

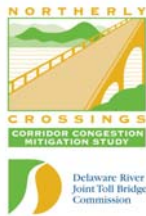
NORTHERLY CROSSINGS CORRIDOR CONGESTION MITIGATION STUDY



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

FINAL





PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

STUDY PURPOSE

The Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission's (DRJTBC) Northerly Crossings Corridor Congestion Mitigation Study is designed to identify existing transportation conditions, future needs and potential problems and to develop conceptual alternatives to mitigate deficiencies. The study will focus on four (4) bridges under the jurisdiction of DRJTBC:

- Portland-Columbia Toll Bridge
- Portland-Columbia Pedestrian Bridge
- Milford-Montague Toll Bridge
- Delaware Water Gap (I-80) Bridge

The study will address the overall multi-modal transportation needs of the area and identify a range of short (5 year) and long (25 year) term solutions to mitigate congestion in the area. The study will:

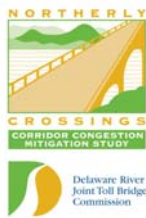
- quantify multi-modal transportation needs in order to mitigate congestion in the corridor
- define potential short- and long-range solutions
- identify priorities
- evaluate opportunities to alleviate traffic delays through use of congestion management strategies
- develop cost estimates for potential solutions and identify potential funding mechanisms
- assess the impacts of proposed solutions (traffic, environmental, smart growth, etc.)
- initiate an ongoing public participation program with key stakeholders and constituencies

INTRODUCTION

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) outlined below is designed to provide the DRJTBC with a comprehensive and practical outreach program geared to the successful completion of the study. Its goal is to maximize the participation of stakeholders and constituencies through a variety of mechanisms, including meetings with agency and community representatives and distribution of written and electronic materials.

The PPP describes the mechanisms by which the outreach program will support the study by:

- Establishing and maintaining open and ongoing dialogue between DRJTBC and the public regarding issues related to the study.
- Creating a climate of trust where information and concerns may be exchanged and common goals developed.
- Involving parties with input in the decision making process during the initial phase of the study, to provide a clear understanding of the process and level of detail of the analysis. This effort will be geared to fostering ownership in the results of the study by key stakeholders and constituencies.



- Reaching consensus on conceptual alternatives.

ACTIVITIES

Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC)

The Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC) is an advisory body made up of involved state, regional and federal agencies that have regulatory and approval authority. Its purpose is to assist DRJTBC in conducting the study by providing advice to DRJTBC on critical transportation, environmental, land use and development, and economic issues and guidance in defining a range of conceptual alternatives. The IAC will maintain effective lines of communication between the DRJTBC and concerned agencies throughout the 18-month study. The Committee will meet prior to critical decision milestones during the process to provide guidance and input on alternatives selection, analysis techniques, mitigation measures and the public review process.

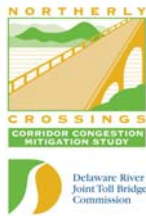
The IAC is a critical component of the study and will play a central role in advising DRJTBC. It has been established to:

- Represent a variety of local, state and federal agencies throughout study planning and implementation.
- Advise the DRJTBC in making critical decisions concerning the study.
- Assist with refinement of the study's problem statement and study goals and objectives.
- Address procedural and regulatory issues.
- Review study data and findings, including proposed methodology, transportation networks, and computer modeling and simulations.
- Review and provide input on preliminary recommendations and alternative plans, including interim and long-range solutions.
- Serve as a liaison and communications channel between the DRJTBC and state, regional and federal agencies in order to maintain ongoing dialogue on study goals, issues, and concerns.

IAC Members

The following agencies have been invited to participate in the IAC:

- Federal Highway Administration
- National Park Service, Northeast Region
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Districts 4-0 and 5-0)
- New Jersey Department of Transportation
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- State of New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
- Sussex County (NJ) Division of Planning



- Warren County (NJ) Planning Department
- Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
- Monroe County (PA) Planning Commission
- Pike County (PA) Community Planning and Human Development
- Northampton County (PA) Department of Community and Economic Development
- Monroe County Railroad Authority
- Monroe County Transportation Authority
- New Jersey Transit
- North Jersey Transportation Planning Association
- Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance

Schedule and Activities

The IAC will meet four (4) times over the 18-month study. The meetings will coincide with critical decision points in the study, in order to provide opportunities for the Committee to review and provide input on a number of topics, including: study goals and objectives; existing roadway conditions and traffic volumes; projected future conditions (Years 2013 and 2033); and evaluation and ranking of conceptual alternatives. In addition, conference calls may be scheduled between meetings to maintain dialogue on key issues and deliverables.

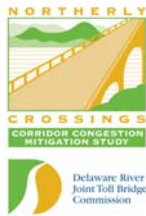
All meetings will be documented by means of meeting summaries prepared by the study team. These summaries will reflect any consensus reached by the group, as well as any significant minority views.

Northerly Crossings Forum (NCF)

The Northerly Crossings Forum (NCF) is an advisory body made up of community representatives from the public and private sectors, including state and municipal representatives and community-based organizations from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The purpose of the NCF is to provide input on transportation, environmental, land use and development, and economic issues and outreach to groups and individuals throughout the study area.

The NCF has been established to:

- Represent a variety of interests (transportation, environmental, community, economic) throughout study planning and implementation
- Review the study's problem statement and goals and objectives
- Provide input on conceptual alternatives, including interim and long-range solutions.
- Serve as a community liaison and communications channel between business and civic organizations, local residents and DRJTBC, in order to maintain ongoing dialogue on study goals, issues, and concerns.



NCF Members

The NCF will represent groups and organizations from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Entities invited to participate in the NCF include: municipalities; local and regional Chambers of Commerce; state and local agencies; and transportation, environmental, economic and other organizations.

Schedule and Activities

The NCF will meet four (4) times during the 18-month study. The meetings will coincide with critical decision points in the study. Agenda topics for the four (4) meetings will be similar to those of the IAC. It is anticipated that the IAC membership will be invited to participate in the NCF meetings.

Legislative Briefing

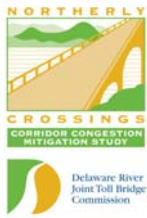
A special briefing will be held to introduce elected officials to the study as a first step in keeping members of the affected communities informed and involved. Letters of invitation will be sent to all local, state and federal elected officials representing the study area. The briefing will include an overview of the study by members of the study team along with a summary of the upcoming technical work and public participation program. All issues and comments raised at the briefing will be documented.

Public Information Centers

Public Information Centers will be scheduled to present study information to the general public. The sessions will use an Open House format, in order to encourage maximum interaction and informal dialogue between the study team and a broad range of constituencies. The first Information Center, to be scheduled between IAC Meetings #2 and #3, will present the Study Area, PPP, Inventory of Existing Transportation Systems, and proposed Traffic Model Forecasting Methodology. The second Information Center, to be held after IAC Meeting #4, will present the conceptual alternatives prior to preparation of the Draft Recommendations Report. Input received at this meeting will be summarized, addressed and included in the Draft Recommendations Report.

In advance of each Information Center, study information and media announcements will be provided to local and regional newspapers. At a minimum, this will include the following publications:

- The Star-Ledger
- New Jersey Herald
- The Daily Record
- North Jersey Herald and News
- The Morning Call
- The Pocono Record
- The Express Times
- TriStateNews



Individual Outreach Meetings

Individual outreach meetings will be held to clarify key issues and to provide continuing opportunities for interaction between the study team and key stakeholders and constituencies. The meetings, to be scheduled on an as-needed basis, will be attended by appropriate members of the study team.

Website

A website will be developed for use as an additional information-sharing tool between the study team, IAC, NCF and public. Information will include meeting notices, meeting summaries, study schedules, status reports, newsletters, photographs, maps and other pertinent information. All materials available on the website will also be available in hard-copy format. The website will be updated to correspond with major project milestones.

The study website is located at the following address: <http://www.northerlycrossings.com>

Informational Materials

Informational materials, including a study newsletter, will be prepared for distribution to the IAC and NCF and available to the public and media. These materials will also be available at the DRJTBC's three (3) toll facilities in the study area and on the study website.