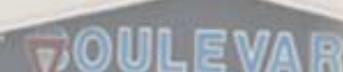
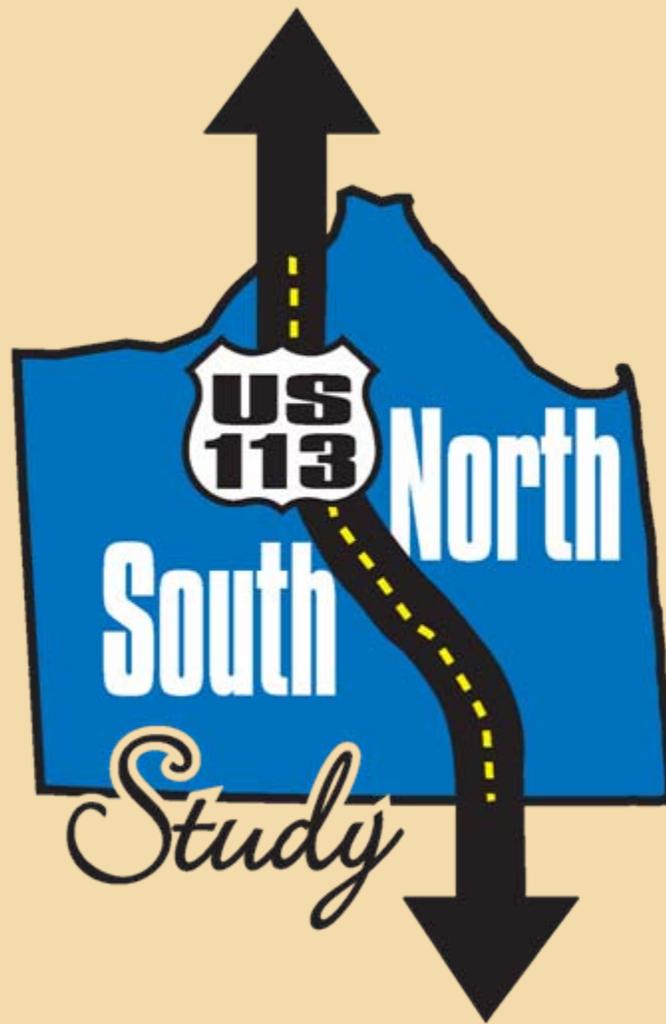


# **Georgetown Area Public Workshop**

**June 5, 2006**





**Monroe C. Hite, III, P.E.**  
**Project Manager**

# Purpose of the Study

- **Identify, select, and protect an alignment for a limited-access US 113**
  - **Address transportation needs along US 113**
  - **Protect environmental and historic resources**
  - **Accommodate planned economic growth**

# Purpose of this Workshop

- **Get your comments, so we can:**
  - Further improve each alternative
  - Begin preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
  - Move toward recommending a preferred alternative

# Progress to Date

- **Since the study started in late 2003, the Project Team has:**
  - **Held 13 rounds of Working Group meetings**
  - **Conducted five rounds of public workshops**
  - **Met frequently with regulatory agencies**
  - **Amassed volumes of technical data**

# Progress to Date

- **The Project Team has narrowed down the number of alternatives in the Georgetown area with input from:**
  - **Working Groups**
  - **Environmental resource agencies**
  - **The public**

# Progress to Date

- **The Project Team has narrowed down the number of alternatives in the Georgetown area by:**
  - **Developing ideas and concepts for alternatives**
  - **Creating a full range of alternatives**
  - **Analyzing 19 preliminary alternatives**
  - **Reducing those 19 to 9 alternatives retained for detailed study (ARDS)**

# Progress to Date

- **The Project Team is not waiting for a preferred alternative to start making improvements**
  - **Short-term improvements at US 113/SR 18/SR 404 are under construction**
  - **Short-term improvements at US 113/SR 24 are in design**
  - **Other short-term improvements are anticipated**

# Progress to Date

- **The Project Team is working to preserve corridors now through frequent coordination with:**
  - **All towns in the corridor**
  - **Sussex County**
  - **Office of State Planning  
Coordination**

# Key Issues

**Although many issues are taken into account, including cost, there are five key issues that will help determine which retained alternative becomes the recommended preferred alternative.**

# Key Issues

- **Wetlands**
- **Historic properties**
- **Rare, threatened and endangered species (RTEs)**
- **Traffic analysis**
- **Socio-economic impacts**

# Key Issues

## ▶ Wetlands

Historic properties

Rare, threatened  
and endangered  
species

Traffic analysis

Socio-economic  
impacts

- **Substantial field review and wetland consultation has been conducted.**
- **In the Georgetown and Ellendale areas, wetland boundaries must be significantly altered.**
- **As this work is completed, alternatives will be shifted to minimize wetland impacts.**

# Key Issues

Wetlands

▶ Historic properties

Rare, threatened  
and endangered  
species

Traffic analysis

Socio-economic  
impacts

- **More than 1,100 properties have been studied and must be reviewed by SHPO.**
- **Over 200 of those properties are in the Georgetown study area.**

# Key Issues

Wetlands

▶ Historic properties

Rare, threatened  
and endangered  
species

Traffic analysis

Socio-economic  
impacts

- **About 50 properties have been recommended by the Project Team as being historically significant (10 in the Georgetown area).**
- **Most of these properties are new to SHPO, increasing review time.**

# Key Issues

Wetlands

Historic properties

Rare, threatened  
▶ and endangered  
species

Traffic analysis

Socio-economic  
impacts

- **Swamp Pink (a federally-listed flower) has been found in the study area, so federal consultation is required.**
- **Bald Eagles are also a concern.**
- **Coordination with DNREC continues regarding state-listed species.**

# Key Issues

Wetlands

Historic properties

Rare, threatened  
and endangered  
species

▶ Traffic analysis

Socio-economic  
impacts

- **A more in-depth operations analysis is needed for detailed study.**
- **We are looking not only at individual project areas, but at the US 113 corridor as a whole.**

# Key Issues

Wetlands

Historic properties

Rare, threatened  
and endangered  
species

Traffic analysis

▶ **Socio-economic  
impacts**

- **We continue to gather public input regarding the alternatives.**
- **During detailed study, that input will be correlated with planning analyses:**
  - **Community cohesion**
  - **Property impacts**
  - **Economic impacts**

# Key Issues

- **Much of the work on these issues is being done for the first time in this part of Sussex County.**
- **As a result, it is taking more time to reach a preferred alternative.**

# **Key Issues**

**The boards and maps illustrate some key issues associated with each alternative and how the Project Team is shifting the alternatives to minimize them.**

# Funding

- **The study is fully funded through selection of a preferred alternative**
- **Funds are being sought to start protective right-of-way acquisition**

# **Why Do We Need to Select an Alternative As Soon As Possible?**

- **Property owners need to know if their property will be impacted.**
- **The pace of development is reducing our options.**
- **A preferred alternative will enable the State to protect the right of way.**
- **A preferred alternative gives the County and Towns more leverage in protecting the alignment.**

# Schedule/Next Steps

1. **Summer 2006:** Evaluate comments on refined alternatives
2. **Summer/Fall 2006:** Consult with environmental resource agencies on data and analysis for the DEIS
3. **Summer/Fall 2006:** Prepare DEIS

# Schedule/Next Steps

4. **Winter 2006/2007: Present DEIS data and analysis to Working Groups**
5. **Winter 2006/2007: Discuss potential recommendation for a preferred alternative in each area with Working Groups and environmental resource agencies**

# Schedule/Next Steps

6. **Spring 2007: Announce availability of DEIS, possibly including a preferred alternative\***
7. **Spring 2007: Conduct Public Workshop/Hearing on DEIS**

\* **Depends on coordination with environmental resource agencies, Working Groups, and the public.**

# **Thank You!**

**We appreciate your input!**

**Please be sure to provide your  
comments:**

- **Tonight in the comment boxes, or**
- **Before July 18, by**
  - **Mail**
  - **The project Web site**

**<http://www.deldot.gov/static/projects/us113>**