



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



COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER MEETING NO. 1
MEETING REPORT

DATE: Monday, January 28, 2019
 TIME: 2:00-4:00 p.m.
 LOCATION: 1st floor Cafeteria, One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ
 ATTENDEES:

First Name	Last Name	Representing
Attendees		
Susan	Banzon	Hackensack Public Works
Leonard	Battaglia	Hackensack City Council
Larry	Bauer	Teaneck Chamber of Commerce
Kevand	Cross	Spotless Car Wash, Hackensack
Patrice	Foresman	Hackensack Main Street Business Alliance
Richard	Frick	Fairleigh Dickinson Metro Campus
Farah	Giliani, PMP	Teaneck Engineering
Willie	Goez	Spotless Car Wash, Hackensack
Dee Ann	Ipp	Teaneck Resident
Rosemary	Marks	Hackensack BOE
Daniel	Maye	Bogota Police Department
Julye	Myner, Ph.D.	Center for Hope & Safety
Jay	Patel	Buy Rite of Hackensack
Gregory	Polyniak	Neglia Engineering Associates / Borough of Bogota
Jorge	Quintana	Center for Hope & Safety
Spencer J.	Rothwell	Wells, Jaworski & Liebman, LLP
Al	Scarpa	Borough Administrator, Bogota
Luke	Schultheis	Fairleigh Dickinson Metro Campus
Timothy	Sroka	Hackensack Police Department
Ryan	Westra	Hackensack Public Works
Lauren	Zisa	Hackensack Chamber of Commerce





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ATTENDEES (continued):

First Name	Last Name	Representing
Project Team		
Val	Aylesworth	M.A. Culbertson, LLC
Joseph	Baladi, PE, PP, CME	Bergen County Planning Division
Thomas	Casey	Bergen County Regional Planning & Transportation
Martine	Culbertson	M.A. Culbertson, LLC
Christopher	Helms, AICP, PP	Bergen County Regional Planning & Transportation
Hasnaa	Isaac	Bergen County Regional Planning & Transportation
Peter	Kortright III, PP	Bergen County Land Use, Development Review & Capital Projects
Joseph	Romano, PE	Michael Baker International
Michael	Sheinfield	Bergen County Freeholders Communications & Policy
Marty	Wade, PE	Michael Baker International

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the project team, present the project status and schedule, and to obtain input on the community interests associated with the East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge over the Hackensack River (Agenda attached).

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Project Overview & Background

Martine Culbertson welcomed everyone on behalf of Bergen County and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA). After introductions from the Project Team and Attendees, Martine introduced Joseph Baladi, Bergen County Head of the Planning Division to provide an overview and understanding for the project.

- (a) Joe Baladi explained that the bridge has reached its serviceable life and the County applied for Federal funding through the NJTPA. In order to continue to meet community needs, regular maintenance and repairs are costly and inadequate. The purpose of this bridge study is to identify how to rehabilitate or replace the existing bridge. The costs are too great for Bergen County, so it requires Federal funding. This Local Concept Development (LCD) Study is the first step to bridge improvements. Michael Baker International has been contracted for the LCD Study with an estimated 18 to 24 month schedule.
- (b) The County recognizes the importance of this heavily traveled bridge and is seeking input from local officials and the communities to understand what improvements are needed for the bridge. Once an alternative is decided, then NJDOT Local Aid will administer the project for the design and construction phases with Bergen County utilizing Federal funding.

2. East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge – LCD Process and Project Schedule

Marty Wade, Baker Deputy Project Manager, provided information on the Local Project Delivery process using presentation slides with a table of the Local Capital Delivery Process, which is in each Project





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Portfolio distributed to attendees (*presentation to be posted to the project website after the public meeting*).

- (a) Currently, the project is in the Local Concept Development (LCD) phase, shown in blue on the Local Project Delivery Process handout. The table shows all the phases and list of the elements of each phase.
- (b) The Local Concept Development (LCD) phase has steps to be completed including data collection, establishing a Purpose and Need Statement, developing conceptual alternatives and through a matrix analysis recommend a Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) to move forward to the design phase.
- (c) Working as a team in collaboration with the Agencies, Bergen County, and the communities of Hackensack, Teaneck and the adjacent community of Bogota, the bridge improvement conceptual alternative option with the most benefit and which minimizes impacts will be recommended as the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA).
- (d) This LCD study will take an estimated 18 to 24 months to complete. The LCD schedule is listed on the back-side of the Project Information handout in the Project Portfolio. With each phase of the process requiring a similar estimated timeframe of 18-24 months, the bridge improvements from conceptual development to the start of construction involves an estimated 6 to 8 years. However, it is the current Local Concept Development Phase that will determine what is needed for the improvements and then with future funding, the design and construction phases would follow. Resolutions of support for the PPA will be asked of the City of Hackensack, Township of Teaneck and the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The County will also reach out to the Borough of Bogota if interested in submitting a resolution of support as an adjacent community.

3. East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge – Data Collection, Bridge and Traffic Analysis

Joe Romano, Baker Project Manager, provided project information on the engineering and bridge data to be collected in referring to power point presentation slides.

- (a) The project work began by collecting past bridge engineering data. Field survey and environmental screenings work will be done and more data collection will occur over the next few months. Notification Access Letters to property owners within a 500' set back were mailed in fall 2018 to inform them of the study and field study work efforts. The project team also will request information on utility facilities in the project area as well as any drainage and development plans.
- (b) The team will review existing bridge inspection reports, and has begun identifying any existing substandard design elements within the project area and will gather crash data over the past three (3) years. Traffic counts will be conducted while schools are in session and on regular work days to reflect current traffic volumes. A draft map of proposed detours was developed to identify where traffic counts should be taken for review by local officials.
- (c) The Concept Development Study Phase is estimated to be completed in 18 to 24 months and the project milestones and schedule of community outreach steps were noted in the power point presentation and are listed on the Project Information handout.
- (d) Joe Romano provided an overview of the East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Avenue Bridge study area, the current bridge structure and existing information identifying the current structural deficiencies and reason to study the bridge to propose improvements:
 - The bridge is currently load posted at 15 tons due to its current condition.
 - There are numerous utilities to take into consideration with any proposed bridge improvements.
 - As part of the study, the type of construction staging will be examined to see what type of traffic flow will be possible if the bridge is to be rehabilitated or replaced.





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4. Environmental Process

Marty Wade provided information on the environmental process, which must be followed for funding transportation improvements using Federal dollars.

- (a) NJTPA is administering the project, however FHWA provides the funding. Any transportation project receiving Federal funding must follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- (b) The East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge LCD Study must identify any environmental concerns and conduct environmental screening. When analyzing alternatives, one looks to avoid or minimize environmental impacts and if that's not possible then to provide mitigation. The environmental resources include air, noise, hazardous or contaminated sites, parks, wetlands, water resources, social and economic impacts, and cultural resources such as historic structures and facilities.
- (c) The agencies look carefully at comments from the public and as such, community involvement is an important part of environmental process and for the project to move forward with consensus and environmental compliance. The results of the environmental screening, which is in the project schedule, will be presented at the public meetings. A comprehensive Purpose & Need Statement and documentation is important to present the rationale for the project, and help guide the review agencies to work with the project team in moving the project forward from the LCD phase to the design and construction phases.
- (d) Community input is a part of the Environmental Process. As part of the LCD Study, input is needed from community stakeholders and the public in developing the Project Purpose and Need; which is the first major public outreach milestone. Martine Culbertson, as the Community Involvement Facilitator will assist the project team to enhance public participation and obtain community input via a community input survey and at upcoming meetings. A project web site will be developed to enhance communication and information sharing.

5. Community Involvement – Input and Discussion

Martine Culbertson, Community Involvement Facilitator, provided an overview of the information in the Project Portfolio, distributed to attendees. She reviewed the Draft potential List of Community and Agency Stakeholders as part of the community outreach process.

- (a) This is a draft list and the team is looking for input from local officials and community stakeholders to identify any entities and organizations or individuals interested in the project and willing to participate at community stakeholders meetings and/or public meetings over the next 12 to 18 months.
- (b) A Community Input Survey Summary Report was distributed to present the input received to date that is helpful to identify those interested in the Bridge Study. It is also helpful to provide input and insight on community interest for bridge improvements to assist the project team in developing the Project Purpose and Need Statement.
- (c) The project also will include the use of a website for sharing of information on the Bridge Study. The site will be maintained by the Project Team and at completion of the LCD phase, it will be turned over to Bergen County to be maintained. The web site will include information similar to the project information sheet, meeting announcements and reports, photos, contact information, and opportunity to submit comments and questions. It will be available in multiple languages by use of a selection box on the home page.
- (d) The meeting was opened for questions and comments to identify the community issues and interests in the study area of the East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge. These comments will help the project team develop the project purpose and needs statement. The following items were noted:





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Community Input - Comments

- Keep as is with 2 lanes each direction.
- Businesses request alert/notification of traffic changes on bridge by County or municipality.
- From Teaneck into Hackensack left turn at River Road needs more time, 3 sec. needs 10-15 sec. traffic backs up on bridge into Teaneck.
- Improve line of communication for roadway work – inform of possible traffic impacts for this project and any work whether repairs or maintenance.
- Look at corner issues at intersection in Hackensack – traffic flow for all turns on to and from River Road.
- Safety/speed limit issue – 45 mph on bridge, 25 mph in Teaneck.
- Examine merge point in Teaneck.
- Increase in foot traffic – make safe for pedestrians with traffic calming elements - considerations for mobility/access/safety for seniors, strollers, bikes, pedestrians – at intersections & on bridge.
- Trucks are on bridge not observing load posting – needs monitoring.
- North side bus stop/bench – consider moving further down - dangerous - right on red go around bus.
- Left out of Pomander Walk is a problem due to back ups with single lane traffic.
- With more area development, examine bikeway connections to can go across bridge.
- Cemetery within project study limits – add to stakeholder list.
- FDU constructing a pedestrian bridge.
- FDU facilities on both sides – vehicular traffic flow is important concern.
- Special education buses use the bridge for public schools.
- Senior residential housing in area – some drive, some walk – Pomander Walk to Cedar Lane - issue for both – consider reflective paint, pedestrian bollards, stagger light timing especially in this area.

Community Input - Questions with Responses

- Does No Build option mean more investment?

Response: 10-20-year life cycle costs to be examined as part of study.

- Does alternative analysis include traffic considerations?

Response: Traffic staging & detour routes are part of analysis; includes existing traffic & shifting of traffic impact.

- Are there short-term fixes during the study?

Response: Yes - routine maintenance/repairs will be done to ensure current safe operation.

- Is there funding to replace bridge?

Response: This Study phase is funded; funding for next phases based on design determined.

- What is cost of bridge study?

Response: Estimate \$600,000, will post on project web site in FAQ section.

- Why did existing bridge did not last 75 years?

Response: The existing bridge is structurally deficient due to its design that's no longer used; the new design and construction materials of bridge will have serviceable life of 75 - 100 years.

- Study conducted 3 years ago – what about that information?

Response: information from prior work efforts to be reviewed as part of this bridge study under the new Federal process.



- Will bridge have to close if to be replaced?

Response: Look to keep bridge open and maintain traffic at safe levels if possible.

- Construction/dredging – what about historical findings?

Response: Cultural resource studies are part of the process; in this phase it is screening to identify the resources and in later stages additional tracking and mitigation as required will be conducted.

6. Closing Comments - Feedback

In summarizing the community input and meeting discussions, following items were noted:

Feedback

- Provide information to city manager to be shared with community
- Bogota/Teaneck concerns for impact due to closure/detour
- Hackensack would like access to water
- Consider a forum/collaboration to discuss/inform about future repairs
- Monitor bridge for safety – larger trucks are using it
- Left turn fatality at Pomander Walk (1-2 years ago – team to look into this)
- Options to access bike path to pedestrian travel routes – expand bridge for bike use
- Consider canoeing/kayaking opportunities – access to river
- Consider funding appropriations contacts to support project
- Improve communication lines
- Examine signal phasing of left turn lane in Hackensack
- Any environmental obstacles?

Response: Integrated in the process

7. Closing Comments – Next Steps

In summary, the Project Team will continue to gather additional traffic and engineering data, update mapping, review utilities, and hold the Public Information Center (PIC) meeting to obtain input from the general public as part of developing the draft Purpose and Need Statement. There will be an afternoon session in Teaneck and evening session held in Hackensack to maximize opportunity for community stakeholders and the general public to attend.

Once a Purpose and Need Statement has been reviewed and approved by the agencies, the Project Team will then develop conceptual alternatives with community input received to date, and will present the alternatives at the next set of meetings as listed on Project Information Sheet handout and in the power point presentation.

Chris Helms, Bergen County Project Manager, thanked the local officials and attendees for their time and comments, which are appreciated by the County and Project Team.

A meeting summary report will be provided, once reviewed and approved by Bergen County and NJTPA. Chris Helms, as Bergen County Project Manager, is the key contact for the Bridge Study. Meeting adjourned by 5:30pm.

For additional information please visit the project website: www.eastandersonbridge.com

8. Additional Note:

Post-meeting comments from Bergen County Public Works Department representative

- Late spring: Repaving River Road, Teaneck – routine maintenance - striping, power marking, ramps



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- Also ADA work – Teaneck Road and Degraw Avenue (*outside the project area*)
- FDU fatality – Teaneck Road (*project team to obtain information*)

KEY ACTION ITEMS

1. The Baker team will continue bridge, roadway and traffic analysis in coordination with Bergen County and the municipalities.
2. The municipalities and the County departments to share information on development plans, utility and drainage plans with the Project Team; also share traffic accident data or traffic count reports and any roadway work in the area of the bridge.
3. Local officials and community stakeholders to review Draft Community Stakeholders List, Community Input Survey Summary Report and Project Portfolio Handouts; please provide any comments and any contact information to update.
4. Martine Culbertson will provide meeting summary, update Stakeholders List and provide meeting notices for the Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting to be scheduled mid February 2019.

NEXT MEETING

Public Information Center No. 1

Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Place: Township of Teaneck Municipal Building, 818 Teaneck Road, Teaneck NJ

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Place: Freeholders Public Meeting Room, 5th Floor, One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ

Snow date: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 (same locations and times)

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.

East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge Study Project Team





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Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1
Monday, January 28, 2019

1st Floor Cafeteria, One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the project team, present the project status and schedule, and to obtain input on the community interests associated with the East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge over the Hackensack River.

I. *WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION*

- Project Overview & Background
- Local Project Delivery Process - Local Concept Development (LCD) Study

II. *BERGEN COUNTY EAST ANDERSON STREET/CEDAR LANE BRIDGE*

- Project Status and Schedule
- Data Collection, Bridge and Traffic Analysis
- Environmental Process
- Community Involvement – Survey Summary

III. *DISCUSSION*

- Community Input - *Interests, Issues, Improvements*

IV. *NEXT STEPS*

- Public Information Center (PIC) Meetings: 2/12/19 – 2-4 p.m. Teaneck / 6-8 p.m. Hackensack
- Project Website (www.eastandersonbridge.com)
- Feedback and Closing Comments

