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MEMORANDUM

From: Eric Yermack, P.E.

To: File

Date: September 27, 2002

Re: Route 70 over Manasquan River
Community Involvement
September 17, 2002
Officials Briefing

Attendees: See Attached Attendance Records

On Tuesday, September 17, 2002, at 10:00 AM, in the Brick Township Municipal Building, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) held an Officials Briefing to inform public officials from the surrounding municipalities of the status of the Route 70 over Manasquan River project.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Tony Marsella, NJDOT's Community Relations Manager. Mr. Marsella gave a brief overview of the Department's community outreach efforts to date. Mr. Marsella then asked Mr. Mark Dietrich, NJDOT's Project Manager, to outline the status of the project. Mr. Dietrich explained that the Department had previously proposed a 40 foot high fixed bridge with a grade separation at the intersection of Route 70 and River Road/Riviera Drive at the Officials Briefing in April and at the Public Information Centers in June. At the request of the municipalities, NJDOT then conducted a Vessel Height Survey with Arora and Associates, P.C. and Birdsall Engineering, Inc. in July of 2002. The survey revealed that 99% of the boats upriver of the bridge are less than 25' high. NJDOT is now recommending that a bridge with a 25' underclearance be constructed. Mr. Dietrich also mentioned that the Coast Guard had conducted an independent vessel height survey and agrees that a 25' high bridge would provide for the reasonable needs of navigation.

The Department has lowered the bridge height, reduced the bridge length and realigned the proposed roadway. The at-grade intersection of Route 70 and River Road/Riviera Drive will be maintained. The impacts to the residents have been minimized in both the Brick Township and the Borough of Brielle. The Department is uncertain about how the project will affect Mrs. Gloria Marshall's house.

The meeting participants were then given a chance to ask questions about the project.

There was a question about whether or not noise walls would be provided in Brielle. It was stated that the Department had previously promised that noise walls would be provided. Mr. Dietrich explained that the Department was performing a study to see if noise walls are warranted. If the study finds that the noise walls are not warranted, the Department may elect to have the noise walls added to the project as a non-participating item.

There was a question about the parking issue on Cedar Lane. Mr. Dietrich said that the issue would be addressed in the contract documents, and the contractor would have to find an alternate location for parking. There was a discussion about whether left turns from Route 70 should be maintained. It is undesirable to keep the left turns from a safety point of view. It was noted that the pump station at Brielle will be maintained and its operation will not be affected by the project.

The officials also had concerns about the type of foundations that will be used for the bridge. The Department is studying this issue and the options are piles or drilled shafts. Mr. Dietrich stated that NJDOT would try to reduce the impacts to the community as much as possible.

There was a discussion about the status of the operation of the existing movable bridge. The Coast Guard has informed the townships that the operating policy for the bridge will be changed and the bridge openings will be put on a schedule.

Mr. Dietrich informed the meeting participants that construction of the project might start in the Spring of 2005 considering the duration of the ROW process.

The officials requested that Public Information Centers be held in both Brick Township and the Borough of Brielle. Mr. Dietrich said that the Department would ask for a Resolution of Support from the municipalities. A Brielle official stated that they might not support the project if the noise walls are not incorporated into the project. With the exception of the noise wall issue, the officials expressed their satisfaction with what NJDOT had done to improve the project and minimize impacts to the surrounding communities. They also expect that the public would be supportive of the current project configuration.

Attachment (1)

C: M. Dietrich – NJDOT
T. Marsella – NJDOT
D. Yacovino - Arora