

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

Project: Project 139, Contract 2, Rehabilitation of 12th and 14th Street Viaducts, Jersey City
Date: Wednesday, July 6, 2005
Place: The Atrium, 9th Street, Jersey City
Subject/Purpose: Briefing of Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association on the status of the project
Attending: **NJDOT:** Lawrence Vogel, Project Manager; Alireza Emani, Office of Project Management
Project Consultants: **Project Consultants:** Ernest Hutchins, DMJM Harris; Rose Reichman and Ruth Licht, Reichman Frankle Inc.; Jeffrey Lannigan, Rudy Garcia, MBI GluckShaw
Distribution: Lawrence Vogel, Camille Sinclair, Ernest Hutchins, Jeffrey Lannigan
Memo Prepared by: Ruth Licht, Reichman Frankle Inc.

The briefing was requested by the Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association, and took place as part of a regularly scheduled meeting. Sam Stoia, president of the association, introduced Larry Vogel, who provided a brief overview of the project and the anticipated construction schedule.

The association members expressed concern about current and future traffic problems and about communication during the project. The following comments/suggestions were made:

- When traffic backs up during construction, traffic will get off at Grand and Cole streets. This area of Hamilton Park has a number of schools; there is concern about heavy traffic near children.
- A suggestion was made to prohibit the first available left turn off the Grand Street ramp from the Turnpike during rush hour. This would prevent traffic from flowing onto neighborhood streets.
- When the 14th Street exit away from the Holland Tunnel is closed, there will be an impact in Hamilton Park on the community as commuters would drive down Jersey Avenue and Cole Street. How can this be alleviated?
- Are Cole and Monmouth streets being paved? If so, when will the paving be completed?
- At our meeting in January we were promised traffic studies and plans to deter traffic. What is the status of those studies? There is concern that no commitment has been made to this issue.
- Night work construction will be noisy. When will this construction happen? How can noise be mitigated?
- The community wants open lines of communication, including frequent updates on the project status and a user-friendly Web site with a phone number for calling in emergencies. In recent construction performed by the Port Authority (PA), the PA's Web site provided excellent information. The community would like to have a similar experience with this project's Web site.

Responses to comments from NJDOT and its consultants included the following:

- L. Vogel stated that for the first 15 to 16 months, one lane will be closed to the outbound upper road only this will have no impact on Hamilton Park.
- E. Hutchins stated that some questions concerning scheduling would need to be answered after the pre-construction meeting, which will take place on Thursday, July 7. The

contractor has the option to change the schedule. The contractor will present his proposed changes at tomorrow's meeting. The contractor's proposed changes are to the sequence of work. The scope of work is the same as in the contract documents.

- L. Vogel stated that when the 14th street exit away from the Holland Tunnel is closed, according to studies conducted by NJDOT, there will be no impact on the Hamilton Park community.
- L. Vogel stated that there would be no night work for the first two years. There will be some night work in Contract 2; however, the contractor has to abide by codes in Jersey City and Hudson County concerning noise issues.
- R. Reichman stated that our role in community outreach is to know the association's concerns so they can be addressed. NJDOT has just launched the project Web site, at www.njcommuter.com; she suggested that it be reviewed by the community and comments provided to us.

Concluding Remarks:

The Hamilton Park community knows that the rehabilitation of the 12th and 14th street viaducts is essential. However, they will be living with the inconvenience of construction for the next five years and they want their concerns to be carefully considered. Robin Pinkowitz, a member of the association, suggested that a small group meet to discuss the issues. She offered the following names: Sam Stoia, Rudy Garcia, Councilman Fulup and Larry Vogel, as well as a representative from the PA.