



Route 52 Public Information/Awareness Task Force Meeting No. 2 Report

MEETING DATE: February 26, 2003
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: **Somers Point, City Hall**

ATTENDEES

Wesley Swain, Somers Point City Administrator
Michele Jones, City of Ocean City mjones@ocean-city.nj.us
Carol Beske, ACT Engineers, cbeske@actengineers.com
Tony Marsella, NJDOT, Community Relations, tony.marsella@dot.state.nj.us
Bill Felix, Michael Baker Jr. Inc., bfelix@mbakercorp.com

MEETING SUMMARY

The Committee met to develop an action plan to keep public officials, business leaders, residents and tourists aware of the Route 52 Causeway and Somers Point Circle Elimination Improvements and to apprise Somers Point officials of the decisions reached at the Ocean City meeting of February 4, 2003. (Refer to the February 6 minutes for details of that meeting).

Following is a summary of the salient points, action items and committee assignments:

1. Public Officials Briefing Information Meetings – Tony Marsella will schedule a briefing to be held at the Somers Point Municipal Building, at least three weeks prior to an anticipated Public Information Meeting. Wes Swain indicated that the briefing most likely would involve a subcommittee of the Somers Point City Council. This will occur in April, 2003.
 2. Public Information Meeting – The Somers Point Public Information meeting will most likely occur after the Ocean City meeting. The Ocean City meeting must occur on a Wednesday before Memorial Day. It will most likely be held at the Music Pier or the Intermediate School. The Somers Point meeting should be held shortly thereafter, hopefully on a Wednesday, but may occur in June - if Somers Point scheduling commitments at the Municipal Building does not permit an earlier meeting.
- Public Information Meeting Notices - Bill Felix presented draft separate flyers for each meeting and asked that both municipalities get back to him quickly with their feedback. The flyer will be used for mass mailings to residents of Ocean city and to Somers Point property owners within 200 feet of the project.

- Mailing List – Wes Swain agreed to provide the certified mailing list of property owners. He will contact Marshall Robert of Baker on this matter.
- Public Access Television Channels – Both Ocean City and Somers Point have Channel 2 access – but through separate venues. Michelle Jones will coordinate with Ocean City. Wes Swain will work with Mr. Chuck Smith at Mainland High School for the Somers Point access.
- Newspapers – Public Notice for Somers Point can be established in the Atlantic City Press, the Current (a local Somers Point newspaper) and the Ocean City Sentinel-Ledger. Michele Jones will coordinate with the Sentinel-Ledger and the Current on behalf of Somers Point. Wes Swain will deal with the Atlantic City Press. Tony Marsella will issue all press releases to the two municipalities after approval by NJDOT Office of Communications.
- E-Mail Inquiries – E-mail inquiries (i.e. those generated at the DOT website) will be channeled to one e-mail address that can be accessed by the DOT Project Manager and/or the Correspondence unit. The responsibility for handling these requests within DOT still needs to be resolved.
- Websites – There are four websites available to distribute vital information for this project. The NJDOT website will be the standard. Three others will be hyperlinked to the NJDOT website: Ocean City, Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, City of Somers Point. Bill Felix will finalize the public information for the NJDOT website and will draft regular project updates for it.

ACTION ITEMS (Feb. 10-March 7)

- Gain Steering Committee Approval of meeting dates, times (Tony Marsella)
- Get NJDOT Website in Operation – (Bill Felix). Build links (Camille Sinclair). Assess public reaction, and then adjust newsletters and brochures.
- Get Public Officials meetings scheduled in both municipalities (Tony Marsella).
- Get Public Information meetings scheduled in both municipalities (Tony Marsella).

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.

Bill Felix

Task Force Chairperson