



113 US 113 North / South Study

DeIDOT Funding

• Current Status

- ▶ DeIDOT has suspended work on a number of transportation projects due to a lack of adequate revenues.

• Why has this happened?

- ▶ Delaware is growing at an unprecedented rate, faster than anytime in our state's history:
 - New housing, commercial and industrial projects are replacing farm fields.
- ▶ Construction costs (asphalt, concrete, steel, fuel) and the real estate for rights-of-way have been escalating at a record pace.
- ▶ DeIDOT's traditional revenue sources (gas tax, tolls and motor vehicle fees have grown at much slower rates.

• What is the solution?

- ▶ The Governor and General Assembly recognize this critical problem.
- ▶ A Task Force, including top Administration fiscal managers and fiscal leaders from the General Assembly, has evaluated a number of potential solutions.
- ▶ Some actions have already taken place:
 - Tolls were raised on I-95 in October, 2005.
 - DeIDOT will receive additional funds from the federal government as a result of recent congressional action.
- ▶ These actions are only part of the solution.

The Task Force has submitted its report that includes a number of potential options to increase funding in the Transportation Trust Fund to support an adequate annual level of investment in transportation improvements.

The Department is working with the Governor and Legislature in addressing this problem.

US 113 Funding

• Does the funding issue affect US 113?

- ▶ No, not at this time.
- ▶ The project development effort leading to a Selected Alternative has been fully funded.
- ▶ The Department has requested that the Legislature authorize funding for the US 113 project to initiate some detailed engineering and a protective property acquisition program to protect the right-of-way of the selected alternative.
- ▶ Timely completion of the US 113 North / South Study effort is essential.
 - Alternative corridors that are available today to address project needs will become more costly, with significantly greater impacts, if the decision on this project is delayed.
 - The congestion and safety problems that exist today along US 113 will continue to worsen with continued planned growth.

Be assured that with the resolution of the transportation funding issue, providing the necessary funding to protect the selected US 113 improvement alignment from development will be a priority of the Department.