

MEETING NOTES

MACON/PLEASANT HILL PROJECT

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

Version #: 1.0

Issue Date: 3/27/13

Attendees: GDOT: Clinton Ford, OPD; Eric Duff, OES; Karlene Barron, Communications; Kimberly Larson, Communications; Scott Roberts, ROW

EnviroResolution (ER): Tommy Craig, Jeff Dickerson, Banks Craig
URS: Nick Castronova, Mickey O' Brien, James Lawson
Moreland: Brad Hale and Russell Claxton

PHNIG: Peter Givens; Naomi Johnson
Community: Alice Jackson

Location: 4499 Riverside Drive, Macon, GA

Date: 3/27/13

Purpose: Macon/Pleasant Hill – Mitigation Progress Meeting

CC: Peter Givens; Naomi Johnson; Della Henderson; Captain Willie May; Pastor Billy Graham McFadden; Tony Lowden; Camilla Johnson; Judge Billy Randall; Senator David Lucas; Representative Nikki Randall; Representative James Beverly; Representative Allen Peake- Meeting invitees received email invitations and telephone calls reminding them of the meeting.

Discussion

Item 1: Community Outreach Activities

Action Item(s)

Tommy Craig began the meeting by explaining Clinton Ford, Karlene Barron, Jeff Dickerson, and Banks Craig have been engaging in community outreach activities. Tommy Craig asked Banks Craig to provide a more in depth discussion of these outreach activities:

- Banks explained that meetings have been held with Benjamin Sullivan, Ava Sullivan Davis, Camilla Johnson, Gallet and Marvia Mitchell, Margaret White, Tony Lowden, Pastor Billy Graham McFadden, Rep. Nikki Randall, Sen. David Lucas, and Rep. James Beverly, and Rep. Allen Peake.
- Banks reported the meetings went well, and he explained that GDOT is trying to include as many people as possible in the project. In addition, he described how each person contacted has been helpful in providing GDOT with more contact information to further expand its outreach efforts.

Item 2: Right-of-Way Acquisition

Action Item(s)

Scott Roberts updated GDOT's right-of-way acquisition activities:

- Scott estimated by the next meeting as many as 16 out of 23 parcels may have been acquired. There have been three more acquisitions by deed since the last mitigation progress meeting.
- Scott said GDOT could possibly gain title to the Richard Penniman House as early as this week or next.
- GDOT will allow 30 days for the contents in the house to be moved.
- Scott said GDOT is in the process of acquiring Ms. Nedd's property. He is attempting to schedule a meeting with her as soon as her health permits.
- Peter Givens stated Ms. Nedd had knee surgery, so her acquisition has been delayed. The delay

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is due to circumstances out of her control, not from lack of cooperation.

Item 3: Collecting of Oral Histories

Action Item(s)

Eric Duff gave an update on the collection of oral histories:

- Eric said Mary Beth Reed of New South Associates is very excited about the progress of collecting oral histories.
- Mary Beth expects to finish collecting the histories by January 2014. This means she has about 9 more months to finish collecting the histories.
- Eric asked the meeting attendees to bring to GDOT's attention anyone who may have important oral histories or artifacts to share.
- Naomi Johnson said she has some pictures from the 1920's. She needs people in the community to identify the people depicted so she can update the upcoming Facebook page which is currently in development.

Item 4: Updating the Website

Action Item(s)

Jeff Dickerson provided information about the upcoming plans to update the website:

- Jeff stated he is in the process of updating the website.
- The website will basically be a replication of the project brochure.
- Michael Gill of Moreland-Altobelli has been provided all the materials that ER believes are needed to update the website.
- Kimberly Larson asked ER to send her more brochures when they are available.
- Eric said ER should order another 500 brochures.

Item 5: Quarterly Newsletter

Action Item(s)

Banks Craig discussed ER's plans to create a project newsletter:

- Banks explained that we are in the process of creating a project newsletter to be distributed quarterly. The newsletter will contain important project information and milestones. This will be an important community outreach activity to keep as many people informed about the project as possible.
- Banks said the quarterly project newsletters will be posted to the project website: www.il6i75.com.
- Banks stated project brochures have also been made and distributed to all the churches in Pleasant Hill, the Macon offices of the Georgia representatives and senators who represent Pleasant Hill, local community centers within Pleasant Hill, and local stores in Pleasant Hill.

Item 6: Vacant Lot Plan Approval

Action Item(s)

Eric Duff discussed approval of the vacant lot plan:

- Eric said GDOT has received written comments on the vacant lot plan from Mr. Givens.
- GDOT forwarded the comments to Charles Lawrence of GDOT.
- Mr. Givens said he needs to meet with GDOT again because he has more suggested changes to the vacant lot plan.
- Peter Givens stated he will call Eric Duff to set up a meeting.

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- Eric Duff commented LAS will be presenting the vacant lot plan at our next mitigation progress meeting.
- Scott Roberts asked when the vacant lot plan will be finalized.
- Eric Duff responded the vacant lot plan should be finalized next month.
- Eric said GDOT is sending the vacant lot plan to SHPO for concurrence. Then, GDOT will meet with Scott Roberts and discuss how to approach property owners who are willing to sell their vacant lots.
- Eric Duff said that all sellers of vacant lots must be consensual sellers.
- Peter Givens said he has already spoken to many of the vacant lot owners. He said most of the lot owners have said they are willing sellers.
- Eric Duff said GDOT is identifying 50 vacant lots, so hopefully we will have more vacant lots than we need.

Item 7: Noise and Visual Barrier Meetings

Action Item(s)

Brad Hale led the discussion about noise and visual barriers:

- Brad said Moreland has prepared a community outreach plan to gather input from surrounding affected communities.
- In 4-6 weeks, Moreland will start to host meetings with the affected communities.
- The purpose of these meetings is to get input regarding the aesthetics of the barriers and landscaping treatments around the barriers.
- Brad stated input gathered in the past indicated no support for metal barriers.
- Moreland is looking at concrete barriers that can be embellished with designs or patterns.
- Brad Hale said Moreland is open to all discussion about the barriers. He said Moreland is limited by space to preserve certain natural barriers or create earthen berms.
- Peter Givens said we should make the barriers as pleasing to the eye as possible. We don't want the barriers to look like a prison yard.
- Brad said he can show the communities noise and visual barriers Moreland has used on other projects.
- Peter Givens said he doesn't want to get too expensive with these noise and visual barrier designs. Peter stated he would rather use the money elsewhere on the mitigation project. Peter asked that Moreland call him closer to time to discuss the barriers. He said he would also like to discuss natural barriers.
- With regard to noise and visual barriers, Alice Jackson noted her church is located at the end of Woodland Street. Barriers are very important to her church; they want to protect the Community from noise.
- Peter Givens said that he is not saying we want to skimp on barriers, but there is a difference between a Volkswagen and a Rolls Royce.
- Ms. Jackson acknowledged Mr. Given's comments, but added that others in the community were very interested in the Rolls Royce version of the noise walls.
- Clinton Ford asked how the noise and visual barrier meetings would proceed.
- Brad stated Moreland will be hosting separate meetings with each affected community such as Shirley Hills. We will also be hosting meetings with the Mayor and City Council.
- Brad said Moreland is currently developing renderings.

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- In 3-4 months, Moreland will be hosting a separate round of meetings to show renderings. After these meetings, Moreland will be developing the wall details.
- There will also be one final presentation to local governments.

Item 8: Design Guidelines

Action Item(s)

Eric Duff discussed the design guidelines:

- Eric said Mary Beth Reed is working on developing the design guidelines now.
- In the next month, GDOT should be having a meeting with the other consultants to discuss the design guidelines.
- New South is tentatively set to present the draft guidelines at the next mitigation progress meeting on April 25th.

Item 9: Introduction of URS-Design of Mitigation Elements (Jefferson Long Park and Streetscapes)

Action Item(s)

Nick Castronova of URS led the discussion about the design of Jefferson Long Park and the streetscapes:

- Nick stated that URS is excited to finally get started. He said URS is developing renderings and will be discussing elements with the Community.
- Nick said URS plans to host an initial meeting in April to listen and learn the Community's wishes. Next, URS will be moving toward implementation.
- Peter Givens asked if URS knows that basic design for the park and streetscapes has already been done.
- Mickey O' Brien said URS is aware of the architect who has previously worked on the project and would welcome any suggestions from the Community or the architect.
- Peter Givens said he would like to have a meeting with URS to discuss the work that has already been done. Peter said he is not a happy camper right now regarding this set up. He said we are wasting the Community's money, and this is redundancy.
- Eric Duff said GDOT still needs to do environmental studies for air and noise etc. The sooner GDOT can get out there to do these studies the better, preferably right after URS meets with community/ Mr. Givens.
- Clinton Ford said he will coordinate the meeting between URS and Mr. Givens.

Item 10: Moreland-Altobelli- Presentation and discussion of design for linear park

Action Item(s)

Brad Hale discussed the design for the linear park:

- Brad said Moreland has a preliminary design for the linear park. Brad said Russell Claxton developed the preliminary plan in coordination with the Pleasant Hill Community.
- Brad said the preliminary design has an outline of the multi-use trail and different trails throughout the park.
- Clinton Ford asked that Brad roll out the preliminary design for all the meeting attendees to view.
- Eric Duff asked Brad if he would like to coordinate with Mary Beth to see her design guidelines.
- Brad responded that he would indeed like to coordinate with Mary Beth.
- Eric commented he doesn't think the two plans will be opposed to each other, but we need to

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make sure we are on the same page.

- Russell Claxton said there is a potential safety issue with the linear park that needs to be resolved. He said there is a lot adjacent to the linear park location with large trees and overgrown vegetation. Russell said GDOT needs to coordinate with the City of Macon regarding the maintenance of this area and cutting the underbrush.
- Eric Duff said there will be maintenance agreements with the City of Macon when they approve the plans and that will be the time to discuss the maintenance issue.
- Peter Givens stated we may need to have that meeting before the City of Macon approves the plans because we have a new government coming in and nobody really knows what their roles and responsibilities will be.
- Tommy Craig suggested combining the noise meeting with the vacant lot meeting. He also suggested a later meeting with the Mayor to discuss noise and visual barriers and maintenance of the vacant lot next to the linear park.
- Russell Claxton said the City of Macon needs to impose some maintenance requirements on the property owner who owns the overgrown lot next to the linear park.
- Peter Givens said if this lot is adjacent to the linear park, it is in the way, and we need to figure out a way to deal with this problem.
- Eric Duff said the lot could present a safety issue next to the linear park. Having an overgrown area next door where somebody could hide may present problems.
- Russell Claxton said the area needs to be well-lit and well-maintained.
- Russell Claxton discussed a couple of other issues: 1) The concrete drainage channel next to the linear park will be covered, so final grades should be established with GDOT Right of Way; 2) the Pleasant Hill Community would like the Half House located in the linear park (we need to discuss its use); 3) and we need to take steps to commemorate the original site of the Little Richard House.
- Peter Givens said we discussed having a police annex in the Half House to have patrols in Pleasant Hill.
- Eric recalled discussion about using Segway scooters for patrols.
- Peter said Precinct 3 was amenable to this idea, but the patrols are another issue we need to resolve with the new government coming in.
- Eric Duff mentioned a safety issue with one of the tunnels near the pedestrian bridge.
- Brad Hale said Moreland did take your comments into consideration when designing the tunnel and made rounded corners instead of right angles.
- Peter Givens said we need to have a meeting to discuss this issue further.
- Naomi Johnson commented there is a cave with artifacts near Walnut Street and Middle Street. Please make note of this.
- Brad said Moreland did make note of this and included it in their documentation, but the cave will not be affected by the construction of the park.
- Peter Givens remarked the cave was a part of Ellen Craft's Underground Railroad. He would like to see some designation of the cave being there. Peter said the cave should be looked at and preserved. Peter said he may talk to SHPO and have them look at the cave.
- Clinton Ford to set up meeting with Moreland and New South to discuss Design Guidelines and Linear Park design.

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Item 11: Community Feedback-Solicit input from those in attendance about whether Saturday meetings would be more beneficial for the group

Action Item(s)

Tommy Craig solicited input from the group about potential Saturday meetings:

- Peter Givens suggested Thursdays after 5:00 (5:00-6:30) are a good time for meetings. Wednesdays are not good because of Bible studies. Peter said Saturdays are harder for people to attend.
- Everyone agreed GDOT would consider having the mitigation progress meetings on Thursdays from 5:00-6:30.
- Peter Givens said many elderly people will want to get home by dark so the meetings shouldn't run much later than 6:30.
- Clinton Ford said the next meeting will be on Thursday, April 25th. The time of the meeting will be announced later.