

Memorandum of Meeting

Date: December 22, 2005

Date of Meeting: November 21, 2005

Time of Meeting: 5:30 pm

Location: Carlisle Fire Company Banquet Hall, Milford

Topic: Milford Area Working Group Meeting #10

Working Group Attendees:

Name	Representing
Scott Adkisson	Milford Area Resident
Richard Carmean	City Manager, Milford
F. Brooke Clendaniel	Milford Historical Society
Scott Fitzgerald	Lincoln Area Businessman
Connie Fox	Farmer, Realtor
Wyatt Hammond	Milford Chamber of Commerce
Ed Kee	Lincoln Area Resident
Carl King, Jr.	Lincoln Area Farmer
Lawrence Lank	Sussex County Planning & Zoning Commission
Michael Levengood	Perdue Farms, Inc.
Mark Mallamo	Milford Area Resident
Randy Marvel	Milford Planning Commission
Michael "Skip" Pikus	Downtown Milford Incorporated
Ronald Robbins	Farm Bureau
Glen Stevenson	Milford School District

Mr. Robert Kramer opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and indicating that this evening's meeting would review the progress from the May/June 2005 Workshops up to this meeting and discuss what is in store with the next phase of detailed study. He reiterated that the process is still represented by the analogy of the three legged stool (the Working Group, the Public and the Environmental Resource Agencies providing input to DelDOT) and encouraged the Working Group members to ask questions. There are no dumb questions and it is important that you understand what is going on and how things are derived because you will be receiving a lot of data over the next few months and it is important that you understand it as the Working Group works toward a recommendation on a preferred alternative.

Bob then introduced Monroe Hite, III, DeIDOT Project Manager for the US 113 North/South Study. Monroe also welcomed the Working Group back and then introduced Ed Kee, who was added to the Working Group as a representative for the Lincoln Area. Monroe then indicated that 287 individuals had attended the October Open House and approximately 270 attended the June Workshop at the Fire Hall, both excellent turnouts. Monroe indicated that members of the Project Team had recently met with the Chamber of Commerce to review a draft economic impact questionnaire and clarify the mailing list. Monroe thanked Wyatt Hammond for his assistance. He then reviewed the items included in the handout package. Finally, Monroe introduced Jeff Riegner to provide a progress report on efforts since the May/June 2005 Workshops.

Note: Significant details associated with Jeff's presentation were provided to the Working Group members in their handout package. Rather than rewrite those comments, these minutes will emphasize additional details that may have been added and questions from the Working Group regarding the information provided.

During the discussion of the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study (page 4 in the handout) Jeff indicated that the Blue Alternative (formerly known as J6 Alternative) was recommended by the Environmental Resource Agencies to replace the HKN6 Alternative recommended by the Working Group. While the agencies liked the idea of a short western bypass, Alternative J, they did not like the impact of J and felt that combining J with N6 might reduce the impacts and still provide a shorter western bypass. Jeff indicated that the responses from the Open House were not the same as the almost unanimous support for an Eastern Bypass, previously received. There appeared to be more interest in the On-alignment alternative, Western Bypass alternatives remained unpopular, Eastern Bypass alternatives were still preferred and there was also some interest in the No-build alternative.

During the discussion of the detailed Engineering (page 7 in handout) Jeff emphasized that the Working Group should be looking for an alternative that balances the impacts and that the process is designed to allow for an iterative process with the Working Group (We'll present alignment details and their associated impacts. The committee can suggest changes to improve on the alternatives. We'll in turn look at those changes and come back with the changes as well as the impact changes.). Jeff indicated that the impacts in the Matrix will be different than shown previously. One reason for that happening is that the area of impact for each alternative is going from the original 300' down to the foot print of the actual alternatives.

During the discussion of Wetlands (page 8 in handout), Monroe indicated that the wetlands work in the Milford area was done this previous summer and coordination with the Environmental Resource Agencies on the verification of that work was yet to be completed.

Jeff then introduced Wade Catts, with John Milner Associates, to discuss Cultural Resources (page 9 through 12 in the handout). Wade indicated that three to four teams

had been in the field since the middle of August working on Cultural Resource evaluations. They carry a right to trespass letter and use it when necessary to view properties. The work is being done in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), FHWA and DelDOT and mapped resources within the study area are being provided to the SHPO for their files as a result of this study.

Wade indicated that the Blue dots on the plans were previously known resources and the Blue circles were resources identified as a result of the study. As those resources (dots and circles) are evaluated, those that are not eligible for the National Register will be taken off the map, those that are will be retained. Wade described the four criteria for including a property on the National Register of Historic Places and the fact that a resource could have local, regional or national significance.

Wade discussed the predictive model for archaeology. He indicated that no excavations to identify archaeological resources had been started and would not be started until a preferred alternative is identified. The predictive model was being used to determine the potential of an alignment to impact buried resources. He indicated that drainages are important in identifying archaeological resources.

Wade indicated that the one property already listed on the National Register was the Roosa Farm on Roosa Road south of Airport Road. Of the 23 additional properties that might be eligible, Wade indicated that the Whitehead Farm and the Cedar Creek Mill Farm, both south of Milford, and a Button Factory, southwest of Milford, were among the resources being evaluated. Wade indicated that they have created an historical context document to gage properties on their eligibility.

Skip Pikus asked for a clarification on the area being evaluated for each alternative. Wade reiterated that it was a 600' buffer on either side of the centerline of an alternative for a total width of 1200'. Jeff indicated that approximately 300' of the 1200' was direct impact and the remainder was indirect (noise/vibration). Mr. Pikus also asked if it was the responsibility of the property owner to make application for historic status. Wade indicated that it was not. Bob Kramer reminded the Working Group that an eligible property had the same protection as a property on the National Register.

During the discussion of Section 4(f) resources (page 14 of the handout), Jeff indicated that new regulations regarding state forests and redefining recreational activities will eliminate most state forests from 4(f) protection.

During the discussion of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species (RTEs) (page 16 of the handout) Jeff indicated that the RTEs are currently listed as TBD. DelDOT is making an effort to get that information but for reasons associated with the protection of RTEs potential impacts would be identified by low, medium or high impacts and not by location or species type.

During the discussion of Farmlands and Forests (page 17 of the handout), Bob Kramer indicated that many of the current environmental regulations were a response to the

construction of the Interstate Highway System begun under the Eisenhower Administration. The general feeling was that, due to a lack of environmental regulations, the roadway system went where there was least resistance, through wetlands, forests, farmlands, etc. In order to provide advocacy for these silent resources (property owners having a voice), environmental laws were established to give a voice to these resources. Now, working groups and workshops provide the voice for the homeowner or business. Jeff indicated that the way that the items in the Matrix will get factored in, since you won't find one alternative that is the lowest in all categories, is that we will be looking to choose an alternative which reduces the highest impacts and balances the impacts across the chart. In a sense, the alternative that best shares the pain.

During the discussion on Traffic (page 20 of the handout) Jeff indicated that the Working Group would be seeing new, more accurate, traffic data for the alternatives. Jeff directed the members of the Working Group to Tab 3 in their handout. He then gave them a homework assignment to compare these traffic numbers with those that the Working Group had been provided previously. Jeff indicated that the Eastern Bypasses function a little better than previously (pages 4 & 5) with the Western Bypasses still functioning better. Page 8 in the handout provides differences in travel time and speed. Jeff indicated that the large amounts of growth in all areas of the corridor will be helped by the proposed improvements. Scott Adkisson indicated that the numbers reflect the fact that US 113 becomes more desirable as a through route. Glenn Stevenson, referring to pages 4 & 5 of the handout, asked why 103,000 vehicles were indicated south-east of Milford and whether this would be a trouble spot. Jeff and Joe Wutka tried to identify another location in Delaware that carried 100,000 vehicles per day but couldn't come up with an example. Scott Adkisson reiterated that traffic appeared to be taking US 113 and not going to Rehoboth/Dewey. Jeff indicated that there would be a more detailed presentation of traffic in the January Working Group meeting.

During the discussion on Economic Impact (page 23 of the handout), Jeff distributed a copy of the survey to the Working Group members and went through the content of the survey. Jeff indicated that 1300 surveys had been distributed to every Chamber member and every business along US 113 that was not a Chamber member. Jeff asked Joe Wutka to discuss DelDOT's experience with the Route 1 project and the economic assessment that was conducted for that study. Joe indicated that the results of that assessment were quite accurate and the economic models that were used in the Route 1 study are the same models that are being used in this study. He indicated that communities that are destinations, such as Milford, would be able to adjust to the changes in traffic. Communities that were not destinations, and he used Smyrna as an example, would have more difficult or take longer in adjusting.

Jeff then turned the presentation back to Bob Kramer to discuss upcoming Working Group activities. Bob asked that the minutes show that if members can't make the meetings from January to March, it will be very difficult for them to catch up and participate in recommending a preferred alternative. It is that classic statement if you snooze, you loose. There will be no backing up. That is why it is imperative that if you don't understand something you ask questions and get the issue straight in your mind. If

you must miss a meeting, contact the Project team and we will brief you so that you are prepared for the next meeting. Bob indicated that the Working Group would begin working once a month until the group is comfortable making a decision on a preferred alternative. Materials for upcoming meetings will go out a week in advance to give Working Group members an opportunity to review the information prior to the meetings.

Bob then turned the meeting over to Monroe who discussed the dates for the upcoming Working Group meetings. Andrew Bing indicated that since we are in the winter months, if a meeting is canceled, he will call each Working Group member and the cancellation will be on the web site. Monroe thanked the Working Group members for their attendance and wished everyone happy holidays.

Monroe concluded the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Joe Wutka