

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

Project: Route 139, Contract 2, Rehabilitation of 12th and 14th Street Viaducts, Jersey City

Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2005

Place: City Hall, Jersey City, 11:00 AM

Subject/Purpose: Briefing of Councilman Maldonado and others on status of project

Attending: **Jersey City:** Junior Maldonado, Municipal Councilman Ward E; Robin Pinkowitz, Councilman Maldonado's Aide; Peter Brennan, Councilman at Large; Carl Czaplicki, Mayor's Office; Joe D'Souza, Jersey City Traffic; Lichuan Wang, Jersey City Traffic; Stanley Huang, Jersey City Engineering Captain Brian McDonough, Jersey City Police, Commander, East District
Office of Representative Bob Menendez: Desiree Ramos
Port Authority: Terry Benczik, PA Government and Community Relations; Robert Eadicicco, General Manager, Holland Tunnel; Lee Home, PA/TBT
NJDOT: Richard Hammer, Director of Project Management; Lawrence Vogel, Project Manager; Tom Johnson, Community Relations; Rick Jaffe, Traffic Mitigation; Albert Maiocchi, Local Aid
Project Consultants: Ernie Hutchins, DMJM Harris; Stewart Willis, DMJM Harris; Rena Frankle, Reichman Frankle; Rose Reichman, Reichman Frankle
Community Organizations: Bill Wissemann, Newport Center; Warren Curtin, Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association; Bill Donohue, Van Vorst Park Association; Charles Kessler, Harsimus Cove
Press: Ricardo Kaulessar, *The Jersey City Reporter*

Distribution: Jersey City, NJDOT, Port Authority, Rep. Menendez,, Community Organizations, Project Consultants

Memo Prepared By: Rena Frankle, Reichman Frankle Inc.

The meeting was a follow-up to a December 2004 meeting at City Hall, Jersey City.

Discussion:

- Larry Vogel briefly outlined Contract 2 and noted that the contract was advertised on February 10, bids will be opened on March 24, and construction is expected to start in May 2005, with the first stage being construction of the shoulder structure to the 14th Street Viaduct, a 16-month effort. In reference to NJDOT's origin/destination (O/D) study at the Holland Tunnel to determine the O/D of people who would use Route 139, he stated that raw data had been collected and that a summary will be available in mid-March; the summary will be sent to Jersey City (Robin Pinkowitz and Joe D'Souza).
- Richard Hammer said that NJDOT has initiated a new study looking at various intersections in the network of streets around the project, and that data from that project would be available in late May,

with a report available in mid-June. Rick Jaffe added that the NJDOT study will include traffic counts and turning movements, and that the data will help in signal timing. He also noted that previous traffic counts indicate that 40% of the traffic coming from the New Jersey Turnpike and Route 139 eastbound turn left or right at 12th Street and Jersey Avenue into Jersey City rather than straight through toward the Holland Tunnel.

- Robert Eadiciccio noted that the Port Authority needs specific data on specific traffic delays anticipated at any time of day or year, so that Port Authority and NJDOT can work out mitigation measures. Bill Wissemann of Newport Center, seconded by Council Maldonado, suggested that the traffic studies be completed before any contract changes to sequencing or construction approach are approved.
- Warren Curtin, of Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association, said that traffic control and movement through the Historic District is very critical, and voiced concern about traffic impact on neighborhoods, schools, and historic homes. Bill Donohue, of Van Vorst Park Association, added that the problem is the Grand Street exit from the Turnpike.
- Carl Czaplicki requested an extensive communications campaign, with a project website, mobile cam photos accessible on the web site, and resources allocated to a public awareness campaign, which might help divert people to ferry or light rail transit. Richard Hammer replied that NJDOT would educate the public with real time data, telling them the best routes to avoid traffic congestion in the project area, and providing other information to try and get people off the roads.
- In response to a question, Rick Jaffe stated that the traffic effects of the first phase of Contract 2 would be 1, on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest on the scale for this project.
- Richard Hammer said that a modification to the construction contract will include provisions for a mobile traffic camera system to monitor traffic behavior in real time; specific traffic mitigation measures include eliminating the left turn at Palisade Avenue from Route 139 westbound, re-striping of 12th Street viaduct to eliminate cars being trapped in the left-turn only lane, and paving of some local streets. Several additional traffic mitigation measures that are being considered require coordination and approval from the Port Authority and Jersey City.
- Robin Pinkowitz said that Jersey City would provide NJDOT with a map showing streets that Jersey City is requesting to be repaved as part of the project.

Another public information center will be held in the spring with the selected contractor present, after contractor award, but before construction begins. Several meeting attendees suggested the Charter School, on 10th Street and Marin, as a convenient location to hold a public meeting.