



COUNTY OF BERGEN / COUNTY OF ESSEX

**Local Concept Development Study for Kingsland Avenue (De Jessa Memorial) Bridge
Township of Lyndhurst and Township of Nutley, NJ**

**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING NO. 1
MEETING REPORT**

DATE: Thursday, September 29, 2016
TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Township of Nutley Parks and Recreation Building, Room 300
44 Park Avenue, Nutley, NJ

ATTENDEES:

First Name	Last Name	Representing
		Attendees
Lucy	Bacath	Resident
Eugene	Cataldo	Resident
Rose Mary	Cardilli	Resident
Frank	DeMaio	Township of Nutley
Jim	Freda	Resident
Kim	Freda	Resident
Robert B.	Giangeruso	Mayor
Craig	Goodstadt	General Counsel
Robert	Heiser	Resident
John	Ibrahim	Exxon Gas Station
Hasim	Kokaj	Nutley Sun
Maryann	Nakonechy	Resident
Jeff	Newman	Resident
Juan	Rivas	Resident
Joseph P.	Scarpelli	Township of Nutley
R.	Tepfenhardt	Resident
C.	Tepfenhardt	Resident
Jerry	Turco	Resident
Denis	Williams	Nutley High School



Project Team		
Joseph	Baladi	Bergen County Engineering
Melinda	Cortez	Essex County Engineering
Martine	Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson, LLC
Josh	Davison	Stokes Creative Group, Inc.
Joseph A.	Femia	Bergen County Engineering
Sascha	Frimpong	NJTPA
Sarbjit	Kahlon	NJTPA
Marie	Limage	NJDOT, Environmental
Samir	Marfaita	Stokes Creative Group, Inc.
Brian	Medino	Hardesty & Hanover, LLC
Eugene	Murphy	Bergen County Engineering
Rob	Piel	Amy S. Greene Environmental
Bruce	Riegel	Hardesty & Hanover, LLC
Damon	Tvryanas	RGA, Inc.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the project team, present the project status and schedule, provide information on existing conditions and environmental screening, share the Community Input Survey Summary, and to obtain input on the community interests associated with the Kingsland Avenue (De Jessa Memorial) Bridge over the Passaic River. (See attached Agenda)

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Project Overview & Background

- (a) After introductions from the Project Team and Attendees, Martine Culbertson, Community Involvement Facilitator, reviewed the Agenda and Project Portfolio handouts.
- (b) Joseph Femia, County Engineer for Bergen County, noted that NJDOT had done a rehabilitation to the Kingsland Avenue Bridge in the past, but the County needed to apply for Federal funding through the NJTPA since it is a County bridge with shared jurisdiction with Essex County. The expenses alternate every two years between Bergen and Essex Counties. Due to the age of the bridge, the routine maintenance and repair costs are no longer able to address the bridge's structural deficiencies and current needs. The purpose of this bridge study is to identify how to rehabilitate or replace the existing bridge. Public input is important and will be put into the concept and carry forward for the next phase of preliminary engineering.

2. Concept Development Process

Bruce Riegel, Hardesty& Hanover Project Manager, provided information on the bridge study local project delivery process using a power point presentation with the following information noted:

- (a) Currently, the project is in the Local Concept Development (LCD) phase, shown in blue on the Local Project Delivery Process table, which is in the Project Portfolio given to each attendee.
- (b) The LCD Flow Chart shows the general steps to be completed including data collection, establishing a Purpose and Need Statement, developing conceptual alternatives and through a



matrix analysis recommend a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) to move forward to the design phase.

- (c) Working as a team in collaboration with the Agencies, Bergen County, Essex County, the Township of Lyndhurst and the Township of Nutley, the bridge improvement option with the most benefits and least impacts will be recommended as the preliminary preferred alternative (PPA).
- (d) The LCD study will take an estimated 18 to 24 months to complete. The schedule is listed on the backside of the Project Information handout in the Project Portfolio. With each phase requiring a similar estimated timeframe, the bridge improvements from concept development to the start of construction involves an estimated 6 to 8 years or at best 5-7 years. The Concept Development Phase will determine what is needed for the improvements and then with future funding the design and construction would follow. Resolutions of support for the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) will be asked of both Townships and the Counties.

3. Kingsland Avenue (De Jesse Memorial) Bridge – Data Collection, Bridge and Traffic Analysis

Bruce Riegel presented information on the project status, existing bridge condition and information to be collected using the power point presentation (a copy of the presentation will be posted to the project web site).

- (a) The project work began in June of 2016 to collect engineering data. Field survey and environmental screening work has been completed.
- (b) The team has reviewed existing bridge inspection reports and conducted a cursory visual inspection, and has begun identifying any existing substandard design elements within the project area and gathering traffic and crash data. New traffic counts will be collected in September while schools are in session and on regular workdays to reflect current traffic volumes.
- (c) The Kingsland Avenue Bridge Study also includes a Navigational Study of the Passaic River, which was initiated by the Clay Street Bridge LCD Study. The results of the Navigational Study will be presented to the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard and will identify commercial and recreational users of the river to determine current and future navigation activity of the Passaic River. The EPA's Lower Passaic River Restoration Project is included as part of the navigation study to determine what vessels are needed for the cleanup work. The Navigation Study has revealed that emergency fireboats require 18' vertical clearance at mean High Water (MHW) to access under the bridge. There are geometric constraints for the bridge to be elevated such that the roadway can still clear the Route 21 overpass into the Township of Nutley. If the bridge were to be replaced, the height over the river could impact the connection to the approach roadway intersections on each side of the bridge. The U.S. Coast Guard has jurisdiction over the navigable waters of the Passaic River, so the project team is awaiting the USCG's response to the Navigation Impact Report to see what navigational clearances are required for any bridge replacement alternative (fixed span or movable bridges).
- (d) Input is needed from community stakeholders and the public in developing the Project Purpose and Need; which is the first major milestone. Martine Culbertson, as the Community Involvement Facilitator will provide more information on a community input survey, upcoming



public meetings and the project website effort. Community input is a part of the Environmental Process. Pamela Garrett from NJDOT Bureau of Environmental Program Resources (BEPR) is the Project Manager for this effort providing oversight of the environmental documentation and approvals needed for the LCD Study.

4. Environmental Process

Bruce Riegel explained the environmental process, which must be followed for funding transportation improvements using Federal dollars.

- (a) The NJTPA is administering the project, however FHWA provides the funding. Any transportation project receiving Federal funding must follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- (b) The Kingsland Avenue Bridge LCD Study must identify any environmental concerns and conduct environmental screening. When analyzing alternatives, one looks to avoid or minimize environmental impacts and if that's not possible then to provide mitigation. The environmental resources include air, noise, hazardous or contaminated sites, parks, wetlands, water resources, social and economic impacts, and cultural resources such as historic structures and facilities.
- (c) The NJDOT Bureau of Environmental Program Resources (BEPR) representatives for this project are Pamela Garrett and Marie Limage. They will be working with H&H, Amy Greene Environmental Consultants, and RGA, Inc. in providing environmental support staff to the NJTPA and the Counties for the environmental screening and cultural resources screening. The environmental team members are on the Project Team List in the Project Portfolio.
- (d) The agencies look carefully at comments from the public and as such, community involvement is an important part of environmental process and for the project to move forward with consensus and environmental compliance. The results of the environmental screening, which is in the project schedule, will also be presented at the public meetings.

5. Environmental Screening

Robert Piel, of Amy Greene Environmental Consultants, conducted the environmental screening and presented the findings to date:

- There are no wetlands, however the area is within the floodplain.
- There are no threatened or endangered species, animals or plants within the project area.
- There is also a regulated riparian zone adjacent to the Passaic River of 50 feet.
- There are hazardous waste sites within the project area which are contaminated sites from older spills that have been cleaned up or in the process. None are an issue for the project, but just to monitor in later phases.
- The Passaic River itself is mapped as contaminated water, probably dioxin pesticides, and if disturbance of the bottom sediments is proposed, further testing and evaluation of the sediments may be needed.
- There are Green Acres parcels near the recreational park in Nutley, but no plan to impact those areas.



- As a bridge project, there will be permits required by the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for any improvements to the Kingsland Avenue Bridge. Rob Piel will assist the project team with environmental permits related to each alternative developed.

6. Cultural Resources

Damon Tvaryanas, of RBA, Inc. (formerly Richard Grubb Associates), provided information on the cultural resources screening and presented the findings to date. There are some historic sites within the project study area, which the team is investigating. The bridge itself as over 50 years of age, is given historic consideration, so there will be on-going coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). For each cultural resource, they will identify, research, do tests and archeology to assess any impacts. A draft cultural report indicating the findings will be created.

7. Project Schedule

Bruce Riegel provided the project schedule as listed in the power point presentation and as referred to on the Project Information Handout on the backside is the project schedule with milestones and the community involvement steps to be met.

- The Concept Development Study Phase is anticipated to be completed in 18 to 24 months (Winter 2018).
- The Kingsland Avenue Bridge LCD Study does have a project website for sharing of information on the bridge study, which will become active after this stakeholders meeting and before the public meetings in October. The web site will include information similar to the project information sheet, meeting announcements and reports, photos, contact information, and opportunity to submit comments and questions. The site can be viewed in Spanish as well as other languages by clicking on the select language box on the home page upper right.

8. Community Involvement – Input and Discussion

Martine Culbertson, Community Involvement Facilitator, reviewed the information in the Project Portfolio, distributed to attendees. She explained the Draft List of Stakeholders as part of the community outreach process.

- This Community Stakeholders List is a draft because the team is looking for input from the communities to identify any entities and organizations or individuals interested in the project and willing to participate at two community stakeholders meetings and two public meetings over the next 12 to 18 months.
- The results of the Community Input Survey were distributed in a Survey Summary Report in the Project Portfolios. The purpose of the survey is to help identify those interested in the Kingsland Avenue Study and attending the Community Stakeholders Meetings. The input received will assist the project team in developing the Project Purpose and Need - Goals and Objectives.
- The meeting was opened for questions and comments to identify the issues and interests in the study area of the Kingsland Avenue (De Jesse Memorial) Bridge. These comments will also contribute to developing the goals and objectives. The following items were noted:



Community Input / Comments

- Right on red - look at
 - cars in block -> honking
- Consider wider bridge
 - OEM
 - Fire Trucks
- Bike lanes, west in City - would like to see connections
- 12 years interaction with City of Newark, Route 21
 - put signal on blinking
 - lights not signalized
 - investment made in easements to help ease traffic in Lyndhurst
- Intersection - traffic impact needs relief in Lyndhurst
- Adjust traffic lights
 - in sync, allow more vehicles through between Lyndhurst and Nutley
 - collaboration among the agencies and signals
 - adjust timing: condos at Riverside and Kingsland have a lot of congestion
- Extra curriculum activities
 - access over bridge is important for schools, recreation, businesses and commuting
- Rowing crews on river - support them
 - make improvements / prevent impact for boating
- Altering foundations if possible to allow 2 crew boats to pass under bridge
- Superfund - EPA / Study
 - inform this project of results
- Private Prep schools with rowing teams
 - there has been an increase in rowing activity - future plans
- Kingsland Avenue Bridge and Clay Street Bridge
 - concern if both be out of service at the same time
 - coordination of projects for replacement and repairs



- Tubes are out on the roadway for traffic counts
 - Traffic engineering counts will be provided at PIC
- Passaic River
 - no longer navigable? determination is by USCG
 - would there be a new process? <- no, Federal process for concurrence on improvements
 - navigation study of the Passaic River - on-going, report to submit to USCG by Dec 2016
- Timing and funding
 - 21 months for local concept development phase
 - secure funding for LPE phase
 - 6-8 years of funding in place once a PPA is recommended to move forward
- Construction length of time
 - depending on type of bridge: estimate of 2 -3 years
- Maintenance and repair
 - 4 years ago - repairs done, on-going maintenance/repair done the bridge
 - Essex County and Bergen County alternate every 2 years operation and cost
- How safe is the bridge for 2017 / 2018
 - Bridge is safe and would be load posted if needed
 - NJDOT inspects bridge every 2 years
- What can be done on short term to help with traffic:
 - signing : 3 signals are controlled by 3 jurisdictions; signal dictates flow
 - striping
 - painting
 - ramp on Route 21 has priority so not to have back-up on highway
 - look for right on reds
 - peak vs. off peak signals
 - capacity adjustment to be examined
 - O & D study development
 - accident on RT3 and impact to the traffic in the project area
- Air quality condition - existing and in future
- Tidal flooding
 - limiting factor given bridge is in the tidal floodplain, not much relief possible
- Westbound across bridge Route 21 Northbound can't make Park Ave and River Rd
 - River Road not in green / block intersection
 - 20 minutes Forest Ave across bridge



- Synchronize block on Bergen County side
 - left into Nutley - on demand Westbound p.m. is an issue
- Into Lyndhurst Southbound, left up Route 21 Southbound tweet timing / use flashing signal
- Boating and fishing in area of the boat ramp is used - recreational activity and OEM river access
- Synchronized lights is desired for emergencies, OEM providers
- Many drivers use GPS when congestion on ramps / junction / bridge routes -> Google alternative routes that has contributed to increased traffic on local streets and roadways in both communities

6. Closing Comments - Feedback

In summarizing the Q & A input and discussion, Martine asked attendees to provide feedback and closing comments. The following items were noted on newsprint:

Feedback

- Meeting summary to be provided.
- Presentation will post on the project website.
- Public meeting notice to be sent via email to stakeholders and mailing to property owners.
- Daily Voice to promote public meeting attendance.

7. Closing Comments – Next Steps

Bruce Riegel thanked attendees for their comments. The next steps will be for the project team to continue to analyze data, and hold the public meeting for additional community input. The Project Team will then develop the draft purpose and need statement; after which the team will then develop conceptual alternatives to present at the next set of stakeholder and public meetings in the spring as listed on Project Information Handout in the Project Portfolio.

Any questions, please contact Joseph Baladi, Bergen County Project Manager or Luis Rodriguez, Essex County Project Manager or Bruce Riegel, the H&H Project Manager. A meeting summary report will be provided and distributed by Martine Culbertson upon Project Team and County approval. The power point presentation and meeting reports will be posted to the web site after the public meeting. The project team will notify stakeholders once the web site and social media (twitter) is available online.

In closing, Joseph Femia thanked the Township of Nutley for use of the facility for the meeting and the attendees for their comments. He noted the importance of community input assisting the Counties with Kingsland Avenue Bridge improvements and working with the agencies on the traffic signals on the approach roadway intersections. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



KEY ACTION ITEMS

1. Hardesty & Hanover (H&H) will continue bridge, roadway and traffic analysis in coordination with the Township of Lyndhurst, Bergen County and the Township of Nutley, Essex County.
2. Attendees to review Draft Community Stakeholders List, Stakeholders Survey Summary, and other Project Portfolio Handouts; also provide any comments or updated contact information; attend either or both Public Meeting sessions in October.
3. Martine Culbertson will provide meeting minutes, update Community Stakeholders List, notify Stakeholders of web site availability, and schedule the next Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 2 in Spring 2017.

NEXT MEETING

Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting - Two Sessions

Date: Monday, October 17, 2016
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (brief presentation at 2:30 p.m.)
Place: Township of Lyndhurst, Lyndhurst Senior Citizen Center
250 Cleveland Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Date: Monday, October 17, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (brief presentation at 6:30 p.m.)
Place: Township of Nutley, Town Hall Council Chambers
1 Kennedy Drive, Nutley, NJ 07110

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
Community Involvement Facilitator
Kingsland Avenue Bridge LCD Study Project Team





COUNTY OF BERGEN / COUNTY OF ESSEX

Local Concept Development Study for Kingsland Avenue (De Jessa Memorial) Bridge
Township of Lyndhurst and Township of Nutley, NJ

Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1

Thursday, September 29, 2016

*Township of Nutley Parks and Recreation Building, Room 300
44 Park Avenue, Nutley, NJ, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.*

AGENDA

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the project team, present the project status and schedule, provide information on existing conditions and environmental screening, share the Community Input Survey Summary, and to obtain input on the community interests associated with the Kingsland Avenue (De Jessa Memorial) Bridge over the Passaic River.

I. *WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION*

- Project Overview & Background
- Local Concept Development (LCD) Process

II. *BERGEN COUNTY / ESSEX COUNTY KINGSLAND AVENUE BRIDGE OVER PASSAIC RIVER*

- Project Status and Schedule
- Data Collection, Bridge and Traffic Analysis
- Environmental Process - Screening
- Community Involvement - Survey Summary

III. *DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS*

- Community Input - Purpose and Need
- Action Items – Public Information Center Meetings
- Closing Comments

