

# BHJ Regional Bridge System Study Brooke County Library, Wellsburg, West Virginia

Public Information Workshop

April 14, 2004

## What Is the Purpose of the April 14<sup>th</sup> Public Information Meeting?

To sustain project momentum and assure the general public that regional interests have and will continue to be served, a public information meeting has been scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) at the Brooke County Library (4-7).

Since release of the Phase 2 Bridge Study, the guide document for an adopted three-point strategy, six months have past. During this interim, the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission (BHJ) has held variety of project, funding and further need meetings with both Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT).

The April 14th meeting is organized to allow maximum public participation. Several overview tables will be available. Attendees will (1) hear how Ohio and West Virginia access to the Veterans Memorial Bridge will be enhanced (2) review the proposed approach to finalize a bridge location south of Wellsburg and (3) overview how funds will be found to complete the local and environmental study.

## Where Are We Now?

We are on course to complete a crucial location and environmental impact study for a new bridge crossing south of Wellsburg, WV.

Estimated at \$1.2 million, the study would advance this number one Regional Transportation Priority to a Record of Decision (ROD) level, the U.S. Federal Highway designation which allows detailed design work to begin. The ROD is the final study in the project's environmental review process and represents the Federal Highway Administration's final decision on where and what to build, based on recommendations from the Ohio and West Virginia Department of Transportation.

The BHJ has targeted funding this study in the upcoming fiscal year to start work in 2005. The selected consultant could then finish the ROD by the end of 2007. As adequate funds become available the final design, construction drawings and right-of-way acquisition could be finished in another four to six years.

In May 2003, the BHJ Commission adopted a three (3) part strategy to fulfill the identified bridge needs in the project area, an 18 mile corridor on the Ohio River from the Ft. Steuben Bridge to the Ohio County line. The strategy is (1) to construct better access to the region's most modern river crossing, the Veterans Memorial Bridge (2) to construct a new Ohio River bridge crossing south of Wellsburg and (3) to construct a Ohio River bridge crossing in Steubenville at a new Washington Street alignment.

## Recent Events

December 18, 2003. Following a Phase 2 Bridge Study review in Charleston, WVDOT Commissioner Fred Van Kirk concurred a scope of work should be prepared for a bridge location study and environmental impact statement.

February 9, 2004. BHJ staff submitted to ODOT and WVDOT a draft scope of work, a sample request for proposal and a proposed cost sharing agreement for the location study and environmental impact statement.



Intersection of SR 7 & University Blvd.

March 4, 2004. BHJ staff visited WVDOT in Charleston to evaluate the materials. WVDOT agreed to consider programming funds for the final location study in Fiscal Year 2005.

March 8, 2004. ODOT District 11 Office suggested that Ohio's share for the next phase in the Bridge Study be solicited through the Ohio Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC). Submittal deadline is May 7, 2004.

March 16, 2004. BHJ staff and locally elected representatives met with WV Senator Robert Byrd to acknowledge need for bridge construction funds.



Half Moon Industrial Park

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### Proposed Scope of Work for the Location/Environmental Impact Study

The draft scope of work will complete six tasks.

*Task 1.* Recommend the study area for data collection

*Task 2.* Refine the purpose and need statement to comply with Federal Highway Administration guidelines

*Task 3.* Develop evaluation criteria for alternative bridge locations

*Task 4.* Evaluate the alternative locations and recommend a preferred alternative



Fort Steuben Bridge

*Task 5.* Prepare an environmental impact statement for the preferred site

*Task 6.* Prepare a public involvement plan to assure an early, continuous and open process

Proposed activities for each of the above tasks are as follows.

*Task 1.* Define the Study Area

- ◆ Review existing data
- ◆ Prepare base map and define major traffic corridors
- ◆ Define critical traffic generators
- ◆ Provide an overview of engineering and environmental issues

*Task 2.* Purpose and Need Statement

- ◆ Determine transportation and safety issues
- ◆ Research environmental issues
- ◆ Determine land use issues
- ◆ Evaluate the requirements of the National Environmental Policy

*Task 3.* Develop Evaluation Criteria

- ◆ Develop evaluation criteria
- ◆ Define method to consider alternatives
- ◆ Define cost analysis technique for alternatives



Market St Bridge

*Task 4.* Determine a preferred bridge alternative

- ◆ Carry out selection through evaluation criteria

*Task 5.* Prepare Environmental Impact Statement

- ◆ Complete field studies for most feasible locations
- ◆ Determine and assure all waterway permit requirements
- ◆ Evaluate all environmental impacts and how these impacts will be mitigated
- ◆ Obtain the clearance of all identified environmental impacts.



Veterans Memorial Bridge

*Task 6.* Carry Out Public Involvement Plan

- ◆ Prepare a public involvement plan
- ◆ Coordinate plan through meetings, presentations, exhibits and other informational techniques.

### Example Bridge Studies

Major infrastructure investments require extensive technical substantiation, community consensus and dollars. To further appreciate this effort, BHJ staff recommends the public review other bridge web sites such as the [Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project](#) or the [Blennerhassett Island Bridge](#).

The Louisville study has reached the Record of Decision stage and covers a study area of approximately 20 miles between the Kennedy Interchange at I-65 and KY State Route 841. Project updates and related documents can be viewed at: [www.kyinbridges.com](http://www.kyinbridges.com)

Blennerhassett Island Bridge is in Parkersburg WV, and is currently under design. To see alternative bridge designs go to: [www.wvcorridord.com/proj\\_blenbridge.htm](http://www.wvcorridord.com/proj_blenbridge.htm)

### For Further Information

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