



DELAWARE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS RELEASE

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Public Comment Period Extended For Route 301 Alternatives

Middletown – The Delaware Department of Transportation has extended by two weeks the public comment period on the U.S. Route 301 Project alternatives retained for detailed evaluation. The extended public comment period now runs through Monday, January 23, 2006.

DelDOT decided to extend the public comment period because of the high level of public interest in the project and conflicts with the holiday season. The U.S. Route 301 Project Team will be evaluating the comments received from the public and resource agencies and will present results and any potential refinements to the four retained alternatives at meetings tentatively scheduled for late February.

"We are working hard to address concerns presented to us since the last round of workshops (held Dec. 5, 6 and 7)," said Mark Tudor, DelDOT 301 Project Director. "Due to this project being so high profile, we feel the public and resource agencies should have additional time to provide us with their input. The process needs to be responsive to all and we encourage residents to stay involved as we continue to work towards recommending a preferred alignment for this important project"

To comment and for more information:

- Visit the project Web site at www.us301.org. Project information and the boards from the recent workshop are available for viewing.
- Call 866-485-9988, e-mail dot-public-relations@state.de.us, or write to DelDOT Public Relations, Attn: U.S. 301 Project Development, P.O. Box 778, Dover, DE 19903. DelDOT regular offices are closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.
- After January 4, stop by the U.S. 301 Project Development Office in the Middletown Square Shopping Center, 723 North Broad St. **The Project Office will be closed for the holidays**, from December 22 to January 4. Regular hours are Monday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday from 3-7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the office, the workshop boards will be on display along with other information.

At the most recent Public Workshops held on December 5, 6, and 7, attended by more than 500 people, DelDOT presented four alternatives (Yellow, Purple, Brown and Green) to the public. The decision to retain the four for detailed evaluation was based on: public comments from throughout the study area; comments from State and Federal Environmental Resource and Regulatory Agencies; analysis of where people and goods traveling the 301 corridor are going; and, analysis and refinement of the alternatives by the Project Team.

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Refinements to the Green and Purple Alternatives include the addition of a two-lane spur road (one lane in each direction) from the vicinity of Armstrong Corner Road north to connect to Summit Bridge. The spur road will optimize the traffic capacity over the three Chesapeake & Delaware Canal bridges and address safety issues caused by the sharp curve south of Summit Bridge where many accidents have occurred. The spur will also minimize the need for costly improvements on Routes 896 and 1, north of the Canal.

The purpose of the project is to address existing congestion and deal with significant safety issues along the 301 Corridor. In the past nine years, traffic on 301/896 has grown by as much as 50 percent south of the C & D Canal. As much as 30 percent of that traffic is generated by tractor-trailers. Meanwhile, between October 1999 and September 2004, there were 17 fatalities and 1,200 reportable crashes.

Although the US 301 Project Development Phase has moved forward expeditiously, it builds upon a number of planning efforts for the US 301 Corridor over the past 40 years.

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