

Memorandum

Date: July 10, 2002

To: File

From: Eric Yermack, PE

Subject: Route 70 over Manasquan River
Public Information Centers
Borough of Brielle June 18, 2002
Brick Township June 20, 2002

Attendees: See attached lists

The New Jersey Department of Transportation held Public Information Centers between the hours of 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM at the Curtis House in the Borough of Brielle on June 18, 2002 and at the Brick Township Municipal Building on June 20, 2002. The purpose of these public meetings was to provide the public with information about the proposed Route 70 over Manasquan River bridge replacement project.

The meetings were attended by representatives from the NJDOT and their design consultant Arora and Associates, P.C., public officials, and members of the public from the surrounding municipalities. The NJDOT provided the public with displays showing the proposed design concept and had staff members on hand to discuss the proposed project and answer questions.

At the beginning of the meeting in Brielle on June 18, 2002, the Mayor of Brielle read a statement (See Attachment). The Mayor's statement indicated that the Mayors of Brick and Brielle had previously met with the Commissioner of Transportation to discuss the proposed project. As a result of that meeting, the Commissioner of Transportation had agreed to reexamine the proposed bridge height by performing a new Vessel Height Survey of the vessels on the Manasquan River. There was also a commitment to limit construction activities for the proposed project from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

At the meetings, many members of the public made comments about the project and asked questions. The attendees that had concerns were encouraged to provide the NJDOT with written comments on the preprinted forms that were available at the meetings. The main issues that were raised during the two meetings are presented below:

- The bridge appears to be too high.
- It was suggested that the NJDOT maintain the at grade intersection, with a traffic light, at Route 70 and River Road/Riviera Drive. There were differing opinions among the attendees about the level of traffic and number of accidents at this intersection.

- The river is not navigable for larger vessels upriver of the proposed bridge.
- The accuracy of the previous vessel survey was being questioned.
- Brick Township residents were concerned about the environmental impacts (noise and loss of trees) in the area between Route 70 and Sudbury Road.
- Brick Township residents were concerned about the configuration of the ramps and their close proximity to Sudbury Road.
- Residents from Brick, Brielle and Wall all expressed concern about the increased noise levels that the project might bring.
- It was suggested that the NJDOT consider providing a ramp connecting Route 70 WB to Main Avenue, which would allow motorists to make a left turn onto Main Avenue.
- Residents in Brick and Brielle expressed concern that their property values would be affected by the proposed project.
- Residents in Brielle have mixed opinions about the possibility of having a noise wall along Route 70 EB. Some are in favor of it and have hired an attorney to represent their interests in this matter. Others said that a noise wall would have an adverse visual and psychological impact.
- Residents asked why the Route 70 roadway was so wide.
- Residents in Brielle were concerned about the height of the proposed retaining walls and noise walls.
- Residents in Brielle were concerned about the amount of property that they would lose along Route 70 due to the project.
- Residents in Brielle expressed concern that during construction, the contractor's workers would park their cars on the local streets. It was suggested that provisions be included in the contract documents, which would prohibit the contractor's workers from parking in the streets. It was also suggested that fines could be imposed on the contractor for parking in the streets.

Route 70 over Manasquan River
Public Information Centers
Borough of Brielle, June 18, 2002
Brick Township, June 20, 2002
Page 3 of 3

- Residents in Brielle wanted to know what was being done to address the traffic problems at Route 70 and Riverview Drive. Residents asked about the NJDOT's proposed plans to improve this situation.
- Attendees asked if they would have an opportunity to comment on the aesthetic treatments of the project. They were also concerned about the future landscaping for the project.
- Residents in Brick expressed concern that the areas under the bridge would be an attractive- nuisance. They asked what the plans were for this space. Some residents were concerned that this space could attract vagrants and shanties and pose a general public safety concern.

The next step in the project will be to perform the requested Vessel Height Survey and to reexamine the proposed height of the bridge. Once these steps are completed, the NJDOT and Arora and Associates will be in a position to address the public's comments.

Attachments (3)