007, the Web site has had over 1.2 million hits.
- ▶ A number of meetings have been held with business, civic and state, county and municipal elected officials.
- ▶ A Project Video, "The Time to Act is Now," was prepared, shown to local groups and distributed as requested.

WE ARE HERE TO LISTEN AND TO GAIN YOUR INPUT.
LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

A Cooperative Effort

Delaware Department of Transportation



Federal Highway Administration



Sussex County

Where We Are In The Process



1. Transportation Planning - **Completed**
2. Study Scoping - **Completed**
3. Purpose and Need - **Completed**
4. Alternatives Development - **Underway**
 - ▶ **Conceptual Alternatives - Completed**
Presented at June 2004 Public Workshops
 - ▶ **Range of Alternatives - Completed**
Presented at November 2004 Public Workshops
 - ▶ **Recommendation of Alternatives to be Retained for Detailed Study - Completed**
Presented at May/June 2005 Public Workshops
 - ▶ **Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study - Completed**
Presented at October 2005 Open Houses and June 2006 Public Workshops
5. Public Workshops to present Draft Environmental Impact Statement Data, the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study and the Working Groups' and federal and state environmental resource and regulatory agencies' comments regarding a Recommended Preferred Alternative - September 2007
 - In response to Working Group comments, DeIDOT presented for public comments the preliminary assessment of the Dark Blue and Violet Alternatives and the recommendation that both Alternatives be Retained for Detailed Study - March 2007 Public Workshops
6. Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) completed and available for public and resource agency comments, with Refined Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study and a Recommended Preferred Alternative - November 2007

Next Steps

- Project Team evaluates comments from the March 12 and 15 Workshops regarding the preliminary assessment of and DeIDOT recommendation to retain Dark Blue and Violet Alternatives for Detailed Study **March-April 2007**
 - Project Team consults with the environmental resource agencies regarding the environmental impacts associated with each of the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study and the data and analysis for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) **On-Going**
 - Project Team presents DEIS data and analysis to Working Groups **April-June 2007**
 - Project Team discusses potential recommendations for a Recommended Preferred Alternative in the Georgetown and Millsboro-South Areas with the Working Groups and environmental resource agencies **May-June 2007**
 - DeIDOT conducts Public Workshops to present draft environmental impact statement data, the refined Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study and Working Groups' and environmental resource and regulatory agencies' comments regarding a Recommended Preferred Alternative **September 2007**
 - Project Team completes Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), including a Recommended Preferred Alternative **November 2007**
 - DeIDOT announces availability of DEIS, including a Recommended Preferred Alternative **November 2007**
 - DeIDOT conducts Public Workshops/Hearings on DEIS and refined Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study, including a Recommended Preferred Alternative **January 2008**
- * Inclusion of a Recommended Preferred Alternative in the DEIS depends on the results of:
- Environmental resource agency consultation
 - Working Group coordination
 - Public input
 - Ongoing Detailed Evaluation

Resource Agency Coordination

The Project Team meets regularly with the agencies with interest or regulatory authority over environmental resources in the project area. The agencies work together to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to their respective resources. Agencies include:

- The US Army Corps of Engineers:
 - ▶ Regulate environmental protection, navigation, flood control, disaster response, and military construction.
 - ▶ Work toward a national goal of "no net loss of wetlands." The Corps works to restore existing wetlands, or to create new ones.
 - ▶ Issue permits for discharge of dredged or fill material into navigable waters at specified disposal sites.
 - ▶ Make decisions on whether to grant, deny or set conditions on permits to construct in wetlands. The Corps is required to consider "all factors in the public interest," including economic development and environmental protection.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) develops and enforces regulations that protect human health and the environment.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats.
- The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) protects and manages Delaware's vital natural resources and habitats, protects public health and safety, and provides quality outdoor recreation.
- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) works to protect and preserve Delaware's cultural resources. They are concerned about impacts to Delaware's historic and archaeological resources.
- The Delaware Department of Agriculture works to sustain and promote the viability of food, fiber, and agricultural industries in Delaware. In part, this is accomplished by working to preserve and protect farmland through the Farmland Preservation Program, agricultural districts and easements.

Agency Meetings Georgetown & Millsboro-South

Resource Agency Meetings (within the last 6 months)	Meeting Dates
DNREC Coordination Meeting	January 4, 2006
Agency Coordination Meeting	January 12, 2006
Corps of Engineers field review	March 7, 2006
Agency Coordination Meeting	March 19, 2006
Agency Coordination Meeting	September 19, 2006
Agency Coordination Meeting	November 28, 2006
Agency Coordination Meeting	December 12, 2006
DNREC field review	December 13, 2006
Agency field review	January 25, 2007
Agency Coordination Meeting	February 8, 2007