

MEETING NOTES

MACON/PLEASANT HILL PROJECT

MASTER CONTRACT#: TOOELENV100523 · TASK ORDER#: 10 · PROJECT#: NHIM0-0016-01(092), BIBB

Version #: 1.0

Issue Date: 2/27/14

Attendees: GDOT: Eric Duff, OES; Clinton Ford, OPD; Kimberly Larson, Communications;

EnviroResolution (ER): Tommy Craig, Banks Craig, Jeff Dickerson

Moreland: Brad Hale

PHNIG: Peter Givens, Naomi Johnson; Captain Willie May

Local Elected Officials: Representative James Beverly; Steven Layson

Pleasant Hill Community: Alice Jackson; Chester Gibbs;

Location: GDOT Macon Area Office-4499 Riverside Drive, Macon, GA

Date: 2/27/14

Purpose: Mitigation Progress Meeting-Noise Wall Aesthetics

CC:

Discussion

Agenda Item 1: Discussion of Pleasant Hill Noise Wall Aesthetics

Action Item(s)

Banks Craig called the meeting to order and began with introductions.

Banks introduced Brad Hale of Moreland-Altobelli. Brad Hale led the discussion of the final Pleasant Hill noise wall aesthetics plan.

- Brad began by showing a general overview of the Pleasant Hill district. He said the red lines show proposed barriers for the Pleasant Hill Community.
- Brad said GDOT held a meeting with members of the Pleasant Hill Community last summer and received input from the Community about how the barriers should look from the community side.
- The Community asked that several themes be developed for the noise walls. The noise barrier will be placed in eight different locations with eight different themes representing the legacy of Pleasant Hill.
- Each theme will have a graphic and people from Pleasant Hill's history.
- "The Village" theme will be located at Middle Street.
- "Medicine" theme will be located at the terminus of 2nd Avenue. It will display Lundy and St. Luke Hospital.
- "Government" theme will be located at the end of 4th Avenue.
- "Music" theme will be located at the end of 5th Avenue near the current site of Little Richard's home.
- "Literary" theme will be located at 5th Avenue near Walnut Street and the proposed multiuse path.
- "Schools" theme will be located at 2nd Avenue and Frontage Road.
- "Churches" theme will be located at the entrance to the pedestrian bridge.
- "The Village" will be a much larger barrier. It will serve as a retaining wall and will be 25 feet up to the proposed ramp. There will be a freestanding noise barrier on the top portion of the wall.
- Peter Givens asked if Moreland included the graphic Rudy Mendes drew for the Pleasant Hill

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noise wall plaques.

- Brad Hale said Moreland did not include the graphic in the presentation. Brad said it is more of a general graphic.
- Peter Givens said he sent the graphic to Eric Duff and Brad Hale. The graphic was created by local artist, Rudy Mendes. Mr. Givens asked that GDOT use the graphic as a model for the proposed noise wall plaques.
- Brad Hale reminded the Community that the remainder of the noise wall in Pleasant Hill will be a plain concrete wall with panels.
- Captain May asked how tall the wall will be at the "Churches" theme.
- Brad Hale said the noise wall will be 12 feet high at that location.
- Peter Givens asked about the proposed locations of the kiosks in the Linear Park.
- Peter Givens said the Community needs to discuss the kiosk locations with GDOT at a later time. Peter said it is very important that people don't have to walk too far in between kiosks.
- Brad Hale said the bigger question is who will maintain the website for QR codes.
- Eric Duff said he will discuss this issue with Mary Beth of New South Associates since she is already working on the kiosks. She was tasked to create a website for the kiosks.
- Eric said the website for the kiosks will have to be a separate website than the website for the QR codes.
- Eric said he will discuss with Mary Beth and Charles Lawrence.
- Eric said next time GDOT meets with the Community, I will have more information on this topic.
- Peter Givens said the kiosks and QR codes are so important because it will be something everyone will see even if they don't have time to visit or don't know about the community resource center.
- Eric Duff said GDOT worked on similar kiosks and QR codes in Bartow County. Eric said he will discuss with Mary Beth and ask about the possibility of getting a presentation together on this topic. Eric also said he will send Peter Givens some links about kiosks and codes.
- Clinton Ford asked if the rest of the wall will have an ashlar finish.
- Brad Hale said no; the rest of the noise wall will be concrete.
- Brad said if GDOT uses an ashlar finish on the wall, it will be difficult to put the themes and designs on the wall.
- Peter Givens said the Community is still waiting on GDOT to look into the possibility of a noise absorptive concrete wall.
- Pastor McClendon asked if the Community will have different options for the noise wall material.
- Brad Hale said the vote tonight is for a plain concrete wall with eight different themes representing Pleasant Hill's legacy.
- Brad said the vote tonight will be to agree or disagree with this noise wall aesthetic plan. If you disagree, you may write down an explanation of why you disagree with the plan.
- Peter Givens said if GDOT approves the noise absorptive wall which is a concrete wall finished with a noise absorptive material, then the Community will also be able to have a design on the absorptive wall.
- Clinton Ford said the initial report he received from GDOT's material testing lab is that the noise absorptive wall that is capable of having a design on the front is not going to be approved.
- Peter Givens said he has been speaking with a noise wall vendor in Florida who says the absorptive noise wall which is capable of having a design has been approved by DOT in other

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states.

- Peter Givens said what is proposed now is a noise reflective wall instead of a noise absorptive wall.
- Peter Givens said when you talk about noise levels and decibels, even if there is no perceptible difference to the human ear, there is still damage that is occurring to the ear.
- Clinton Ford said GDOT's sound experts report there is no perceptible difference between the noise reflective wall and the noise absorptive wall.
- Peter Givens said his expert reports there is a difference.
- Pastor McClendon asked if there is a big difference in cost between the noise reflective wall and the noise absorptive wall.
- Clinton Ford said cost is not the issue. Clinton said if the absorptive noise wall is not a material on GDOT approved material list, then GDOT cannot construct the absorptive noise wall.
- Brad Hale said it is GDOT understanding that the Community is ok with using the reflective noise wall if the reflective wall is the only way to have the themed aesthetics.
- Pastor McClendon said the Community needs an answer on this issue. Pastor McClendon asked if there is even a possibility that Pleasant Hill can get an absorptive noise wall and also get the Pleasant Hill themes design. The Community needs a definitive answer on this issue so the Community can make a decision.
- Clinton Ford said the answer is no because the absorptive noise wall capable of having themes on the front has not been approved by GDOT's materials testing lab.
- Peter Givens said he wants to see an official "No" from GDOT on this issue and he got up to leave the meeting.
- Pastor McClendon told Peter Givens the Community needs him at the negotiating table.
- Peter Givens said he won't be at the negotiating table when he knows for a fact that GDOT has not officially said no to the noise absorptive material which can have a theme design.
- Peter Givens and Naomi Johnson excused themselves from the meeting.
- Pastor McClendon said Mr. Givens is upset because he has been told there is a chance for the absorptive wall when it seems to me the absorptive noise wall is not a possibility.
- Clinton Ford said the GDOT materials testing lab responded that the absorptive noise wall doesn't meet GDOT's specifications.
- Captain May asked if GDOT is officially saying an absorptive noise wall is not a possibility.
- Brad Hale said there has already been consensus among the Community that the Community wants a themed noise wall. As of today, to get a themed finish, the Community cannot have an absorptive noise wall.
- Pastor McClendon said he was asking if the door was still open on the absorptive noise wall issue. He said now understands that the absorptive noise wall is not a possibility.
- Brad Hale said GDOT's next step is to have a public meeting and present the themed noise wall finish to the Pleasant Hill Community. Brad Hale said the overall objective of the meeting tonight is to get the Community to vote and approve the themed noise wall finish.
- Pastor McClendon said the Community doesn't really have a choice.
- Clinton Ford said the Community does have a choice. If the themed finish is not what the Community wants then GDOT can go back to the drawing board.
- Eric Duff said Chuck Hasty is in charge of the approved materials for GDOT, and Chuck has clearly said "No" to the absorptive noise wall.
- Brad Hale said if the Community wants an ashlar stone finish, GDOT could use the ashlar stone finish up to a point and use a different concrete material to accommodate the graphics and

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themes.

- The Community casts its vote for approving or disapproving the final noise wall aesthetics plan that will be presented at the upcoming Pleasant Hill public meeting.