



Rt. 36 Highlands Bridge Replacement

COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM

ROUTE 36 HIGHLANDS BRIDGE OVER THE SHREWSBURY RIVER MONMOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM AESTHETICS TASK FORCE MEETING NO. 1 REPORT

DATE: January 17, 2006
 TIME: 10:00 a.m. – Noon
 LOCATION: McLoone's Restaurant
 Sea Bright, NJ

ATTENDEES:

First Name	Last Name	Representing	Phone	Fax
Lynne	Baumann	Jacobs Civil, Inc.	732-452-9200	732-452-0023
Ray	Cosgrove	Sandy Hook Foundation	732-872-1245	732-872-0495
Martine	Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson, LLC	856-795-8485	856-795-8523
Maria	Fernandes	Sea Bright Borough Council	732-933-4452	732-741-3116
Pamela	Garrett	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2721	609-530-5774
Brenda	Hammer	NJDOT, Landscape	609-530-5672	609-530-5526
Timothy	Hill	Highlands Borough Hall	732-872-1959	732-872-2313
Lois	Johann	NJDOT, Landscape	609-530-5672	609-530-5526
Jo-Ann	Kalaka-Adams	Sea Bright Borough	732-842-0099x13	732-741-3116
Jack	Keeler	Sea Bright Borough Council	732-842-2354	732-741-3116
Young	Kim	FHWA	609-637-4233	609-538-4913
Eva	Lansberry	H2L2	212-688-9800	212-688-9899
Stephen	Lavelle	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2546	609-530-5774
Tom	Laverty	Twinlights Historical Society	732-872-1814	732-872-0314
Anna	Little	Highlands Borough	732-735-2494	732-708-1285
Jeanette	Mar	FHWA	609-637-4203	609-538-4913
Pankesh	Patel	NJDOT, Div. of Project Mgmt.	609-530-2367	609-530-5774
Tom	Piotrowski	H2L2	212-688-9800	212-688-9899
Bob	Supino	Hardesty & Hanover	201-656-8810	201-656-9026
Jerry	Thomas	NJDOT, Div. Environmental Resources	609-530-2997	
Denis	Walsh	Monmouth County Engineering	732-683-8550	732-431-7765
Richard	Wells	NPS - Sandy Hook Unit	732-872-5913	732-872-5915

PURPOSE OF MEETING

To establish the task force, present goals and objectives, and discuss aesthetic elements and treatments for the Route 36 Highlands Bridge Replacement Project.
 (Agenda attached).

MEETING SUMMARY

1. After introductions, Martine Culbertson, CPT Facilitator, reviewed the agenda for the Aesthetics Task Force. She distributed a white portfolio and handouts: tentative schedule of aesthetic task force meetings, a summary description of the CPT for reference, and the current Steering Committee list. A contact list of the Aesthetics Task Force members will be distributed with the meeting minutes. Draft renderings of the aesthetic elements under discussion can also be kept in the portfolio. Everything is three hole punched if members wish to keep the materials in their CPT Handbook.
2. Steve Lavelle, NJDOT Program Manager, asked Pankesh Patel, NJDOT Project Manager to provide a project update: currently in the Final Design phase with completion estimated for September 2006, award contract in spring 2007 and complete construction by spring 2009 (estimated two years of construction).
3. Steve asked if Sea Bright had the pedestrian overpass on the agenda at the last council meeting. It will be on the next council meeting agenda in February. *Action Item*
4. Lynne Baumann, Project Manager from Jacobs Civil, presented an overview of the bridge structure. She then introduced each of the aesthetic elements, providing images via PowerPoint presentation illustrating existing condition, approved options from other projects and asked for comments and input from members.

The following comments and action items were noted during the discussion for the aesthetic design elements to consider:

Aesthetic Design Elements to Consider

A. Road Surface and Shoulder - a material termed Tyre Grip will be used on the roadway and bike lane (shoulder) to enhance safety given the grade of the roadway. The material comes in numerous colors.

- Tyre Grip - it must be re-applied every 5 years
- Color of the roadway surface has an impact on the look of the bridge given the view from Twinlights and the properties in Highlands
- Select a color in context with the community
- Certain colors may make tire skid markings and wear more noticeable
- Standard bridge color of concrete would be white
- The bike lane should be a contrast color from the roadway color or a painted stripe to distinguish the two
- Colors to consider: white, 'natural' red brick, or tan
- Colors selected should allow for the most blending to the environment, not a contrast which would stand out and compete with the ocean scenery

Action Item: Create renderings with the colors noted and from close up (walking

on bridge) and distant view points (from Twinlights and looking toward Twinlights).

B. Granite Form Liners - used to replicate the granite located at the base of the bridge piers and can resemble the existing surface condition or could resemble other surface condition that may minimize visibility. A drawing was done to illustrate that there will be a slope from the edge of the footing to the face of the pier column (not in the existing condition) but required by NJDOT/FHWA as method to protect post-tensioning cables at the joints within the flood zone.

- Mock ups will be indicated in the contract specs to ensure quality and consistent with design plans
- The shape (size and form), color and texture can be varied
- Should invoke historic bridge
- Consistent to blend with environment
- Consider pigmentation to blend with elements (natural coloring)
- Careful not to select pigmentation or coloring which will be difficult to maintain uniformity (future weathering or damage may be difficult to hide)
- Provide a type of "stone appearance" with "natural appearance"
- Use stone color which blends into environment, not a contrast

Action Item: Create a few different renderings with the granite appearance as comments noted and from close up (bridge piers near Highlands park and from boaters perspectives) and distant view points (to/from NPS and Highlands)

C. Pier Columns - will be pre-cast concrete blocks to minimize construction time, minimize environmental impact, and ensure quality. The new structure will have less piers than existing bridge. This will provide a more open feeling to the structure. The piers will fan out at the top for structural stability. The pier shape can have indented lines, etching or inset panels.

- Maintain rectangular "traditional" shape (left slide image) rather than "modern sleek" option (right slide image)
- Form liner / inset panel to consider
- Vertical channels may provide relief in structure to minimize 'massive' appearance however maintain the traditional, natural appearance, not modern
- 1 to 2 inch indent or 'relief' in the piers
- Provide for a soften structural appearance, blend into environment
- Provide examples of all concrete verses stone work - effect of shadowing from the piers near the park. Darker may decrease light.
- Concrete may reflect more light, providing brighter appearance than darker stone

Action Item: Create optional renderings of pier columns with smooth concrete appearance and others with stone surface and from various views

(bridge piers close up near Highlands) and distant viewpoints.

D. Roadway Lighting - must be NJDOT approved for safety and maintenance. SHPO requested no overhead lighting within the view shed of Twinlights. Due to safety, NJDOT would not approve parapet lighting unless it can provide adequate lighting across the roadway lanes.

- Need for sleek appearance however traditional shape, not curved contemporary
- There may be less number of overhead lights since the taller the light fixtures, then less are needed to disperse light
- Under deck lighting must be reviewed (night fishing, DEP discussion)
- The main navigation channel must be lit by Coast Guard regulation
- Parapet lighting at present was determined as not able to safely light the roadway
- Examine other bridges for types of lighting used: Shark River, Causeway Ocean City, Longport, Bass River Bridge, historical context

Action Item: Examine and show more options for lighting with view shed renderings (close up - pedestrians walking on bridge, and of distant view from NPS toward Twinlights).

E. Railing - which is currently on the bridge, does not meet current crash test safety approval standards. Given the height of the bridge, other options must be examined for the railing. If concrete, it must be solid and if open rail, it must meet crash test safety standards.

- Victory Bridge example (open flat wide railing) did not appeal to members as historical or in context for this environment
- Consider other samples
- Solid concrete may be heavy and impede open view of area.
- Height of parapet
- Consider solid (Jersey barrier lower) with round railing above
- Consider mix of solid barrier and open railing in certain or alternating areas
- Bridge railing must transition to pedestrian overpass railing so may be best to be the same
- Currently there are two types on the bridge - open in the draw bridge area and vertical concrete on either side

Action Item: Examine and show options for railing with view shed renderings (close up - pedestrians walking on bridge, and of distant view from NPS and from Twinlights).

F. Retaining Walls - will be constructed in six locations. Two on each side of each abutment - bridge abutment in Highlands on mainline RT36, NPS along Ramp J, and the other bridge abutment is in Sea Bright on the mainline RT36. The walls can be made from pre-cast panels so the appearance can vary in color, texture, and shape. They could be made with one pattern or multiple such as a combination of brick, concrete, or stone appearance. Different materials result in different effects such as lessening height or length of the affected area.

- Provide proposed options at the specific locations
- Community interest is in natural, light, appearance
- Walls should blend in and minimize the large size of the structure
- If stone appearance, it should blend with stone shown on the piers
- Match granite footing or compliment it - they should not compete
- Consider light color so to minimize dark shadowing affect

Action Item: Develop renderings with options in the specific locations which also are in scale so it is possible to comprehend the size of each of the retaining wall areas. (show as a pedestrian walking by versus from a distance such as on the hill in Highlands)

G. Bridge Fencing - is a safety requirement on the pedestrian overpasses to prevent objects from hitting vehicles below. NPS and Sea Bright members dislike the need for fencing on the overpasses due to the undesirable appearance it will elicit in this area. Must look for creative solutions to minimize the visual obstructiveness.

- Chain link – highly dislike
- Examine color and material - slack, gray, white
- Option of straight fencing or a curve to allow more openness on the overpasses
- Look at other type of creative screening material
- Overpasses will act as "gateway areas" to the park and the boroughs

Action Item: Develop renderings (close up and distant views)

H. Mini Roundabout - area in Highlands to be developed with NJDOT Department of Landscape and Design staff.

- NJDOT Landscaping has other projects to provide samples
- Types of plantings to be determined
- Consider an area for the Highlands Garden Club to maintain
- Monmouth County Parks bike trail comes in to this area so a type of highlighting the crosswalk areas and shoulders to direct cyclists should be considered - stripping, change of color, or contract materials

Action Item: Develop renderings (close up and distant views)

I. North Pedestrian Overpass - should be similar in appearance or compliment the other pedestrian overpass. They will be open structures with pier supports for the ramps.

- Pier shape and treatments similar to bridge piers
- Colors should blend with bridge, minimize visible appearance
- The two main support piers could be square, rectangular or circular but must be in harmony with the bridge shape and supporting structures
- If a roof is needed, a gable roof is more appropriate (rather than dome roof)
- Prefer no roof - all open structure
- Pedestrian overpass support tiers should blend with bridge piers but modify to suit the scale, blend, be in balance

Action Item: Develop renderings to show in relationship to the bridge and other pedestrian overpass.

J. Other Aesthetic Treatments - plaques, pylons, tiles require consideration for incorporation into the design of the new bridge. Such elements can be replicated or placed in archives at local libraries, museums or cultural resource facilities.

- similar turns “both blind”
- historic tiles
- commemorative plaque
- pylons
- Will attempt to move tiles
- Replacement tiles
- Incorporate into design
- Soldier to be moved, stored, protected, and returned to site

Action Item: Develop renderings (close up and distant views) to show in relationship to the bridge, the retaining walls and pedestrian overpass.

5. Pam Garrett noted that options for the Highlands Park are underway in coordination with DEP on what enhancements are possible. She will provide the status of the Green Acres program at the next meeting. NJDOT Landscaping Unit is responsible for the enhancements in the Highlands Park area. *Action Item*

6. In summary, Martine reminded members of the tentative future dates. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28th. Modified renderings will be distributed in advance of the meeting either with the meeting minutes or a separate mailing. *Action Item*

7. In closing, Steve Lavelle thanked members for their input and noted that renderings be distributed prior to next meeting to allow an opportunity for review by members and their constituents.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

Borough of Sea Bright

- Pedestrian Overpass on the agenda for next council meeting
- Review renderings once received prior to next meeting

Borough of Highlands

- Continue work effort for Green Acres permit with NJDOT and DEP
- Review renderings once received prior to next meeting

NPS (Gateway Recreational Area - Sandy Hook)

- Continue work effort on Toll Plaza and Gatehouse with NJDOT and DEP
- Review renderings once received prior to next meeting

Pam Garrett (NJDOT, Environmental)

- Item 5 (follow up on the Green Acres program in Highlands regarding the park status)

Lynne Baumann (Jacobs Civil)

- Items 4 A-J (produce and distribute renderings)

Martine Culbertson

- Item 6 (meeting report distribution)

NEXT CPT MEETING - AESTHETICS TASK FORCE

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Location: Highlands Borough, NJ (*location to be determined*)

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the minutes within three (3) working days of receipt. Without notification, these minutes will be considered to be record of fact.

Martine Culbertson
RT36 CPT Facilitator

**ROUTE 36 HIGHLANDS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM
AESTHETICS TASK FORCE
MEETING NO. 1**

AGENDA

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

McLoone's Restaurant, Sea Bright, NJ, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Objective: To establish the task force, present goals and objectives, and discuss aesthetic elements and treatments for the Route 36 Highlands Bridge Replacement Project.

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| 10:00 a.m. | I. Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Goals and Objectives |
| 10:15 a.m. | II. Aesthetic Design Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlands Bridge View Shed• Historic and Cultural Context• Community Gateways and Sandy Hook• Recreational Area |
| 10:45 a.m. | III. Aesthetic Design Treatments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pedestrian Overpasses• Piers and Retaining Walls• Sidewalks and Multi-Use Path• Railings and Fencing• Streetscape Elements - Monuments• Lighting• Highlands Park Enhancements• Toll Plaza / Gate House Discussion |
| 11:45 a.m. | IV. Summary and Close <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action Items/ Next Steps |