

Memorandum of Meeting

Date: November 30, 2005

Date of Meeting: September 20, 2005

Time of Meeting: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Sussex Pines Country Club, Georgetown

Topic: Georgetown Area Working Group Meeting #9

Working Group Attendees:

Name	Representing
Howard Abbott, Jr.	Georgetown Resident
Donna Atkinson	Georgetown Area Property Owner
David Baird	Georgetown Town Manager
R. Carol Campbell-Hansen	Sussex County Board of Realtors
Martin Donovan	Delaware National Bank
Lit Dryden	Greater Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
Harry Dukes	1st State Poultry, Sussex Co. Airport Board
Bernice Edwards	First State Community Action Agency
Matthew Gibbs	Georgetown Resident
Terry Johnson	Delaware Technical & Community College
Carlton Moore, Sr.	Historic Georgetown Association
Karen O'Neill	Southern Delaware Tourism
David Pedersen	Georgetown Planning Commission
Ann Marie Townshend	Office of State Planning Coordination

Monroe Hite, III, DelDOT's Project Manager on the US 113 North/South Study opened the meeting, welcomed the Working Group members back from summer hiatus and introduced Donna Atkinson as a new Working Group member. He then reviewed the material in the handout package.

Monroe indicated that this morning's meeting was intended to bring the Working Group members up to speed on what has happened since the last Working Group meeting, including the Public Workshop and review with them the alternatives DelDOT has retained for detailed study.

A question was raised about DelDOT's funding issues. Monroe assured the Working Group that funds to complete the Project Development effort (selection of a preferred alternative) were available and expressed the hope that the Governor's Task Force would

put implementable solutions forward that would address the ability to move forward with preserving the preferred alternative once it was selected.

Monroe then introduced Edwin Thomas to review the results of the Public Workshops and discuss the community outreach effort.

Ed indicated that over 700 people had attended the 5 workshops in May and June with almost 200 attending the June 13th Workshop in Georgetown. Over 250 comment forms had been received from the workshops with over 60 coming from the Georgetown workshop. Ed indicated that a synopsis of the public comments would be provided shortly.

Ed then discussed the continuing community outreach effort. He stated that meetings with the various planning groups both municipal and county were continuing. He indicated that the municipalities were doing a good job informing the public about the study. He further indicated that briefings, similar to the one today, were provided for both County and State elected officials. He noted that meetings with the Chamber and with residents in the Parker Road area had also been conducted. Finally, Ed discussed the upcoming series of Open House meetings with the Georgetown meeting scheduled for October 17th in the CHEER Center. He noted that the meetings would run from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and urged the Working Group members to attend at some time during the day.

Ed returned the meeting to Monroe, who indicated that two recent agency meetings had also been held and that field reviews were currently underway. Monroe introduced Jeff Riegner and Joe Wutka to review the Alternatives Recommended for Detailed Evaluation. Jeff and Joe went through the matrix that was part of the handout package, reviewed the Working Group's recommendation in May, the feedback from the public at the June Workshop, the Project Team's recommendations that were presented to the Environmental Resource Agencies in July, the Agency recommendations and DelDOT's decision on Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study. In the Georgetown Study Area, it was pointed out that the Working Group recommendations, with the exception of Alternative 4 of the Western Bypass alternatives, were being carried forward.

Monroe then reviewed the upcoming steps in the process for the Fall and Spring of 2006, with emphasis on the upcoming Open House and the next Working Group meeting on November 21st.

The meeting was then opened for questions. Lit Dryden asked, given the funding situation, how can DelDOT justify buying property to preserve the preferred alternative? Monroe responded that some funding would have to be set up to address hardship conditions when a preferred alternative is announced but the program would be property owner driven or reactive on DelDOT's behalf, not proactive.

Lit Dryden then reminded the Working Group that his goal on the Working Group was to assure that the businesses along Route 113 aren't hurt as a result of this project. He stated

that the Chamber was looking forward to meeting with the economic specialist from the Project Team and getting the business survey underway. He indicated that he and Carlton Moore should be the contacts from the Working Group to work with the businesses in the area.

David Pedersen asked whether the dropped alternatives are really/finally dropped? Monroe indicated that they are not being pursued through the next series of Working Group meetings leading to a recommendation by the Working Group on a preferred alternative.

Donna Atkinson asked when the next project newsletter would go out? It was indicated that the next newsletter would go out next week.

David Baird noted that a presentation to the Georgetown Town Council was in order. A meeting with the Council, planning staff and commission members should be arranged before the Open House. Monroe and Ed agreed to work with David on arranging such a meeting.

Carlton Moore stated that he felt the Working Group was not sufficiently informed, that the group may not be making the same choices if the study were to restart today. He was concerned that bad decisions could be made. He noted that the group came together with the perception that an On-alignment solution would be the preferred solution and now we are looking at numerous Off-alignment options.

David Pedersen posed a theoretical question. In the worst case, if a western bypass is the preferred alternative, with its associated property impacts, and there is no funding, what are property owners and DelDOT to do? Monroe responded that DelDOT would have to work with property owners or developers of those properties, along the preferred alternative, to protect DelDOT's ability to build that alternative in the future.

Carlton Moore stated that the BIG problem is east/west not north/south traffic. He indicated that there are problems now with Routes 9, 26 and 54. Route 9 is a Georgetown issue now and he expected that additional east/west routes would be problems in the future. Monroe and Ed responded that DelDOT will be addressing east/west issues in a separate study following the conclusion of this study. However, the issues of east/west traffic have also been raised in the Millsboro-South Working Group and an effort is being made as part of this study to address east/west issues in conjunction with the north/south improvements. Tying Truck Route 9 into the Western Bypass alignments is such an example. Ed also responded that phasing of the long term improvements could also address the east/west traffic issues.

Karen O'Neill made everyone aware of the upcoming "Your Town Workshop", one of four in the nation being sponsored by the National Trust. She indicated that spin-off workshops could be held in Milton, Lewes and Bethany Beach.

Monroe concluded the meeting by encouraging the Working Group members participation in the next series of Working Group meetings that would focus on the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study.

Minutes prepared by Joe Wutka