

**NHIM0-0016-01(092), NHIM0-0016-01(131), NHIM0-0075-02(177), and
NH000-0016-01(104), Bibb County
P.I. Nos. 311000-, 311005-, 311400-, and 311410-
I-16/I-75 Interchange Reconstruction Projects**

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 7, 2008

Purpose: Discussion of the Heritage Tour/Trail with the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Improvement Group (PHNIG) to obtain additional information/mitigation requests concerning the Conceptual Mitigation Plan.

Location: Business office of Russell Claxton, Claxton Architects

Attendees: Katy Allen, FHWA
Ben Buchan, GDOT, Office of Urban Design
Melanie Nable, GDOT - Office of Environmental/Location
Peter Givens, PHNIG President
Russell Claxton, Claxton Architects

Discussion Topics:

Property Tax Moratorium The PHNIG wants a tax moratorium against increased property valuations for home owners relocated within the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood. The PHNIG is concerned because it seems to have been rejected as a mitigation consideration. The Environmental Commitments Table (i.e. Green Sheet) included in the approved Draft EA was developed prior to the tax moratorium being requested.

The Bibb County Board of Tax Assessors meets every other Wednesday. GDOT's consultant, MAAI is to contact the Assessor's office to request the PHNIG's Tax Moratorium request be added to the Meeting Agenda.

Memorandum of Agreement The City of Macon officials do not want to sign off on the Maintenance MOA because it would send the message that they support the project. The mayor wants someone or come entity to show support for the project. Specifically he is waiting on the PHNIG to approve the Concept Mitigation Plan before his office will publicly support the project. The MOA will need to be finalized prior to FHWA approving the FONSI.

Concept Mitigation Plan The CMP has not finalized all of the areas that would fall under the City's responsibility as part of the MOA.

If an item that is part of the mitigation requests made by the PHNIG cannot be included for a valid reason, then the PHNIG will know that it was removed and will not be revisited. FHWA would accept the item be removed if it were considered a valid 'Show Stopper' not for the reason that an environmental study has not been completed of the area where the item would be located.

Regarding work that cannot be completed, FHWA would be willing to have a commitment on the Green Sheet that states the item would be completed prior to RW authorization.

There are no federal laws that need to be addressed as part of the CMP. We are righting past wrongs. FHWA wants a plan that the PHNIG accepts as mitigation for these past wrongs as well as impacts that will be caused by the current project.

The CMP will include a signature line for the PHNIG.

Heritage Tour/Trail The PHNIG wants the Heritage Tour/Trail to be separate from the City of Macon's Heritage Trail. However it would be acceptable if the City wanted to include the PHNIG Heritage Tour as part of their trail system, as long as the PHNIG Heritage Tour/Trail maintained its own identity. The PHNIG wants GDOT/FHWA to include continuous sidewalks, old-fashioned street lights (similar to lighting located along Walnut Street), shrubbery, and kiosks.

The roads highlighted in yellow on the map would compose the PHNIG Heritage Tour/Trail. Although kiosks are currently included in the Linear Park, the Heritage Tour/Trail would include a broader area of the neighborhood. Kiosks may or may not be included on the Heritage Tour/Trail. Due to project funding shortfalls, the Heritage Tour/Trail would need to be fiscally responsible. FHWA wants to make sure cost-effective decisions are made concerning the Heritage Tour/Trail. If traffic calming devices are included as part of the Heritage Tour/Trail, they would need to utilize features that work for Macon and 'fit' in the neighborhood. The Green Sheet will include a commitment for SHPO to review the plans after the FONSI is signed. Once all costs have been determined, the CMP will need to be revised and provided to the PHNIG for review/comment.