



US 301 Project Development



PUBLIC WORKSHOPS SUMMARY

On June 20, DeIDOT held a US 301 Project Development Public Workshop at the Middletown Volunteer Fire Company, and another was conducted on June 21 at Brick Mill Elementary School. The Workshops were very well attended with slightly over 400 people attending the first session and slightly less attending the second Workshop, for a total of nearly 800 attendees.

As shown earlier in this document, attendees reviewed displays showing considerable background information about the US 301 Project Area and US 301 itself. More importantly, the public viewed maps showing four alternatives from earlier DeIDOT efforts that the Project Team considered but did not recommend for further evaluation and examined maps showing a range of alternatives recommended for further evaluation.

As each person arrived at the Workshop, he/she was given a comment form and encouraged to review all alternatives and to provide comments. Most comment forms were completed the evening of the Workshop and while some have been returned by mail or submitted through the project web site. As of July 22, 363 completed forms have been returned. This initial comment period ended on July 21. Following is a summary of the highlights from review of the completed Workshop comment forms received as of July 22:

PUBLIC COMMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- There is support for the need for substantial highway improvements in the US 301 corridor.
- There is reasonable support that Alternatives 1 through 4 should not be considered for further evaluation.
- The Green Alternative received the strongest support from the public as an alternative to be retained for further evaluation.
- There was little support and significant opposition to carrying forward the Brown Alternative for further evaluation.
- Of the other three alternatives, there was considerable interest in the further evaluation of the Purple Alternative; however, the Workshop attendees were less decisive as to whether to retain the Yellow and Orange Alternatives for further evaluation, with slightly more than 60% recommended dropping the Yellow and Orange Alternatives.
- There were 59 requests to consider other alternatives, 42 of the 59 requests were for an alternative to connect US 301 to SR 1, south of Middletown.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP COMMENTS

The following table summarizes the preferences expressed by the 350 plus persons as of July 22, 2005, regarding alternatives to be included in the Range of Alternatives and subjected to further evaluation.

These preferences expressed by the public are not a scientific sample; rather they represent the views of the 350 plus members of the public who chose to provide comments on the Range of Alternatives. These comments from the public, together with comments from federal and state environmental resource and regulatory agencies, local and state elected officials and the project team, will be used by the Department in making an informed recommendation on the Range of Alternatives and eventually on which alternatives should be retained for detailed evaluation.

COMMENT FORM RESULTS (As Of July 22, 2005)

Alternatives Considered But NOT Recommended for Further Evaluation

	RETAIN	DROP
Alternative 1	31	75
Alternative 2	11	78
Alternative 3	23	72
Alternative 4	7	81

Range of Alternatives Recommended for Further Evaluation

	SUPPORT	DO NOT SUPPORT
Yellow Alternative	79	125
Orange Alternative	57	114
Purple Alternative	156	72
Brown Alternative	50	161
Green Alternative	219	50