



**MEETING MINUTES**

**Project:** I-16/I-75 from I-75 at Hardeman Ave. to I-16 at Spring St.  
NH-16-(104) – Bibb County, P.I. 311410

**Meeting:** Pleasant Hill Mitigation Presentation

**Location:** L.H. Williams Elementary School

**Prepared By:** Will Sheehan

**Prepared On:** December 8, 2008

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Meeting Date   | 12/08/08                |
| MA Project No. | 07516                   |
| CC:            | File 07516              |
|                | Attendees               |
|                | Leah Vaughan (Sycamore) |
|                | Dom Saulino (HNTB)      |

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current status of the I-16/I-75 Improvement Project as it relates to the Pleasant Hill Community, and more specifically, to present the latest version of the proposed mitigation plan. The meeting was open to the public and was attended by neighborhood residents, community activists, and city officials. The forum of the meeting consisted of a formal presentation of the mitigation plan followed by an informal, open house, question and answer session. The GDOT Urban Design Office presented Mr. Peter Givens with an updated version of the latest mitigation plan document for him to sign.

Mr. Givens began the meeting with a brief introduction mentioning that the GDOT and the PHNIG had been working together developing the mitigation plan for several years and that the plan had reached a point where the FHWA needed to get involved. The critical mitigation items had been decided upon and only the minor details remained.

Mr. Ben Buchan took over after Mr. Givens and briefly explained the roles of the GDOT and the PHNIG, noting that the design team has identified the impacts to the Pleasant Hill Community and, through the environmental document, is in the process of assessing these impacts.

Mr. Brad Hale followed Mr. Buchan with a brief overview of the roadway project improvements and an update of the project status stating that the preliminary plans had been completed, the right-of-way plans had been submitted to the GDOT, the environmental document is nearing final approval from FHWA, right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin in May 2009, and construction is scheduled to begin in 2012.

Mr. Todd Hill ended the formal presentation with a discussion of the individual mitigation items as shown below. He noted that the GDOT had been involved with Mr. Givens for three years as mentioned previously, but had actually been working with the PHNIG since 2000 and that the mitigation plan was "Pleasant Hill's own" as it was developed through community input.

- Multi-use trail and 10-ft sidewalk on Walnut St. Bridge
- Upgraded pedestrian bridge over I-75
- Conversion of drainage ditch to covered culvert
- Connection of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Walnut St. as the Middle St. Extension
- New greenspace on both sides of I-75, including a linear park east of I-75
- Heritage Tour Streetscaping
- Jefferson Long "Passive" Park
- Relocation of "Little Richard" House and use as neighborhood resource center
- Archival documentation and oral history of neighborhood as it exists before and after project construction
- National Register nomination update
- Relocation of up to 20 impacted, historic structures within the neighborhood according to relocation flow chart *(There are 32 total displacements in P. Hill: 23 are historic & 20 of those were deemed feasible to relocate)*
- Tax abatement program which freezes property tax assessments for 8 years
- Noise/visual barriers
- Rehabilitation of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. pavement on the west side of I-75



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Following Mr. Hill's presentation, Mrs. Naomi Johnson with the PHNIG, asked whether there was any way that the process for recording the community's oral history could be expedited because many of the neighborhood residents are aging. Mr. Hill responded that the documentation of the oral history would take place before construction and that the design team would consider Mrs. Johnson's request.

| ATTENDEES           | ORGANIZATION                       | PHONE        |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Ben Buchan          | GDOT – Urban Design                |              |
| Chuck Hasty         | GDOT – Urban Design                |              |
| Nicoe Alexander     | GDOT – Urban Design                | 404-631-1717 |
| Melanie Nable       | GDOT – OEL                         | 404-699-4436 |
| Sharman Southall    | GDOT – OEL/History                 |              |
| Brad Hale           | MA – Project Manager               | 770-263-5945 |
| Todd Hill           | MA – Environmental                 | 770-263-5945 |
| Linda Cooks         | MA – Environmental/History         | 770-263-5945 |
| Will Sheehan        | MA – Highway Designer              | 770-263-5945 |
| Stephen Duval       | MA                                 |              |
| Katy Allen          | FHWA                               |              |
| Amanda Schraner     | SHPO                               |              |
| Peter Givens        | PHNIG                              |              |
| LaRahna Hughes      | PHNIG                              |              |
| Naomi Johnson       | PHNIG                              |              |
| Alfred Person       | PHNIG                              |              |
| Chester Gibbs       | PHNIG                              |              |
| Robert Reichert     | City of Macon – Mayor              |              |
| Alveno Ross         | Macon City Council                 |              |
| Tom Ellington       | Macon City Council                 |              |
| Kevin DuBose        | City of Macon E.C.D.               |              |
| Wanzina Jackson     | City of Macon E.C.D.               |              |
| Captain Lionel Doss | Macon Police Department            |              |
| James Hand          | L.H. Williams Elementary School    |              |
| Amanda White        | L.H. Williams Elementary School    |              |
| Monique McDougall   | Mercer University                  |              |
| Randy Harshbarger   | Mercer University                  |              |
| Sabreen Golden      | We Care Group                      |              |
| JoAnn Beitz         | Vineville Neighborhood Association |              |
| Leroy Mitchell      |                                    |              |
| Russell Claxton     |                                    |              |