

Minutes
Media Borough Meeting with PennDOT
3rd Street Dam
November 4, 2011

A meeting was held in the District 6 PennDOT Office regarding the 3rd Street Bridge and Dam. The following were present: Tim Stevenson, PennDOT Design Portfolio Manager; Sidney New, Gannett Fleming (PennDOT project manager); Peter Alyanakian, Borough Council President; Monica Rehoric, Borough Vice-President; Peter Williamson, Councilman; Jeff Smith, Borough Manager; Robert Johnston, Gilmore Associates (Borough Engineer); Quentin Rissler, Larson Design Group; and John Harrison, Schnabel Engineering. A sign-in sheet is included as Attachment 1.

Mr. Alyanakian summarized the project status which included holding two recent public meetings with Borough residents and establishing a Third Street Dam Committee to respond to public concerns and provide direction to the project.

Mr. Smith requested a project schedule as requested by the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) funding program and asked for direction on what design options were available to the Borough for the project (i.e., is there flexibility in the design of the dam and/or roadway).

Mr. Stevenson stated that the project should reflect the project purpose and need as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. Mr. Harrison noted that the project purpose and need statement (as included in the 2001 Scoping Form reviewed by PennDOT) included bridge repair and reestablishment of travel access between Media and Upper Providence. Mr. Stevenson stated that since the project does not yet have NEPA clearance, the project purpose and need statement can be redefined if the needs of the Borough have changed over the last 12 years that the roadway has been closed.

Mr. Stevenson noted that the project is no longer on the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) due to the uncertainty in the schedule and direction for the project. The Borough needs to lobby Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and the Delaware County Planning Commission to get the project back on the TIP for construction funds. The next TIP will become official on October 1, 2012. If the Borough decides to change direction on the project, additional engineering funds will be required which will need to be coordinated with DVRPC. Mr. Stevenson noted that the project is still on the PennDOT Capital Budget.

Mr. Stevenson noted that the project was included in the Bridge Bill and would continue to be funded in that program since it includes an existing local bridge. Regardless of whether the Borough chooses to remove the dam, not replace the roadway, etc., the funding will still be from the Bridge Bill. Relative to dam removal, Mr. Johnston noted that there may be PADEP requirements relative to sediment stabilization, and Mr. Williamson added that he knows of staged breaching on other projects as a means of sediment stabilization. Mr. Harrison noted that PADEP may have restrictions regarding the increase in downstream flooding resulting from dam removal, since the dam currently provides a level of flood control benefit.

Mr. Stevenson noted that the Department's goal is to help the Borough to meet the project purpose and needs, but the Borough is responsible for determining what they want and need.

Mr. Alyanakian noted that the Borough Council will be affected by the impending election and estimated that it will not be able to provide clear direction until at least February 2012.

Mr. Rissler noted that he is not able to proceed with the roadway design since the shoulder widths, sidewalk, and guiderail need to be determined before he can resubmit the Safety Review for PennDOT review and approval.

Mr. New requested that the bridge and highway design not be advanced until the Borough decides on the project purpose and need and whether the project direction will be modified.

Mr. Harrison noted that he will contact PADEP regarding possible requirements relative to dam removal and downstream flooding, should the Borough opt to investigate this option, and respond back to the Borough with the information obtained by his discussions.

Attachment:

(1) Sign-in Sheet

Third Street Bridge/Dam MPMS#47147

11/4/2011 at 10:00 am District 6-0 Room 317

Please Print Clearly:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	PHONE NO.	EMAIL
1. ROBERT JOHNSTON	GILMORE ASSOC - MEDIA BORO	610-444-9006	RJOHNSTON@GILMORE-ASSOC.COM
2. Quentin Rissler	LARSON DESIGN GROUP	717-824-4796	QDR@LARSONDESIGNGROUP.COM
3. John Harrison	Schnabel Engineering	610-696-6066	johnh@schmabel-eng.com
4. MONIKA BETHORIC	Media Borough / 3 rd Dam	610-566-6162	KennysFlowers1@verizon.net
5. Jeffrey A. Smith	Media Borough	610-566-5210 Ext. 242	jasmith@mediaborough.com
6. Peter Williamson	Media Borough	610-353-5587	pwilliamson@netlands.org
7. TIM STEVENSON	PENNDOT DISTRICT 6-8	610-205-6820	TSTEVENSON@PA.GOV
8. Sid New	Gannett Fleming	610-650-8101	snew@gfnet.com
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