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MEMORANDUM

From: Eric Yermack, P.E.

To: File

Date: March 12, 2004

Re: Route 70 over Manasquan River
Community Involvement
Public Information Center
February 25, 2004

Attendees: See Attached Attendance List

On Wednesday, February 25, 2004, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, in the Curtis House, located at 644 Union Lane in the Borough of Brielle, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) held a Public Information Center for the Route 70 over Manasquan River bridge replacement project. The purpose of the public meeting was to provide the public with information about the project and to present the Department's proposed plans for noise mitigation and reforestation.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the NJDOT, including the Project Manager, the Office of Community Involvement, Landscape and Urban Design (noise wall aesthetics and reforestation), Bureau of Environmental Services (noise study and mitigation), their design consultant Arora and Associates, P.C., and members of the public from the surrounding municipalities. The NJDOT provided the public with displays showing the proposed project footprint, noise study contours, noise wall elevations and sections, proposed noise wall aesthetic treatment, before and after noise wall renderings, areas of deforestation and potential areas of reforestation. The Department staff members and their design consultant were available to discuss the proposed project with members of the community and answer questions.

At the meeting, members of the public made comments about the project and asked questions. The Office of Community Involvement also made available copies of the information mailer and comment forms for the public's use. The main issues raised during the meeting are summarized below:

- Mrs. Marshall and her Attorney were concerned about the potential impacts to her property. They also said they had been told by the Department that a drainage basin was going to be constructed on the property. The Project Manager told Mrs. Marshall that this was not the case. However, the property would still need to be acquired for construction.

- Mrs. Soulier presented a letter from the Department in support of her request to eliminate the proposed k-turn at the end of Eton Lane. It was agreed that since Brick Township had no objection to this proposal, this feature would be dropped from the design.
- Mr. and Mrs. Burke asked numerous questions about the project including: the construction staging, the test pile program, and the height and width of the proposed bridge.
- Mr. McCarthy wanted to discuss the Access to his property. His two existing access points, which utilize NJDOT ROW are being revoked under the current design. Mr. McCarthy was displeased about this. The creation of a tee intersection at River Road adjacent to his property was also discussed.
- A number of Cedar Lane residents asked about the height of the proposed noise wall that would be constructed at the back of their properties. Site-specific information was provided to each resident based on the current design. Some residents asked why the wall couldn't be higher. BES explained to them that the proposed noise wall would be adequate to mitigate the potential noise impacts.
- A number of residents asked if the noise wall could be constructed first. It was explained to them that the wall would be constructed at the first available opportunity during stage one of construction. However, it would not be possible to construct the noise wall until embankment material had been placed for the widened section of Route 70 and allowed to settle.
- A number of residents asked if trees could be planted behind the noise wall along its rear face. It was explained to them that the Department planned to do this wherever possible.
- One resident asked if there would be enough trees provided for screening in areas where the noise wall was not being placed. L&UD explained that there would be an additional quantity of trees allocated in the project to be planted "if and where directed" if individual homeowners had the need for extra screening.
- Mr. and Mrs. Somerville expressed thanks to the Department for their past, proactive efforts to provide them with information about the proposed impacts to their property.

Attachment

C: K. Patel – NJDOT
T. Marsella – NJDOT
E. Tomaszewski - NJDOT
C. Bloom-Cronin - NJDOT
D. Yacovino - Arora