



Route 52 Causeway Aesthetics/ Visitors Center Task Force Meeting No. 3 Report

MEETING DATE: January 29, 2003
TIME: 9:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Ocean City, City Hall
PURPOSE: **Ocean City Gateway**

ATTENDEES

Georgia Arnold- Ocean City
Mike Dattilo- Ocean City
Gus Bruno- Mayors Advisory
Mike Dattilo- Ocean City
Mark Dransfield- O.C. Mayors Advisory
Joann DelVescio- Chamber of Commerce
Michele Jones- Ocean City
MaryLou McDowell- Mayors Advisory
Rich Attenello- NJDOT
Phil Cyr- NJDOT
David Earl- NJDOT
Ahmad Qureshi-NJDOT
Sylvester Fryc- Michael Baker, Jr.
Mike Sidani- Michael Baker, Jr.
Carol Beske- ACT Engineers

MEETING SUMMARY

Fred Gottemoeller presented a board showing the gateway area including the bridge touchdown and the City's Ninth Street Corridor Pedestrian and Bikeway plans, pointed out some of the likely concerns and asked for comments. The following comments were made:

1. Steps should be taken to encourage eastbound traffic to slow down as it enters the City. Suggestions included reduction in lane widths, rumble strips, landscaping and a change in the type of lighting.
2. The City's corridor plan envisions that bike traffic will be primarily on the south side of Ninth Street. The bike path on the bridge is on the north side. This could lead to frequent ped/bike crossings of Ninth Street at the Bay Ave. intersection, which is already congested.
3. Mike Sidani pointed out that it may be desirable to acquire the end unit of the condominium on the south side of the bridge abutment due to the proximity to the proposed bridge. At the

critical location the distance from the proposed structure to the building is 7 feet. It was agreed this will greatly impact the quality of life of the residence in the end unit. There are several windows and two balconies facing the proposed bridge. Furthermore, the acquisition of the end unit would allow for possible addition of a bikeway on the south side of the bridge, presumably as far as the visitors center, where people could cross to the north side bikeway. Mike agreed to investigate this further, The City agreed to provide as-built data on the unit.

4. The City also agreed to look again at the location of the bikeway from West Ave. to Bay Ave. It may be possible to move it to the north side in that block so that the crossings occur at the West Ave. intersection.
5. In response to a description by Fred of the potential value to the landscaped islands in the City's Ninth Street Corridor plan, the City mentioned a competing concept to raise the median to provide emergency access during flood events.
6. The maintenance of landscaping and the provision of sprinklers were discussed. NJDOT can provide the landscaping; any sprinklers and all maintenance would have to be by the City pursuant to an agreement with NJDOT.
7. The retaining walls and screening wall along the north side of the bridge are potential opportunities for art to which the Ocean City Art League may contribute.
8. Ninth Street between West and Bay may not be a good location for period lighting because of the lack of any historical facades in that area to reinforce the lighting. However, this may be a good location for a lighting transition between the bridge lighting and the period lighting on Asbury Ave.
9. There was a discussion about shifting the retaining wall at the southside of the causeway closer to the relocated Palen Avenue. This shift would present additional landscaping for the Ocean City Gateway. This issue will be further investigated.

ACTION ITEMS

The City will refocus on their plans for Ninth Street between Bay and West Ave. in view of the opportunities presented by the bridge project. The design team will investigate the possibility of end unit condominium acquisition. The design team will develop, in more detail, the features of the gateway based on the above discussion and further work by the City. The need for the follow up meeting will be evaluated.

Carol Beske closed the meeting projecting that a second meeting (if needed) will take place in approximately 6 weeks after the suggestions and actions that were discussed today were incorporated in the design.

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, we will consider these minutes to be record of fact.

Sly Fryc
Task Force Chairperson