



**Route 52 Causeway Aesthetics/ Visitors Center Task Force  
Meeting No. 1 Report**

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2003  
TIME: 9:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Somers Point, City Hall  
PURPOSE: **Bridge Aesthetics**

**ATTENDEES**

Michele Berenato- Ocean City  
Dan Campbell- Somers Mansion  
Mike Dattilo- Ocean City  
Art Ford- S.P. Econ. Dev. Comm.  
Jay Gillian-Tourism  
Steven Hardegen- SHPO  
MaryLou McDowell- O.C. Mayors Advisory  
Dan Reilly- City Council  
Harry Smith- City Council  
Wes Swain- S.P. Administrator  
John Walker- S.P. Engineer  
Rich Attenello- NJDOT  
Phil Cyr- NJDOT  
David Earl- NJDOT  
Ahmad Qureshi-NJDOT  
Sylvester Fryc- Michael Baker, Jr.  
Mike Sidani- Michael Baker, Jr.  
Glen Schetelich- Hardesty & Hanover  
Carol Beske- ACT Engineers

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Carol Beske opened the meeting with a review of the CPT process. Mike Sidani presented an overview of the Route 52 Causeway project. Fred Gottemoeller presented a board showing the aesthetic issues and opportunities of the bridge design and asked for comments. The following comments were made:

1. Questions were asked about the disposition of the existing power lines on the causeway. It is likely that these will be placed inside the segmental unit or will be mounted on the underside of the bridge.

2. There was some concern about the "hump" appearance of the bridge as shown on the plan & profile exhibit. Mike Sidani explained that the profile on the exhibit shown is exaggerated at the scale of 10:1, the grade of the bridge will be similar to the newly constructed Long Port bridge. Mike also explained that the design team is working on refining the horizontal and vertical geometry that will produce an optimized ride ability and aesthetics and reduce the roller coaster feel.
3. Lighting of the bridge from the underside should be considered. Fred will develop some renderings showing the bridges with and without lighting. Colored lighting for events should also be considered.
4. Roadway lighting on T shaped poles is a good option, the designer will review the staging constructability of this type of lighting.
5. Railings should allow drivers to view the scenery. Designer will evaluate possible railing types.
6. Specific lighting for the sidewalk should be considered.
7. The bridge should have a consistent theme end to end. There was some difference of opinion as to the degree that this theme should reflect historical traditions. One group feels that the bridge is an opportunity to make a contemporary statement about the communities and could in itself become an attraction, a bridge of our time. Another group would like to see the bridge in some fashion evoke the precious bridges or themes from area historic architecture. The best opportunities for the later may be in the features in the gateway areas at each end. As an example, historical photos/plaques of the area s architecture and/or of the earlier bridges could be placed on overlooks on the bridge. Fred will develop a range of possibilities for consideration.
8. Participants preferred that the piers be as thin and open as reasonable for both visual reasons and for boaters.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

The design team will develop, in more detail, the features of the bridges based on the above discussion. The need for the follow up meeting will be evaluated.

Carol Beske closed the meeting with the projected schedule of meeting again with the suggestions incorporated as appropriate in the design.

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, we will consider these minutes to be record of fact.

**Sly Fryc**

Task Force Chairperson