Meeting Summary

Project:	Dauphin SR0083 – South Bridge
Subject:	Public Meeting
Date:	Oct. 25 – Nov. 24, 2021
Location:	Virtual On-Demand Meeting Website, Online In-Person Open House (2), Dauphin and Cumberland Counties

Meeting Overview

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) held a second public meeting for the I-83 South Bridge Project. The public meeting was held both virtually online and in-person. The online meeting was comprised of text, graphics, and videos that provided a project overview and explained the project purpose and need, alternatives development, project design, funding, traffic studies, environmental studies, comment process and next steps. The same information was shared during in-person public meetings in an open house format, with technical experts and translation services available for those who had questions.

The online meeting website provided a comment form that allowed individuals to submit their comments directly within the Virtual Public Meeting. The website also noted other ways in which comments could be submitted, including the comment form on the general project website, project phone number, project email and a physical mailing address. The virtual public meeting and comment period began at noon on Oct. 25 and ended at 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 24, 2021.

At the in-person public open houses, comment forms were provided for those attending. Two in-person meetings were held, one on the east shore and one on the west shore. The east shore meeting was held Tuesday, Nov. 9 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Harrisburg Mall. The west shore meeting was held Wednesday, Nov. 10 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Penn Harris Hotel.

In project outreach and on the meeting website it was noted that participants could request translation services. Outreach was also conducted in Spanish and placed in the La Voz paper.

While the comment period for the public meeting has closed, the online meeting materials are available for reference via the project website's resource side bar at the link below: www.penndot.pa.gov/i83SouthBridge.

Meeting Outreach

Prior to and during the public meeting, the project team executed several outreach strategies to maximize public participation during the official comment period.

Outreach Type	Number of Recipients	Type of Recipients	Date Sent
Postcard	14,531	• General Public • Mailed via Every Door Direct Mail Service • Sent to all postal routes within the direct project area and along the diversion route.	Mailed week of 10/18

Legal Ad	N/A	• General public • Placed in the Sentinel, Patriot and La Voz newspapers	10/12 (Patriot) 10/12 (Sentinel) 10/27 (La Voz)
Stakeholder & Public Mailing List Email	1,222	• Key stakeholders and legislators • Email with information about the virtual public meeting and in-person open house was sent to project stakeholders and members of the public who signed up for the project mailing list.	10/25
Knowledgeable Parties Stakeholder Email	14	• Emails with collateral materials were sent to knowledgeable parties in the area to help spread the word about the comment period and public meeting to the communities they represent • This list was provided by the consultant environmental justice studies lead	10/25
Press Release	N/A	• Sent to area media to distribute via news stories for the general public.	10/25
Public Officials Briefing	N/A	• Invited public officials to a pre-launch briefing to get a first look at the materials in the virtual public meeting	10/25 at 9:30 a.m.
Diversion Route Workshop Follow Up Briefing	N/A	• Invited diversion route workshop attendees to attend a follow-up briefing to review the proposed route improvements included in the public meeting materials	10/25 at 10:30 a.m.
Social Media Posts *(As of 11/24)*	26,361 people reached	• Social media posts on PennDOT social media regarding how to participate in the public meeting and comment period • 165 engagements across 4 posts	10/27 11/9 11/10 11/22

Meeting Participation

Statistics regarding public participation in the public meeting are below (*data as of close of comment period on Nov. 24*).

Virtual Public Information Meeting Results	
Total Virtual Public Meeting Unique Website Visitors (10/25-*11/24*)	1,171
Total In-Person Public Open House Attendees	136
Total Meeting Comments	402

Based on the comments received during the comment period, 31 percent of individuals who visited the public meeting website or attended an in-person meeting submitted a comment. The project team is evaluating and considering this feedback as the project progresses towards availability of the Environmental Assessment document and a public hearing.

Common Comment Themes:

- Several comments indicated **general project support**. These included:
    - Support for the project design
    - Support for funding via tolling
    - Support for bridge replacement and widening
    - Support for proposed west shore design improvements
- Several commenters indicated a **general dissatisfaction**. This was largely due to:
    - Bridge tolling
    - Toll diversion traffic impacts
- Several commenters indicated concerns regarding **traffic congestion**. These included:
    - Toll diversion causing traffic congestion on the west shore
    - Traffic bottlenecks caused by toll diversion on the other bridge crossings
    - Current traffic bottlenecks along the projected diversion routes that would become worse with toll diversion
    - York County driver diversion when traveling to Harrisburg for work
- Several commenters indicated that they would plan to **avoid the bridge toll** and take alternative routes. Reasons for toll avoidance included:
    - Financial impacts
    - Opposition to tolls
- Several commenters indicated their **opposition to tolling**. Reasons included:
    - Economic impact to the area
    - Financial impact to bridge users
    - Frustration that other funding cannot cover the bridge replacement
- Several commenters provided suggestions for other **alternatives for funding** for the project. These included:
    - Federal infrastructure bill
    - Collecting lost revenue from license plate identification
    - Changing funding for the state police
    - Tolling other interstates or bridges
    - Adjusting the budget from other projects
- Several commenters indicated an interest **in additional pedestrian and bicycle** accommodations in the project area. Suggestions included:
    - Adding a separated pedestrian/bicycle path on the South Bridge
    - Converting the old railroad bridge into a pedestrian/bicycle crossing
    - Increasing non-automobile mobility in the Harrisburg area
- Several commenters indicated **financial concerns**. They included:
    - High cost per year for frequent bridge users
    - Impacts to low-income individuals
- Several commenters focused on **project construction and design**. These included:
    - Approval of widening the bridge to five lanes
    - Approval and disapproval of the Lemoyne interchange reconfiguration
    - Approval (homeowners) and disapproval (business) of noise walls
    - General project design satisfaction
- Several comments were received about the **toll discount program**. They included:

    - Interest in local users receiving a toll discount if they do not qualify for the low-income program
- Other common themes that appeared in a smaller number of comments included:
    - Supportive of Tolls
    - Business Interruptions
    - Information & Mailing List Requests
    - Against Tax Increases
    - Environmental Justice Issues
    - Geographic Equity
    - Tourism & Economy
    - Air Quality & Noise
    - Bridge Safety
    - Property takes or business displacement
    - State Police Siphoning Funds
    - Supportive of Tax Increases
    - Construction Traffic Detours
    - Non-Gas Vehicles Not Paying Share
    - Website Criticism
    - Supportive of Managed Lanes
    - Supportive of User Fees
    - Legalize Marijuana
    - Pandemic