



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. 4 REPORT

DATE: June 27, 2006
 TIME: 10:00 a.m. – Noon
 LOCATION: Bahr’s Restaurant
 Highlands, NJ

ATTENDEES:

| First Name | Last Name | Representing | Phone | Email |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lynne | Baumann | Jacobs Civil, Inc. | 732-452-9200 | Lynne.Baumann@jacobs.com |
| Sheila | Brown | Highlands Garden Club | 732-872-1403 | |
| Ray | Cosgrove | Sandy Hook Foundation | 732-872-1245 | ray.cosgrove@comcast.net |
| Martine | Culbertson | M. A. Culbertson, LLC | 856-795-8485 | maculbertson@verizon.net |
| Maria | Fernandes | Sea Bright Council | 732-747-9249 | MDFER@verizon.net |
| Brenda | Hammer | NJDOT, Landscape | 609-530-5672 | brenda.hammer@dot.state.nj.us |
| Steve | Hardegen | NJDEP – Historic Preserv. | 609-984-0141 | steve.hardegen@dep.state.nj.us |
| Timothy | Hill | Highlands – Recreation | 732-872-1959 | thill@mycomcast.com |
| Dave | Hoder | Maser Eng. / Sea Bright | 732383-1950x3344 | dhoder@maserconsulting.com |
| Lois | Johann | NJDOT, Landscape | 609-530-5672 | lois.johann@dot.state.nj.us |
| Jo-Ann | Kalaka-Adams | Sea Bright Borough | 732-842-0099x13 | seabrightclerk@comcast.net |
| Pankesh | Patel | NJDOT, Div. Proj. Mgmt. | 609-530-2367 | pankesh.patel@dot.state.nj.us |
| Joan | Schneider | Highlands Garden Club | 732-291-5263 | Jas151@verizon.net |
| Marcia | Shaya | Highlands Garden Club | 732-291-5069 | mshaya@ix.netcom.com |
| Bob | Supino | Hardesty & Hanover | 201-656-8810 | bsupino@hardesty-hanover.com |
| Jerry | Thomas | NJDOT, Environmental | 609-530-2997 | jerry.thomas@dot.state.nj.us |
| Lou | Venuto | NPS – Interpretation | 732-872-5914 | Lou_Venuto@nps.gov |
| Sara | Weimer | NPS | 732-872-5901 | Sara_Weimer@nps.gov |

PURPOSE OF MEETING

To present the revised aesthetic design treatments with updated renderings, and discuss remaining aesthetic considerations for the Route 36 Highlands Bridge Replacement Project. Finalize the recommendations of the task force meeting efforts that will be compiled in a presentation to the Historic Sites Council in August. (Agenda attached).

MEETING SUMMARY

1. The meeting opened with introductions. Martine reviewed the agenda and distributed an updated contact list and prior Aesthetics Task Force Meeting No. 3 report and Steering Committee Meeting Report.
2. Pankesh Patel thanked the Sea Bright members for their efforts in coming to a resolution of support for the pedestrian overpass connecting the south side sidewalk directly to the new Sea Bright multi-use path for safe access for pedestrians and cyclists.
3. Final Design submission is scheduled for October 2006. Construction contract to be awarded in November 2006 with construction beginning spring 2007 and estimated to be completed with a two-year period. Cost of construction is estimated at 91 million.
4. Traffic and Communications Task Force to be established in July in order to assist in developing Traffic Mitigation Plans for construction staging and determine communications tools to be implemented to assist the communities and region during the construction phase. Recommendations can be incorporated into the construction specifications.
5. The environmental permits are in the application process and will continue to progress with an environmental control team established during construction to meet the mitigation requirements.
6. Lynne Baumann provided a new handout of the revised rendering based upon prior meeting discussions. The following comments were noted for each aesthetic element:

A. Retaining Walls

- To be constructed of MSE panels (mechanically stabilized earth wall)
- Not limited to one size
- Retaining wall height is an estimated 19' – 20 ' in height, 60' in length
- Landscaping will be next to the walls which may lessen the appearance (height)
- Maintain consistency – not flat but some etching and relief to wall vertically
- Pylon will be flush to the ground
- 6 locations of retaining walls, J ramp and abutments (height 19' length 60 - 100')

Recommendations

- Rendering #1 with some scoring / vertical lines in the MSE.
- Preference is for the vertical lines to be lined up (bevel or scored), if not then use random pattern.
- Panels should be natural textured surface.

Action Item

A-1. Final Design will show elevations of the retaining walls in Sea Bright and NPS areas.

A-2. Final Design will include landscaping plans for these areas (NJDOT Landscaping Unit in coordination with Highlands, Sea Bright, and NPS respectively)

Area under Bridge beyond the Retaining Walls

- Green "grass" area shown in rendering not likely, can't grow under bridge
- Material to be used: could be stones or raised granite stone pattern
- Maintain aesthetics as retaining walls under bridge with granite

Action Item

A-3. Final Design will include landscaping for the area under the bridge in Highlands beyond the retaining walls. Steve Hardegen again emphasized making the treatments similar to what is there now.

B. Streetscape Elements - Pylon, Tiles, Monuments

Pylon, Tiles

- Look to save pylons in Highlands and Sea Bright–
- Municipalities to determine location for them to be placed if salvageable
- Tiles will be replicated in color and shape, size may be altered to be in scale
- War Memorial Monument is to be moved during construction, and after construction returned to the same location it presently exists. Discussions are ongoing but it is currently anticipated the temporary move for the monument will be to Veteran's Park.
- Sea Bright had provided their crest and it is anticipated this would be located in the lower section of the pylon. It was agreed that the crest on pylons should be in the lower base not on the upper tower portion of the pylon

Recommendations

- Seal of Highlands – one side Highlands (north side of bridge).
- Seal of Sea Bright – other side Sea Bright (Southside of bridge).
- Received seal for the Borough of Sea Bright, need seal for Highlands.
- Opposite side Sea Bright - NPS side bronze or etched sign.
- Opposite side Highlands- State etched sign or bronze of: NJDOT bridge with date.

Action Items

B-1. Tim Hill to locate seal for Highlands Borough and provide to Lynne Baumann.

B-2. Tim Hill will confirm the location for storage of the War Memorial monument, which they believe, will be in Veteran's Park (in visible area to prevent vandalism).

B-3. Highlands to determine possible location for original pylons if salvageable and inform Lynne and Pankesh.

B-4. Sea Bright to determine possible location for original pylons if salvageable and inform Lynne and Pankesh.

C. Lighting - Light Pole Bases

- Echo lighting bases in shape similar to pylon
- Bring light base up to above the top rail
- Relief work on light bases with tiles inset similar to pylon
- Examine dimensions of light pole base to have tile work in proportion with some edge or inset
- Pole light – consider decorative collar consistent with base to hide mechanics. Collar can be problematic because they can contain debris which promotes deterioration and also masks any problems-such as loosening of bolts- from view.

Recommendations

- Use the existing colors and tiles reproduced in scale and proportion for the pylons and the light poles bases. Tiles should be in bands not mounted vertically as individual tiles.
- Tile pattern, which fits best, should be in each of the light pole bases for continuity of style and pattern and blend with railing and pylons.

Action Items

C-1. Final Design to provide for three tiles in sequence similar to originals in scale with light pole base having a recess box type appearance (similar to pylon and piers)

C-2. Examine options for the decorative collar to hide mechanics on light pole and review acceptability with maintenance.

D. Pedestrian Overpasses

- Rendering shows open bollard structure - suggestion was made to create concrete base around light to mimic the light pole bases on the bridge in shape (not necessarily in size) and to limit light toward walk way only
- Consideration for "in rail" lighting as preferred if it can be tied into the railing posts and eliminate wiring and need for bollards and bases.
- Vandal-proof bollards or in railing lighting if possible
- NJDOT currently reviewing the proposed options for lighting the pedestrian overpasses this week
- Need for the design of the lighting to have minimal light spillage and minimize appearance of the fixtures on the overpasses

Recommendations

- Preference for lighting sources to be incorporated into the railing structure to minimize visual appearance and keep lighting focused on the overpass (less spillage).

Action Item

D-1. Final Design to include low level lighting on pedestrian ramps and overpass

D-2. Final Design to include height and width of the lighting fixtures, which are currently used as low-level lighting.

E. Highlands Borough Park

- The pier scheme (as shown in the renderings handout) is acceptable to Highlands and is moving forward to permitting approval.
- Green Acres application sent to DEP from the Borough.

Action Item

E-1. Jerry Thomas and Tim Hill to continue to coordinate and assist in the permit application and approval process.

F. Toll Plaza / Gate House

- Rendering is acceptable to NPS. – with exception that a door should be placed on the north face of the Gate house and the windows should be full width on the south face of the Gate house. All toll booths will also require some type of impact attenuator.

Action Item F-1. Final Design to include modifications as described above

G. Granite Form Liners / Pier Columns

- Fender system shown on rendering handout.
- Rendering of pier columns and footings are acceptable as in the handout.

H. Roadway Surface and Shoulder

- Rendering is acceptable as in the handout.

7. Steve Hardegen requested that the renderings as shown and any additional modifications be mailed to him with the completed application to ensure the project is on the August 17th Historic Sites Council meeting agenda. *ACTION ITEM*

8. Lou Venuto asked for the status of the bridge color. He noted the Rich Wells had provided the source of specs used on other Federal projects.

(a) Lynne noted the NJDOT position is to use natural aggregate as a standard concrete mix. The contract specs will indicate use of a warm concrete aggregate.

(b) It was explained that using a color in the mix for the pre-cast structure could vary from the boxes and pour design elements in the field.

(c) Question was raised concerning matching color of the pre-cast verses the placed concrete in the field. and it was noted these are standard mixes that have been used consistently throughout the State.

(d) Steve Hardegen noted the approximate increase in cost to a project for color additives is in the range of 5-7% for the concrete costs.

(e) Steve Hardegen requested that the NJDOT's position or final response on this issue be made in a formal written letter. *ACTION ITEM*

9. Steve Hardegen provided information on the educational display, which is to be developed for this project as part of the MOA (Memorandum of Agreement). Artifacts from the bridge and images will be housed at the Twinlights Landmark for the general

public to view and certain materials will be made as part of a traveling educational display on the history of transportation.

10. A question was raised on salvage of the navigation lights. Lynne Baumann explained the State will reuse those mechanical components and parts which are still operational and can be used on other bridges for repair or replacement. If components are not usable, then they may become part of the display or other preservation effort if applicable. Coordination with both Sea Bright and Highlands was requested. There may be parts or components of the bridge which are of interest for the municipalities to display. *ACTION ITEM*

11. Mayor Kalaka-Adams asked if the stretch of rocks in Sea Bright to the south side of the bridge could be altered or a pier be placed in that area.

(a) Lynne Baumann noted that the State does not own a portion of the frontage. (b) Mayor is attempting to contact owner regarding potential use by municipality.

12. Mayor Kalama-Adams noted that Sea Bright is continuing to pursue a lower posted speed limit for Ocean Avenue and would ask that the speed limit on the bridge be lower.

(a) It was noted that there is an existing yellow diamond warning sign on the bridge as motorist travel toward Sea Bright on the right hand side with a curved arrow and 30 mph sign. Will that be on the new bridge?

(b) Pankesh will review it will Lynne and internal NJDOT. *ACTION ITEM*

(c) At the Steering Committee Meeting, speed limits were discussed (see Steering Committee meeting report)

(d) Sea Bright questioned what traffic calming techniques were being included in the project. NJDOT asked Sea Bright to submit suggestions for consideration. *ACTION ITEM*

13. In summary, Martine noted that any renderings created or modified from this task force meeting would be distributed via email or mail for final review prior to the Historic Sites Council meeting. Meeting minutes will be distributed. Any additional comments from members can be sent directly to Lynne Baumann. *ACTION ITEM*

14. In closing, Pankesh Patel sincerely thanked the Aesthetics Task Force members for their input and active participation on the task force. He also extended the NJDOT's appreciation for support for the pedestrian overpasses and continual support for the project. Meeting was adjourned at noon.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

- Highlands Borough (Tim Hill)
- Items 6B-1, B-2, B-3, E-1, 10
- Sea Bright Borough (JoAnn Kalaka-Adams, Maria Fernandes)
- Items 6B-4, 10, 12b, 12d

- NPS (Lou Venuto, Rich Wells)
- Items 6F-I, 8e, 10
- NJDOT Environmental (Pam Garrett, Jerry Thomas)
- Items 6E-1, 7, 8e, 10
- NJDOT Landscaping (Brenda Hammer, Lois Johann)
- Items 6A-2, A-3, E-1
- Jacobs Civil (Lynne Baumann) / HH (Bob Supino)
- Items 6A-I, B1-4, C1-2, D1-2, F-1, 7, 8e, 10, 12,b
- M.A. Culbertson (Martine Culbertson)
- Item 13 (and provide scheduling for first meeting of the Traffic and Communications Task Force)

NEXT MEETING - Traffic and Communications Coordination Task Force Meeting

Date: Monday, July 10, 2006

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: McLoone's Riverside, Sea Bright, NJ

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. 4**

AGENDA

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Bahr's Restaurant, Highlands, NJ, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Objective: To present the revised aesthetic design treatments with updated renderings, and discuss remaining aesthetic considerations for the Route 36 Highlands Bridge Replacement Project. Finalize the recommendations of the task force meeting efforts which will be compiled in a presentation to the Historic Sites Council in August.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Project Status

II. Aesthetic Design Treatments

- Retaining Walls
- Streetscape Elements - Monuments, Tiles
- Lighting
- Railings and Fencing
- Pedestrian Overpasses
- Highlands Borough Park
- Toll Plaza / Gate House
- Granite Form Liners / Pier Columns
- Roadway Surface and Shoulder

III. Aesthetic Design Summary and Recommendations

- Historic and Recreational - Communities
- *Twilight*s, *Sandy Hook*, *Gateways*

IV. Summary and Close

- Action Items/ Next Steps