

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
RELATED TO DVRPC BOARD ACTION ITEMS

May 24, 2018

Agenda Item:

2a. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Action
NJ18-021: Route 47, Bridge over Route 295, (DB #15310), Gloucester
County

From: Leonard Fritz

County: Gloucester

Zip Code: 08094

Date Received: 05/14/2018

Comment/Question: I recommend approval of this change to help with the continued progress of the 295/42/676 interchange

Response: Thank you for your support. Your original comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board, DVRPC Office of Capital Programs, and NJDOT.

Your support and engagement with this project is appreciated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
RELATED TO DVRPC NON-ACTION ITEMS

April 24, 2018 to May 23, 2018

From: Lori Howard

County: Burlington

Zip Code: NA

Date Received: May 11, 2018

Comment/Question:

How are you? Since the 70s Burlington County has received funding via the TIP for bridges in the county with less use and in "better" condition. Since they never had to provide justification as to why other county bridges were not submitted, the Centerton Bridge was allowed to fall into a state of disrepair.

The county is now about to apply for a TCDI grant to build a pedestrian bridge where the Centerton Bridge currently stands.

Centerton Bridge serves Willingboro, a community with a 72.74% black population and a 15.9% population of citizens aged 65 and older (2010 Census); a low-income zoned part of Mount Laurel is on the other side of the bridge; the bridge is on Centerton Road, which leads to Moorestown, NJ one of the higher-income communities in Southern New Jersey; Centerton Road in Moorestown/Mount Laurel is the location of a grocery store, doctors, urgent care, businesses, and a shopping center; residents who live in certain areas of Willingboro have to travel to Mount Laurel/Moorestown to access services and shopping; many businesses, the hospital and doctors are on the side of Willingboro closer to Route 130; and Willingboro only has one grocery store.

In our country infrastructure is better in certain neighborhoods and worse in others. I believe that the process used to prioritize funding contributes to this.

The county has stated that 295 was expanded since they knew they were closing Centerton Bridge. The Federal Highway Administration has said that this isn't the case.

A pedestrian bridge will not serve the people, and the county already has many trails.

Please let me know where I should submit this complaint. Thank you!

Response:

Dear Ms. Howard,

Thank you for your thoughtful comments. DVRPC has forwarded your original comment to several DVRPC staff members who manage different competitive grant programs you

referenced, as well as Burlington County staff members who serve on DVRPC's Board. Your original comment will be presented to the full DVRPC Board at its May 24th meeting.

While DVRPC is an advisory organization, we recognize the importance of essential services, such as shopping areas and healthcare. DVRPC has several data resources that may be helpful to you. Please see DVRPC's Data Navigator for more information about demographic information <https://www.dvrpc.org/asp/DataNavigator/>.

In the FY2018 NJ TIP document available online, Chapter 2 explains how DVRPC and its member governments prioritize projects. Please see: <https://www.dvrpc.org/TIP/NJfinal/2018/18001A.pdf> (page 14 of the pagination; page 20 of the PDF file). As noted, there are far more needs throughout the region than we have resources. Appendix F (<https://www.dvrpc.org/TIP/NJfinal/2018/F.pdf>) offers detailed information, including a sample form that is filled out for individual projects if/when they are recommended for inclusion in the regional TIP.

Burlington County recently received the results from a feasibility study (available here: <http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/DocumentCenter/View/8489/April-24-2018-Centerton-Road-Bridge-Presentation-PDF>) in which professional firms examined impacts including but not limited to traffic. The specific study concluded that since the bridge has been closed, traffic on I-295 has not been negatively impacted and further rebuilding a vehicular bridge would not impact traffic on I-295. In addition, the feasibility study concluded that rebuilding a vehicular bridge would involve taking private property, and have significant environmental and cultural resources impacts and associated permitting requirements.

Thank you again for sharing your comments and concerns regarding Willingboro and the Centerton Bridge.