

4.0 COORDINATION

4.1. Public Involvement

WVDOH conducted a series of public meeting workshops throughout the development of the project. Workshops were held on both sides of the Ohio River to facilitate input from both West Virginia and Ohio Residents. Table 4-1 summarizes the purpose and date of the public meeting workshops. Tables 4-2 and 4-3 summarize the comments received during these meetings. Comments received at the workshops are included in Appendix B.

Table 4-1: Public Meeting Workshops

Purpose	Dates and Locations	End of Comment Period
Pre-NEPA to introduce project and summarize previous studies prepared by BHJ	October 6, 2008: Jefferson Community College October 7, 2008: Brooke County High School October 8, 2008: Millsop Community Center October 9, 2008: Buckeye North Middle School	November 13, 2008
To present Build Alternatives 2, 4A and 7 and solicit comments.	September 23, 2009: Buckeye North Middle School September 24, 2009: Wellsburg Middle School	October 24, 2009
To present Build Alternatives 2, 2B, 8 and 8B and the Section 4(f) de minimis analysis during the EA review period	August 27, 2012: Buckeye North Elementary School August 28, 2012: Wellsburg Middle School	September 28, 2012

The October 2008 workshops were held to introduce the next step of the project, describe the NEPA process, and provide a history of the project to date. The primary goal was to summarize the outcome of previous studies. These previous studies identified that the proposed bridge should be located near Wellsburg and Brilliant. Although not an intended result, the public responses included comments regarding the proposed location of the bridge. As shown in Table 4-2, 185 comments were received and 82.8% of the comments received were in favor of new bridge located near Wellsburg.

Table 4-2: Summary of October 2008 Public Workshops

	Meeting Date				Total
	October 6	October 7	October 8	October 9	
New Bridge Near Wellsburg	3	38	51	60	152
New Bridge Near Market Street	2	0	3	1	6
No New Bridge	1	1	0	0	2
Other Location	0	1	1	1	3
No Project Comment/Response	0	22	0	0	22

The September 2009 workshops were held to present Build Alternatives 2, 4A, and 7 and their associated impacts. The public was asked to provide their input on the alternatives, including any impacts to their communities, travel patterns, schools, and economic development. As shown in Table 4-3, 53 comments were received and nearly 40% were in favor of Build Alternative 4A. From the comments, it was determined this alternative was favored due to its location away from the middle of Brilliant as residents were concerned that Build Alternatives 2 and 7 would negatively impact the schools and park located on 3rd Street. Although the community was in favor of Build Alternative 4A, it was ultimately eliminated from further consideration by the agencies due to the construction cost and business/residential displacements.

Table 4-3: Summary of September 2009 Public Workshops

	Meeting Date		Total
	September 23	September 23	
Build Alternative 2	11	2	13
Build Alternative 4A	15	6	21
Build Alternative 7	0	1	1
No Preference	6	4	10
Other Location	0	5	5
No Bridge	2	0	2
No Project Comment/Response	1	0	1

In addition to the public workshops, WVDOH attended various community meetings to provide updates on the project. These meetings included attending the Ohio River Bridge Task Force Meetings on January 14, 2010 and March 10, 2011 and BHJ Full Commission and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings on March 31, 2010. Task Force members include representatives from local and state government, business owners, organizations and residents. On June 11, 2009, WVDOH Secretary of Transportation/Commissioner of Highways gave a presentation on the current status of Brooke County Ohio River bridges at the Brooke County High School.



Figure 4-1: October 9, 2008 Public Meeting Workshop at Buckeye North Middle School

WVDOH also maintained a project website which provided information about the project including the public meeting workshop handouts and displays. The website is located at: http://www.transportation.wv.gov/communications/Highways-Projects/Ohio_River_Crossing_South_of_Wellsburg/Pages/default.aspx

4.2. Agency Coordination

Throughout the duration of the project, the WVDOH has initiated outreach to Federal, state and local agencies. Comments received from the agencies were considered during the development of the EA. Correspondence received from these agencies is included in Appendix A.

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