

301 US 301 Project Development

14A

Continuing Activities

Continuing Outreach Efforts: Community and Resource Agencies

From the outset of the US 301 project in 2005, DeIDOT has made a priority of reaching out to the public. This unprecedented effort has continued during final design, and will continue in construction. In addition to public workshops and community and property owner meetings, the US 301 Project Team will continue to utilize the US 301 website (www.us301.deldot.gov) to keep the public informed and involved. Additionally, the US 301 Project Team will continue to meet with the Federal and State Environmental Resource and Regulatory Agencies to seek their input and guidance. Our agency partners have been an integral part of the project's success to date. Working sessions and field views will continue throughout final design and construction.

Continuing Activities: US 301 Final Design

Final design activities on the US 301 mainline portion of the project are nearing completion, while final design of the Spur Road is at the preliminary design phase.

Continuing Activities: Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition Process

DeIDOT is actively pursuing the acquisition of right-of-way required for US 301 Mainline and acquisition is projected to be completed in 2012. Right-of-Way Acquisition for the US 301 Spur Road is projected to begin in 2012 and be completed in 2013.

Continuing Activities: Cultural Resources

In consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), DeIDOT continues with identification surveys and field efforts for archaeology. As impacts associated with the US 301 project for known archaeological sites are defined, planning and design efforts are being programmed for mitigation, preservation in place, reporting, and public outreach. These efforts will continue for the next several years. In addition, outreach and dialogue with owners of National Register listed or eligible properties with dwellings will continue with the intent that adversely effected properties should receive consideration for visual impact mitigation. So far, landscaping provisions have been the appropriate form of recommended mitigation. The level of landscaping detail and effort has been incorporated into a number of projected contracts for US 301.

Cost Estimates and Funding Options

The current cost estimate, developed in 2010 for the Selected Alternative, Green North + Spur Road, is \$747 million (inflated \$'s). This cost includes design, right-of-way acquisition, archaeology investigations, environmental mitigation, construction, construction inspection, toll bond issuance costs and interest. Economic conditions have changed dramatically in the past few years, thus DeIDOT is in the process of updating all project cost estimates.

The goal is to be in a position to move forward with construction when key factors (traffic, revenues, costs and market conditions) result in an acceptable US 301 Mainline Construction Financial Plan to sell Toll Revenue Bonds that minimize risk to the State and the Transportation Trust Fund. DeIDOT believes the key factors are moving in the right direction.

The US 301 Mainline Construction Financial Plan will be updated in Fall, and if determined acceptable, presented to the Governor in December of this year.

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Providing Comments

- Public Workshop comments can be provided:
 - ▶ During the Workshop by filling out a Comment Form
 - ▶ Via email to dotpr@state.de.us
 - ▶ Via mail to DeIDOT Public Relations, P.O. Box 778, Dover, Delaware 19903
- Comments are due by September 12, 2011 (extended through September 16, 2011)

Stay Informed and Up-To-Date

- We encourage all residents, property owners, business owners and those who travel the US 301 Corridor to stay informed and make their views known. There are several ways to do this:
 - ▶ Comment Forms provided at Workshop
 - ▶ Have your name added to the Project Mailing List (on bottom of Comment Form)
 - ▶ Emailing to dotpr@state.de.us
 - ▶ Mailing to DeIDOT Public Relations, PO Box 778, Dover, Delaware 19903
 - ▶ Visiting the Project website for the latest information (www.us301.deldot.gov)

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Thank You & Next Steps

We thank you for taking the time to review the Public Workshop materials and for participating in the US 301 project development effort.

Your insights and suggestions are valuable and greatly appreciated.

The results of this Public Workshop, and the results of the continuing consultation with the Environmental Resource Agencies, will be considered in completing the final design and acquisition of Right-of-Way needed for the project. In addition, the US 301 Mainline Construction Financial Plan will be updated in the fall, and if determined acceptable, presented to the Governor in December of this year.

THANK YOU...

Shailen Bhatt
Secretary
Delaware Department of Transportation