



## Public Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting 4 Questions Asked

- Maryann Carroll: This is Maryann. The original committee, were they only looking at photo renderings or did they actually do some site analysis? Were they present anywhere in the Gap area actually looking at actual materials against the rock or was it all done more in a meeting setting looking at renderings?
- Mark Zakutansky: Is there any discussion or conversation about the impacts of these nets on wildlife species, rattlesnakes for example, or other bird species that nest on the cliffs?
- Mark Zakutansky: I guess it was just a comment that I was curious how the state resource agencies would respond to the different netting choices for impacts on wildlife species. Question though, can you describe how these rock nets are constructed and installed, you know, especially going up potentially a couple hundred feet from the roadway surface?
- Maryann Carroll: It's Maryann. Question on the color of the berm, regardless if you choose the basket option or the boulderscape option, is there going to be such a difference in color between the existing rock and the berm itself? Is it going to be so dramatic in terms of one side being so dark and one side being light?
- John Donahue: So, this is John, will you be showing slides from the other side of the river from higher up on the Appalachian Trail, where we can actually see the scenic vista and the impact on the vista?
- Maryann Carroll: I'm unmuted now. So, it seems to me, and just from my naked eye, that the two things that seem very prominent regardless of the distance is Area B with the tall fence on top of the retaining wall and then Area C with the ridgeline fencing going up, both seem very, very visible. So I guess the question is, you know, what can we do to mitigate their attention, beside color, beside materials, or anything else, and, you know, those two things to me stand out, so that was just — those are my gut reactions to the visuals you presented.
- John Donahue: Yeah, this is John. These are all nice pictures, but I'm not sure you've really captured all of the impacts you would see. I'm pretty familiar with the view from Mt. Minsi and I know that you can very clearly see the highway, the bridge, you know, the entire area, and I think that the project, when you pull back and you're looking at it from a height like that, that a lot of this will be a lot more visible than it appears to be in these pictures. I also wanted to mention that, you know, Dunnfield Creek is not just an access to the Appalachian Trail but, you know, for decades it was traditionally listed as either the most popular access or one of the most popular accesses, obviously because of its location. It's the first place that people from the megalopolis nearby are able to stop, park, and get up on the trail, so... and also, are you going to show us slides from the vista points on the Pennsylvania side right along the river?
- Mark Zakutansky: I have a question regarding the Wild and Scenic in the Section 7 review. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires a study to be conducted identifying outstandingly remarkable resources values, the Middle Delaware Wild and Scenic Study included geologic resources, scenic resources, and recreational resources. When those studies are completed, the specific resources identified as qualifying within the Wild and Scenic Act as an ORV — as an outstandingly remarkable resource value — they're identified with a pin and I wonder if the project team, I could do this, but I'm sure you guys have already for your Section 7 review, are there specific ORVs from the Middle Delaware Wild and Scenic Resource Study that are within the project boundary that may be impacted by the construction of the project?
  - Mark Zakutansky: So that's fair, Andrea, I appreciate it. The specific question is are there ORVs such as the geologic [static] that you are proposing [static] up against — I'm sorry, anchored mesh fence up against, so that would directly add a human element to an identified ORV from the ORVs identified in the Middle Delaware. So, I guess my question is, are there ORVs in the project area that we're looking at, such as the geologic feature of the cliff face, that your project would propose to create impacts on? And, if you're unprepared to answer it, that's okay, I will pull up the ORV documents myself and cross-reference your project plans but was curious if you already have those data points logged in GIS and if you can help identify how the visual documents we are looking at right now, how these viewshed impacts kind of relate to the ORVs in the project area.
- John Donahue: I'm sorry, I was muted. This is John. I just — Thank you. I'd just like to follow up a little more with what Ali said earlier. Obviously I'm aware that you did some work with National Park Service being that I was the superintendent at the time, but I also know that I had taken Nunzio Merla, who was the Federal Highway Administration person with New Jersey at the time that this project first started, to all of the vista points around 611, right along the river, and I can't see how they could not be included in your visual analysis and isn't it the fact that the Pennsylvania SHPO had originally approved the project as having no impact and





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then later rescinded their approval pending further information that you will provide with them, particularly about the visual analysis, since the Appalachian Trail has been nominated for historic recognition through the 106 process?

- Mark Zakutansky: Question, is the upper fence visible in these photographs? Or are we not looking in that — are we not far enough around the corner yet?
- Mark Zakutansky: I'll mention that we start to see the addition of the chain metal fencing on top of the rock structure here. I mentioned previously I think that's an added impact. I'd be interested on the team's work on reviewing different alternatives to that structure, whether it be increasing the height of the stone wall or other engineering options that would achieve the project purpose without adding a chain metal fence on top of the height of the rock wall. So, are there alternatives that have been viewed just specific to that element of the project, or could those alternatives be provided and released at some point?
- John Donahue: Can I ask, in addition to the Federal Highway guidance, have you used the New Jersey Geological Survey, have they reviewed this area and given you a report about the dangers involved?
  - John Donahue: Thank you, Scott. Can we have those reports posted on SharePoint?
- Lauren Chamberlain: I have a question about if there was, you know, the indigenous foliage put up there to kind of beautify it, is there in that maintenance put into the plan as far as, you know, if it doesn't take, if it, you know, needs to be addressed later down the road, you know, if stuff dies because of the road, you know, splash off or whatever exhaust, blah, blah, blah like is that somehow put into the plan for future to keep that looking nice with the foliage that is indigenous to that area?
- Maryann Carroll: Quick question about the planned — this is Maryann — about the planned public hearing: have you considered what it looks like as an in-person meeting vs. a virtual meeting and I know unfortunately with this project your public meeting was more of a public information session, but do you anticipate that the spring hearing will be set up more in the format of a land use hearing where you'll do a project overview for an audience and then have each of the professionals present their particular specialized presentation and then take public comment and questions? Do you know what it's going to look like at this point?
- John Donahue: Can I ask the same question about the logistics for meeting with the elected officials? You're going to do a virtual meeting inviting them all, is that the plan?
- John Donahue: Thank you. One more process question, I was just wondering, who will be the official who determines the finding of no significant impact and signs the document? Whose desk would that fall on?

