



COUNTY OF BERGEN
Local Concept Development Study for
East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge over the Hackensack River
City of Hackensack and Township of Teaneck, New Jersey



PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER MEETING NO. 1 - HACKENSACK
SUMMARY REPORT

DATE: Tuesday, February 19, 2019
TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 1st floor Multi-purpose Room/Cafeteria
1 Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ
ATTENDEES: Sign-In Sheets (*available upon request*)

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of the Public Information Center meeting was to inform the public of the condition of the bridge and to solicit public input and comment towards the project purpose and need. This PIC meeting session was conducted in conformance with Federal and State regulations.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. A total six (6) individuals signed-in at the Public Information Center (PIC) meeting in the City of Hackensack from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Nine (9) project team members were in attendance.
2. The meeting was designed as an open house format with display boards to provide project information for viewing by the general public and to provide reference in addressing any questions from the public.
3. Two handouts were available at the sign-in table: (1) PIC Project Information handout and (2) blank PIC Comment Form, which were distributed to the general public upon sign-in to the meeting (*handouts attached*). The PIC Comment Form could be completed to hand in at the meeting or could be faxed, emailed or mailed to the Bergen County Project Manager, Christopher Helms.
4. Additional blank Community Input Survey forms were available for those interested, who had not already completed a survey. The Community Input Survey was also available on the project website to enter online or to print out. No completed individual Community Input Surveys were received at the meeting.
5. The project display boards used to share information during the open house included: (1) aerial map of project study area and (2) the existing conditions map identifying the bridge and intersection deficiencies. Also, newsprint of the comments received at the Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1 were posted on the wall for viewing and a draft of the purpose and need statement with goals and objectives was available to view in hard copy on tables.
6. A screen presentation area was available with seating for viewing the PowerPoint presentation, which was presented at 5:00 p.m. After introductions from the Project Team, Joseph Baladi, Bergen County Division Head of Planning welcomed attendees on behalf of Bergen County and thanked attendees for the opportunity to present the Bridge Study and noted the following:
 - The County needs to make improvements that are too expensive, so an application was submitted to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) for federal





COUNTY OF BERGEN

Local Concept Development Study for East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge over the Hackensack River City of Hackensack and Township of Teaneck, New Jersey



funding. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and cooperating agencies, are overseeing the Bridge Study.

- The NJTPA has a program in place, Local Project Delivery Process, to ensure compliance with federal requirements for funding, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and community outreach. The comprehensive community outreach effort consists of: (1) local officials meetings with the Teaneck and Hackensack; (2) meeting with community stakeholders interested in bridge improvements and participating in the Bridge Study; and (3) general public information center (PIC) meetings. The Project Information Handout provides the list of anticipated meetings.
7. Marty Wade, Michael Baker International Deputy Project Manager, presented information using PowerPoint presentation slides on the project status, preliminary bridge condition, data to be collected, and estimated time schedule as noted on the Project Information Handout (*public meeting PowerPoint presentation available on the project web site*):
- During the LCD Study phase, data will be collected and evaluated along with various bridge rehabilitation and replacement alternative options. The goal of the LCD Study phase is to have a Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) with community support and municipal resolutions of support, to move forward to the design phase.
 - Data collection has started. There will be base map surveying, geotechnical boring, as well as other engineering analysis used to examine the existing bridge condition.
 - The project team is reviewing existing bridge inspection reports, has begun identifying existing substandard design elements and gathering accident and historic traffic count data.
 - Environmental screening such as identifying floodplains, hazardous waste, endangered species and cultural resources is part of this phase.
 - The Local Concept Development Phase is anticipated to be completed in 24 months (Spring 2020).
8. Martine Culbertson, Community Involvement Facilitator, provided an overview of the community input survey results via power point presentation slides and of the community outreach as also indicated on the Project Information Handout. Martine encouraged attendees to complete the PIC Comment Form to provide input on the information presented at the public meeting in helping to develop the Purpose and Need Statement from which the conceptual alternatives will be developed.
- The comments received at the first Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1 were presented within the power point presentation slides and were displayed on newsprint at the public meeting for viewing.
 - Attendees interested in attending the next Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 2 to complete a Community Input Survey and inform the sign-in table project team members.
 - Any questions can be addressed at any of the display areas where members of the Project Team are available for further discussion and to answer any specific questions.
9. Below are the comments shared by attendees during the Q&A at the end of the brief presentation, noted by Project Team members as follows:
- Representative for Senator Loretta Weinberg read a remarks letter from Senator Weinberg, noting concern for the bridge as a major transportation link that has been a hardship and safety issue especially during closures for disrepair, becoming an EMT issue and public frustration with lack of public access due to load restrictions limiting bus access and hope that bridge study will proceed without delay (see letter attached to report).





COUNTY OF BERGEN

Local Concept Development Study for East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge over the Hackensack River City of Hackensack and Township of Teaneck, New Jersey



- *Comment/Question:* 22,000 vehicles cross the bridge daily, is that one way or both directions?
Response: Yes, that's the total for both directions.
- *Comment/Question:* What about buses and trucks that have been detoured due to weight restriction?
Response: The project team will take into consideration that added volume for proposed bridge improvements and any possible detours during construction to address bus and truck concerns.
- *Comment/Question:* What's the future capacity of traffic volume?
Response: The Project Team will look at the County traffic model and examine future development anticipated in the area as well as peak vs. off-peak hours. The bridge design is anticipated for a 75 to 100-year serviceable life.
- *Comment/Question:* Will there be temporary noise sensors?
Response: Noise analysis is part of the environmental screening and it's not anticipated that there will be an increase in vehicle capacity keeping the existing two lanes in each direction, despite one is currently closed due to the 15-ton load restriction (weight restriction due to existing bridge structure condition). During construction, it is expected that existing noise ordinances will be adhered to.
- *Comment/Question:* With the no build or rehabilitation options, as less expensive or funds aren't available, won't that impact the decision?
Response: Potential cost is one of the factors for consideration, however it is the project Purpose and Need Statement that indicates what goals and objectives must be met and of the conceptual alternatives developed, agencies will analyze a number of criteria to see that the preliminary preferred alternative to recommend is the one which provides most benefit while minimizing impacts.
- Please restore for buses and trucks to be able use.
- Please keep bridge open if possible, crossing River Road Court Street Bridge is not easy and traffic flow backs up.
- Johnson Park has many ongoing activities, including sports and other community activities. These should be considered when looking at pedestrian and traffic access for bridge improvements, as well as during construction.
- *Comment/Question:* With a lot of construction work needed, would it shift location of bridge if replaced?
Response: The soil boring is a snap shot of the underground condition and a lot more borings are needed during the design phases to determine how to stage construction if it is determined to replace the bridge.
- *Comment/Question:* Is the bridge in the flood zone?
Response: No, the bridge isn't in the flood zone, it's above the flood plain.

10. At the end of the presentation, Bergen County Project Manager, Chris Helms, thanked attendees for their time and input. Attendees were encouraged to take copies of the handouts to share information with others. The 30-day comment period ends as of Friday, March 22, 2019 for the purpose and need. The next public meeting would be scheduled after the next Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 2 to present the Purpose and Need Statement and proposed conceptual alternatives for bridge improvements to the general public (*Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 2 held 6/17/19 and Public Information Center Meeting No. 2 9/23/19*).





COUNTY OF BERGEN
Local Concept Development Study for
East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge over the Hackensack River
City of Hackensack and Township of Teaneck, New Jersey



11. The open house continued and attendees were welcome to ask specific questions at the display board areas as interested. Upon leaving, some attendees expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to view and comment on the bridge study and possible bridge improvements. The PIC open house adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
12. The letter from Senator Weinberg was submitted at the meeting evening session in Hackensack (6-8pm). No written comments aside from the Senator's letter, nor any completed PIC Comment Forms were received at the PIC evening session in Hackensack. All written comments received are in a separate file posted on the project web site for viewing with personal contact information marked out (redacted).

Additional Notes:

13. Bergen County received written comments from two individuals before the PIC meetings were held. During the public meeting 30-day comment period which ended on Friday, March 22, 2019 for the project purpose and need, three individuals submitted written comments via email after the public meeting sessions were held. The PIC Comments are included with the other PIC Comments received at both PIC meeting sessions in a separate file from the meeting summary reports posted on the project web site with the personal contact information marked out (redacted). The meeting summary reports for the afternoon and evening sessions will be posted on the project web site under Community Involvement, Activities to Date.
14. Please note that any responses to PIC comments are reflected in the Frequently Asked Questions on the project website (www.andersonstreetbridge.com). The input from the PIC Meeting No. 1 comments received at the meeting and via email provided information for the development of the goals and objectives of the Purpose and Need Statement.

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the meeting summary within three (3) working days of receipt. Without notification, this meeting summary will be considered to be record of fact.

East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge LCD Study Project Team

