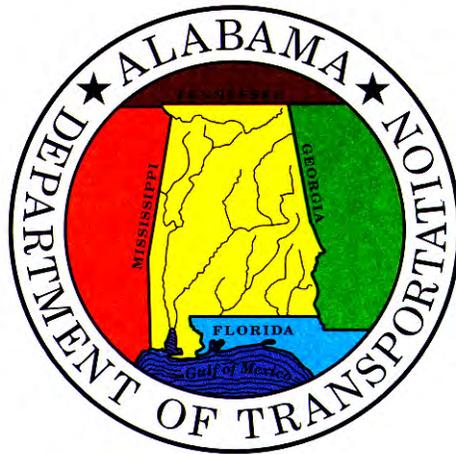


**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT  
OF  
TRANSPORTATION**



**Corridor Hearing Report Summary**

**Project DPI-0030 (005)  
I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening  
Mobile and Baldwin Counties  
September 23 and September 29, 2014**

**December 1, 2014**



Robert Bentley  
GOVERNOR

# ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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John R. Cooper  
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

December 16, 2014

Mr. William F. Adams, P.E.  
Chief Design Engineer  
Alabama Department of Transportation  
1409 Coliseum Boulevard  
Montgomery, Alabama 36110

ATTENTION: Ms. Alfredo Acoff

Dear Mr. Adams:

Re: **Project No. DPI-0030(005)**  
**I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Widening**  
**Mobile and Baldwin Counties**

A Corridor Hearing was held on the above-referenced project on September 23, 2014, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Alabama Cruise Terminal located at 201 South Water Street, Mobile, AL 36602 and on September 29, 2014, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center located at 30945 Five Rivers Boulevard in Spanish Fort, AL 36527. The meeting was conducted using an informal open house format and formal public forum with short presentation. All guest attendees were asked to register and complete the comment forms furnished to them.

Attached is one hard copy and a CD containing PDFs of the Corridor Hearing Report for your review and further handling. A summary and our recommendations are contained in Section 3.0 and 4.0, respectively, of this report.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Vincent E. Calametti, P.E.  
Region Engineer

VEC/ELP/jcr  
Attachments

C: FHWA w/Attachment (CD only)  
Volkert w/Attachment (CD only)  
File w/Attachments

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## **1.0 PRE-HEARING ACTIVITIES**

The planning for the Corridor Hearing began in July 2014. Since Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) anticipated a large number of attendees at the Corridor Hearing and because the proposed project crosses county lines, two hearings were scheduled for public convenience. The first hearing was scheduled in Mobile County at the Alabama Cruise Terminal located at 201 South Water Street in Mobile on September 23, 2014. The second hearing was scheduled for September 29, 2014 at the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center located at 30945 Five Rivers Boulevard in Spanish Fort in Baldwin County. The time, date, and locations were confirmed with the Cruise Terminal and Five Rivers by letters, dated September 4, 2014. A copy of these letters are included in Appendix A. These locations were considered ideal due to their proximity to the project.

Mr. William F. Adams, State Design Engineer was notified by a letter dated August 18, 2014, confirming the two Corridor Hearing dates, times and locations. This letter listed a schedule of events that included mailing of invitations, placement of posters, distribution of news releases, the pre-meeting conference, and the corridor hearing. A brief summary of these events is provided in the following paragraphs. A copy of the confirmation letter is included in Appendix A.

On August 15, 2014, posters were placed throughout the project impact area. A reduced copy of the poster and a list of posted locations are included in Appendix A.

On August 22, 2014, invitations were mailed to county and city officials, local legislators, and local business owners and residents. A copy of the invitation is attached in Appendix A, along with a list of names and addresses of people and organizations that were sent invitations.

On August 25, 2014, a news release was emailed to local radio and television stations and newspapers. A copy of the news release and the distribution list are all included in Appendix A.

On August 17, August 31, and September 21, 2014, a public notice was published in the Press Register advertising the date, time, location and purpose of the Corridor Hearing. The same advertisement was also run on September 4, September 11, and September 18 in the Lagniappe. A copy of the public notice is included in Appendix A.

## 2.0 CORRIDOR HEARING ACTIVITIES

### Alabama Cruise Terminal

Corridor Hearing activities began at 8:00 a.m. on September 22, 2014 with setting up the tables, displays, stage, and chairs at the Cruise Terminal. A walk-through meeting was held at 3:30 p.m. to familiarize ALDOT and consultant personnel with the exhibits and scope of the proposed project. An additional pre-meeting was held at 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Fact sheets were prepared and provided to personnel who participated in the hearing. The fact sheet contained pertinent information about the project such as project description, cost estimates, relocation information, proposed letting date, etc. A copy of the fact sheet is included in Appendix B.

The hearing location was well lit and provided ample space. The weather was warm and calm. Registration tables were set up just inside the entrance to the room. Within the meeting room, project exhibits were displayed on easels at multiple locations, monitors were setup to show the project website and presentation, and an area was setup and staffed by personnel from ALDOT's Visualization Department to show renderings of the project. The presentation and hearing portion was in the same room separated by sound dampening floor to ceiling drapes. Photographs of the meeting location are included in Appendix B.

The exhibits consisted of aerial photographs and layouts showing the alternates, renderings of the bridge from different locations around the city, and possible bicycle and pedestrian routes across Mobile River. Some representatives from ALDOT and Volkert were stationed at the exhibits and others circulated through the audience answering questions and directing citizens to specific areas of concern.

Registration began at 4:00 p.m. for the open house and at 5:00 p.m. for those wishing to speak at the public forum. The formal presentation began at 5:30 p.m. with the hearing following afterwards. There were a total of **308** registrants, **62** of whom were ALDOT and consultant personnel. A copy of the registration sheets is included in Appendix B.

Public handouts consisting of a welcome/introduction letter, a project alternatives map, and a comment sheet were provided to all registered guests. A copy of the public handouts is included in Appendix B.

### Five Rivers

Corridor Hearing activities began at 11:00 a.m. on September 29, 2014 with setting up the tables, displays, stage, and chairs at Five Rivers. A pre-meeting was held at 3:30 p.m. to familiarize ALDOT and consultant personnel with the exhibits and scope of the proposed project.

The same fact sheets from the previous meeting were used. A copy of the fact sheet is included in Appendix B.

The hearing location was well lit, provided ample space. The weather was warm and rained for a brief period of time. Registration tables were set up outside in the breezeway between the buildings used for the open house and hearing. Within the meeting room, project exhibits were displayed on easels at multiple locations, monitors were setup to show the project website and presentation, and an area was setup and staffed by personnel from ALDOT's Visualization Department to show renderings of the project. The presentation and hearing portion was in the auditorium in an adjacent building. A monitor was setup in the breezeway to allow additional people to view the public forum. Photographs of the meeting location are included in Appendix B.

The same exhibits shown at the Cruise Terminal were used. Some representatives from ALDOT and Volkert were stationed at the exhibits and others circulated through the audience answering questions and directing citizens to specific areas of concern.

Registration began at 4:00 p.m. for the open house and at 5:00 p.m. for those wishing to speak at the public forum. The presentation began at 5:30 p.m. with the hearing following afterwards. There were a total of **248** registrants, **39** of whom were ALDOT and consultant personnel. A copy of the registration sheets is included in Appendix B.

Public handouts consisting of a welcome/introduction letter, a project alternatives map, and a comment sheet were provided to all registered guests. A copy of the public handouts is included in Appendix B.

### 3.0 COMMENT SUMMARY

In total at both hearings, there were **556** registrants, of whom **101** were ALDOT and consultant personnel.

There were **35** people that spoke during the public forum portion at the Cruise Terminal hearing. There were **25** people that spoke during the public forum at the Five Rivers hearing.

There were **2** people at the Cruise Terminal hearing and **4** people at the Five Rivers hearing that provided their comments to the court reporter.

There were **51** comment sheets received at the Cruise Terminal hearing and **38** comment sheets received at the Five Rivers hearing. An additional **524** comments post marked by 5 p.m. on November 7, 2014 were received by mail, fax, or e-mail. The total number of written comments received was **613**.

Comments submitted multiple ways by the same individual were combined and counted as one comment. The total number of comments spoken at the public forum, submitted to the court reporter, or in writing was **641** and are summarized below:

- How often do you use the existing I-10 Wallace Tunnel?  
None [ 4 ]      Daily [ 108 ]      Weekly [ 232 ]      Occasionally [ 133 ]
- How often would you use a bike/pedestrian crossing for Mobile River?  
None [ 253 ]      Daily [ 15 ]      Weekly [ 71 ]      Occasionally [ 173 ]

<u>Comment Group</u>	<u>Number of Comments</u>
Support the project	558
Do not support the project	40
In favor of Bicycle/Pedestrian crossing of Mobile River	111
Do not support Bicycle/Pedestrian crossing of Mobile River	29

- The consensus of opinions are in favor of the proposed project with 6% against.
- Of the 558 Support the project comments, 4 comments supported Alternatives A, B, or C. The remaining 554 comments supported “B Prime” or did not specify an Alternative.
- The majority of comments supporting the project were to relieve congestion through the Wallace Tunnel.
- Of the 40 comments not supporting the project, half were in favor of a route or similar route to one that was previously studied and deemed not feasible. The other respondents did not see the need for the project, thought the congestion could be fixed by modifications to the Wallace Tunnel entrance, or the project would damage historic areas.
- Of the 111 comments in favor of Bicycle/Pedestrian crossing of Mobile River, 72 were in support of the crossing being included on the bridge.

There were three (3) petitions received attached to the comment forms. The Mobile Bicycle Pedestrian Advocacy Committee submitted a petition signed by numerous local, state and federal organizations and 3,213 individuals supporting the inclusion of a bike/pedestrian lane on the bridge. The Build the I-10 Bridge Coalition submitted a petition signed by 374 individuals

supporting the construction of the I-10 Bridge. Garland Mason submitted a petition with over 4,200 people that support naming the future I-10 Mobile River Bridge “The Corporal Christopher Edward Mason Bridge”.

Copies of the comment sheets, petitions, and transcripts of those that spoke at the public forum or submitter their comments to the court reporter are made a part of this report and are included in Appendix C.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Based on the public comment evaluation in Section 3.0, it is recommended to proceed with further study and development of the preferred alternate "B Prime" in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Also, further study of the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian facilities across Mobile River is recommended.