

**Pending Changes to Cooch’s Bridge Historic Area
Update to Interested Party Representatives
March 14, 2024**

Interested Parties		
Bike Newark	Delaware Nature Society	Newark Historical Society
Christiana Conservancy	Friends of Iron Hill Park	State Recognized Tribes
City of Newark	Friends of Lafayette	WILMAPCO
Delaware Greenways	Iron Hill Museum	

Dear Interested Party Representative:

Purpose of Email Update to Interested Parties

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) has announced a follow-up to its February 6, 2024 “T202107101 Old Baltimore Pike, Battle Drive to SR 72 Project” public workshop pertaining to planned roadwork modifications to the Old Baltimore Pike (OBP) and Old Cooch’s Bridge Road (OCBR). **The second Public Workshop will be held on March 25, 2024 in the Glasgow High School Auditorium from 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.** It is important for attendees to arrive by 5:30 p.m. to review any potential changes to the workshop boards, as DelDOT will provide a formal presentation at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Q&A session until 7:30 p.m. Please know that you and the members of the public can reject any or all of the proposed DelDOT alternatives and offer your own.

This second public workshop will provide an opportunity for attendees to provide public input during the meeting for the proposed improvements along Old Baltimore Pike from Battle Drive to SR 72 and Old Cooch’s Bridge Road from the intersection with Old Baltimore Pike to approximately 1,000 feet south of the intersection. This workshop may also provide an update on the project’s schedule.

According to the DelDOT workshop announcement: “the purpose of the project is to reduce congestion and improve mobility for all users within the study area and improve the bridges to a ‘good’ condition rating to extend the lifespan of the structures. Addressing substandard geometric, structural, and operational conditions along the corridor will result in a benefit from a safety perspective.” It is important to note that DelDOT has not incorporated any results from the pending plans impacting the Cooch’s Bridge Historic Site by the State Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs campus site plans, the Friends of Cooch’s Bridge Historic Site Visitors Center location planning, and New Castle County’s Iron Hill to Glasgow Park trail feasibility study.

You can view the display boards and provide further comment and feedback at the DelDOT project website link at: <https://de.gov/OBP>. You can also view the full public notice for this workshop at: <https://deldot.gov/About/publicevents/workshops/index.shtml?dc=workshop&id=17840>

The Consulting Parties strongly encourage you to communicate the notice for this second public workshop and to encourage your member contacts to join with the Consulting Parties in attending this public workshop. We also strongly encourage you and your members to provide your input to the DelDOT and FHWA options for this historic site, both at the workshop and afterwards during the period of public comment.

Attached is the Consulting Parties response to DelDOT on the alternatives presented at the first public workshop on February 6, 2024. If you have any questions pertaining to the March 25, 2024 DelDOT public workshop, please contact Richard Wadman (member of Friends of Cooch’s Bridge Historic Site and Preservation Delaware) at richard.wadman@verizon.net. Thank you for your interest in the Cooch’s Bridge Historic Site.

Consulting Parties	
Cannonshire Maintenance Association	Pencader Heritage Area Association
Cooch family	Preservation Delaware
Daughters of the American Revolution	Sons of the American Revolution
Friends of Cooch’s Bridge Historic Site	