

# The Proposed Ohio River Crossing, Bridge South of Wellsburg

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



## Informational Workshop Public Meeting

### Welcome

Welcome to today's Informational Workshop Public Meeting. **The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT), Division of Highways, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are initiating environmental and design studies for a new Ohio River Crossing as a follow up to the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson (BHJ) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) *Regional Bridge System Study Phase II Final Report*, dated September 2003.**

The three objectives of this public workshop are:

- **To inform the public this project consists of a new Ohio River Crossing, south of Wellsburg**
- **To announce the beginning of these studies and request public comments from interested individuals and government officials**
- **To inform the public the Market Street Bridge will be closed, should it still be in service, once the new bridge is open to traffic**

This workshop is from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm and there will be no formal presentation. The workshop is intended to be informal to maximize the interaction between the citizens and project team. We invite you to browse the displays and encourage discussions with the project team. A comment sheet is included in this package and additional sheets are available at the information desk.

### Previous Studies

The idea of an additional Ohio River Crossing, south of Wellsburg, emerged when two major studies were completed to evaluate the transportation system in the Upper Ohio Valley Region. In June 2000, the BHJ-MPO completed the Upper Ohio Valley Bridge System Study Phase I Final Report. To determine the most appropriate location for this crossing, the BHJ-MPO then released the Regional Bridge System Study Phase II Final Report in September 2003. This report identified the long-term bridge planning needs for the region. These long-term needs included two new bridges prioritized as follows:

Second Priority: Construct a new Ohio River Bridge, south of Wellsburg

Third Priority: Construct a new Ohio River Bridge, at Washington Street

These priorities are shown on the map on the following page of this handout. This map is Figure 14 of the 2003 study.

This project addresses the second priority outlined in the 2003 Study. The 2003 study indicates the new bridge should be located between the Cardinal Power Plant to the south and West Virginia's Buffalo Creek to the north.

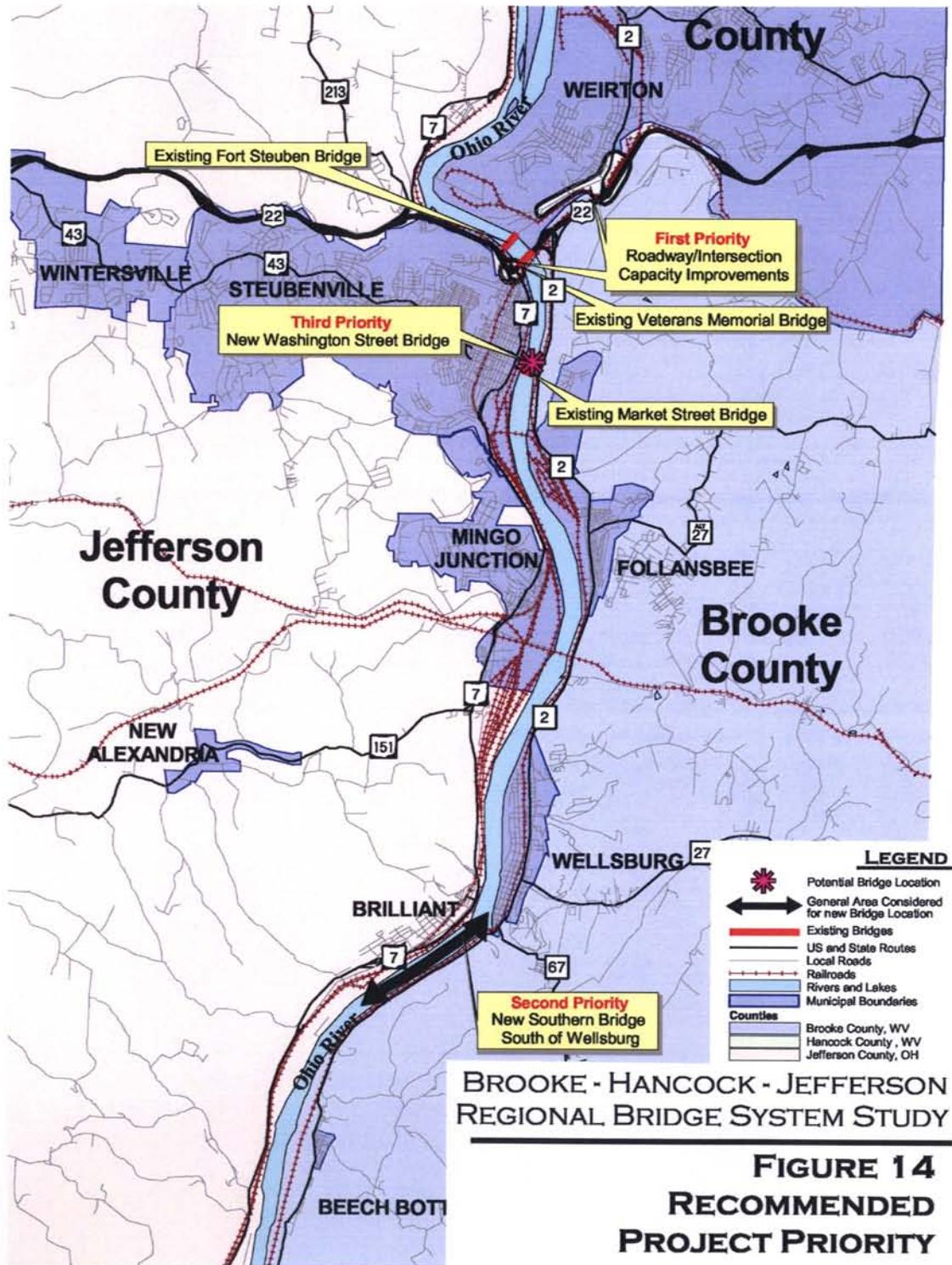
The WVDOT has no planned or anticipated work on the third priority outlined in the 2003 Study.

### Environmental and Design Studies

The Design Study Report will develop a minimum of three alternative crossings from WV 2 to Ohio SR 7 and ultimately identify a preferred location for the new bridge. In addition, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to identify the impacts of the alternative crossings. This work includes developing the project Purpose and Need and analyzing the effects related to socioeconomics, cultural resources, and the natural environment.

A new Ohio River Bridge will serve many purposes. Most importantly, it will facilitate a sustainable transportation system that will support the economic growth of the surrounding area and increase safety to commuters. This crossing will allow industry and commuters to travel throughout the region with reduced trip lengths, travel times, and fuel consumption.

## Recommended Priorities from the 2003 Study



## Project Study Area





## Project Schedule

### May 2008

Notice to Proceed given to HDR Engineering, Inc. for preparation of an Environmental Assessment and Design Report Study

### October 2008

Public Workshops

### Winter 2008/Spring 2009

Technical Studies performed by HDR (Determine feasible crossing locations and their impacts)

### 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)

### Fall/Winter 2009

Conclusion of the Environmental Assessment (Identify preferred location if known)

### Beyond Winter 2009

Proceed into Phase II of the Project (Final Design and R/W Acquisition)

Proceed into Phase III of the Project (Construction and Open to Traffic) then the closure of the Market Street Bridge should it still be in service

## Project Funding

In 2005, \$18 million was appropriated to plan, design and construct a New Ohio River Bridge, south of Wellsburg. This entire project is estimated to cost over \$100 million.

## Why should you be involved in the project?

Comments on this project and its potential impacts are requested from the public to assist in the study and development of initial conceptual solutions and recommendations. The comments and suggestions you provide are important so the agencies involved can hear the concerns of the people who live and work in the area. Your input will be used to guide the study team as the project moves forward.

Comments are due November 13, 2008  
and should be sent to the following:

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West Virginia Division of Highways  
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1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430