



US 19 Corridor Land Use and Transportation Study

ERIE COUNTY, SUMMIT TOWNSHIP,
WATERFORD TOWNSHIP, & WATERFORD BOROUGH

U.S. 19 Land Use and Transportation Study **Erie County, Summit Township, Waterford Township and Waterford Borough** **October 9, 2003 10:30 AM**

KICK-OFF MEETING SUMMARY

The Kick-off meeting began at 10:30am on October 9, 2003 at the Summit Township Building in Erie County. The following were in attendance:

Scott K. Young, *PENNDOT, Erie County Manager*
Marlin Coon, *Summit Township*
Brian L. Skelton, *Waterford Borough*
Nancy Agostine, *Summit Township*
Ed Lesser, *Erie County Council of Government*
Jake Welsh, *County of Erie, Department of Planning*
Thomas C. Hoffman, *Chairman Erie County MPO*
Mariah Hanson, *PENNDOT Planning & Programming*
Deborah Schreckengost, *PENNDOT*
Mike Will, *EMTA*
Shirley King, *Summit Township*
Paul Dahlkemper, *Summit Township*
Toby Fauver, *Gannett Fleming*
Cindy Kucharcik, *Gannett Fleming*

Toby Fauver welcomed the group and provided a brief overview of the study. Toby indicated that the following questions would be answered during the meeting: What is going to make the project a success and what will make the project fail. He also stressed that Gannett Fleming, in cooperation with the county and the municipalities, will be pulling the data together which will help provide a visualization tool for the future.

The group was asked to introduce themselves and indicate the organization that they represented.

Toby discussed the project binders and the meeting materials. All materials that will be distributed at future meetings will be three hole punched to be included in the binders so that all meeting materials can be kept in one place. This will help to keep everything organized.

The agenda was briefly discussed. Toby highlighted key discussion topics on the





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agenda. The PEP was discussed as a project management tool for Gannett. Toby encouraged the study committee to call or email if they had questions or concerns regarding the project. Committee members were encouraged to bring others to participate in the committee meetings.

Work Plan

The work plan and data needs were discussed. Existing data will be collected and mapped (water, sewer, transportation, land use, and environmental features such as wetlands). Two public involvement sessions will be held during the project as well as a focus group with municipalities and the planning commissions. As part of the project, three land use scenarios will be developed 1) build out of existing land use with regard to current zoning ordinances, 2) a public preferred scenario that will be developed during public involvement sessions, and 3) a preferred scenario. The final report and implementation plan will include an executive summary. Mini cds with electronic copies of the reports will also be provided.

Schedule

The project schedule is 9 months. This is being driven by the funding sources of the project. Ed Lesser commented that this timetable seemed to be ambitious. Jake Welsh responded that this was a good time schedule that will keep the project moving. He stated that people tend to relax when schedules are drawn out. The ambitious schedule will help to keep the project focused.

Public Involvement

Toby discussed the Public Involvement Sessions for the project. Committee members are not expected to be at the public involvement meetings, but members are welcome to attend if they would like. It is not the intention to make the committee members uncomfortable and it is understood that there maybe “hot topics” which may discourage them from attending the public involvement sessions.

The first public involvement session will be scheduled to avoid municipal meeting dates and the holidays in November and December.

Committee members were asked to complete the following sentence:

This project will be a success if...

- the study promotes improved safety.
- the study is realistic i.e. Strip district and B1 strip etc in summit twp is established and would be very difficult to change. No pie in the sky.
- if traffic flow is considered along with safety...i.e. Waterford Borough nightmare now





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from a traffic perspective The Borough is more concerned with traffic.

- It is tied to financial ability to implement the study.
- the project looks at other corridors that are parallel to US 19.
- traffic is taken off of sideroads and focused on US 19..maybe see it widened and made six lanes.
- people on the committee make decisions based on as if they were living along the corridor and they have to deal with the corridor everyday.
- the land use develops along with the roadway network.
- the public sees that the project is important and that the plan will be implemented.
- traffic projections and future TIPS are planned.
- have local buy in by elected officials and those connected to local planning and zoning boards. They have to be participating in the process.
- the officials realize their obligation to the decisions made.
- everyone one is aware that all the recommendations may not occur but it is important to what is there now and what is realistic to implement. Need to be able to tie some dollars in to projects and leverage improvements to the communities.
- we anticipate what will happen in the future.

Toby answered a question regarding how much effort would be placed on “what if” development. He indicated that this is a not a typical study. The US 19 study will tie land use development to traffic. In the study an area of impact will be identified as well as an area of influence. The more that is known about the corridor including major developments planned, the better the project will be because the additional traffic generated can be factored into the project. The project team will not be able to conduct traffic counts for all areas, but a few areas will require traffic counts.

The outcome of the project will be a list of recommendations. These recommendations will help identify projects and next steps that can be earmarked for funding from the state. MPOs, developers and others can help to identify solutions or at least try to develop ways to implement the recommendations of the US 19 study.

Committee members were asked to complete the following sentence regarding project failure.

This study will be a failure if...

- If a balance is not found for Waterford Borough. The Borough has traffic congestion problems while also benefits from the traffic...so the study must be careful to not upset the economic activity while improving the traffic situation.
- If we don't oversell public and their voice...they are not one voice.
- infrastructure has to be there or the plan itself won't work
- If we ignore comprehensive plans the process will be a failure(transportation plan finished





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The data collection handout was discussed. Committee members were asked to provide the project team with any ordinances, traffic impact studies, 537 plans or comprehensive plans that they have for their municipalities.

Study Area

Committee members identified the best area of impact for the study area on a map.

A question was asked if during the project if Gannett Fleming would identify defined accesses. Gannett Fleming will not look at every access point.

After the meeting adjourned, committee members who were available took a driving tour of the corridor.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

