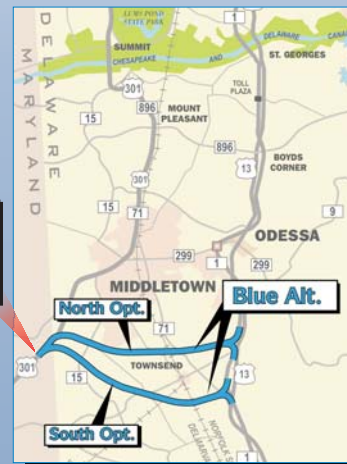


RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES - BLUE ALTERNATIVE

US 301 Project Development

DESCRIPTION OF THE BLUE ALTERNATIVE

4 LANES - LIMITED ACCESS - ON NEW LOCATION



Project Team Recommendation *

- RETAIN for Detailed Evaluation
- DROP from Further Consideration

Recommendation to Retain or Drop Blue Alternative will be made after receipt of Public and Resource Agency input

- Developed as a result of comments received at the June workshops
- Informal Public and Resource Agency input to date
- Comparable data now available for formal Public and Resource Agency input

ENGINEERING - TRAFFIC & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Advantages

- Shortest alternative - 6.3 N / 6.8 S miles
- Lowest cost alternative
- Lowest number of properties impacted
- Improves safety by separating local from through traffic

Disadvantages

- Carries the lowest traffic volumes on new US 301 - 20,000-26,000 vpd (vehicles per day) vs. 30,000-55,000 vpd for other alternatives
- Results in the highest volume of traffic on US 301 North of Middletown, on Cedar Lane Road, and on SR 299 through Middletown, thus requiring additional improvements to local roads in Middletown area

Comparison of the Range of Alternatives - Engineering

CONSIDERATION	ALTERNATIVE	YELLOW	ORANGE	PURPLE	BROWN	GREEN	RED	BLUE	OTHER
Shortest Alternative	Blue	+							
Lowest Cost Alternative	Blue	+							
Lowest Number of Properties Impacted	Blue	+							
Improves Safety by Separating Local from Through Traffic	Blue	+							

CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Advantages

- Mid-range Wetland impacts - 29.3 N acres
- Mid-range to Low Waters of the US impacts - 10,360 N / 6,280 S LF
- No DNREC Tidal Wetland impacts
- Mid-range to Lower Floodplain impacts - 1.6 N / 0 S acres
- No Agricultural District impacts

Disadvantages

- May not be consistent with goals and objectives of "Livable Delaware" - additional analysis required.
- Higher Wetland impacts - 45.9 acres N
- Mid-range Forestland impacts - 58.4 N / 66.9 S acres
- Highest potential impact to Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

Note: Detailed evaluation is continuing to identify cultural resources and assess potential effects

Comparison of the Range of Alternatives - Cultural & Natural Resources

CONSIDERATION	ALTERNATIVE	YELLOW	ORANGE	PURPLE	BROWN	GREEN	RED	BLUE	OTHER
Mid-range Wetland Impacts	Blue	+							
Mid-range to Low Waters of the US Impacts	Blue	+							
No DNREC Tidal Wetland Impacts	Blue	+							
Mid-range to Lower Floodplain Impacts	Blue	+							
No Agricultural District Impacts	Blue	+							

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON BLUE ALTERNATIVE

At the June Public Workshops, there were 59 members of the public who requested that additional alternatives be considered; of these, 42 requests were to add a southern alternative. As a result, the Project Team added to our Range of Alternatives an alignment south of Middletown that would directly connect US 301 with SR 1.

The Project Team has designated the southern alternative as the Blue Alternative, and it has two options, North and South, as shown on the map to the left.

Since the June Public Workshops, the Project Team has received many comments regarding the Blue Alternative, the majority of which were in

ALTERNATIVE	SUPPORT	DO NOT SUPPORT	ADD
Yellow Alternative	79	125	-
Orange Alternative	57	114	-
Purple Alternative	156	72	-
Brown Alternative	50	161	-
Green Alternative	219	50	-
Red Alternative	31	75	-
Blue Alternative	-	-	42*
Other	-	-	17

* Blue Alternative added as a result of Public Comments received at June 2005 Workshops

Public Comments (as of July 22, 2005) on the potential Range of Alternatives presented at Public Workshops - June 20 & 21, 2005