

Salem River Crossing Project

March 2008 Project Status Report



This status report provides a brief explanation of the major activities that were conducted for the month and what is scheduled for the following month, along with a review of the overall project schedule. Detailed information on the project activities can be found on the project website:

www.salemrivercrossing.org.

The project schedule is available online at www.salemrivercrossing.org/schedule.aspx. While some of the early milestones occurred later than originally scheduled, the project is on schedule to deliver a draft of the EIS by the middle of 2008.

Activities in March 2008

Funding Workshop

A Funding Workshop was held from 3:00 to 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 5. The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ Project Overview
 - Where we are in the process
 - Project alternatives and costs
 - Schedule
- ◆ Financial Context
 - Funding Options
 - Case Studies
 - Questions
- ◆ Small Group Work
 - Describe Exercise
 - Group Discussion
- ◆ Group Report Out
 - 5 minute report from each group on funding scenarios and key discussion points
- ◆ Large Group Discussion
 - Lessons Learned
 - Next Steps

PMT Meeting

A Project Design Team meeting was held from 9:00 to 11:30 am on Wednesday, March 12. The primary topics discussed were:

- ◆ Project Schedule Review
 - Review proposed schedule and discuss
- ◆ Design Refinement Status
 - Review activities underway and next steps
- ◆ 4(f) and Goal Exception Discussion
 - Review documentation memo and discuss
 - Outline next steps
- ◆ WOC #3 Review

- Discuss remaining questions/details to finalize

PMT Meeting

A Project Design Team meeting was held from 9:00 to 11:30 am on Wednesday, March 19. The primary topics discussed were:

- ◆ Refinements to the White corridor (4a)
- ◆ Whether to extend Marine Drive to Brush College Road or end it at River Bend Road
- ◆ Design issues with Red connection to Highway 22

FHWA Coordination Meeting

A FHWA Coordination meeting was held from 8:30 to 10:00 am on Monday, March 24. The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ 4(f) and Goal Exception processes
 - Questions or discussion on material reviewed for meeting
 - Interplay between 4(f) and Goal Exception (UGB)
 - 4(f) - Avoidance alternative
 - Potential alternatives for this project
 - 4(f) - De minimis
 - Clarify possible applications for this project
 - Range of Alternatives
 - Discussion on changes to alternatives for DEIS
 - Is everyone comfortable with moving forward with proposed Range of Alternatives?
 - Next Steps
 - Range of Alternatives discussion with Oversight Team and information out to Task Force
 - Outstanding Questions:
 - 1) Emily Lawton/Michelle Erout (FHWA) tracking question on whether a De minimis determination(s) can be made prior to the DEIS.

Typically the De minimis determination (findings) are attached or included in the DEIS and both go out for public review and comment at the same time. (It is a requirement of NEPA that the DEIS go out for public comment and it is a requirement of 4(f) that De minimis determinations go out for public comment.) Usually FHWA makes any De minimis determination prior to the FEIS, but after taking into consideration any public comments received on the DEIS. So to make De minimis determinations early on in the NEPA process may be complicated (Public comment and timing during NEPA) and would need to be discussed with FHWA prior to proceeding.
 - 2) Emily Lawton/Michelle Erout (FHWA) and Bonnie Heitsch (DOJ) – Based on current discussions and information do we have a reasonable Range of Alternatives?

The answer is yes. Alternatives: No Build, Improvements to the Existing Bridges, White Alternative(s) with options, and Orange Alternative. (*These alternatives will be changed from the color nomenclature to numbers as we move forward into the DEIS.)

PMT Meeting

A Project Management Team Conference Call was held from 9:00 to 10:40 am on Wednesday, March 26. The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ 4(f) and Goal Exception Status
 - Monday's FHWA meeting and any follow-up
 - Implications for next OT and TF Meeting dates
 - Website
 - CETAS
- ◆ WOC #3 Status
 - Review activities underway and next steps