



113

# US 113 NORTH/SOUTH STUDY

## **US 113 North/South Study Millsboro-South and Georgetown Public Workshops**

**March 12 & 15, 2007**



# Welcome & Workshop Purpose

- Welcome to the seventh round of public workshops for the US 113 North-South Study
- In response to comments received at the Georgetown and Millsboro-South Working Group meetings, DelDOT is presenting the Dark Blue and Violet Alternatives, which link the Bypass Alternative east of Georgetown with the Bypass Alternatives east of Millsboro. Based on a preliminary assessment of these two alternatives, DelDOT is recommending the Dark Blue and Violet Alternatives be included as Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study. We are inviting your comments on our preliminary assessment and recommendation.
- If retained for detailed evaluation, the Dark Blue and Violet Alternatives would be evaluated by the Project Team and the Georgetown and Millsboro-South Area Working Groups, and reviewed by the environmental resource and regulatory agencies in the same detailed manner as the other Retained Alternatives.
- DelDOT currently anticipates conducting Workshops in September 2007 to secure public input on the evaluation of the refined Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study. Comments received from the Georgetown Area and Millsboro-South Area Working Groups and the Federal and State Environmental Resource and Regulatory Agencies, regarding a Recommended Preferred Alternative would be presented. At the September Workshops, the public will also be invited to provide a preference, if they wish, on a Recommended Preferred Alternative.

**New Alternatives for US 113 to Be Presented to Public**

Two new alternatives have been developed that would combine the east bypass around Georgetown with the east bypass around Millsboro. These new alternatives will be presented to the public for the first time at area workshops on March 12th and 15th.

**Public workshops highlight refined Alternatives**

Please join us for our seventh round of public workshops for the US 113 North-South Study. Since the last workshops in June 2006, the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study, including the new alternatives, have been refined. The refinements are the result of comments received from the public input from the Georgetown and Millsboro-South Working Groups, and continued consultation with the state and federal environmental resource and regulatory agencies.

**Thanks for staying involved!**

Comments will be received during the workshops or can be mailed to DelDOT Public Relations, P.O. Box 770, Dover, DE 19903. A comments form may be completed online, and will automatically be sent to Public Relations and DE PR003. A comments form will be available for downloading from the project website at <http://www.delDOT.gov/state/projects/us113>.

More information about the study and the refined Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study can be obtained from the project website at <http://www.delDOT.gov/state/projects/us113>.

**March Public Workshops:**

- 1 Millsboro, March 12, 2007**  
Monday, March 12, 2007  
East Millsboro Elementary School  
20146 Iron Branch Road, Millsboro  
400 to 700 PM  
Handicapped interpreters on request
- 2 Georgetown Area, Thursday, March 15, 2007**  
CIEER Community Center  
20020 Sand Hill Road, Georgetown  
400 to 700 PM  
Handicapped interpreters on request

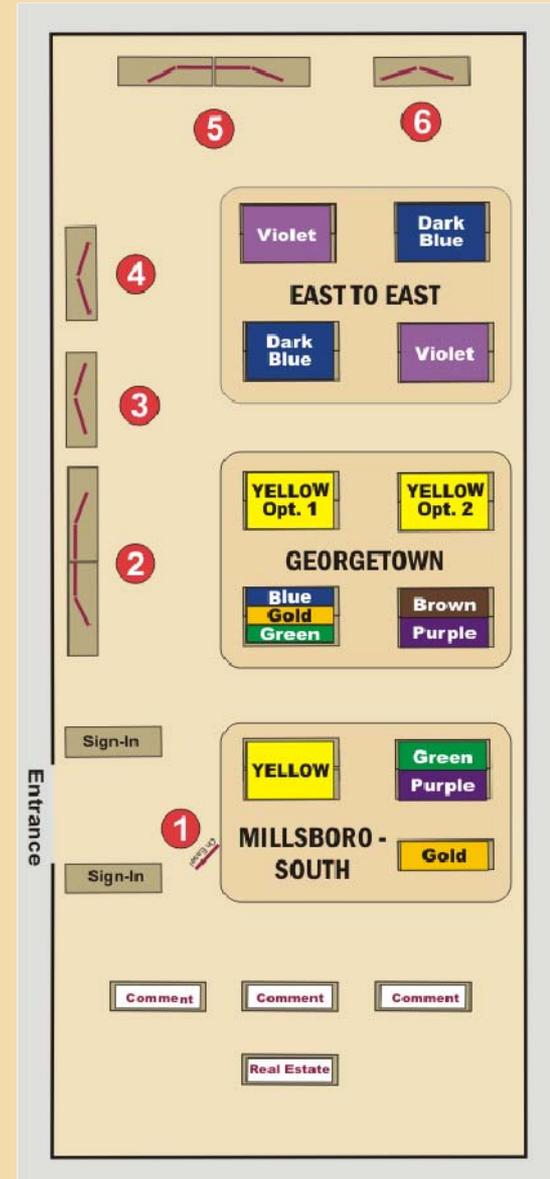
**Time for Both Public Workshops**  
4:00 — 7:00 PM

Identical information will be presented at each workshop. A brief presentation will be made at 4:15 and registration at 5:15 and 6:15 at each workshop.

**For More Information:**  
Contact DelDOT Public Relations at 1-800-632-3600 (in DE) or 302-769-2888 or visit [www.delDOT.gov](http://www.delDOT.gov).

# Tonight's Workshop Layout

- 1 Welcome / Purpose
- 2 Community Involvement / Resource Agency Coordination
- 3 Study Areas - Purpose and Need
- 4 Property Acquisition Process
- 5 Dark Blue and Violet Alternatives
- 6 Next Steps / Stay Informed / Thank You



# Handouts Available

1. DeIDOT FYI
2. Map & Impact Matrix – Dark Blue and Violet Alternatives
3. Workshop Display Boards (6)
4. Comment Form
5. Right-of-Way Brochures

**Comments continued.**

3. Are you aware of any additional cultural (historic and archaeological) and natural resource information regarding these two alternatives that the Project Team should know about?

4. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the remaining alternatives?

**US 113 North/South Study**  
Contract # 22-127-01

*Public Workshop*  
Millsboro, March 12, 2007  
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**Millsboro South Area**  
East Milford Elementary School  
2344 Lee South Road  
Millsboro

DeDOT is recommending that the Dark Blue and Violet Alternatives, which link the Bypass Alternative east of Georgetown with the Bypass Alternative east of Millsboro, be included as Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study.

Please review the information available this evening. Should you have any questions, please ask a Project Team member. Thank you for your input on the Project.

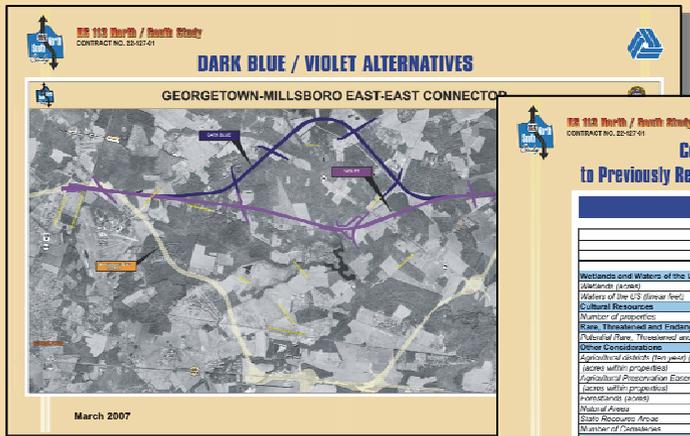
If you are unable to complete this form today, please return it to us by April 13th, 2007.

**We invite your comments:**

1a) Do you have comments on the Dark Blue Alternative?

1b) Do you have comments on the Violet Alternative?

2. Is there any additional information that you think the Project Team should examine if these two alternatives are to be studied further?



**US 113 North / South Study**  
CONTRACT NO. 22-127-01

**Comparison of Dark Blue / Violet Alternatives to Previously Retained Georgetown and Millsboro East Bypass Alternatives**

**MILLSBORO - GEORGETOWN EAST-EAST CONNECTOR MATRIX**

	Previously Retained East Bypass Alternatives			East-East Connector (Dark Blue)	East-East Connector (Violet)
	Georgetown	Millsboro	Total		
<b>Wetlands and waters of the US</b>					
Wetlands (acres)	19	0	19	18	18
Waters of the US (linear feet)	780	780	1560	780	780
<b>Cultural Resources</b>					
Number of properties	38	31	69	780	780
<b>Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species</b>					
Potential Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Areas (acres)	780	780	1560	780	780
<b>Other Considerations</b>					
Agricultural activities (No. years) (k of parcels)	0	0	0	0	0
Acres within agricultural	32	0	32	0	0
Ecological Preservation Economic (pre-owned) (flat properties)	0	0	0	4	2
Acres within properties	0	0	0	21	21
Homebased (acres)	-	-	1,170	787	550
Visual Area	28	0	28	28	12
State Resource Areas	-	-	48	66	39
Number of Structures	0	3	3	1	0
<b>Properties</b>					
Properties impacted (number of)	79	38	117	82	112
Properties impacted (total acres) (properties to be acquired)	57	11	68	780	780
Engineering	5.84	4.36	11.70	9.38	8.82

March 2007

**113 US 113 North / South Study**  
CONTRACT NO. 22-127-01

**WORKSHOP HANDOUTS**

**New Alternatives for US 113 to Be Presented to Public**

**DeIDOT FYI**

**Public Workshop**

**Right-of-Way Brochures**

**Display Boards**

**Impact Matrix**

1. DeIDOT FYI
2. A copy of the FYI announcement for the workshops that was mailed to the public (see FYI to the left). The formal Public Notice was published in the Sussex Courier, the Sussex Post, the Delaware State News, the News Journal (Kiri), Sussex Edition and the Water.
3. A 11" x 17" scale map of the Dark Blue and Violet Alternatives that link the bypass Alternative east of Georgetown with the Bypass Alternative east of Millsboro.
4. Display Boards
5. Impact Matrix
6. Comment Form (comment period ends April 13, 2007)
7. Right-of-Way Brochures (Available at Display #4)

Two brochures are provided that summarize DeDOT's land acquisition process "Your Property and the Right-of-Way" and "Transportation and the Right-of-Way: A Guide for Property Owners"

Delaware's Division of Transportation | National Highway Administration | Sussex County

# Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study

## No-Build Alternative

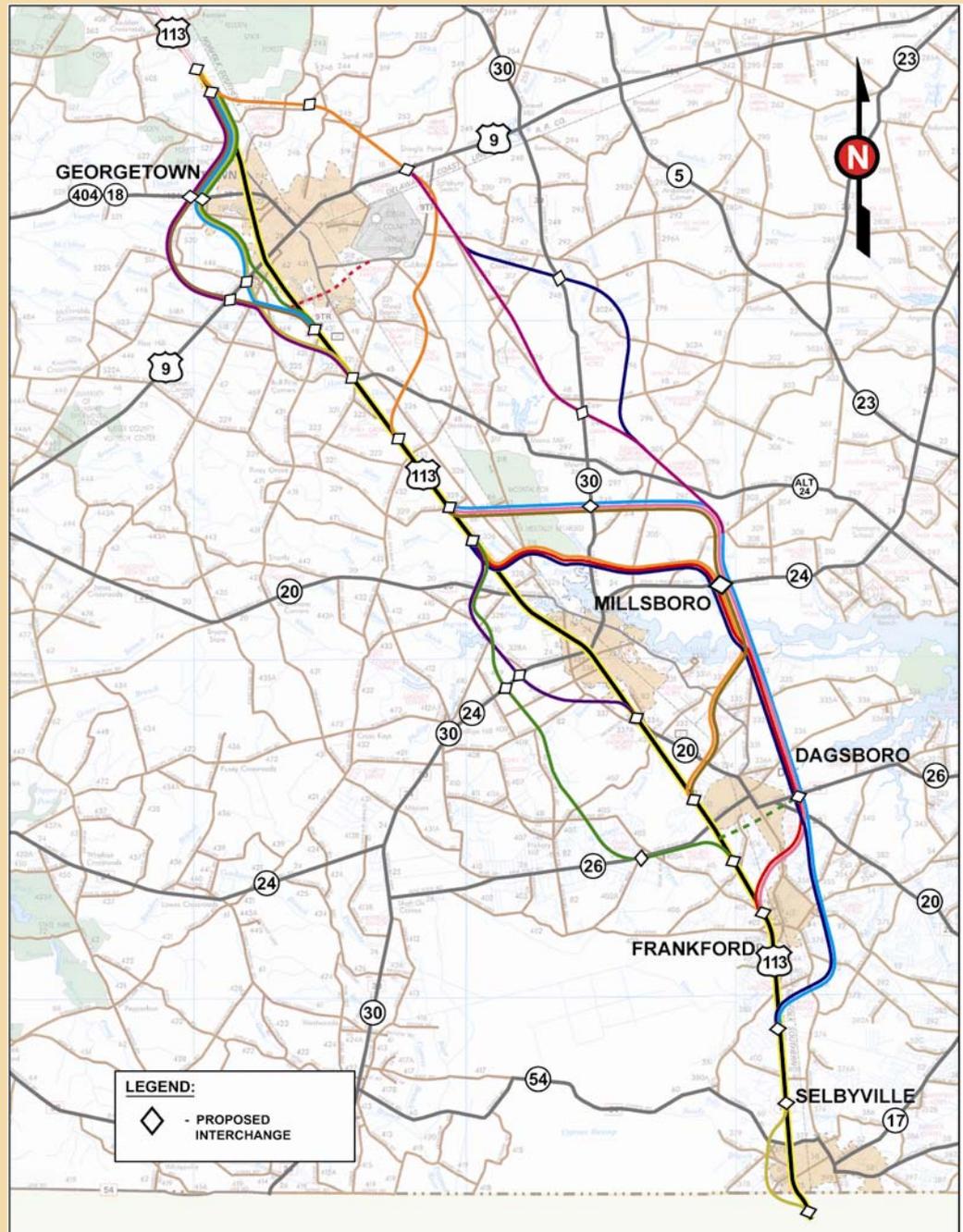
### Build Alternatives (Georgetown Area)

- On-Alignment
  - Yellow Alternative
- West Bypass
  - Blue Alternative
  - Brown Alternative
  - Gold Alternative
  - Green Alternative
  - Purple Alternative
- East Bypass
  - Orange Alternative

### Build Alternatives (Millsboro-South Area)

- On-Alignment
  - Yellow Alternative
- West Bypass
  - Green Alternative
  - Purple Alternative
  - Gold Alternative
- East Bypass
  - Aqua Alternative
  - Blue Alternative
  - Brown Alternative
  - Orange Alternative
  - Pink Alternative
  - Red Alternative

# Georgetown / Millsboro - South Area Alternatives

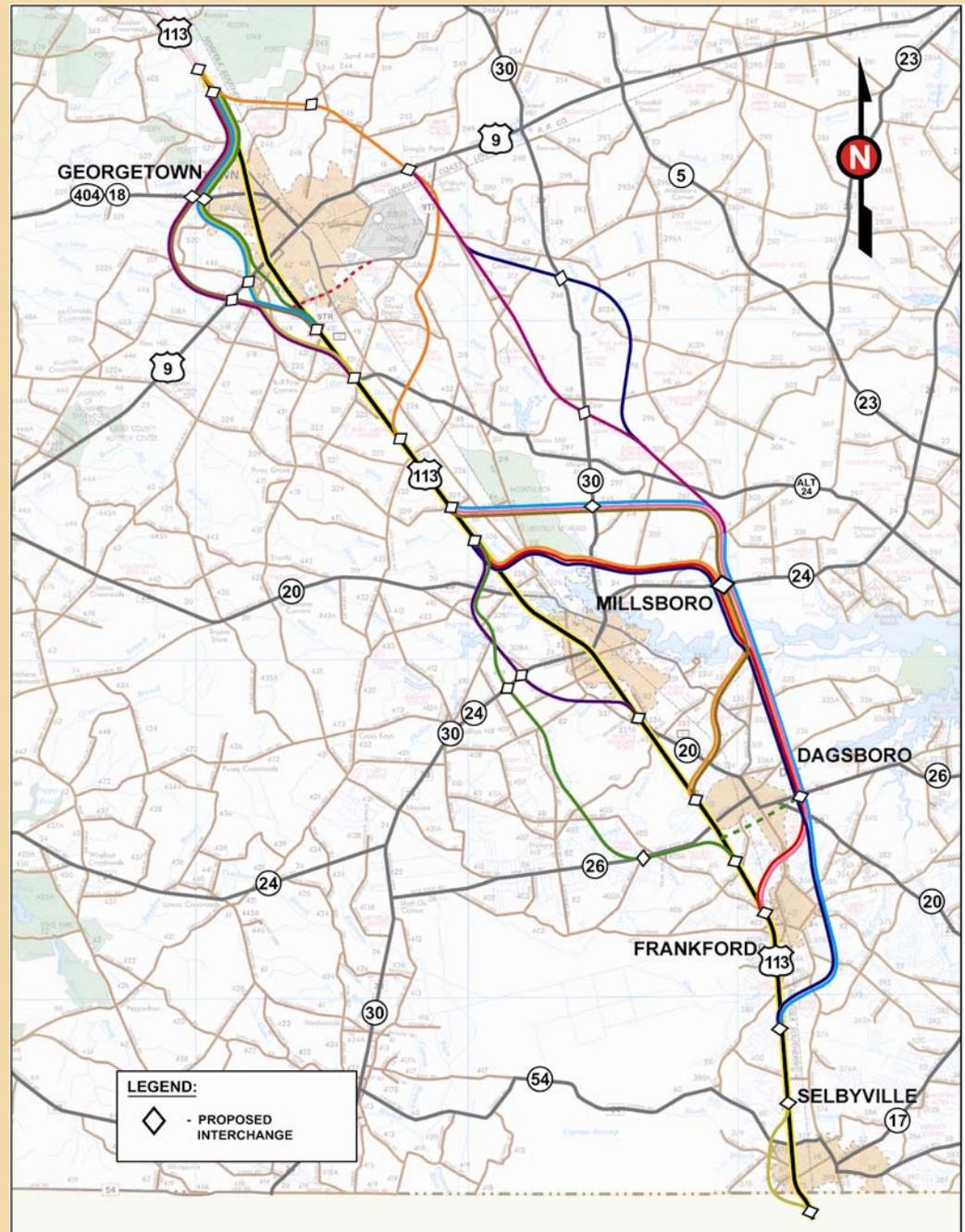


# Project Team Activities Since June 2006 Workshops

## Wetlands

- Extensive consultation with natural resource agencies who have analyzed the retained alternatives.
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- Several field visits have been conducted and review of critical issues will continue with the agencies.
- By mid-March, these agencies will have a full understanding of the wetland issues, including habitat quality, associated with each alternative.

# Georgetown / Millsboro - South Area Alternatives

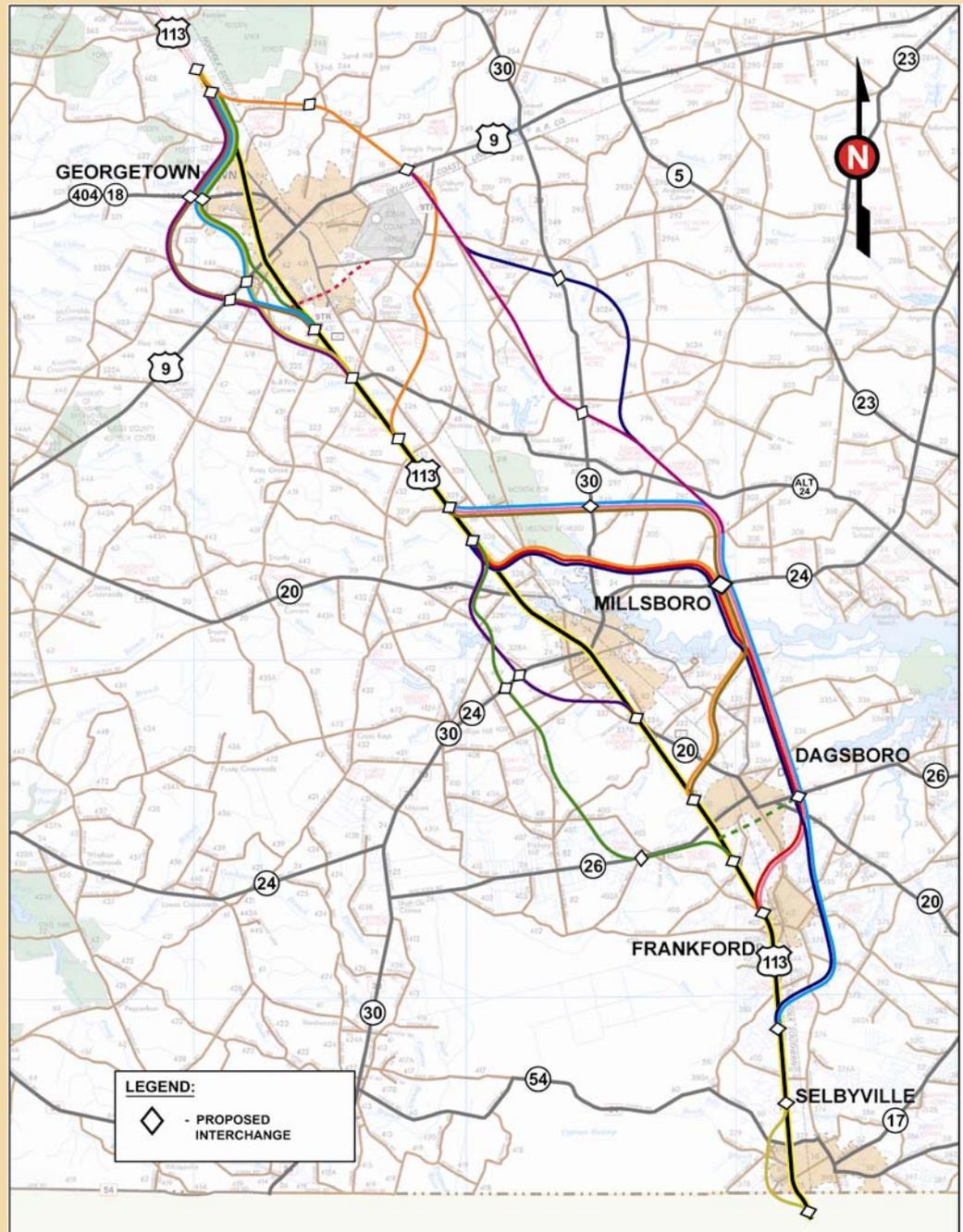


# **Project Team Activities Since June 2006 Workshops**

## **Cultural Resources**

- The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), has been working closely with the project team in determining the eligibility or non-eligibility of all architectural properties for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Final determination of National Register eligibility is likely to be resolved this summer.

# Georgetown / Millsboro - South Area Alternatives

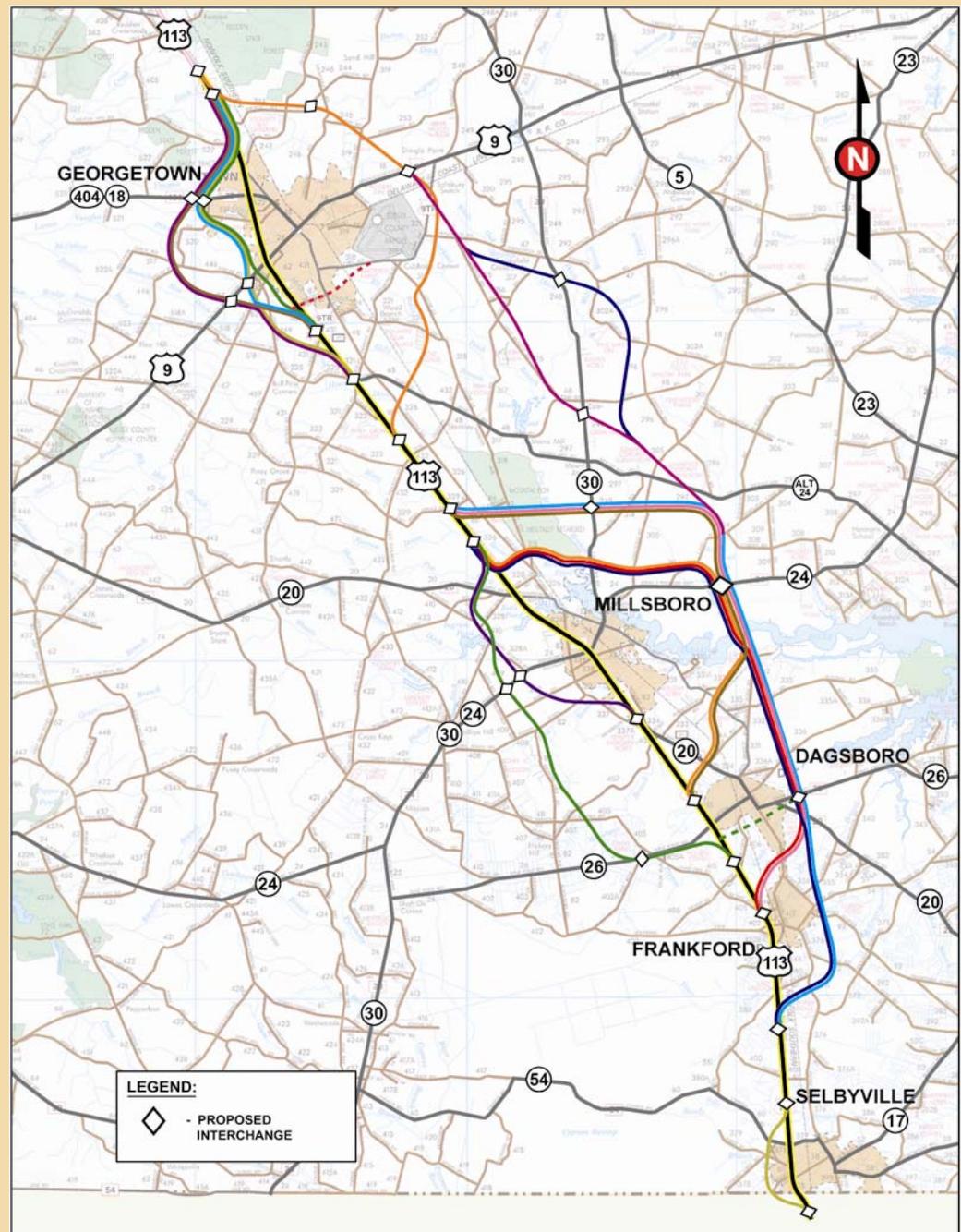


# **Project Team Activities Since June 2006 Workshops**

## **Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species (RTEs)**

- Coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DNREC regarding Federal species of concern.
- Extensive studies were conducted to determine potential impacts to Swamp Pink, a Federally-listed plant species.
- No direct impacts were found in the Georgetown or Millsboro-South areas.

# Georgetown / Millsboro - South Area Alternatives



# Project Team Activities Since June 2006 Workshops

## Traffic

- During 2006, DelDOT completely updated its travel demand model
  - Population and employment
  - External volumes
  - 2005 calibration
  - Mode choice model (DTC)
  - New toll model (I-95, SR 1, US 301)
  - Traffic analysis is continuing

# **Project Team Activities Since June 2006 Workshops**

## **Socio-Economic Impacts**

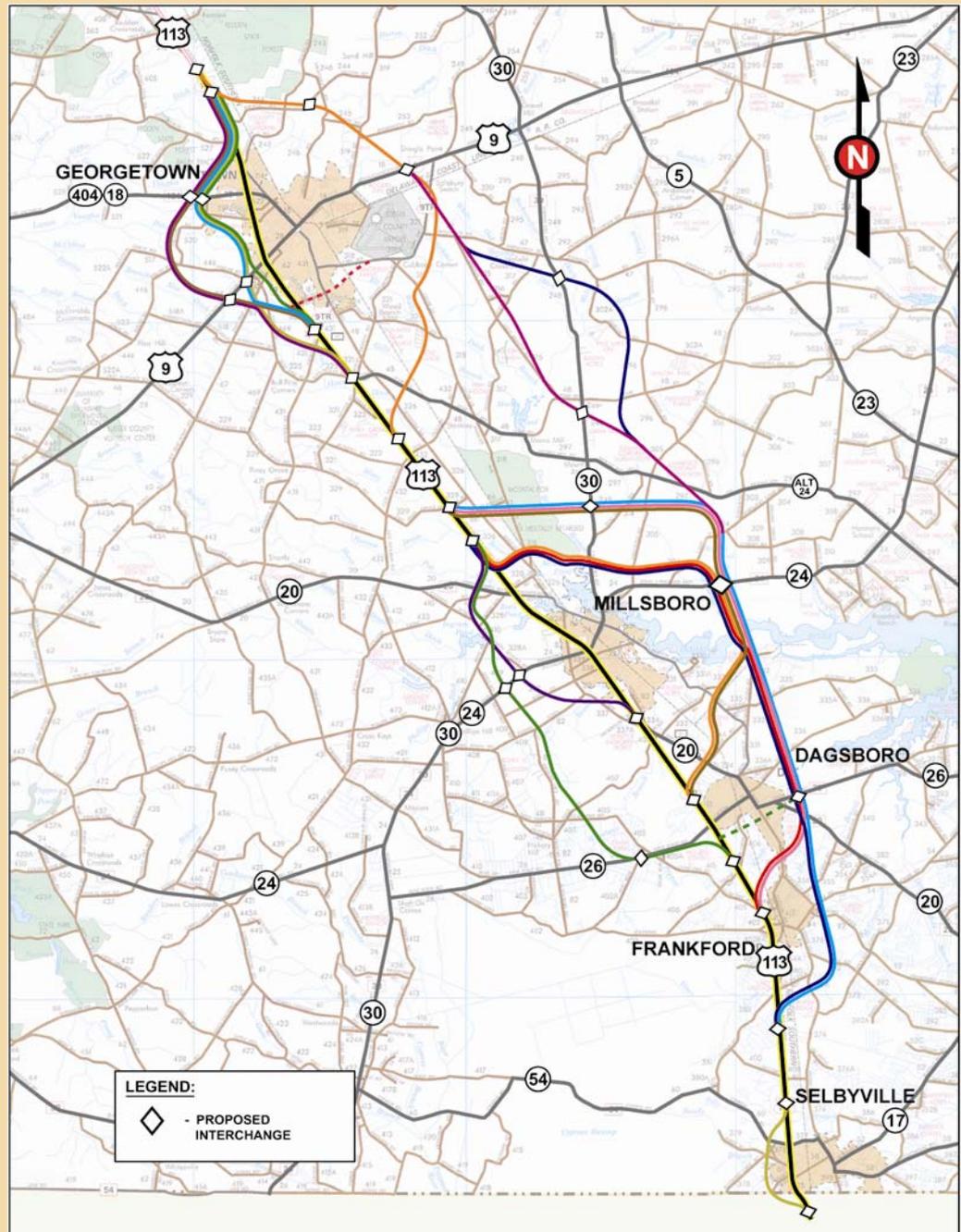
- This category includes impacts to businesses, including agriculture, and properties.
- Property impacts are being updated
- The analysis of economic impacts, including agriculture, is underway, based on the updated traffic data, and will be provided on the project website, when completed and presented at the next round of public workshops in September.

# **Project Team Activities Since June 2006 Workshops**

## **Natural Areas**

- DNREC approved new State Resource Area and Natural Area maps in fall 2006.
- These maps were provided to the project team by DNREC immediately upon approval and have been incorporated into the alternatives mapping.
- Any impacts on State Resource and Natural Areas are being incorporated into the impact matrices.

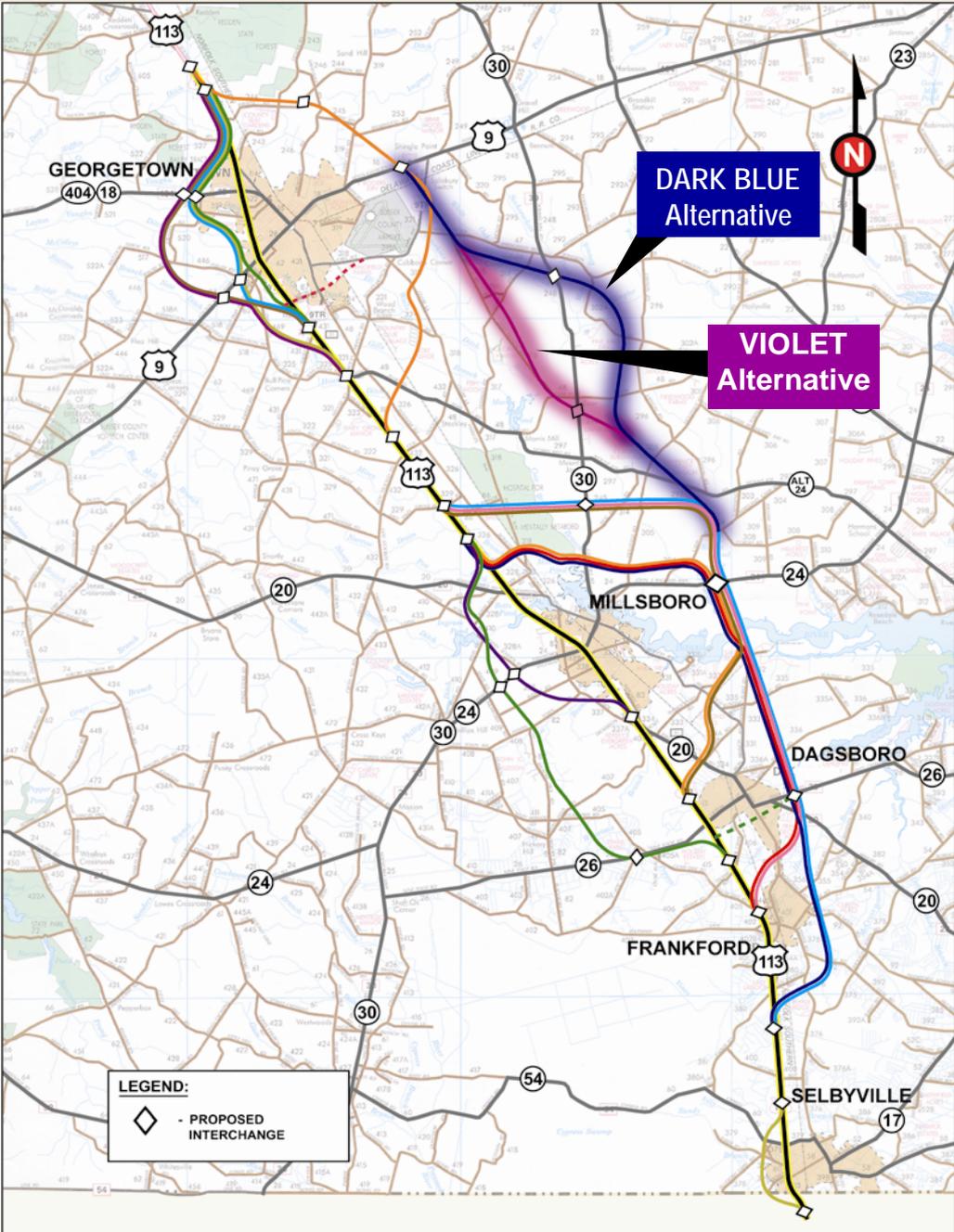
# Georgetown / Millsboro - South Area Alternatives



# **Dark Blue & Violet Alternatives**

# Georgetown-South Area

# East to East Alternatives



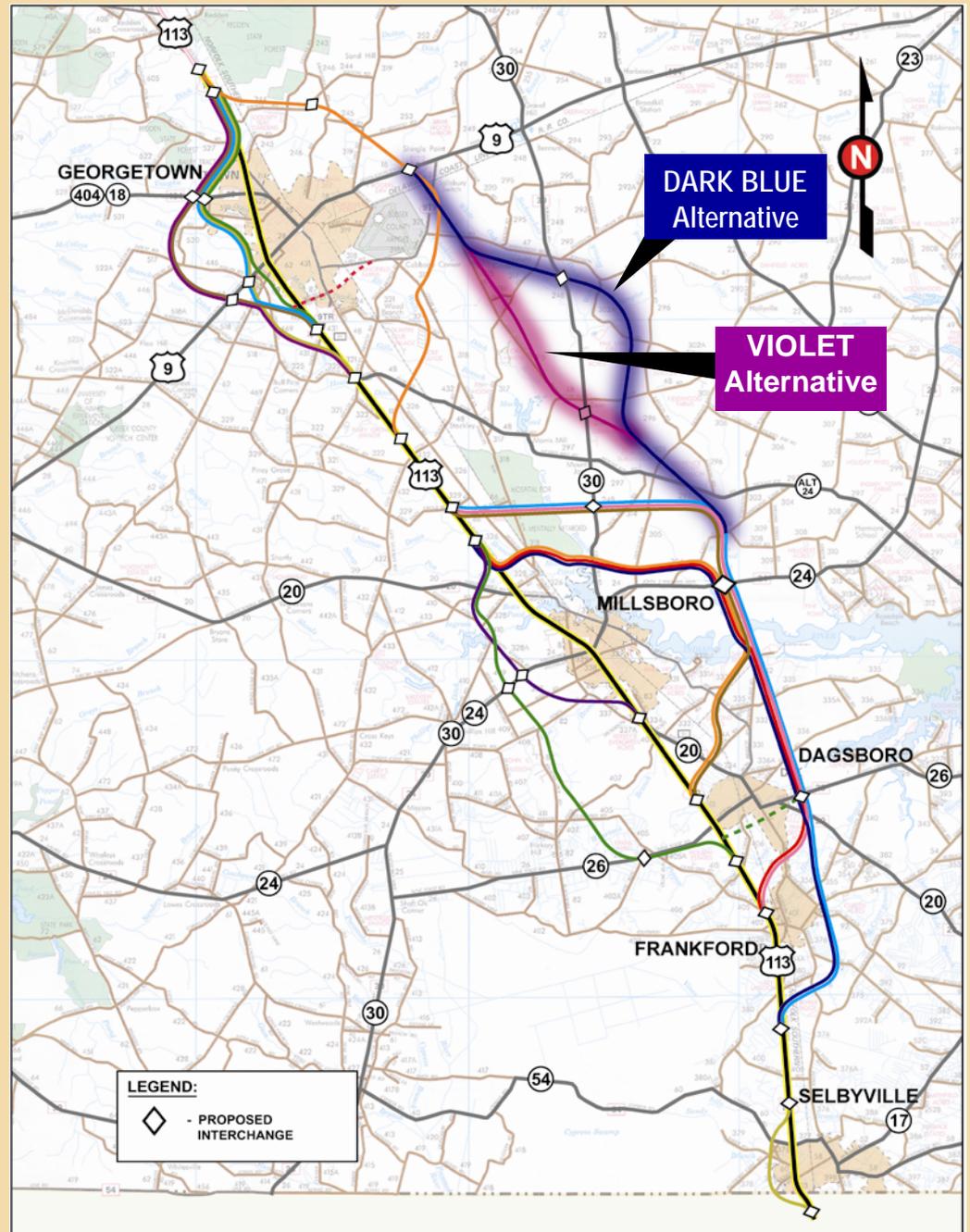
# Georgetown-South Area

## Introduction of East-to-East Alternative

- DelDOT is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Georgetown-South Area
  - From north of Georgetown through Selbyville to MD Line
- At the beginning of the study, two separate Working Groups were established in this overall area to get more focused input
  - Georgetown Area
  - Millsboro-South Area

# Georgetown-South Area

# East to East Alternatives



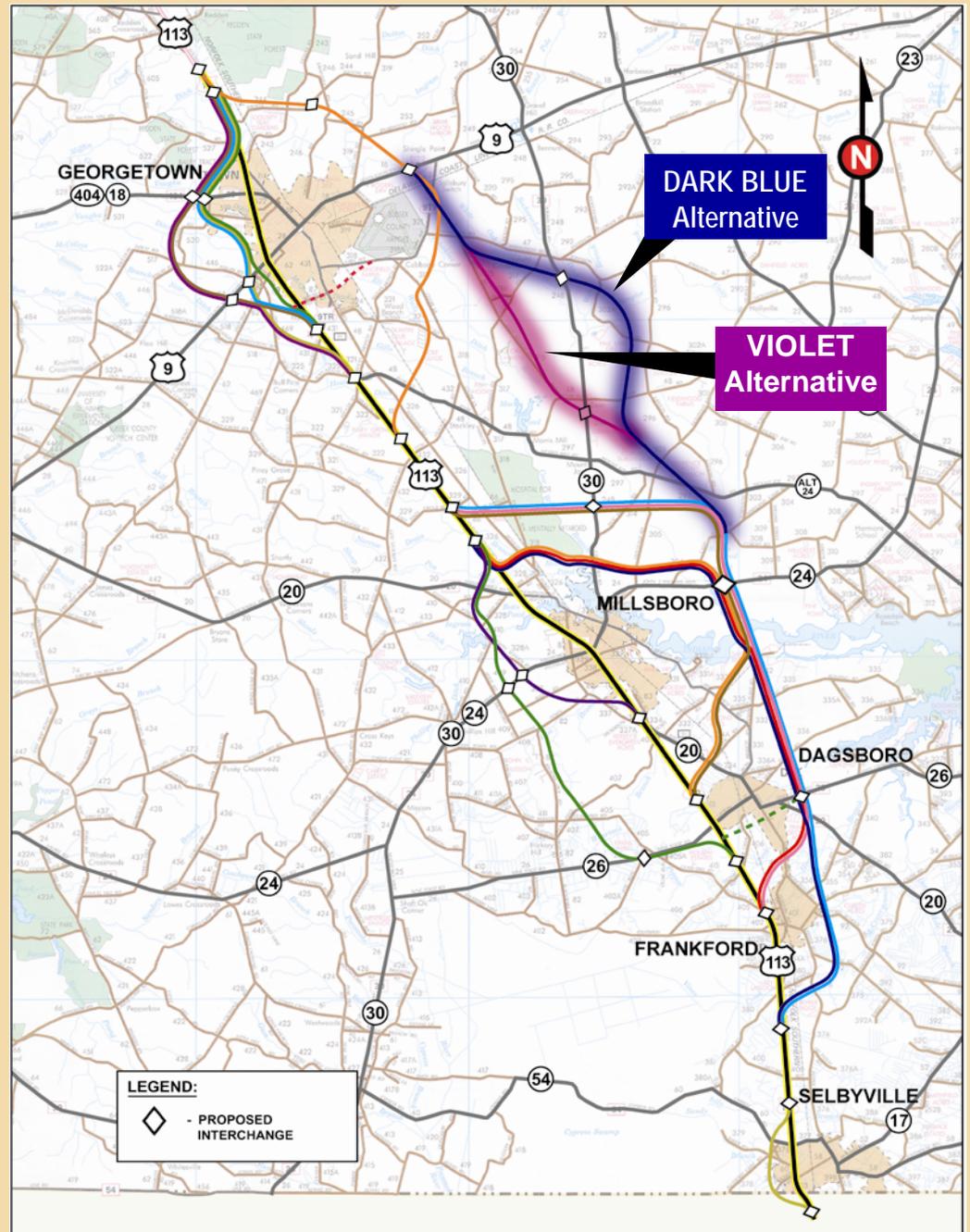
# Georgetown-South Area

## Introduction of East-to-East Alternative

- A connection between the Georgetown and Millsboro-South east bypass alternatives may have:
  - Fewer natural resource impacts
  - Fewer community impacts
  - Shorter overall length
    - Less new highway
    - Lower cost

# Georgetown-South Area

# East to East Alternatives



# Georgetown-South Area East-to-East Alternative

## ■ Millsboro-South Working Group Input

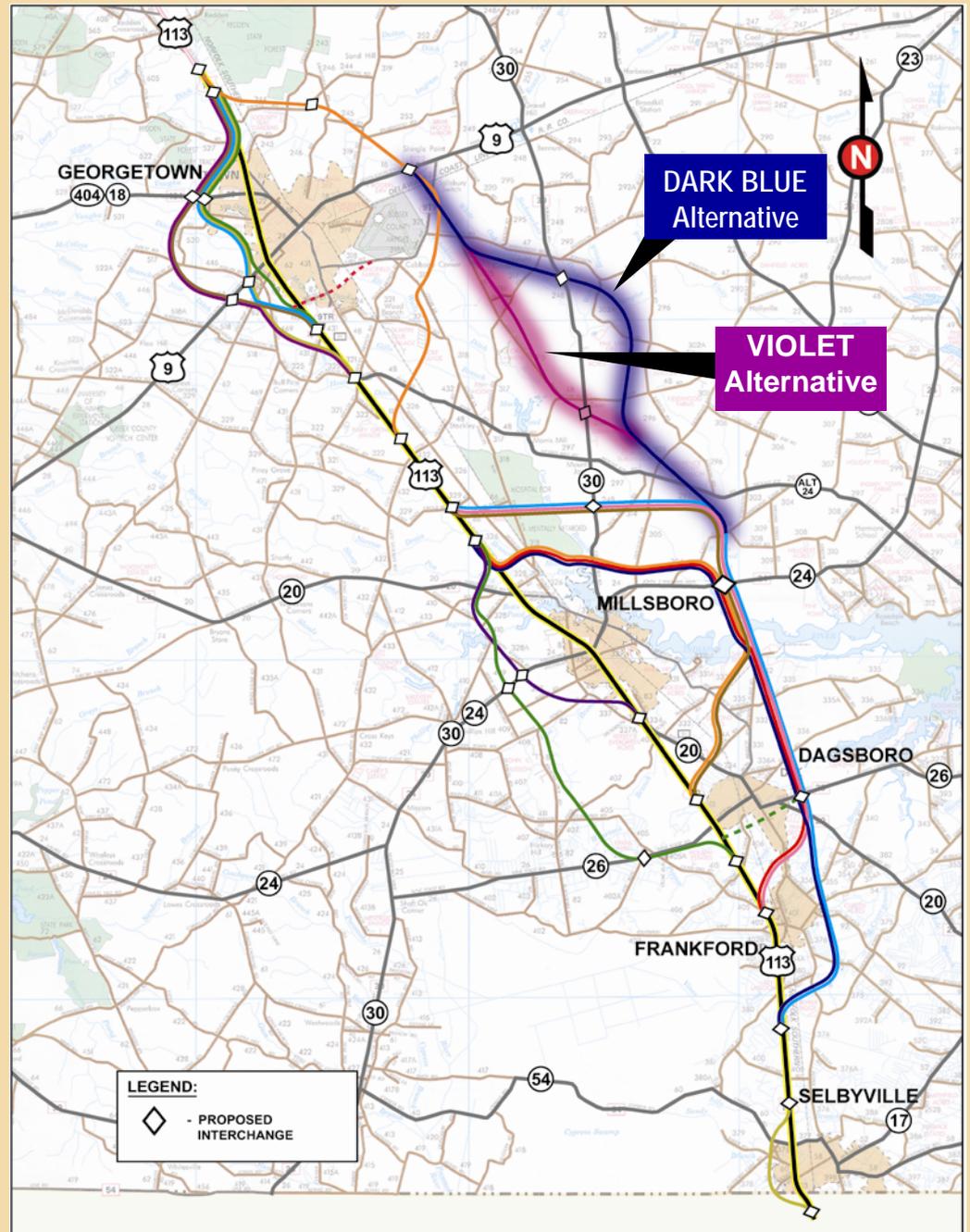
- Many members favor longest east bypass alternative
- No support for west bypass alternatives
- Most members oppose on-alignment alternative
- Need to address east-west traffic issues
- Favor connection from US 113 to SR 24
- Favor realignment of SR 26
- Favor Selbyville bypass

## ■ Public Input

- Mixed views about On-Alignment Alternative (though there has been some strong opposition)
- Limited support for east and west bypass alternatives
- More opposition to west than east bypass alternatives
- Concern for east-west traffic issues
- Concern about relocation of SR 54 north and east of Selbyville
- Support for either West Bypass or On-Alignment in Selbyville

# Georgetown-South Area

# East to East Alternatives

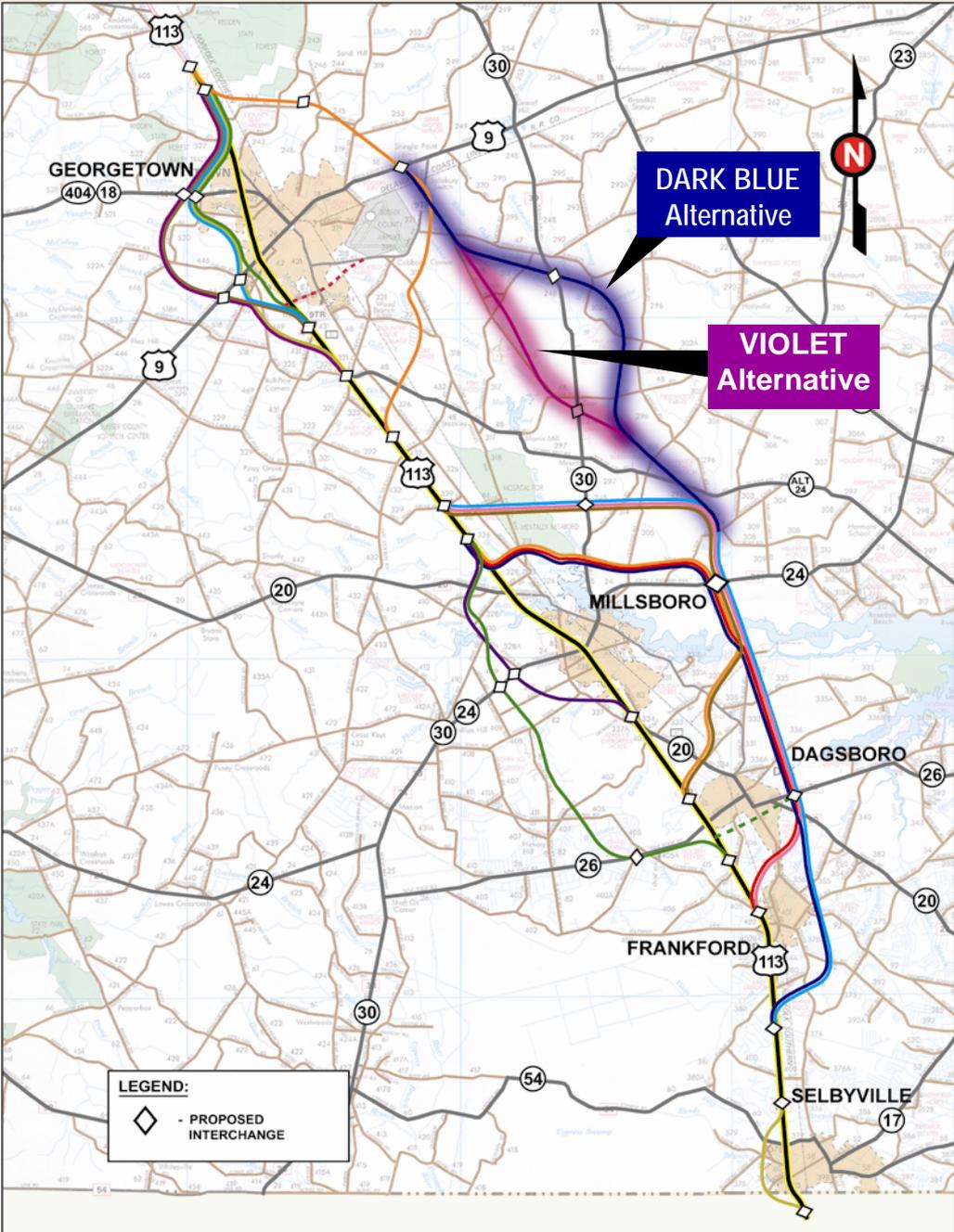


# Georgetown-South Area East-to-East Alternative

- **Georgetown Working Group Input**
  - No clear preference for an alternative
  - Generally support connection from US 113 to SR 9 on the east
  - East-to-East connection suggested by Working Group Member, Working Group recommended to present it to the public
- **Public Input**
  - Some business community support for On-Alignment
  - No clear preference between east and west bypass alternatives
  - Need to address east-west traffic issues

# Georgetown-South Area

# East to East Alternatives



# Georgetown-South Area East-to-East Alternative

## Natural Resources – Field Observations

### ■ Forest

- Some areas evident on the aerial photo have been recently logged
- Loblolly pine - hardwood association of varying maturity
- Stands from 7 to 50 years old; understory primarily hollies and blueberry, typically sparse

### ■ Wetlands

- Upstream crossings of Cow Bridge Branch (i.e. East-to-East Alternatives) generally have lower quality wetlands; downstream crossings (i.e. Millsboro East Alternatives) generally have higher quality wetlands
- Field verification of wetlands is ongoing

# Georgetown-South Area East-to-East Alternatives

## MILLSBORO - GEORGETOWN EAST-EAST CONNECTOR MATRIX

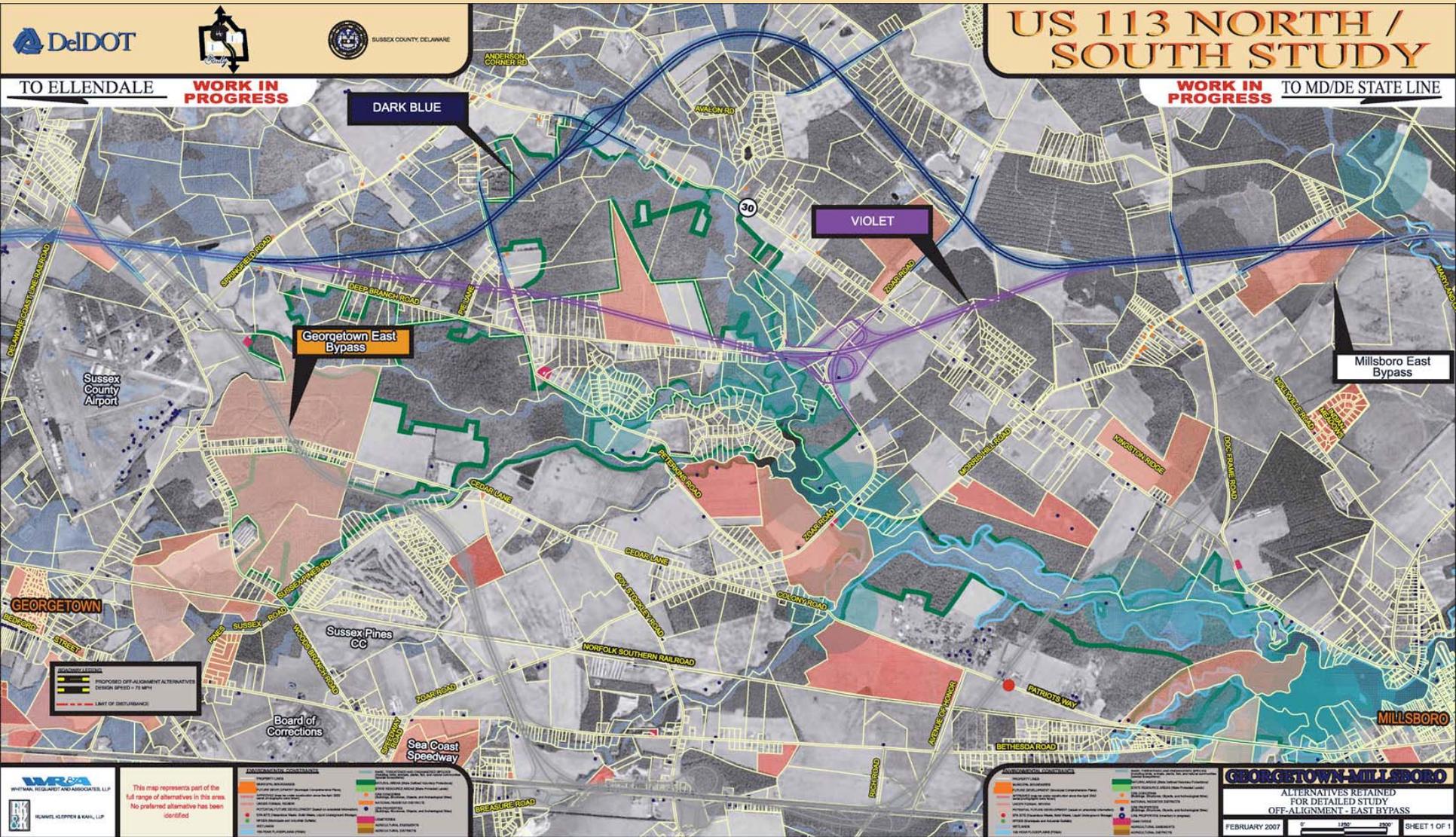
	Previously Retained East Bypass Alternatives			East-East Connector	East-East Connector
	Georgetown	Millsboro	Total	Dark Blue March, 2007	Violet March, 2007
<b>Wetlands and Waters of the US</b>					
<i>Wetlands (acres)</i>	12	5	17	18	15
<i>Waters of the US (linear feet)</i>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Cultural Resources</b>					
<i>Number of properties</i>	35	31	66	TBD	TBD
<b>Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species</b>					
<i>Potential Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Areas (acres)</i>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Other Considerations</b>					
<i>Agricultural districts (ten year) (# of properties)</i>	5	0	5	0	0
<i>(acres within properties)</i>	32	0	32	0	0
<i>Agricultural Preservation Easements (permanent) (#of properties)</i>	0	0	0	4	3
<i>(acres within properties)</i>	0	0	0	21	21
<i>Forestlands (acres)</i>	-	-	170	197	150
<i>Natural Areas</i>	23	6	29	36	11
<i>State Resource Areas</i>	-	-	48	55	30
<i>Number of Cemeteries</i>	2	3	5	1	0
<b>Properties</b>					
<i>Properties impacted(numbers of)</i>	79	38	117	82	112
<i>Properties impacted (total acres)</i>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<i>Homes to be acquired</i>	37	11	48	10	26
<b>Engineering</b>					
<i>Length (miles)</i>	6.84	4.95	11.79	9.38	8.62

# **Georgetown-South Area East-to-East Alternative**

## **Natural Resources and Other Considerations**

- 20-30% reduction in length, resulting in decreased land disturbance and cost
- East-to-East wetland crossings do not have the same high value as the Millsboro-South East Bypass Alternatives
- Acreage of wetland impacts is comparable to original bypass alternatives
- Acreage of forest impacts is comparable to original bypass alternatives
- 35-50% reduction in relocations

# Georgetown-South Area – East-to-East

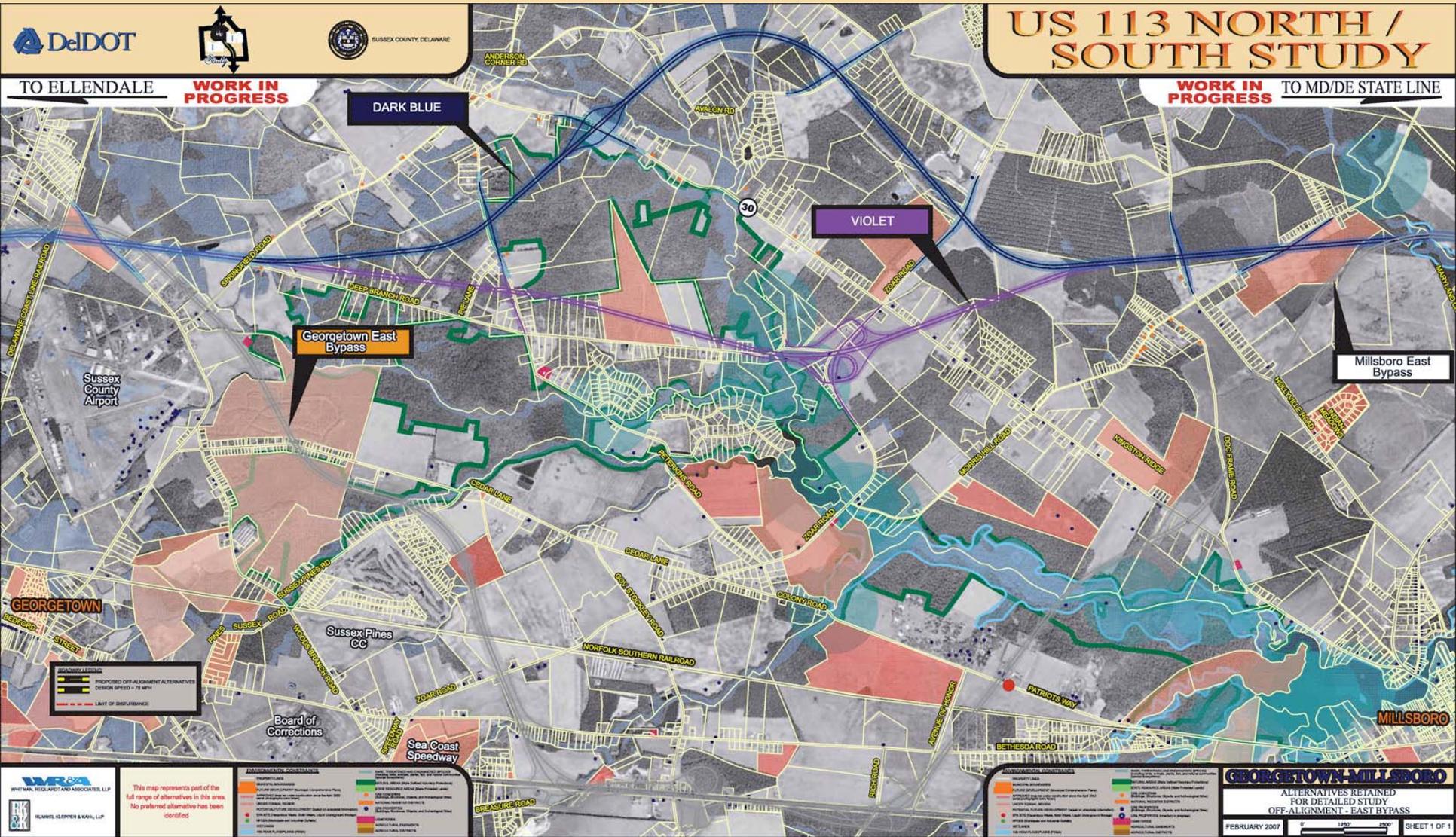


# Georgetown-South Area East-to-East Alternative

## Cultural Resources

- Some evaluations have been submitted to SHPO for initial review; others will be submitted in March
  - Approximately 30 architectural properties will be added to the current 800+ in the Georgetown-South Area
- Based on initial consultant field review, direct impacts to architectural properties that may be National Register eligible have been avoided with the current alternatives
- Field review with SHPO was conducted in February
- Modifications, if necessary, to avoid direct impacts to National Register eligible architectural properties will be considered

# Georgetown-South Area – East-to-East



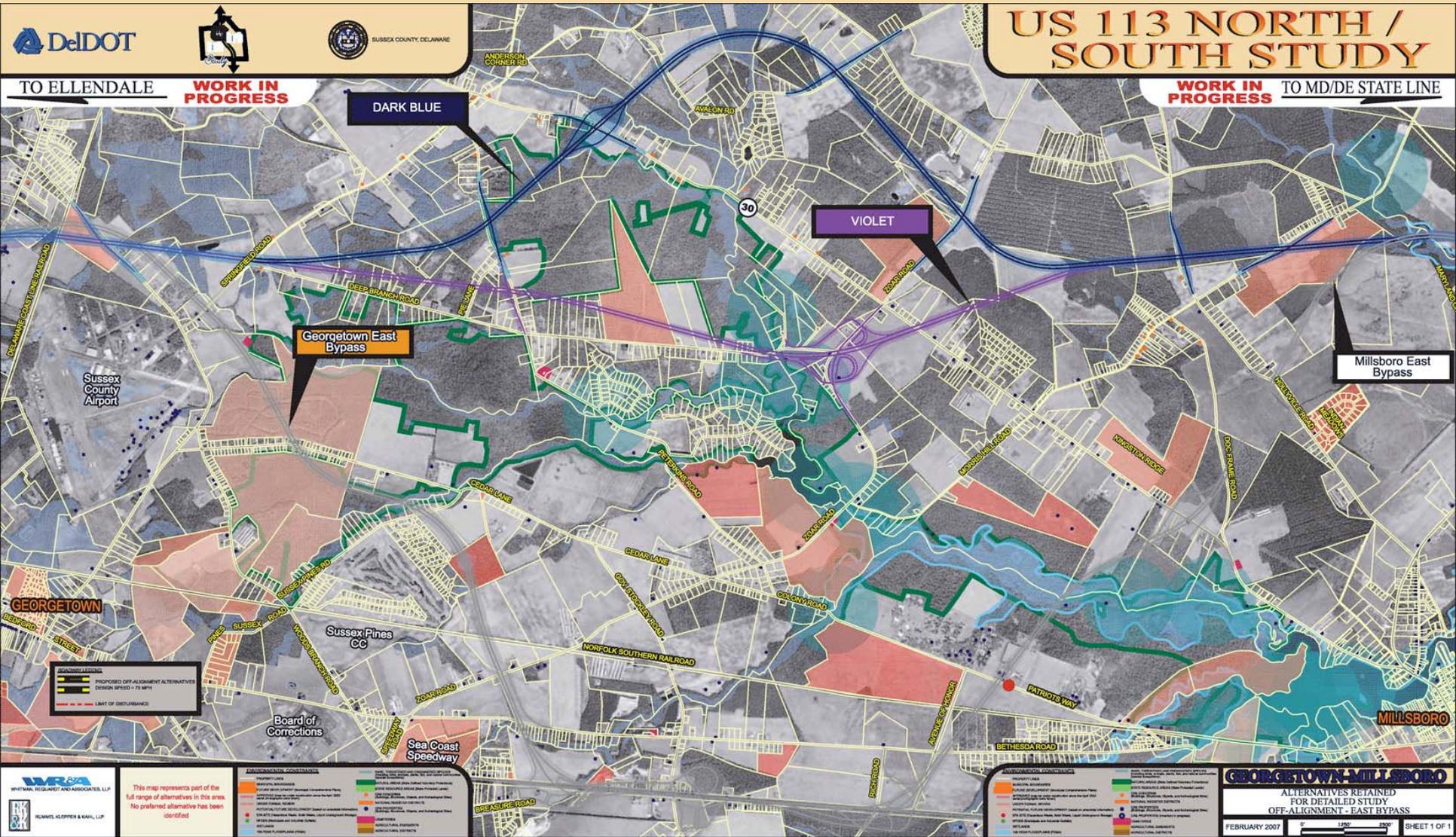
# Georgetown-South Area

## East-to-East Alternative – Summary

### ■ Public/Working Group Views:

- Millsboro-South Working Group generally favors the longest east alternative; most members do not support the on-alignment and west alternatives.
- Millsboro public has limited support for east or west, with more opposition to west than east.
- All areas want east-west traffic addressed.
- East-to-East alternative provides some opportunity to address east-west traffic issues.
- Georgetown and Millsboro-South Working Groups requested input from the public on an East-to-East Connection.
- Georgetown Working Group has indicated no clear preference for an alternative.
- Georgetown public has indicated no clear preference for any particular alternative.
- Compares favorably with respect to natural environmental impacts.

# Georgetown-South Area – East-to-East



# Georgetown-South Area

## East-to-East Alternative – Summary

- Potential advantages of East-to-East Alternatives:
  - Eliminates impact to Cow Bridge Branch adjacent to Stockley Center.
  - Lower cost due to shorter length.
  - Avoids impacts to Georgetown's spray irrigation facilities.
  - Avoids Golf Village/Woods at Walls Creek developments.
  
- Potential disadvantages of East-to-East Alternatives:
  - Greater up-front investment to obtain useful bypass functionality - requires construction of a long initial roadway segment, from US 9 to SR 24 vs Georgetown East-Millsboro East Bypasses which could be constructed in 3 shorter sections
  - Livable Delaware impacts with interchange on SR 30 – State Strategies
  
- What are your thoughts?



# Next Steps

- Project Team evaluates comments from the March 12 and 15 workshops regarding the preliminary assessment of and DeIDOT recommendation to include Dark Blue and Violet Alternatives among the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study *March – April 2007*
- Project Team consults with the environmental resource agencies regarding the environmental consequences associated with each of the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study and the data analysis for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) *On-Going*
- Project Team presents DEIS data and analysis to Working Group *April – June 2007*
- Project Team discusses potential recommendations for a Recommended Preferred Alternative in the Georgetown and Millsboro-South Areas with the Working Groups and environmental resource agencies *May – June 2007*
- DeIDOT conducts Public Workshops to present Draft Environmental Impact Statement data, the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study, and Working Groups' and Environmental Resource and Regulatory Agencies comments on a potential Recommended Preferred Alternative *September 2007*
- Project Team completes Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) *November 2007*
- DeIDOT announces availability of DEIS, including a Recommended Preferred Alternative *November 2007*
- DeIDOT conducts Public Workshops/Hearings on DEIS and Retained Alternatives, including a Recommended Preferred Alternative *January 2008*

# Meeting Schedule

Georgetown-South Area	
Agencies	Working Groups/Workshops
December 12	
January 25	
February 8	February 6 (Millsboro) and 8 (Georgetown) WGs
February 22	
March 14	March 12 (Millsboro) and 15 (Georgetown) workshops to discuss east-to-east alternative
	March 27 (Millsboro) and 29 (Georgetown) WGs
April 5	
	May 1 (Millsboro) and 3 (Georgetown) WGs
May 10	
	May 29 (Millsboro) and 31 (Georgetown) WGs
June 20	
	June 26 (Millsboro) and 28 (Georgetown) WGs

**INITIATE** recommended preferred alternative discussion  
**CONTINUE** recommended preferred alternative discussion  
**END** recommended preferred alternative discussion

# Funding Status

- Funds are available for the work necessary to gain federal approval of a Preferred Alternative
- DeIDOT has requested the legislature to authorize FY 2008 (begins July 1, 2007) funding for additional project development and detailed engineering to determine the right-of-way required for the eventually selected preferred alternative
- DeIDOT has programmed right-of-way funds to protect the selected alternative corridor, beginning in FY 2009 (July 1, 2008) – requires legislative approval (2008 session)



# Ask Questions – Provide Input

- Please feel free to ask questions of the Project Team Members
- Please complete the Comment Form tonight, if possible. You may also visit the project website [http:// www.deldot.gov/static/projects/us113](http://www.deldot.gov/static/projects/us113) and complete the Comment Form on-line
- Please provide comments to us by April 13, 2007

**Thank You  
for Your Interest  
and Participation**