

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 2 REPORT

DATE: February 27, 2003
 TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 LOCATION: Office of Michael Baker, Jr., Princeton, NJ - Conference Room

ATTENDEES:	REPRESENTING:	PHONE:
Carol Beske (CB)	ACT Engineers, Inc.	609-918-0200
Nick Caiazza (NC)	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2991
Lourdes Castaneda (LC)	FHWA	609-637-4237
Martine Culbertson (MC)	M. A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485
Bill Felix (BF)	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	609-734-7903
Sylvester Fryc (SF)	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	609-734-7971
Fred Gottemoeller (FG)*	Rosales Gottemoeller & Associates	301-490-6088
Al Klag (AK)	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	609-734-7985
Dave Lambert (DL)	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-4235
Mike La Pietra (ML)	FHWA	609-637-4208
Tim Lidiak (TL)	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	609-734-0539
Tony Marsella (TM)	NJDOT, Community Relations	609-530-6116
Marshall Robert (MR)	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	609-734-7946
Pankaj Shah (PS)	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2470
Mike Sidani (MS)	Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	609-734-7964

* *by telephone conference call*

1. PURPOSE OF MEETING

To provide project status, review the Community Partnering Team Task Force meetings, discuss project items, identify next steps for public outreach efforts. (Agenda attached)

2. MEETING SUMMARY

Mike Sidani opened the meeting with a quick update on the project status and then covered the Task Force meetings that were held in January and February. The meeting was then focused on having brief presentations by the chairperson of each of the task forces about the prevailing issues discussed at their meetings as follows:

1) Public Information/ Awareness Task Force: Chairperson Bill Felix (BF)

- a) Draft Press Release - Verbally approved on 2/19 by DOT Community Involvement Office on behalf of DOT Office of Communications.
- b) DOT Website – Redrafted to incorporate NJDOT comments. Draft text and CD-ROM to be submitted to DOT PM on 2/25/03.
- c) Ocean City Task Force Meeting Minutes (2/4/03) – Final version submitted to Baker PM for finalization and distribution by M. Culbertson. Draft minutes issued on 2/6/03 to task force participants as working copies.
- d) Somers Point Task Force Meeting – Rescheduled to 2/26/03 at 10 AM due to snow emergency. Key issues to be resolved are communicating the same message consistently in both communities, size and scope of notification process to residents (mass mailings vs. targeted areas of town), flyer distribution procedures, cable TV access, use of local newsletters and newspapers, local website access and linkage to DOT website, selecting site for public information meeting and coordinating back to back with Ocean City meeting.
- e) Resident Mailing List (Ocean City) – Obtained lot and block numbers of residents from City of Ocean City. Michele Jones of Ocean City is obtaining actual mailing labels.
- f) Resident Mailing List (Somers Point) –Bill Felix will follow up with Wes Swain, Somers Point Administrator on 2/26/03.
- g) Public Meeting Flyers – Issued drafts for review. Separate flyers for Ocean City and Somers Point. Expect feedback by 2/28/03.

2) Staging and Traffic Management Task Force: Chairperson Al Klag (AK)

The Staging and Traffic Management Task Force did not have any material issues that needed resolution to advance the design phase. However, all the issues were mostly related to requirements and specification items that needed to be included during construction. (AK) reviewed the Staging and Traffic Management Task Force meeting. He noted that four lanes are to remain open except during two stages where it will be reduced to one lane in each direction during the off season. Proper notification, EMS provisions, and signal timing were raised as important issues. Of note are the following issues:

- a) Planning for Emergency Evacuation.
- b) Adjustment of Signal Timing and Signing.
- c) Early warning to motorists via Signs/ Flyers/ Internet/ Radio
- d) Towing service part of contract.
- e) Consider access to business owners during construction.
- f) Develop Alternate Traffic Control Plans.

3) Aesthetics Task Force: Chairperson Sly Fryc (SF)/ Fred Gottemoeller (FG)

The aesthetics task force involved some of the most comprehensive number of issues as it dealt with Somers Point Gateway, Ocean City Gateway, Causeway Aesthetics and the Visitor Center Aesthetics. Issues discussed are as follows:

- a) (SF) reviewed some of the overall aesthetic issues dealing with the causeway. Lighting design and type of light poles would vary for the road, sidewalk and bridge. Cutoff lighting will be considered and less lighting in late evening near residences.

- b) For the causeway aesthetics, (FG) noted that the communities are interested in a contemporary look to minimize the height and size aspect of the bridge. However, close up will emphasize historic elements such as the multi-use path railings, lighting and streetscape features. (FG) will prepare revised renderings for the next CPT meeting.
- c) Bike railing and barrier types to be investigated by Baker and (FG) for incorporation in the aesthetic design of the multi-use path and bridge design (open or half barrier)
- d) Determination of the inside facilities of the Visitors Center was discussed. A greeting area, storage space, exhibit space and restrooms consistent with welcome center facilities are acceptable. The design of meeting space such as an educational multi-purpose room must meet functional replacement criteria under the FHWA regulations. Vending machines are acceptable.
- e) (FG) discussed the gateway concept for Ocean City. In response to the request by Ocean City to provide a sidewalk on the southbound side, (FG) suggested to flip the multi-use sidewalk from the northbound side to the southbound side between Ocean City to the Visitors Center. This would allow easier access for pedestrians and cyclists from 9th Street to the Visitor Center. The current plans show the sidewalk to be on the northbound side to accommodate staging. Providing a sidewalk on the southbound side of the causeway would result in the need to acquire the end condo unit in Ocean City. Baker to examine the various options.
- f) (FG) discussed the options for widening MacArthur Boulevard in Somers Point and the possibility of landscaping berms and island with meandering sidewalks. There is also an issue with the drainage area required that needs to be coordinated with DEP along with the stormwater management. Baker to work with (FG) on available options for further consideration.
- g) (FG) discussed that the acquisition of the Chinese Restaurant would offer opportunities to improve the visibility of the Somers Point Mansion that caters towards enhancing the historic aspects of the city.

4) Mobility Access and Circulation Task Force: Chairperson Tim Lidiak (TL)

This task force addresses primarily the Access impacts due to the proposed designs as well as the integration of the Bike/ Pedestrian circulation and mobility into the design. (TL) provided a description of the issues as follows:

- a) Revised Intersection design at MacArthur Blvd. And Shore Rd./ Mays Landing. The revised design eliminates the sweeping right turn ramps shown in the IPA which results in a more Bike/Ped friendly intersection without compromising the traffic operation and safety at the intersection.
- b) Number of parking spaces affected and to be mitigated at various businesses.
- c) Revised design for Braddock Ave. to T- intersections with MacArthur Blvd.
- d) Access to the Chinese Restaurant would be limited to one point (instead of the existing three). The substandard access to the Chinese Restaurant parcel is one reason that supports the acquisition of the parcel. The acquired parcel could be used for overflow parking for the adjacent boat ramp/ fishing pier; open space for park area near historic Somers Mansion site and for staging/ lay down area during construction.

- e) Modified the Surfside Furniture store parking lot (Himmelstein property)
- f) Access plans will be developed 2-3 months.
- g) Studies are continuing on the connection of rails to trails bike path.
- h) (TL) to examine latest scheme and ideas for traffic calming for Ocean City intersections and in Somers Point. Will coordinate with (FG) for aesthetic renderings.
- i) (TL) also went over the proposed connection point between the northbound sidewalk to the Visitor Center through the island. The connecting ramp would be designed to be ADA compliant. The ramp should have square landings rather than round to discourage bikers from speeding through the downhill ramp.

5) Environmental Process Task Force: Chairperson Marshall Robert (MR)

This task force addresses all the commitments that have been made as a result of previous meetings with the environmental agencies. (MR) noted a number of the environmental considerations that had been examined as follows:

- a) Fishing Access- The following fishing access points have been agreed to and incorporated:
 - i) At Somers Point off of proposed bike path underneath bridge.
 - ii) At Elbow Thorofare adjacent to proposed parking underneath bridge.
 - iii) Fishing bulkhead at the north side of the Rainbow Channel.
 - iv) Fishing Pier at the south side of the Rainbow Channel.
 - v) From fishing bump-outs adjacent to the multi-use sidewalk on the northbound side of the bridge.
- b) Boat Access - The following boat access points have been agreed to and incorporated:
 - i) Boat Ramp At Somers Point to replace the Fishing Pier shown in the IPA.
 - ii) Car-Top boat access at Elbow Thorofare.
- c) Access to restroom facilities at Visitor Center, hours of operation (safety, security, maintenance).
- d) Parking lot on Rainbow Island.
- e) Malibu Beach site for Green Acres mitigation.
- f) Developing preliminary information on environmental mitigation – NEPA issues.
- g) Impact to the Heron Rookery adjacent to the Visitor Center.
- h) (MR) discussed creating a matrix of permitting agencies and action items.
 - i) Construction specifications should include timing for species habitat and breeding consideration.
- j) (MR) presented the issues behind removal of the bridge and rebuilding the retaining wall near Somers Mansion. Coordination with SHPO and engineering options to move forward.
- k) FHWA inquired about the schedule for circulation of the Environmental Reevaluation document for the alignment shift. The ER document should be circulated before the permit application to the DEP or ACOE.

6). Miscellaneous Issues:

- a) (CB) to schedule a meeting with Causeway Aesthetics Task Force to discuss outstanding issues with the gateway concepts, multi-use sidewalk, sidewalks, lighting, and the Visitors Center.
- b) The following CPT Handbook materials will be revised by (MC) and distributed to members prior to the next CPT Meeting No. 2: ACTION
 - i) Section 1 - CPT List of Members and Steering Committee and Addresses
 - ii) Section 2 - CPT Schedule of CPT Meetings
 - iii) Section 5 - CPT Task Force Meeting Reports and dividers
- c) CPT Handbook materials to be updated for next CPT meeting (ACTION):
 - i) CPT Organizational Flowchart (MC)
 - ii) CPT Project Schedule of Milestones (Baker)
 - iii) CPT Issues Summary Matrix (Baker)
 - iv) Website Information (Baker)
 - v) FAX Transmittal form (MC)
- d) The next steps for the CPT will be to schedule a Causeway Aesthetics Task Force Meeting and then the next CPT Meeting No. 2 to report on the results of the task force meetings and design refinements. It will be held in Somers Point (possible location: Mac's Restaurant).
- e) (MS) adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m. with a tentative date set for the next CPT Meeting No. 2 for Tuesday or Wednesday March 25th or 26th. The following Steering Committee meeting was also scheduled for Thursday April 10 at the Baker office.

7). KEY ACTION ITEMS

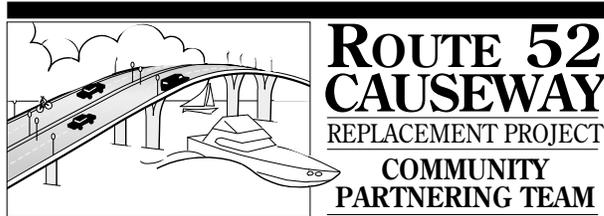
1. Determine acquisition of the Chinese Restaurant property
2. Removal of the Shore Road bridge (scenic element, mitigation, staging location)
3. Determine acquisition of the condo end unit in Ocean City
4. Determination of sidewalk on south side from Visitors Center to Ocean City
5. Environmental permitting agencies and actions matrix
6. Circulate ER document for alignment shift
7. Summary matrix of issues (combined from all task force meetings)
8. Confirm date and logistics of all

8). NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday April 10, 2003
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Baker Office, Princeton, NJ

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the minutes within three (3) working days of receipt. Without notification, we will consider these minutes to be record of fact.

Martine Culbertson
RT52 CPT Facilitator



**ROUTE 52 CAUSEWAY REPLACEMENT PROJECT
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 2**

AGENDA

February 27, 2003

Office of Michael Baker, Jr., Conference Room – 9:30 a.m.

Objective: To provide project status, review the Community Partnering Team Task Force meetings, discuss project items, identify next steps for public outreach efforts.

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| 9:30 a.m. | I. Welcome and Introductions | |
| | • Agenda and Goals | Lambert |
| | • Project Status | Sidani |
| 9:45 a.m. | II. CPT Task Force Meetings | |
| | • Task Force Meetings Review | Sidani |
| | • Causeway Aesthetics TF Meetings | Beske/Gottenmoeller |
| | • Staging and Traffic Management TF Meeting | Culbertson/Klag |
| | • Public Information TF Meeting | Beske/Felix/Marsella |
| | • Environmental Process TF Meeting | Beske/Marshall |
| | • Mobility, Circulation & Access TF Meeting | Culbertson/ Lidiak |
| 11:45 a.m. | III. Other Project Items | |
| | • Outstanding Design Issues | Sidani/Fryc |
| | • Environmental/Agency Coordination | Marshall/Beske |
| | • CPT Meeting No. 2 – Agenda/Materials | Culbertson/Beske |
| | • Other Issues | Sidani |
| 12:30 p.m. | IV Summary and Close | |
| | • Project Schedule – Next Steps | Sidani |
| | • Action Items / Closing Comments | Lambert |