

Old Landing Road (OLR) Coalition (OLRC) Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/14/2021

Purpose: The purpose of this meeting was for DeIDOT to present three (3) concepts DeIDOT has drafted for the 4-way Stop at OLR/Warrington Rd/Strawberry Way.

Attendees: Sussex County Council (Doug Hudson), DeIDOT (Shante Hastings, Peter Haag), OLR Communities: Breezewood (Mike Funari), Redden Ridge (Dan Andriola), Sterling Crossing (Kelly Brennan), Cedar Valley (Ann Case, Randolph Smith), Arnell Creek (Glen Pruitt), Estates of Sea Chase (Kathryn McKenzie), Sea Chase (Chip Lytle), Old Landing Woods (Isabel Benson), and Sawgrass (Donna Voigt, Bobby Mills, Ken Jeske, Mark Post)

Peter Haag (DeIDOT) presented the 3 alternatives DeIDOT has drafted and explained the pros/cons of each. It is important to note that 2 of the 3 Alternatives, (Alternatives 1 and 2), can be done relatively quickly (within a year or so) at less cost and with existing funds. This is in response to the OLRC request for a solution sooner than the current expectation of 6 or 7 years out. The 3rd Alternative aligns with the Henlopen Transportation Improvement Plan (TID) which is a Capital Project planned for a Fiscal Year 2025 (July 2024) preliminary engineering/design start, with a likely FY 2029/2030 completion. Peter also stated that implementing Alternative 1 or 2, does not remove Alternative 3 from future/planned implementation.

During the discussion, Ms. Hastings, stated about \$700,000 has been collected from developers to improve this intersection. Those funds can ONLY be used for improvements at that intersection. It is unclear, if current developments (Osprey Point, Arbor Lyn, and Wellesley) will be required to contribute at the levels stated in the Henlopen TID, since they were approved prior to the Henlopen TID approval. Councilman Hudson raised the potential of using FAST Funds for Alternative 3. Bobby Mills raised the issue of whether an infusion of Federal funding would accelerate the Warrington Road intersection or Airport Road Extension project. Ms. Hastings said only if the funding was specifically earmarked for those projects. Otherwise, it would go into the overall set of project priorities and accelerate DeIDOT's ability to implement some of those projects.

Alternative 1: Compact Roundabout

The Roundabout would fit within the existing intersection plus DeIDOT existing Right-of-Way (ROW) and include lighting to illuminate the approaches and roundabout.

DeIDOT Key Points:

- Reduces 2045 projected congestion during peak times by ~ 85%
- Lower cost and can be done in the near-term
- Reduces rear-end accidents and promotes continuous traffic flow

Preliminary Community Feedback:

- Will exceed the bounds of the existing roadway, and adjacent communities are opposed
- DeIDOT did not convincingly address the concern of un-balanced traffic flows coming from each entry point, which prevents others from entering roundabout

Alternative 2: Signalized Intersection

This would fit into the existing intersection, maintains lane configurations and add pedestrian crosswalks.

DeIDOT Key Points:

- Reduces some congestion,
- but increases potential for rear-end collisions and speeding through the light(s)
- Requires some ROW for Mast to support signals.

Preliminary Community Feedback:

- Provides some immediate relief to Peak Summertime traffic congestion,
- Provides a better chance for adjacent communities to enter/exit their communities.

Alternative 3: Signalized Intersection with Added Lanes

This is the proposed Henlopen TID recommended solution, but will not start until FY 2025 and take 4 to 5 years to be implemented due to ROW/land acquisition needed to build this solution.

DeIDOT Key Points:

- Widens OLR and Warring Rd to accommodate dedicated turn lanes,
- Provides pedestrian crosswalks,
- Requires some utility relocation, and
- Requires substantial ROW acquisition

Preliminary Community Feedback:

- Timeframe is not good, given all the new construction and on-going summer back-ups on OLR
- Mitigates 2045 projected traffic congestion by 80%
- Lesser impact to existing adjacent communities (except for the B&B).

Next Steps

1. We all need to do a deeper dive on the information Peter provided and quickly come-up with any points needing clarification or more information. To do this, it will probably be helpful to think through each option and come up with your own list of pros/cons – and elaborate why something is a + or -. **Can everyone send me their +/- list and items needing more information by 6/25? If you need more time, please offer a better due date.**
2. I'll consolidate the feedback that you guys provide and send the clarification items to DeIDOT, and also send everyone the combined +/- for each alternative.

3. Meet face to face to come-up with how we want to communicate and solicit feedback from our respective communities and come up with a date to summarize all communities responses.
4. Prepare/vet/send a feedback letter to DelDOT and our elected representatives.