



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

FEB 14 2005

Randell E. Prescott,
Programs Operations Director
Federal Highway Administration
840 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 310
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

Dear Mr. Prescott :

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final environmental impact statement (draft EIS) for the U.S. Route 1, Penns Neck Area Improvements (CEQ#050001), located in West Windsor and Plainsboro Townships, Mercer and Middlesex Counties, New Jersey. We had previously commented on an environmental assessment for this project in January 2001 and commented on the draft EIS in August of 2003.

The final EIS states that the purpose for the project is to address traffic congestion, mobility constraints and safety concerns on Route 1 and the east-west cross streets in the Penns Neck area. The draft EIS evaluated 19 alternatives and the final EIS proposes alternative D-2A as both the preferred alternative and the environmentally preferable alternative.

In our comment letter of August 18, 2003 we rated the draft EIS with an EC-2 rating indicating our concerns with the projects impacts to water quality, cumulative traffic effects in the area. We also stated that the final EIS needed to contain additional information regarding Best Management Practices to control roadway runoff pollution. The final EIS addresses our concerns and clarified the issues surrounding Best Management Practices to be employed. However, we recommend that the Record of Decision contain the details of the wetlands mitigation and monitoring plan. Lastly, we appreciate the expanded discussion of the cumulative impacts to the areas resources.

We also reiterate our support for the Commute Options Package and believe that these measures should appear as commitments in the Record of Decision. We would like to meet with FHWA, NJDOT, and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to discuss these measures after they are implemented to learn whether such measures should be promoted for other projects. Please let us know when such a meeting could be scheduled.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact David Carlson of my staff at (212) 637-3502.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Filippelli".

John Filippelli, Chief
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch