

**I-295 REHABILITATION PROJECT  
CAMDEN AND GLOUCESTER COUNTIES, NJ  
LOCAL OFFICIALS BRIEFING – NO. 1**

**Meeting Report**

**Date:** Thursday, June 15, 2006  
**Time:** 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Township of Deptford Municipal Building  
1011 Cooper Street  
Deptford, NJ 08096

<b><u>Attendees</u></b>	<b><u>Address / Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Phone/Email</u></b>
William Saunders	Township of Deptford	856-686-2220
Kevin Snowden	Deptford Township Engineer (Alimo Engineers)	609-267-8310
Donald Banks	Township of Deptford	856-686-2220
Stephen Meduri	West Deptford Township	856-845-4004
Vincent Voltaggio	Gloucester County	856-307-6600
Gerald White	West Deptford Township	<a href="mailto:whitejog@westdeptford.com">whitejog@westdeptford.com</a>
Robert Davies	NJDOT, DPPD	609-530-2744
Patricia Feliciano	NJDOT, Office of Community Relations	609-530-2110
Robert DiCroce	McCormick Taylor	856-793-0800
John Eric Henson	McCormick Taylor	856-793-0800
John Mullen	McCormick Taylor	215-592-4200

**Purpose of Meeting**

The purpose of the briefing was to provide Local Officials information on proposed improvements for I-295 from Route 45 (Exit 24) in Gloucester County to Haddonfield-Berlin Road (Exit 32) in Camden County. Topics of discussion included transportation and infrastructure issues, changing traffic and truck patterns, traffic safety and upcoming public outreach initiatives.

**Agenda**

- I. Introductions
  - Project Area
  - Purpose and Need
- II. Engineering Overview
  - Pavement Restoration
  - Construction Staging Plan (Overall)
  - Construction Staging Design (Detail)
  - Project Status
- III. Public Outreach Program
  - Local Officials Briefings
  - Public Information Centers
  - Mailing List

- Community Groups / Stakeholders
- Media Relations
  - Gloucester County Times
  - Courier-Post
  - Philadelphia Inquirer (South Jersey edition)
  - Township newsletters and websites
  - PATCO communications
  - NJDOT Direct-Connect Website and NJDOT Commuter website

#### IV. Next Steps & Future Coordination

##### **Meeting Displays**

- Project Area map
- Pavement Restoration plans
- Construction Staging Plan (Overall)
- Construction Staging Design (Detail)

##### **Meeting Handouts**

- Project Fact Sheet
- Project Area Map

##### **Summary of Discussion**

Patricia Feliciano opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, and then asked everyone to introduce themselves. She then asked Rob DiCroce to provide an overview of the project.

Mr. DiCroce stated the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) is evaluating improvements for an eight-mile stretch of I-295 in Gloucester and Camden counties, New Jersey. The study area extends from Route 45 (Exit 24) in Gloucester County to Haddonfield-Berlin Road (Exit 32) in Camden County.

Mr. DiCroce indicated the I-295 corridor pavement has deteriorated to the extent that it creates potential safety hazards and warrants rehabilitation or reconstruction. Repairs will consist of rehabilitation of the pavement surface through milling and overlay. Other improvements will focus on pavement rehabilitation/reconstruction and structure repairs, as well as improvements to guide rail, medians and shoulders and drainage.

Mr. DiCroce also stated Preliminary Design began in December 2005. Final Design is expected to be completed approximately 18 months to two years thereafter. Construction would follow immediately, dependent upon available funding. Mr. Davies stated the two bridges included in the rehabilitation project would be completely re-decked. He also stated that NJDOT expects the overall construction effort would take two construction seasons, beginning in spring of 2008 and ending in fall of 2009. The mill and overlay of I-295 extending a mile north and a mile south of the Route 42 interchange would begin later this year.

Kevin Snowden inquired if there will be a lot of local police involvement. Bob Davies replied that the Department is committed to engaging in a focused incident management program based on the needs of the local police.

Mr. Snowden inquired if other NJDOT projects will occur or overlap before of during the rehabilitation of I-295. Mr. Davies replied that a one-mile section of I-295 at the NJ Route 42/I-676 interchange will undergo a mill and overlay prior to the rehabilitation. He explained that this is a separate construction effort that would not be duplicative to the overall rehabilitation.

John Eric Henson stated that improvements will include overpass structure decks will be reconstructed at two locations, and substandard elements will be improved. He stated that overhead variable message signs and pole mounted closed circuit cameras will be installed at various locations along the corridor. There is no anticipated impact outside the existing right-of-way.

Mr. Henson described the construction staging effort that would include lane shifts designed to increase the work area and decreased overall construction time. Mr. Henson explained that the staging would maintain three travel lanes in each direction at all times. Staging would include two-lane work-zones, with 11-foot lanes for local traffic, as well as a center express lane for motorists.

Mr. Henson stated entrance ramps onto the mainline would involve stop signs with no acceleration lanes. He also stated that ramp construction would occur during off-hours as much as possible to limit local detours. He stressed that coordination between municipal officials, the county and the state would occur leading up to and during any ramp closures.

Mr. Davies stated that in order to achieve three-lanes in each direction, traffic will have to utilize existing outside shoulders as travel lanes. As a consequence of this, conflicts may arise for traffic entering and exiting the highway since there would not be acceleration or deceleration lanes during construction.

Mr. Snowden inquired if drainage improvements are included as part of the rehabilitation. Mr. Henson stated that drainage improvements are included, and that outfalls and collectors are being surveyed to determine if they would need to be cleaned.

John Mullen stated that as part of the design process, NJDOT will be holding meetings with elected officials, business and community groups, and local residents in order to provide information on the proposed improvements and solicit feedback. Public Information Centers will be held to provide opportunities to join in the study process and discuss transportation problems. He stated the PICs are tentatively scheduled to be held in December 2006/January 2007.

Mr. Mullen also stated that the same outreach activities would occur during Final Design to ensure the public is informed of the scope and schedule of the project. He solicited the attendees for other outreach ideas, including other media outlets not currently included in the current program. It was suggested that NJDOT include local cable stations for public service announcements.

William Saunders inquired if the Township could receive copies of the final plans before the project goes to construction. Mr. Davies replied that the Township would received a copy of the final plans.

### **Action Items**

- Provide municipal officials copies of the final plans prior to construction.

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The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

Report prepared by:  
**McCormick Taylor, Inc.**

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John F. Mullen, AICP