



# Rt. 36 Highlands Bridge Replacement

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM**

### ROUTE 36 HIGHLANDS BRIDGE OVER THE SHREWSBURY RIVER MONMOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM AESTHETICS TASK FORCE MEETING NO. 3 REPORT

DATE: April 26, 2006  
 TIME: 10:00 a.m. – Noon  
 LOCATION: Bahr’s Restaurant  
 Highlands, NJ

**ATTENDEES:**

First Name	Last Name	Representing	Phone	Email
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Sara	Weimer	NPS	732-872-5901	Sara_Weimer@nps.gov

## **PURPOSE OF MEETING**

To present the revised aesthetic design treatments with additional renderings, and discuss remaining aesthetic considerations for the Route 36 Highlands Bridge Replacement Project. (Agenda attached).

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

1. Meeting opened welcoming visitors from the Highlands Historical Society and Highlands Garden Club. Martine explained the purpose of the Aesthetics Task Force and it's role with regard to the Community Partnering Team. CPT members and visitors introduced themselves and the organization they represent. Martine reviewed the agenda and a revised handout of renderings by Jacobs Civil was distributed.
2. Pankesh Patel, NJDOT Project Manager, announced that the project now has funding to complete the design and for construction. The final design is to be completed by November 2006 and let for construction in the spring of 2007. It is important for the project schedule to be maintained to secure the funding. He thanked members for their continual support in coming to agreement on aesthetic elements and the signing of agreements necessary to complete the project.
3. Jerry Thomas made an announcement that after the meeting a group tour will be offered to those interested in touring the archeological dig site in Highlands where they are analyzing the remains of a tavern which once existed at the base of the bridge.
4. Martine informed the task force that Tom Laverty Director of the Twin Lights Historical Society has taken a new position at DEP in Trenton. He will continue to be informed of the project and coordinate with Kathy at Twin Lights. Once a new director has been appointed, they will become the representative on the CPT.
5. Lynne Baumann, Jacobs Civil Project Manager, presented power point images of the revised renderings and information on each of the aesthetic design treatments. The renderings were also provided in the handout for discussion.

Comments were noted during the discussion of each element listed below:

### **(A) Roadway Surface and Shoulder**

- Lynne presented views of the bridge surface with the bike way stripped in white, in black and as a tan strip for discussion.

#### **Recommendation:**

- > Painted surface for bicycle symbol and bike way - white paint color blends better with view and is standard (other roadways).
- > Standard white color is the preferred option in combination with silver (gray) finish color of the lighting and railing.

**ACTION:**

(A-1) Project team is examining options to address the roadway surface and grade on the bridge to minimize slippery conditions.

(B) Signage

- SHPO made a request to NJDOT to re-examine the location of the sign structures due to the impact on the view shed of Twin Lights.

**Recommendation:**

> Move the signage off the center /peak of the bridge back toward each of the towns to minimize obstruction of view shed and provide open view. New renderings showing the sign heading eastbound is no longer visible from Twin Lights was shown. The new locations of both sign structures on the bridge were acceptable to all in attendance. No further action.

(C) Granite Form Liner / Shape

- Review by NJDOT Engineering of pier footings determined that they must remain the rectangular shape previously presented at the meetings.
- The fender system will be an environmentally safe composite material.
- Fender system will not be higher than the granite footing area since it is not used for walking or for lighting (lighting of main navigation channel only will be downward from the span)
- Consideration of concrete coloring, pigmentation or aggregate stone mixture to provide a "soft" natural appearance to the concrete given the size and location of the structure will be considered as part of the standard mix design but not as a special coloring agent.

**Recommendations:**

- > SHPO suggested that the transition to the column from the pier footing be analyzed further to see if it can be made more aesthetically pleasing (less drastic transition in shape and appearance)
- > Use possible texture treatment to transition from granite to solid inset columns
- >
- > Minimize appearance of the secondary pour
- > NPS asked to explore quality control of pre-cast structures and options to provide some tint or tone rather than stark white concrete and noted they would send specifications used by NPS on past projects.

**ACTION**

(C-1) Project team to review footing design with NJDOT SMEs and coordinate with SHPO.

(C-2) NJDOT is reluctant to provide coloring of concrete due to poor quality in past attempts on concrete structures and ability to maintain color consistency even with pre-

cast material. Painting or staining of the structure may cause long-term maintenance issue and poor appearance over time.

#### D. Railing and Lighting

- Review of the latest renderings for railing and lighting were discussed. SHPO noted the silver grey is the preferred color from a minimal impact perspective.

##### Recommendations:

- > Lighting standard NJDOT COBRA (similar to today) has less light pollution than other options
- > Material of railing galvanized steel → silver gray – soft color
- > Flat horizontal railing with breaks for the light pole bases is preferred to the elliptical (more traditional, less modern and thinner appearance)

##### ACTION

(D-2) Make interruptions in the railing at the light pole bases for a concrete form or low level tile work to be displayed in each. Tiles to be similar to those on the pylons or some variation, which appeals aesthetically. Create renderings for comment by communities and SHPO.

#### E. Streetscape Elements - Monuments, Tiles

- MOA is to use the existing tiles perhaps in a smaller scale replication or some variation pattern, which would complement the bridge aesthetics.
- Tiles to be placed on the pylons - actual to be used if possible, if not, replicas will be used and at an appropriate scale and location for viewing.
- A plaque or inscription can be placed on the base of the pylons on both sides of the roadway in Highlands and in Sea Bright.
- War Memorial Monument will remain in the same location unless a request is made to relocate the monument to another location in Highlands. It will be removed and stored during construction and then placed in the appropriate location. The monument is of a French General looking out to the sea toward "his homeland" so it is appropriate to maintain that direction.

##### Recommendations

- > Pylons will be similar to the existing. An attempt will be made to use existing, however due to the condition of the granite, they are likely to be replaced with new material in the same form as shown in the handout.
- > New pylons will be larger in order to be in scale with the new bridge (estimated 5 feet taller in size).

- > Suggestion was made to consider placing the Official Seal or Crest for each of the Boroughs on the pylon or on the base area.
- > Tiles to be replicated in scale and placed lower on the pylons for pedestrian viewing. Sample shown in the renderings handout.

#### ACTION

(E-2) Sea Bright and Highlands reps to provide official Borough Seal or Crest for possible inclusion in the bridge aesthetics to Lynne Baumann.

(E-3) Tim Hill to confirm with Lynne Baumann the individual to contact to arrange for the movement and storage and replacement of the War Memorial Monument.

#### F. Pedestrian Overpasses

- The Sea Bright Council has the pedestrian overpass and jurisdictional agreement on the agenda for its next meeting. NJDOT will attend the next council meeting to answer any questions concerning the project, reasons for the overpasses (due to pedestrian and cyclist safety in the new condition with continuous flow of traffic and ramp locations) and for clarity of routine maintenance on statewide jurisdictional agreements.
- NJDOT review of pedestrian lighting for the pedestrian overpasses of low level lighting (rather than overhead lighting by poles) was acceptable. Low level lighting will minimize light pollution but still provide safe lighting.
- The new renderings show the additional stairs as requested by Sea Bright to ease access and as an alternative to taking the ramp (necessary by ADA requirements).
- Pier bases of the overpasses were modified in the new renderings to minimize appearance. Landscaping will also be developed to assist in providing visual relief and appearance.
- Maintain similarity in the NPS and Sea Bright overpasses to aid in symmetry and balanced appearance.

#### Recommendations:

- > Create similar bases for the low level lights so consistent with light pole bases on the bridge but at a smaller scale (bollard can be encased in the bases).
- > Consider motion detectors for pedestrian lighting so they are not lit unless needed - lower cost and light pollution.
- > Work with Sea Bright Beautification Committee on the landscaping to enhance the area around the overpass visually.
- > Attempt to create symmetry in the appearance and landscaping of both the NPS and Sea Bright overpasses.
- > Provide traffic calming measures and painted pedestrian crossing of Ocean Avenue further down away from the bridge ramp areas to direct pedestrians and cyclists to safely cross to and from the beach side multi-use path and to the overpass.

## ACTION

(F-1) SHPO to provide samples of low-level lighting for consideration to Al Algazi, H&H.

(F-2) Examine motion detection lighting for pedestrian overpass low level lighting.

(F-3) Develop traffic calming and painted striping for pedestrian crossing of Ocean Avenue.

## G. Highlands Park

- Tim Hill, representative for Highlands presented information on the project to the Highlands Historic Society and the Garden Club. Members of both organizations attended as visitors at this Aesthetic Task Force meeting.
- NJDOT Landscaping Unit will be presenting at a future Highlands Historic Society and Garden Club meeting to review the landscaping interests and develop plans for those areas to be landscaped in Highlands.
- The proposed park enhancements will include a fishing pier structure since the proposed bulkhead was not permissible under DEP regulations.

## Recommendations

- > A T shaped pier will be part of the park enhancements
- > Landscaping to be developed in coordination with the Highlands Historic Society and the Highlands Garden Club

## ACTION

(G-1) A meeting to be scheduled with NJDOT Landscaping Unit and the Highlands organizations to develop landscaping plans.

## H. Toll Plaza / Gate House

- The renderings show the toll houses as yellow and it has been determined that the toll houses and the gate house will be red brick, so all structures have the same appearance aesthetically.

## Recommendations

- > All structures red brick
- > Add window visibility on the south side of the tollbooths, half windows on the east/west and keep solid the north side.
- > Entrance door should be on the north side.

## ACTION

(H-1) Revise renderings to reflect the recommended changes.

## I. Retaining Walls

- The retaining wall renderings will be part of the next meeting.

6. In summary, Martine asked participants if they had any further comments or questions. Some of the visitors from Highlands were concerned about traffic movements into and out of Highlands from the bridge. Lynne presented a review of the traffic flow.

Feedback comments;

- The new movements with the dedicated lane will be safer
- Pedestrian safety with keeping both sidewalks and overpasses is important
- Interest in a scale model of the bridge - a computer rendering will be produced once the aesthetics have been incorporated into the design.
- Avoid contemporary look / maintain traditional appearance / do not compete with Twin Lights.
- Consider 'welcome signage' or identification of 'Sea Bright' and 'Sandy Hook' (possible concrete inscription on pedestrian overpasses or on abutments)

7. Pankesh Patel thanked everyone for their input and reminded everyone of the importance of meeting the project schedule and maintaining the support and funding for the project.

## **KEY ACTION ITEMS**

- Highlands Borough (Anna Little, Tim Hill) - Items E & G: Provide contact for monument to Lynne Baumann and meeting logistics with historic and garden organizations to Brenda Hammer.
- Sea Bright Borough (Jack Keeler, Maria Fernandes) - Item F: Sea Bright pedestrian overpass jurisdictional agreement on council meeting agenda.
- Jacobs Civil (Lynne Baumann) - Items A-I
- Hardesty & Hanover (Al Algazi) - Item D & F: low level lighting option and pedestrian overpass renderings.
- H2L2 / Jacobs Civil - Item D & E, lighting bases and tiles.
- M.A. Culbertson (Martine Culbertson) - Provide meeting minutes and logistics for next task force meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Date: June 9, 2006 (Steering Committee Meeting - to review results to date)

Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Location: Bahr's Restaurant

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.

Martine Culbertson  
RT36 CPT Facilitator

## **ROUTE 36 HIGHLANDS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT COMMUNITY PARTNERING TEAM AESTHETICS TASK FORCE MEETING NO. 3**

### **AGENDA**

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

*Bahr's Restaurant, Highlands, NJ, 10:00 a.m. - Noon*

Objective: To present the revised aesthetic design treatments with additional renderings, and discuss remaining aesthetic considerations for the Route 36 Highlands Bridge Replacement Project.

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

- Project Status

#### II. Aesthetic Design Treatments

- Roadway Surface and Shoulder
- Granite Form Liners / Pier Columns
- Lighting
- Railings and Fencing
- Pedestrian Overpasses
- Streetscape Elements - Monuments, Tiles
- Retaining Walls
- Highlands Borough Park
- Toll Plaza / Gate House

#### III. Aesthetic Design Summary

- Historic and Recreational  
*- Twinlights, Sandy Hook, Gateways*

#### IV. Summary and Close

- Action Items/ Next Steps