

VI. COORDINATION/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Introduction

Public involvement/coordination has been an integral part of the transportation planning process for the Blue Ball Properties Transportation Improvement Project. Two committees were established during the Master Planning Process for the Preferred Transportation Concept: the Transportation Technical Committee and the Recreation and Historic Preservation Committee. Further analysis of the Blue Ball Transportation Project took place through public workshops and coordination with public officials and state and federal natural resource agencies.

A. Master Planning Process Coordination

The Preferred Transportation Concept development process was part of a coordination effort between the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), the Delaware Economic Development Organization (DEDO), the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc (MTA), and Wallace Roberts and Todd (WRT). DelDOT and MTA focused on the transportation planning, while DEDO, DNREC and WRT focused on the park improvements planning. Both efforts were carefully coordinated.

Committees representing transportation improvements and parks and recreation improvements were developed as part of the process to facilitate broad participation in the Master Planning process by elected officials, government agencies, citizens groups, adjacent neighborhoods and other stakeholders (*Appendix F*). The committees were comprised of representatives from agencies, stakeholders and citizens groups with expertise and/or interest in a particular aspect or key component of the Master Plan. The committees were charged with assisting the Master Planning Team by defining goals and objectives of the Master Plan by discussing issues, reviewing the work of the Master Planning Team and offering comments and suggestions. All meetings of the committees were open to the public and were attended by appropriate members of the consultant team.

The Transportation Technical Committee was responsible for transportation and stormwater management issues related to the development of the site and in the surrounding area. The participants that were invited to join consisted of representatives of each the following groups:

DelDOT
CCOBH (County Council of Brandywine Hundred)
WILMAPCO
Delaware Greenways
Preservation Delaware
Ronald McDonald House
A.I. DuPont Hospital
AstraZeneca
duPont Country Club
CAC 202
CAC 141

State Chamber of Commerce
Committee of 100
Transportation Consultant

The Recreation and Historic Preservation Committee was responsible for planning related to conservation, development of active and passive recreation at the site and the future of the historic structures on the site. The participants that were invited to join the Recreation and Historic Preservation Committee consisted of representatives of each the following groups:

Delaware Greenways
Preservation Delaware
State Parks
New Castle County Parks
NCC Historic Review Board
State Historic Review Board
DNREC staff on Historic Preservation
Ronald McDonald House
A.I. DuPont Hospital
AstraZeneca
CCOBH
CAC 202
CAC 141
State Chamber of Commerce
Committee of 100
Recreation and Historic Preservation Consultant.

While the committees were comprised of individuals and representatives of specific organizations, participation in the committee meetings was open to the public. All meetings, agenda and meeting reports were posted for public review on the project web site.

A series of public meetings were held with each of these committees to present information about each of the Master Plan options. Additionally, Legislative Town Hall meetings were held where the information that had been presented at the previous meetings was presented to the public. *Table VI-1* provides a summary of these meeting.

**TABLE VI-1
SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Recreation and Historic Preservation	Transportation	Legislative Town Hall
08/16/99	08/16/99	
		08/18/99
09/08/99	09/08/99	09/08/99
09/22/99	09/22/99	
10/07/99 Joint Committee Charette	10/07/99 Joint Committee Charette	
	10/13/99- AstraZeneca Open House	
11/03/99	11/03/99	
		11/10/99
12/01/99	12/01/99	
12/08/99	12/08/99	
12/15/99	12/15/99	
	12/22/99	
12/29/99	12/29/99	
01/05/00	01/05/00	
		01/10/00
06/26/00	06/26/00	

Minutes and presentations for each of these meetings are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.blueball.net>. The meeting minutes and presentations are part of the public record for the project and are available for review. The website is accessible through most local libraries.

Additionally, a meeting sponsored by DEDO, DNREC and DeIDOT was held on June 26, 2000 at Bellevue Hall in Bellevue State Park to recognize the Transportation and Recreation and Historic Preservation Committees for their participation in the Master Plan. The proposed schedule was posted for review and the Preferred Transportation Concept Plan and Recreation Plan designs were presented as well. A 3-D model of the Preferred Transportation

improvements was presented. In addition, plans for ongoing community involvement for safety, design and aesthetic issues were discussed.

B. Public Workshops

On July 26, 2000, an Open House for the Blue Ball Properties Area Project took place at the Brandywine High School Cafeteria in Wilmington, Delaware. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the community of the Preferred Transportation Concepts and invite their comments and concerns. The following exhibits were present at the Open House for public review:

- Blue Ball Properties Illustrative Master Plan
- 3-D Model of the Preferred Transportation Concept
- Corsim Traffic Simulation Analysis
- Preliminary Engineering Information
- Phasing/Schedule for Transportation Improvements
- Preliminary Information on Environmental, Historical, and Cultural Resources
- Planned Recreation Facility Improvements
- Update of Blue Ball Properties Web site

Another public workshop was held on May 21, 2001. The purpose of the meeting was to update the public on the finalized design/information of the Transportation Planning Process and the Master Plan. Informational handouts summarizing the Master Plan information displayed at the meeting were available for all those who attended. Comments and concerns were welcome and the project team was present to address them. Over 115 people signed in at the reception table, although nearly 150 people were in attendance. There were a total of 49 comment forms submitted by the public.

C. Master Plan Open House

On November 27, 2000 an Open House was held at the Bellevue Hall in Bellevue State Park, previewing the Blue Ball Properties Master Plan Preliminary Draft Document.

D. Agency Coordination

Identification and analysis of environmental features included coordination with the natural resource agencies and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office to determine the requirements that would need to be met as the project evolved. Agencies involved in the effort included:

- New Castle County
- Federal Highway Administration
- Delaware State Historic Preservation Office
- DNREC- Wetlands and Sub-aqueous Lands Section
- DNREC- Parks and Recreation Section
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

- United States Environmental Protection Agency

The natural resource agency meetings and Field Views were held on the following dates:

June 14, 2000 – This meeting occurred at the Ronald McDonald House in Delaware and involved a Field View, through which regulatory agencies were updated on the current status of the project.

August 17, 2000 – This meeting took place at the Ronald McDonald House in Delaware and included a Field View, through which the regulatory agencies were familiarized with the proposed stormwater design, wetland impacts and conceptual wetland mitigation areas. Transportation and stormwater management facilities were located to minimize impacts to the wetlands associated with the project area. Nineteen wetlands were identified and delineated on the Blue Ball Properties, with most of them associated with the Alapocas Run on the west side of Route 202. However, five wetlands were associated with the Matson Run area on the east side of Route 202. A major goal of the Field View was to determine the wetland compensation requirements for the unavoidable wetland losses.

January 8, 2001 - This meeting took place at the Ronald McDonald House in Delaware and included a Field View. The purpose of the Agency Field View was to get the regulatory agencies up to date with the status of the project, review proposed impacts, avoidance and minimization, mitigation measures and discuss the general environmental process and schedule.

September 16, 2001 - The purpose of this meeting was to update the Regulatory Agencies on the status of the project; review natural resources; review proposed mitigation for the wetland replacement area and stream restoration area; and to discuss requirements for the permit applications.

The Section 106 meetings and Field Views were held on:

May 8, 2000 – This meeting was held at DelDOT to discuss the general concept of the project and any previous cultural resource field work.

June 14, 2000 – This meeting included a Field View, and focused on the discussion of the proposed cultural resources scope.

July 7, 2000 – This meeting occurred at the DelDOT offices in Dover, Delaware. The Agency Field View, which was held in June, 2000 was discussed. It was concluded that the former Field View did accomplish the goals previously set:

- The Agencies were briefed on the project area features, project purpose improvements being considered.
- SHPO was able to provide comments on Cultural Resource issues.
- Wetlands and aquatic resource agencies were contacted.

August 25, 2000 – This meeting involved a Field View and discussed proposed cultural resources scope of work.

September 25, 2000 – This meeting discussed the location of the Phase II test units at the Milner #1 Site, which is located north of Rockland Road. In addition, the testing strategy for Phase I, entailed a Field View.

November 27, 2000 – The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the eligibility of the Milner #1 Site, the location of the Phase II test units at the Augustine Cut-Off Site, how to proceed with Phase II at the Weldin Plantation, the results of Phase I on the Route 141 Spur, and the areas that still need Phase I. This meeting also included a Field View.

January 24, 2001 - The purpose of the meeting was to review the historic architectural resources surveyed and receive concurrence on eligibility. In addition, a summary of the impacts and a review of the resource avoidance and minimization efforts was provided.

January 26, 2001 - The purpose of the meeting was to review the archaeological fieldwork and reports written to date for the Blue Ball Properties Area Project, as well as to discuss the National Register eligibility of the Jewish Community Cemetery.

March 2, 2001 - The purpose of the meeting was to; 1) review the eligible resources and the revised historic architectural and archaeological resource boundaries, and 2) discuss preliminary effect recommendations and possible mitigation.

March 29, 2001 - The purpose of the meeting was to review existing avoidance and minimization alternatives and their effect on historic and archaeological properties in the APE.

May 7 & May 11, 2001 - The purpose of these meetings was to review and agree on preliminary effect findings on historic and archaeological properties in the APE.

May 15, 2001 - The purpose of this meeting was to explain the proposed transportation improvements to the homeowner and discuss mitigation options for impacts to One Rock Manor Avenue.

August 16, 2001 - The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a preferred alignment for the Eastpark Drive. In addition, comments on the EA, Phase I Archaeology Report and draft MOA were reviewed. A meeting to review the Case Report will be scheduled.

August 27, 2001 - The purpose of the meeting was to review and receive comments from the consulting parties on the Draft Case Report.

September 20, 2001 - The focus of the meeting was a concentration on the MOA. Beyond covering the technical matters of the MOA, there are several key questions and follow-up items that need to be undertaken.