

Milford Area Public Workshops

Lincoln: June 19, 2006

Milford: June 20, 2006





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Purpose of the Study

- **Identify, select, and protect an alignment for a limited-access US 113**
 - **Address transportation needs**
 - **Protect environmental and historic resources**
 - **Accommodate planned economic growth**

Purpose of this Workshop

- **Get your comments, so we can:**
 - Further improve each alternative
 - Begin preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
 - Move toward recommending a preferred alternative

Study Areas

← Georgetown-South Study Area →



Milford Study Area
← →

Progress to Date

- **Since the study started in late 2003, the Project Team has:**
 - **Held 13 rounds of Working Group meetings**
 - **Conducted five rounds of public workshops**
 - **Met frequently with regulatory agencies**
 - **Amassed volumes of technical data**

Progress to Date

- **The Project Team has narrowed down the number of alternatives in the Milford area with input from:**
 - **The public**
 - **Working Groups**
 - **Environmental resource agencies**

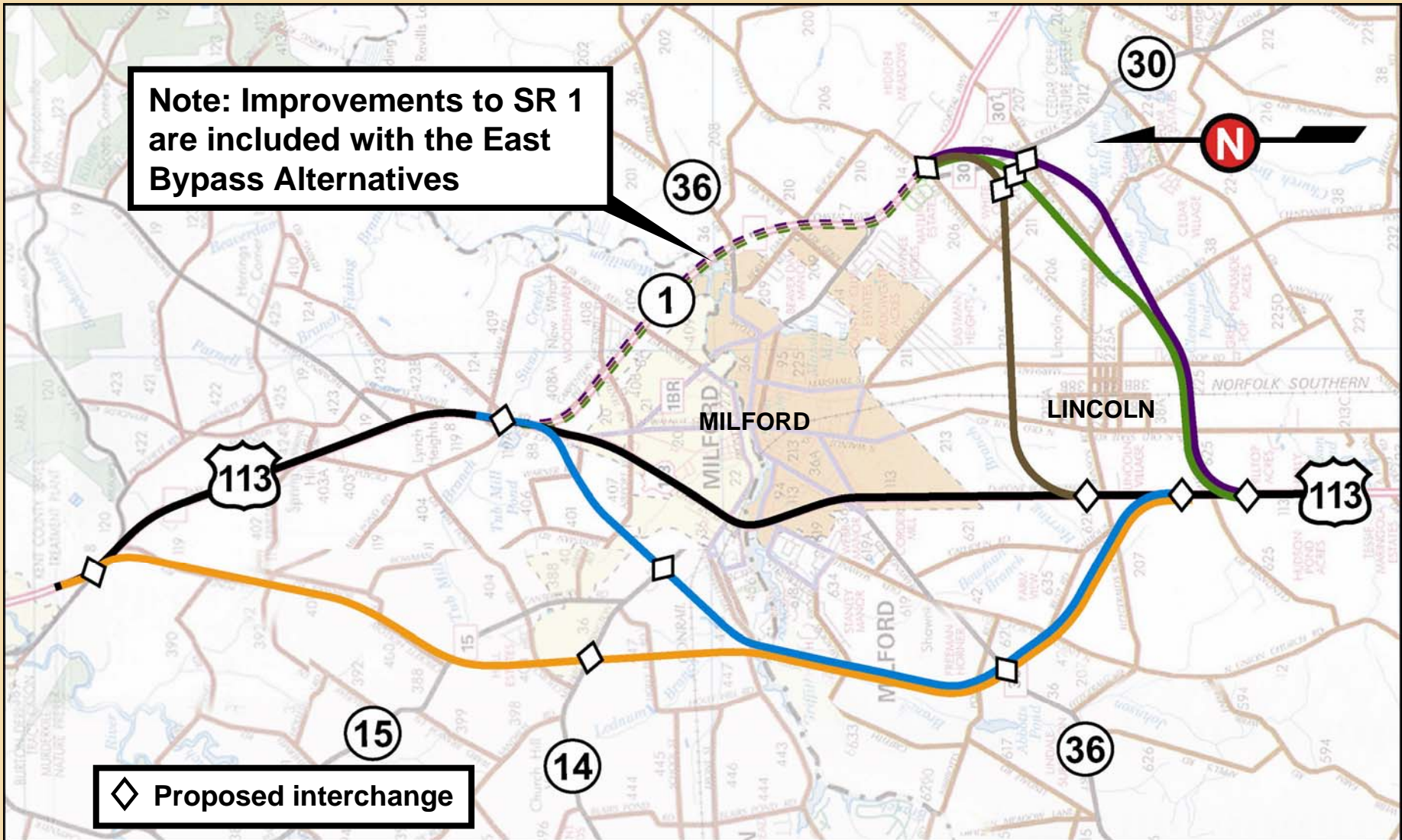
Progress to Date

- **The Project Team has narrowed down the number of alternatives in the Milford area by:**
 - **Developing ideas and concepts for alternatives**
 - **Creating a full range of alternatives**
 - **Analyzing 32 preliminary alternatives**
 - **Reducing those 32 to 7 alternatives retained for detailed study (ARDS)**

Progress to Date

- **NO** decisions have been made yet on a preferred alternative.
- There is still insufficient information available to make a decision.
- Key areas where we need more data and analysis are:
 - Wetlands
 - Historic Properties
 - RTEs
 - Traffic analysis
 - Socio-economic impacts

Seven Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study



Progress to Date

- **The Project Team is not waiting for a preferred alternative to start making improvements**
 - **Short-term improvements at US 113/SR 18/SR 404 in Georgetown are under construction**
 - **Short-term improvements at US 113/SR 24 in Millsboro are in design**
 - **Other short-term improvements are anticipated**

Progress to Date

- **The Project Team is working to preserve corridors now through frequent coordination with:**
 - **All towns in the corridor**
 - **Kent and Sussex Counties**
 - **Office of State Planning
Coordination**

Key Issues

Although many issues are taken into account, there are five key issues that will help determine which retained alternative becomes the recommended preferred alternative.

Key Issues

- **Wetlands**
- **Historic properties**
- **Rare, threatened and endangered species**
- **Traffic analysis**
- **Socio-economic impacts**

Key Issues

▶ Wetlands

Historic properties

Rare, threatened
and endangered
species

Traffic analysis

Socio-economic
impacts

- **Substantial field review and wetland consultation has been conducted.**
- **Some wetland boundaries found in the field did not match the original mapping.**
- **As this work is completed, alternatives will be shifted to minimize wetland impacts.**

Key Issues

Wetlands

▶ Historic properties

Rare, threatened
and endangered
species

Traffic analysis

Socio-economic
impacts

- **More than 1,100 properties have been studied and must be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).**
- **About 350 of those properties are in the Milford study area.**

Key Issues

Wetlands

▶ Historic properties

Rare, threatened
and endangered
species

Traffic analysis

Socio-economic
impacts

- **About 50 properties have been recommended by the Project Team as being historically significant (17 in the Milford area).**
- **Most of these properties are new to SHPO, increasing review time.**

Key Issues

Wetlands

Historic properties

Rare, threatened
▶ and endangered
species

Traffic analysis

Socio-economic
impacts

- **Swamp Pink (a federally-listed flower) has been found in the study area, so federal consultation is required.**
- **Bald Eagles are also a concern.**
- **Coordination with DNREC continues regarding state-listed species.**

Key Issues

Wetlands

Historic properties

Rare, threatened
and endangered
species

▶ Traffic analysis

Socio-economic
impacts

- **A more in-depth operations analysis is needed for detailed study.**
- **We are looking not only at individual project areas, but at the US 113 corridor as a whole.**

Key Issues

Wetlands

Historic properties

Rare, threatened
and endangered
species

Traffic analysis

▶ **Socio-economic
impacts**

- **We continue to gather public input regarding the alternatives.**
- **During detailed study, that input will be correlated with planning analyses:**
 - **Community cohesion**
 - **Property impacts**
 - **Economic impacts**

Key Issues

- **Much of the work on these issues is being done for the first time in this part of Kent and Sussex Counties.**
- **As a result, it is taking more time to reach a recommended preferred alternative.**

Key Issues

The boards and maps illustrate some key issues associated with each alternative and how the Project Team is shifting the alternatives to minimize them.

Issues to Be Considered

- Wetlands
- Historic properties
- Rare, threatened and endangered species
- Traffic analysis
- Socio-economic impacts
- Farmland
- Forestland
- Archaeology
- Property impacts
- Economic impacts
- Noise/air quality
- Cost
- Consistency with Livable Delaware

Funding

- **The study is fully funded through selection of a preferred alternative**
- **Funds are being sought to start protective right-of-way acquisition**

Why Do We Need to Select an Alternative As Soon As Possible?

- **Property owners need to know if their property will be impacted.**
- **The pace of development is reducing our options.**
- **A preferred alternative will enable the State to protect the right of way.**
- **A preferred alternative gives the Counties and Towns more leverage in protecting the alignment.**

Schedule/Next Steps

Summer/Fall 2006

- 1. Evaluate comments on refined alternatives**
- 2. Consult with environmental resource agencies on data and analysis for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)**
- 3. Prepare DEIS**

Schedule/Next Steps

Winter 2006/2007

- 4. Present DEIS data and analysis to each Working Group**
- 5. Discuss potential recommendation for a preferred alternative in each area with Working Group and environmental resource agencies**

Schedule/Next Steps

Spring 2007

6. **Announce availability of DEIS, possibly including a recommended preferred alternative***
7. **Conduct Public Workshop/Hearing on DEIS**

*** Depends on coordination with environmental resource agencies, Working Groups, and the public.**

Thank You!

We appreciate your input!

**Please be sure to provide your
comments:**

- **Tonight in the comment boxes, or**
- **Before July 18, by**
 - **Mail**
 - **The project Web site**

<http://www.deldot.gov/static/projects/us113>