



US 301 Project Development



December 2005



PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

DeIDOT held three US 301 Project Development Public Workshops. The first two were at the Middletown Volunteer Fire Company on December 5 and 6. The third took place at the Townsend Volunteer Fire Company on December 7, 2005. The Workshops were attended by over 525 persons. This was the third round of Public Workshops following those that were conducted in June and September to provide information to and obtain input from the public regarding alternatives under consideration for improving US 301. At the December Workshops, the four Alternatives Retained for Detailed Evaluation were made available for public review and discussion: Yellow, Purple + Spur, Brown and Green + Spur Alternatives.

Displays and maps regarding the four alternatives retained for more detailed evaluation were reviewed by the attendees. By far, most attention was focused on the maps of the alternatives.

As people arrived at each Workshop, they were given a packet containing information about each alternative and a comment form. They were requested to indicate what they liked and did not like about each alternative and, if they wished, to indicate their preference for a preferred alternative. Completed forms were submitted at the Workshops, provided by mail, through the project web site, email, telephone hotline or delivered to the Project Office or to DeIDOT's offices. Additionally, seven petitions were submitted expressing support for or opposition to alternatives.

WORKSHOP COMMENTS RECEIVED (THROUGH JANUARY 23, 2006)

Over 500 comments expressing a preference for or opposition to the retained alternatives were received. These preferences expressed by the public are not a scientific sample but rather represent only the views of those who chose to provide comments from December 5, 2005, through January 23, 2006. The following table summarizes the preferences for and against each of the four Retained Alternatives. More people expressed an interest in the Yellow and Green + Spur Alternatives. More comments opposed the Purple + Spur and Brown Alternatives, and a greater number of comments were in favor of the Green + Spur Alternative. Comments regarding the Yellow Alternative were nearly evenly split.

COMMENTS RECEIVED (THROUGH JANUARY 23, 2006) (continued)

Opinion	Alternative				Total
	Yellow	Purple + Spur	Brown	Green + Spur	
Prefer	70	31	41	108	250
Oppose	73	60	81	38	252
TOTAL	143	91	122	146	502

In addition to individual comments, seven petitions signed by nearly 5,000 people were received. The preference expressed by each petition is indicated below:

- 239 oppose Yellow (generally from residents of the Springmill community)
- 14 prefer Yellow
- 125 oppose Brown (generally communities south of Summit Bridge)
- 200 oppose Yellow and Purple (people concerned about New Covenant Church)
- 1152 prefer Yellow (generally from communities west of Middletown)
- 85 prefer Yellow and Purple (generally residents of the Airmont community)
- 3094 oppose any part of us 301 that would adversely affect the Middletown Baptist Church.

COMMENT THEMES

In reviewing the comments received at the Workshops and during the subsequent comment period, several general themes and alternative-related themes are repeated with recognizable frequency.

Some of the following themes respond to the changes that were presented to the public at the Workshops for the first time. These changes are explained in the US 301 Status Update presented early in this booklet, see pages 2-3.

GENERAL THEMES

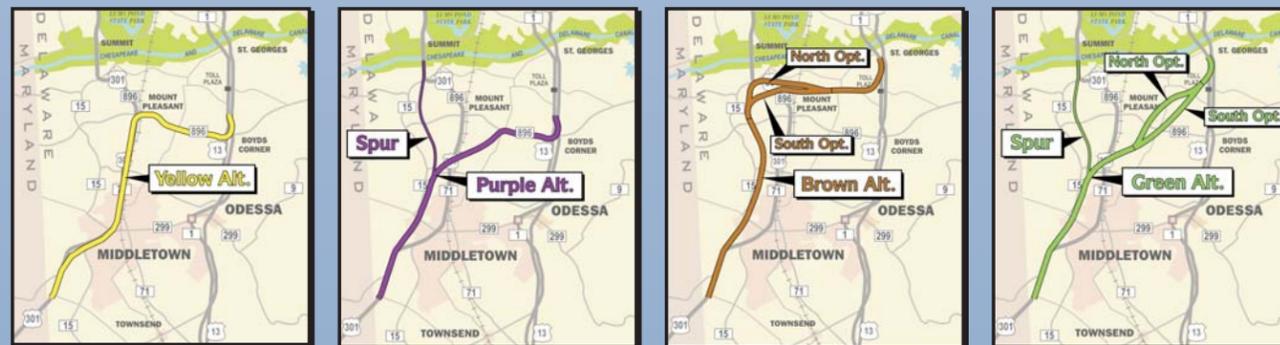
- Something needs to be done!!!
- Concern about the amount and pace of development.
- Where did these changes come from and why?
- Given the frequent changes, the process is going too fast.
- Make a decision - remove the cloud over my life!



ALTERNATIVE RELATED THEMES

An overall observation can be made regarding the public comments. Many of those commenting, as is understandable, expressed concern about impacts to specific properties and communities. In short, they are concerned, if not fearful, about their future quality of life. These concerns form the basis for their opposition to an alternative and, possibly, for their preference for an alternative – one located away from them.

The table on the right presents the Alternative-Related Themes which were found through review of the over 500 comments. These themes are comments that were made several times relevant to one or more alternative.



This Public Workshop-related input was instrumental in guiding the work of the Project Team focused on the following topics:

- SR1 Toll Free Ramps at C&D Canal
- Impacts to Middletown Baptist Church
- Impacts to New Covenant Church
- The need for, purpose and nature of the Spur Road, including the interchange below Summit Bridge

For information regarding these issues and materials to be presented at the February 22 and 23 Issues-Focused Public Workshops, refer back to the US 301 Status Update section on pages 2-3.

ALTERNATIVE-RELATED THEMES	Alternatives			
	Yellow	Purple + Spur	Brown	Green + Spur
Will have negative impacts to some schools and churches.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Concern with tie-in at SR 1 and related community impacts.	✓	✓		
Divides Middletown in half.	✓			
Favored by many who opposed the spur route.	✓			
Most costly alternative.	✓			
Staying within the existing US 301 corridor is beneficial.	✓			
Want dangerous SR 896 curve south of Summit Bridge improved.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Negative impacts on communities and properties.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Don't like use of SR 896 in the Boyds Corner area.	✓	✓		
Too many negative community impacts to northern communities by Summit Bridge.			✓	
Negative impacts to Summit Airport.			✓	
Little concern regarding impacts to communities south of Middletown Village.	✓	✓	✓	✓
balancing traffic using Canal bridges is good. But there will be negative community impacts. Community impacts, noise, visual, pollution may be addressed: berms, designs, etc.		✓		✓
Opposed to Green/Purple Interchange Option 1 that has greatest impact on Middletown Baptist Church.		✓		✓
Prefer Green/Purple Interchange Option 2 over Option 1.		✓		✓
Fewer impacts to people and communities.				✓
Impacts more farmland and the community of Airmont.				✓N
Prefer going through undeveloped land rather than going through existing communities.				✓
Concern over loss of free ramps.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Uncertainty regarding the impacts of tolls on commuters, communities, and local roads.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Concern about the future of the Middletown Veterinary Hospital.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Concern about impacts to New Covenant Church.	✓	✓		
Concern about proximity to school complex at Cedar Lane Road.	✓	✓		✓S
Concern about noise and visual impacts to Grande View Farms.	✓	✓		