

**Summary of Working Meeting with PANYNJ
Route 139 Rehabilitation Project
Monday, July 18, 2005
PANYNJ Headquarters, 225 Park Avenue South, Manhattan**

Follow-Up Items:

Listed in Blue under each category.

List of Attendees:

- See link on site.

Opening Remarks (Jim Snyder (NJDOT) and Victoria Kelly (PANYNJ):

- Emphasized need for cooperation from all agencies to ensure we are doing everything possible to minimize the traffic impacts for our customers while Route 139 is being rehabilitated.

Update on Contract (Rick Hammer, NJDOT):

- **Initial Stage:** Loss of one lane on Upper Roadway for first 16 months. No significant traffic impacts are expected.
- **Critical Dates (July, August, September, 2005):**
 - July 26, 2005: Construction Partnering Meeting
 - On or about Aug. 9th: Contractor to mobilize equipment
 - **On or about Aug. 26th: Contractor to set up Jersey Barrier for maintenance and protection of traffic along 14th Street Shoulder. (This represents first sign to motorists that construction work will commence.)**
 - **On or about Sept. 23rd:** Contractor to demolish rail/safety walk/parapet along north side of 14th street viaduct.
- **Paving of Local Streets:** Various streets in Jersey City will be repaved as part of the Route 139 Rehabilitation Project. NJDOT is working with Jersey City on this effort. The repaving will commence this fall and be completed in the spring.

Update on Traffic Mitigation Strategies (Steve Santoro, RJ Palladino and Tom Marchwinski, NJT):

- **NJT given “green light” from NJDOT to proceed with the following traffic mitigation strategies to ease congestion during Route 139 Rehabilitation Project:**
 - Increased parking at Liberty State Park/Liberty Science Center to enhance Hudson-Bergen Light Rail.
 - West Side Avenue Station: Increase security, provide free parking and improve trail blazing to promote use of this station.
 - Union County Ferry Proposal: Work with Union County to expedite this project – explore possibility of subsidizing service for commuters utilizing this mode.

- Expand/enhance rail and bus service to support Route 139 Project.
- Continue to promote Vanpool/Carpool program with increased incentives.
- Coordinate Communications Plan with NJDOT and PANYNJ.
- **Follow-Up Items on NJT Mitigation Strategies:**
 - NJDOT to flex federal highway dollars (currently programmed \$12 million over next three years) to Federal Transit Administration to allow NJ TRANSIT to pursue traffic mitigation strategies. **(Leads: Atul Shah/Larry Vogel (NJDOT) Steve Santoro/RJ Palladino (NJT) and George Hoops (FHWA).**
 - NJDOT and NJT to pursue conversations with Union County concerning proposed ferry service **(Leads: Steve Santoro/RJ Palladino (NJT).**
 - **NJDOT and NJT to follow-up with DEP and Liberty Science Center** about additional parking at the Science Center to support the Liberty State Park Light Rail Station.
 - PANYNJ raised concerns about mitigation strategies addressing weekend traffic and NY to NJ reverse commute traffic while Route 139 is being rehabilitated. NJDOT and NJT will take both these issues into consideration when developing strategies.
 - Tom Marchwinski to provide Joann Papageorgis with additional traffic information requested.

Traffic Operations Update - Matt Edelman (TRANSCOM) and Kurt Aufschneider (NJDOT):

- “Real time transponders” will be in place at the Holland Tunnel by the end of 2005 to allow TRANSCOM to provide better information about traffic conditions to motorists. Transponders provide TRANSCOM with “real time” data within 60 seconds.
- TRANSCOM and NJDOT will continue to make use of Traffic Reporting Services, VMS and HAR to notify motorists about traffic conditions. Additional VMS will be included in Route 139 Project.
- TRANSCOM has good rapport with NYC – they are alerted to all traffic delays at the Holland Tunnel.
- TRIPS 1,2,3 currently in place to provide motorists with up-to-date traffic conditions.
- VMS – hope to be able to communicate specific delay times to motorists similar to what’s done today at the George Washington Bridge.
- Video Surveillance to be used to enhance Traffic Operations ability to respond to situations and public can view construction via NJDOT’s website - NJCOMMUTER.COM.
- 511 System expected to be “in place” within the next year.
- NJDOT- will serve as liaison between internal and external traffic operations.
- Project Design Team to remain in place to monitor construction stages.
- NJIT Modeling Contract to evaluate Route 139 construction project.

Follow-Up Items on Traffic Operations:

- Mid-August, 2005: NJDOT/TRANSCOM to arrange meeting with PANYNJ, NY City, NJTA, Jersey City, etc. to coordinate traffic operations strategies on both sides

of the Holland Tunnel. (Leads: John Gahwyler (NJDOT)/Sanjay Patel (TRANSCOM)).

- Work with NJTA to construct VMS sign at motorist' decision point on NJ Turnpike near Elizabeth (Leads: Kurt Aufschneider (NJDOT)/Steve Dilts (NJTA)).

Communications Plan – Marc Lavorgna (NJDOT) and Paul Maticera (MBI Gluck Shaw):

- **NJDOT:** Four “tiered” approach to communications plan. Plan will cater to both local residents and regional commuters and will include:
 - Special NJDOT Webpage dedicated to Route 139 Project and information.
 - 1-877-NJROADS toll-free motorist assistance number.
 - Will work with Traffic Operations/TRANSCOM to provide commuters with “before” and “after” snapshot of Route 139 so they know how their commute is being affected by the construction work.
 - Initial briefings/conversations with major and local newspapers in NY City and New Jersey to discuss upcoming Route 139 Project.
 - Working with NJDOT Traffic Operations and TRANSCOM to ensure Traffic Reporting Services are providing accurate information.
 - Purchasing advertising as necessary in local weekly newspapers (Hudson Reporter, Jersey Journal, etc.) to discuss Route 139 Project. Advertisements will also run in Spanish to assist Spanish-speaking residents in Jersey City.
 - Press Releases to be issued as appropriate.
 - Radio Advertising – to be considered in advance of stage 2 where traffic impacts are expected to be greater.
 - NJDOT will be hiring a firm shortly to serve as a Community Liaison while the Route 139 construction is underway. The liaison will be available “around the clock” to assist residents, etc. with problems resulting from this construction project.
 - NJDOT will coordinate Route 139 Communications Plan with all affected agencies.
 - A recommendation was made to use local Cable Channel to inform the public of this project and also to use existing Transportation Management Associations to “get the word out” to commuters.
- **MBI Gluck-Shaw:** Paul Maticera provided an overview of MBI Gluck Shaw’s role in the Route 139 Rehabilitation Project effort. Along with colleagues Jeff Lanigan, Rudy Garcia and Lisa Ginther, MBI Gluck Shaw will serve in a “Facilitator” capacity to keep all Public Officials and where necessary, all agencies apprised of issues surrounding this rehabilitation project. MBI Gluck Shaw will report through Tina Lado and Rick Hammer at NJDOT and Shawn Laurenti at the PANYNJ. They will also be working closely with the Route 139 Construction Partnering Team.
- **Follow-Up Items on Communications Plan:**
 - Will work with Traffic Operations/TRANSCOM to provide commuters with “before” and “after” snapshot of Route 139 so they know how their commute

is being affected by the construction work. **(Leads: Marc Lavorgna/Kurt Aufschneider)**

- Work with Jersey City Representatives and MBI Gluck Shaw to arrange meetings with Jersey City Waterfront Group and NJTPA to provide overview of Route 139 Project. **(Leads: Marc Lavorgna (NJDOT), Paul Maticera (MBI Gluck Shaw) and David Donnelly (Jersey City) to coordinate meetings in August.)**
- Keep Jersey City representatives informed of any meetings taking place with Jersey City Community Groups **(Leads: Alex Brown (NJDOT) and Paul Maticera (MBI Gluck Shaw)**
- PANYNJ suggested that a Project Overview be provided to the Community Boards 1&2 in NY City. **(Robert Eadicicco/Joann Papageorgis (PANYNJ) to provide information to Marc Lavorgna and Paul Maticera to arrange these meetings).**
- Mid-August: Begin briefing Newspapers and purchasing print ads. **(NJDOT's Communications Office)**
- Mid-August: Coordinate overall Communications Plan with partnering agencies. **(NJDOT's Communications Office)**
- **Explore use of local Cable Channel to inform the public of this project (NJDOT's Communications Office) and also to use existing Transportation Management Associations (NJDOT) to "get the word out" to commuters.**

Predicting and Communicating Traffic Delays and InterAgency Coordination (Jim Snyder):

- Jim emphasized NJDOT's commitment to doing whatever is possible to minimize the rehabilitation project impacts and ensure the project does not create a hindrance for motorists and local Jersey City residents. This means a commitment to (a) making contract changes where necessary, (b) implementing appropriate traffic mitigation strategies and most importantly, (c) working in concert with our partnering agencies.
- In order to keep everyone apprised of the Route 139 Project, Jim suggested that there be regularly scheduled meetings at the following levels:
- **Staff level: (Atul Shah/Larry Vogel to continue to coordinate)**
- **Senior Management (Policy) level: (Jim Snyder/Victoria Kelly to coordinate within the next week) First Meeting or Conference Call to take place last week of August prior to Contractor putting barrier in place. All agencies will be represented.**

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m.

SIGN-IN SHEET

Route 139 Rehabilitation July 18, 2005 @ 11:00 A.M.

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