



DELAWARE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS RELEASE

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Almost 800 Residents Attend Route 301 Workshops

Deadline to Comment on Alternatives is July 21

Middletown – Two U.S. Route 301 Public Workshops held June 20 and 21 drew 784 interested residents, including 412 on Monday and 372 on Tuesday. The Department of Transportation (DelDOT) is moving forward with an aggressive public process that will result in the selection of a final alternative for an improved U.S. Route 301.

To help develop, evaluate and select the final alternative, DelDOT needs public input on the five main alternatives (two have two options each) presented at both workshops. While this first set of workshops is concluded, residents still have time to provide comments. **The deadline to comment is July 21.**

Residents can view the alternatives and provide comments by:

- Stopping by the U.S. 301 Project Development office in the Middletown Square Shopping Center, 723 North Broad St. It opens July 7. 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 previous Workshop boards will be on display along with other information.
- Visiting the project Web site at www.us301.org. Project information and the boards from the Workshop can be viewed.
- After viewing the alternatives, residents can comment via the Web site, by calling 866-485-9988, e-mailing dot-public-relations@state.de.us, or writing to DelDOT Public Relations, Attn: U.S. 301 Project Development, P.O. Box 778, Dover, DE 19903.

DelDOT officials were ecstatic at the strong turnout both nights. Residents began converging on the workshops as early as 3:30 p.m. and a steady flow followed right up to 7 p.m. each night. While each attendee had specific questions about how their property or business might be affected, the general indication was that Route 301 needs improvements.

"We always learn something new at workshops, especially where we get such an incredible turnout," said DelDOT Project Director Mark Tudor. "We are going through all the comments now and I know we'll have an even better sense what direction we need to go once that process is complete. Still, we encourage people to stay tuned on this and get their comments in if they haven't already because we are moving at a very fast pace."

The project schedule includes another set of Public Workshops in September when the initial alternatives are narrowed down and more detail is developed. Other workshops are scheduled for November and January.

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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, and 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 is just beginning, it builds upon a number of planning efforts for the US 301 Corridor over the past 40 years. The two most recent efforts occurred in the 1990s.

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