



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. 2
MEETING REPORT

DATE: Monday, June 17, 2019
 TIME: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 LOCATION: 1st floor Cafeteria, One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, NJ
 ATTENDEES:

First Name	Last Name	Representing
Attendees		
Tanya	Balser	Teaneck Police Department
Susan	Banzon	Hackensack Public Works
Larry	Bauer	Teaneck Chamber of Commerce
Glenna	Crockett	Teaneck Recreation Department
Rose	Frontignano	Hackensack Recreation Department
Arlene	Gartenberg	Teaneck Resident
Rich	Hirsch	Resident
Gideon	Karlick	Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway Through Teaneck
Dean	Kazinci	Teaneck Township
Michael	Pagan	Bergen County Executive's Office
Gerald	Reiner	Teaneck Board of Education
Spencer J.	Rothwell	Wells, Jaworski & Liebman, LLP
Timothy	Sroka	Hackensack Police Department
Project Team		
John	Araneo, PE	Bergen County Planning & Engineering
Val	Aylesworth	M.A. Culbertson, LLC
Joseph	Baladi, PE, PP, CME	Bergen County Planning Division
Peter	Botsolas	Bergen County Executive's Office
Martine	Culbertson	M.A. Culbertson, LLC
Joseph	Femia, PE	Bergen County Planning & Engineering
Christopher	Helms, AICP, PP	Bergen County Regional Planning & Transportation
Sarbjit	Kahlon	NJTPA
Peter	Kortright III, PP	Bergen County Land Use, Development Review & Capital Projects
Martin	Maver, PE	Bergen County Planning & Engineering
Joseph	Romano, PE	Michael Baker International
Marty	Wade, PE	Michael Baker International
Amy	Wong	Michael Baker International





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PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to review the project status, present the Purpose and Need Statement, discuss conceptual alternatives for proposed improvements to the Bergen County East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge over the Hackensack River and obtain community input on the benefits and impacts associated with each option.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Project Overview & Background

Joe Femia, Bergen County Engineer, welcomed everyone. After introductions from Attendees and the Project Team, he provided an overview and understanding for the project.

- (a) Joseph Femia explained that regular maintenance and repairs are costly and inadequate. In order to continue to meet community needs, the bridge has reached its serviceable life and the County successfully applied for Federal funding through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA). The purpose of this study is to identify how to rehabilitate or replace the existing bridge. 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 looking for a solution to benefit the communities and County. Once an alternative is decided, then Bergen County would lead the project into the Preliminary Engineering phase using Federal funding with oversight from FHWA, NJTPA and NJDOT.
- (c) Martine Culbertson, Meeting Facilitator, provided an overview of the agenda and handouts. Comments received from community stakeholders and the general public at the prior outreach meetings have contributed to developing the conceptual alternatives that will be discussed at this meeting. The County welcomes input from the communities in determining what bridge improvements are needed and supported by the communities and general public.

2. Project Status

Marty Wade, Baker International Project Manager, via power point presentation slides, provided the project status and schedule as listed also on the Project Information handout distributed to attendees.

- (a) Currently, the project is on schedule. The Purpose and Need Statement has been approved and is included in the handouts and posted on the project web site.
- (b) The Concept Development Flow Chart shows the steps to be completed for the Concept Development Phase. The project team has completed the Purpose and Need Statement, and developed conceptual alternatives.
- (c) A comparison of alternatives matrix has also been developed with criteria to compare each of the conceptual alternatives to determine which best meets the project purpose and need while minimizing impacts and maximizing benefits. Over the coming months the engineering and environmental data for each alternative will be entered into the matrix to analyze the options and recommend a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) to move forward to the design phase.

3. Purpose and Need Statement

Marty Wade presented information on the Purpose and Need Statement as described on the handout. It is based upon the input received from the community at the prior Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1 and Public Meeting No. 1 and has been reviewed by the agencies. It is from these goals and objectives that the conceptual alternatives were developed.





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4. Conceptual Alternatives Overview

Marty Wade provided an overview of each of the Conceptual Alternatives as shown in the power point presentation slides and detailed in the Draft Written Description of Alternatives Handout distributed to attendees. Each conceptual alternative is also listed on the blank comparison of alternatives matrix copy provided at each table for viewing.

- (a) Conceptual drawings and profiles of the bridge alternatives were on display boards during the presentation and for viewing by attendees. Each table also had a set of plans for viewing during the group discussion.
- (b) Marty explained for each of the bridge alternatives, the existing bridge cross-section and what the future proposed cross-section would be such as the width of the two sidewalks, shoulders and the median area that currently contains utilities that go across the bridge. Each of the conceptual alternative proposed plans distributed at the meeting includes an illustration of the proposed cross section associated with that concept.
- (c) Joe Romano, Baker Project Manager, provided an overview of the current East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane bridge structure and the proposed two types of possible bridge replacements with either a three span option (steel only) or four span option (steel/concrete). The type of bridge details were further explained during the group discussions at each break-out group discussion table.

5. Group Discussion on Alternatives – Pros & Cons

Attendees gathered around three table groups to review each of the conceptual alternatives in detail and discuss the benefits and impacts to each alternative. A Preference Survey (yellow handout) was distributed to attendees to provide comments on each of the alternatives and a Questionnaire (pink handout) to provide input on the cross section of the bridge and any approach roadway intersection comments.

Attendees also received dots to complete an exercise to indicate the alternative with most support, least support and if alternatives are possible but require refinement. During the group discussion time, Martine Culbertson distributed four colored dots to each attendee. She explained that after each table had finished reviewing and discussing each option, they had the opportunity to indicate the alternative they most supported (green dot) and least favored (red dot) as well as two other dots for options that with some adjustments might accept (blue) or not likely to accept (yellow). One may choose to use all four dots or not and may place any or all next to alternatives which they support or not. Stakeholders placed their dots privately on the newsprint beside the conceptual alternatives.

The dots assist the project team in identifying which alternatives have preferred support and more importantly, which alternatives with some adjustments may have improvements, which the community could support, as well as those not favored.

After each table presented their findings during the closing comments, the newsprint containing the dots was displayed for everyone to view (Image attached to report).

- (a) After the group discussions, a presenter from each table provided a brief summary of the discussions from their table to share with all attendees. The notes taken during each table group discussion and the comments noted on newsprint are provided below.
- (b) Both completed handouts by attendees were collected at the end of the meeting. A Preference Survey Summary Report and a Questionnaire Summary Report are attached at the end of this meeting report, respectively.
- (c) An image of the dots exercise is included at the end of the report.



Input / Comments from Table Group Discussion

Table 1 – Pete Kortright, Marty Wade

- Types of replacement steel vs. concrete
- Bridge to accommodate growth
- Left lane capacity – consider two dedicated left lanes
- Green Acres ROW: would it set back project/change scope of project?
- 5' vs 8' shoulder – what is the purpose of raised median?
- ROW – what is the process and timing?
- Pros vs. cons of steel bridge?
- Bikeway favors Alternative 5 for safety reasons

Table 2 – Chris Helms, Joe Romano

- Length of construction – traffic staging plans?
- Access to river – look to find option that helps
- Service life of new bridge - 75 years
- Less maintenance/lower cost with jointless design
- Bike/ped – consider foot traffic under bridge
- All alternatives do take bicycles into consideration
- Alternatives 3 & 4 have no ROW impacts
- Alternative 5 has ROW impact in non-usable area of park
- Traffic speeds up from Teaneck downhill onto bridge into Hackensack
- Consider NJ Transit bus routes
- Concern for light phasing at River Road, Hackensack
- Do one-time utility replacement
- Make Alternative 4 wider shoulder & narrower median (makes closer to Alternative 5 without ROW impact)

Table 3 – Martin Maver, Amy Wong

- Option 1 & 2 don't work
- Alternative 3: median important
- Alternative 4: consider longer westbound median
- Alternative 5: Go with wider shoulder - find funding because still better solution for OEM even if longer construction

6. Closing Comments – Action Items

Martine Culbertson reminded attendees of the project website for viewing information on the bridge study. The website includes project information such as the handouts, project information sheet, meeting announcements and reports, photos, contact information, and opportunity to submit comments and questions. Please visit: www.eastandersonbridge.com

In summary, the following comments were submitted as feedback by attendees:



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Feedback

- 8' shoulders have Green Acres concern and will set back timing.
- Green Acres requires 2 to 1 offset.
- During construction, coordinate with Teaneck Greenway Advisory Board for access to river and use of the Greenway.
- Look to connect bikeway to intersections and across bridge.
- Parkland under bridge is Green Acres – make the connection for bikes/pedestrians.
- River is used by kayakers – consider a boat ramp for access in Johnson Park or on Teaneck side too if possible.

7. Next Steps - Closing Comments

Chris Helms, Bergen County Project Manager, thanked attendees for their comments. The next steps will be for the project team (1) to fill in the information needed to complete the Comparison of Alternatives Matrix; (2) to coordinate with the agencies to review the matrix; (3) and to meet with local officials to present the matrix information and discuss a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) to recommend. Then (4) a Public Information Center (PIC) meeting will be scheduled to present the comparison of alternatives matrix information and the recommended PPA for public comment.

There will be a 30-day comment period after the public meeting after which, resolutions of support for the PPA will be asked of the municipalities and the County to be included with the final documentation to be presented to the cooperating agencies for consensus on the PPA to move forward to the next phase of local preliminary engineering.

The PIC meeting is anticipated in early Fall 2019 and a public meeting notice mailing and legal posting will be done to notify the general public. There will be two sessions similar to the prior PIC meeting held but this time the afternoon session will be in Hackensack and the evening session will be in Teaneck.

In closing, if anyone would like to view the conceptual alternative plans, an appointment can be made with Bergen County, and copies will be on-hand at the affected municipalities of Hackensack and Teaneck. Any questions, please contact Chris Helms, Bergen County Project Manager or you may submit comments and questions via the project web site. A meeting summary will be provided and posted to the web site with other project information. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

1. Project Team will study the input provided at the meeting and enter data in the Comparison of Alternatives Matrix regarding the bridge, roadway, traffic analysis, environmental and cultural resources in coordination with Bergen County and the municipalities.
2. Attendees to review Community Stakeholders List, Draft Written Description of Alternatives and other Handouts; provide any comments and updated contact information; and attend Public Information Center (PIC) meeting in early Fall 2019.
3. Martine Culbertson will provide meeting summary, update Community Stakeholders List, notify community stakeholders and the general public in scheduling the PIC Meeting in early Fall 2019 with an afternoon session in Hackensack and an evening session in Teaneck.





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NEXT MEETING

Public Information Center No. 2

Date: September 23, 2019

Time: 2-4pm

Location: Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, 1st Floor Multi-Purpose Room

and

Time: 6-8pm

Location: Teaneck Township Municipal Building, Teaneck, Council Chambers

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. 2

Monday, June 17, 2019

One Bergen County Plaza, 1st Floor Multi-Purpose Room, Hackensack, NJ

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA

The purpose of this meeting is to review the project status, present the Purpose and Need Statement, discuss conceptual alternatives for proposed improvements to the Bergen County East Anderson Street/Cedar Lane Bridge over the Hackensack River and obtain community input on the benefits and impacts associated with each option.

I. *WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION*

- Project Overview & Status
- Community Stakeholders Update

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

- Purpose and Need Statement
- Conceptual Alternatives Overview

III. *DISCUSSION*

- Group Discussion on Alternatives - Pros & Cons
- Group Discussion on Alternatives – Improvements
- Group Results - Key Points

IV. *NEXT STEPS*

- Community Feedback
- Action Items – Local Officials Meetings & Public Information Center Meetings
- Closing Comments

