



DELAWARE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS RELEASE

DelDOT Public Relations

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December 1, 2005

## Third Set of Route 301 Public Workshops Scheduled

**Middletown** – The Delaware Department of Transportation will host a third round of public workshops for the U.S. Route 301 Project on December 5, 6 and 7. DelDOT is seeking comment from the public on the four alternatives retained for detailed evaluation.

The workshops will be held from 4-7 p.m. on all three days on the following dates and locations:

- The December 5 and 6 Workshops will be held at the Middletown Fire Hall, W. Green & S. Scott Streets, Middletown.
- The December 7 Workshop will be held at the Townsend Fire Hall, 107 Main Street, Townsend.
- At each workshop, a brief presentation will occur at 4:15 p.m. and will be repeated at 5:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. Each workshop will offer the same information.

The decision to retain the Yellow, Purple, Brown and Green Alternatives for detailed evaluation and drop from further consideration the Orange, Red and Blue Alternatives was based on: public comments from throughout the study area; comments from State and Federal Environmental Resource and Regulatory Agencies; analysis of where people and goods traveling the 301 corridor are going; and, analysis and refinement of the alternatives by the Project Team.

Refinements to the Green and Purple Alternatives include the addition of a two-lane spur road (one lane in each direction) from the vicinity of Armstrong Corner Road north to connect to Summit Bridge. The spur road will optimize the traffic capacity over the three Chesapeake & Delaware Canal bridges and address safety issues caused by the sharp curve south of Summit Bridge where many accidents have occurred. The spur will also minimize the need for costly improvements on Routes 896 and 1, north of the Canal.

Opportunities for the public to comment on the alternatives retained for detailed evaluation will run through Monday, January 9, 2006. A public hearing to present the preferred alternative and draft environmental document to the public is tentatively scheduled for early 2006.

Analysis of current traffic traveling north along US 301 shows that 65 percent of motorists are heading northeast (Churchman's Crossing, Wilmington, Philadelphia, New Jersey), whereas 35 percent are going north (Glasgow, Newark, Elkton). Interstate truck data shows that 95 percent of this truck traffic is heading northeast while only 5 percent is going north.

Nearly 2,000 residents attended the June and September workshops, while approximately 1,500 written

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comments were received during the public comment periods at the project office, at DelDOT offices and via the Web site ([www.US301.org](http://www.US301.org)). Also, as of October, the Web site had more than 700,000 hits.

The purpose of the project is to address existing congestion and deal with significant safety issues along the 301 Corridor. In the past nine years, traffic on 301/896 has grown by as much as 50 percent south of the C & D Canal, and as much as 30 percent of that traffic is generated by tractor-trailers. Meanwhile, between October 1999 and September 2004, there were 17 fatalities and 1,200 reportable crashes.

Although the US 301 Project Development Phase has moved forward expeditiously, it builds upon a number of planning efforts for the US 301 Corridor over the past 40 years.

For more information:

- Stop by the U.S. 301 Project Development office in the Middletown Square Shopping Center, 723 North Broad St. Hours are Monday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday from 3-7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the office, the workshop boards will be on display (after December 7) along with other information. Please note that **the office will be closed for the holidays**, from December 22 through January 5.
- Visit the project Web site at [www.us301.org](http://www.us301.org). Project information and the boards from the workshop can be viewed after December 13.
- Call 866-485-9988, e-mail [dot-public-relations@state.de.us](mailto:dot-public-relations@state.de.us), or write to DelDOT Public Relations, Attn: U.S. 301 Project Development, P.O. Box 778, Dover, DE 19903.

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