The Proposed Ohio River Crossing,

Bridge South of Wellsburg

Project Timeline

State Project: S205-2/23-0.00 00 Federal Project: HPP-0223(003)D

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

October 2008

Past | Present | Future

Phase I | Phase II | Phase III

January 1993
First mention of new bridge

Fred Van Kirk, Commissioner/WV State Highway Engineer, states "We will consider the possibility of a new transriver crossing at Wellsburg, as well as other sites, during the study of West Virginia Route 2".

The plan identified the construction of a new Ohio River Bridge crossing between Follansbee and Wellsburg as a primary project.

The plan stated that a new crossing would "serve to alleviate much of the congestion currently realized on State Route 2 through Follansbee and Wellsburg".

The BHJ Year 2015 Transportation Plan was adopted
May 1994

September 1997
BHJ requested WVDOH to initiate "Bridge Location Study".

The study purpose was "to identify a site for the new Ohio River crossing somewhere near Wellsburg, WV"

Plan recommended:
Implement a study to determine best location and accurate costs

Pursue a dedicated source of funding and funding options for the project

BHJ 2020 Regional Transportation Plan adopted
January 1998

March 1999
BHJ submits Bridge System Study scope of work and advertising statement to the WVDOH

Phase I was a study done to determine the need for a new Ohio River bridge crossing within a defined study area, which extends from just north of the Fort Steuben Bridge at Steubenville, OH to a southern boundary delineated by the southern end of Brooke County, West Virginia.

BHJ executes an agreement to complete Phase I Needs Analysis for the Upper Ohio River Needs and Location Study
September 1999

May 2000
Phase I Upper Ohio Valley Bridge System Study Final Report is adopted by BHJ

Conclusions:
1. Fort Steuben and Market Street Bridges are beyond their design life
2. A situation with only one river crossing would create a major safety hazard
3. The existing system lacks flexibility and redundancy in travel options

The Phase II study was used to identify and evaluate all locations and alternatives and ultimately suggest an appropriate river crossing location.

Work on Phase II Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Regional Bridge System Study begins
June 2000

September 2003
Phase II Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Regional Bridge System Study Phase II Final Report completed

In 2005, $18 million was appropriated to plan, design and construct New Ohio River Bridge, south of Wellsburg, Brooke County
August 2005

November 2005
WVDOT's Engineering advertised for Letters of Interest related to a Phase III study including environmental and location work

Notice to Proceed given to HDR Engineering, for preparation of an Environmental Assessment and Design Study
May 2008

October 2008
Public Workshops

Determine feasible crossing locations and their impacts

Technical studies performed by HDR
Winter 2008/ Spring 2009

Spring/Summer 2009
- Approved Environmental Assessment ready for public and agency review and comment
- Public Workshops

Invite public and agency comment on all reasonable alternatives and if known, indicate the preferred bridge crossing location

Identify preferred location if known

Conclusion of the Environmental Assessment
Fall/Winter 2009

Final Design | Right-of-Way Acquisition

Construction | New Bridge Open To Traffic

Market Street Bridge scheduled to close should it still be in service

Source: Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Regional Bridge System Study Phase II Final Report, September 2003