

MEETING NOTES

MACON/PLEASANT HILL PROJECT

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

Version #: 1.0

Issue Date: 4/3/14

Attendees: GDOT: Eric Duff, OES; Clinton Ford, OPD; Karlene Barron, Communications; Kimberly Larson, Communications; Amber Phillips, Air/ Noise

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

Moreland: Brad Hale; Stephen Duval

PHNIG: Peter Givens, Naomi Johnson, Captain Willie May

Public: Approximately 30 attendees.

Location: Booker T. Washington Community Center, 391 Monroe Street, Macon, GA

Date: 4/3/14

Purpose: Pleasant Hill Noise Wall Public Meeting

CC:

Discussion

Agenda Item 1: Project Location & Purpose

Action Item(s)

Jeff Dickerson began the meeting by stating GDOT is here to discuss noise and visual barriers and to present a plan of Pleasant Hill noise walls.

- Jeff began with introductions.
- Jeff said the presentation today on visual barriers is not GDOT's plan. The noise wall plan is the Pleasant Hill Community's plan.
- Jeff said GDOT has attended many meetings with the Pleasant Hill Community to determine the Community's desires for the designs of the noise walls.
- Jeff commented that the noise wall plan represents the history and integrity of Pleasant Hill.
- GDOT recognizes the importance of including everyone in the process. GDOT also recognizes the importance of an informed and engaged public.
- Jeff stated that all of the information from this meeting and other meetings will be available on the project website: www.il6i75.com

Agenda Item 2: Project History

Action Item(s)

Brad Hale began his presentation with a brief project description.

- Brad said the project includes a six mile segment of the interstate system.
- Brad stated the project limits are I-75 through Hardeman Avenue and Pierce Avenue. The I-16 limits are I-75 and Walnut Creek.
- Brad said the purpose of the project is to improve safety and improve the operational efficiency of the interstate. GDOT is also seeking to relieve current and anticipated traffic congestion. A secondary purpose is to improve the hurricane evacuation route.
- Brad Hale stated people may be asking why the project must affect the Pleasant Hill neighborhood.
- Brad said I-75 northbound from Hardeman Avenue requires drivers to merge across two lanes of traffic which is an extremely dangerous situation.

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- Brad Hale discussed the project history. Brad said the alternatives analysis included 10 alternatives that were studied.
- Brad said six meetings were held with Local Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). Nine meetings were held with local communities. Three Public Information Open House (PIOH) Meetings were held. In June 2010, the environmental document (FONSI) was approved by FHWA.
- Brad commented that right of way acquisition began in September 2010, and is still in progress.
- Brad said current construction funding is slated for fiscal year 2018.

Agenda Item 3: Recent Outreach Efforts with Pleasant Hill Community Leaders

Action Item(s)

Next, Brad Hale discussed recent outreach efforts.

- Brad said there was a Pleasant Hill Community Public Meeting held on July 25, 2013.
- There were Pleasant Hill Community Leadership Meetings held on August 15, 2013, January 23, 2014, and February 27, 2014.
- Brad Hale said the comment cards received from the first Pleasant Hill Noise Wall Public Meeting were vague with no common theme.
- Brad said Community Leader Meetings were held to develop eight specific themes to use on the Pleasant Hill noise and visual barriers.

Agenda Item 4: Proposed Barrier Location and Design

Action Item(s)

Brad Hale displayed photographs and rendering of some possible options for the noise walls and visual barriers.

- Brad said the noise barrier at Middle Street and First Avenue will have a theme of "The Village."
- Brad said there are several examples of barrier finishes in the back of the room for viewing.
- Brad commented that the Community has expressed a preference for the remainder of the noise wall to have an ashlar stone finish.
- Brad said Mr. Givens has expressed an interest in an absorptive finish on the noise wall. Mr. Givens has discussed his preference with a noise wall vendor. The absorptive noise wall finish is currently under review by GDOT. If this absorptive material becomes available during the timeframe of the project, GDOT will discuss it further with the City and Pleasant Hill Community.
- Brad said noise wall theme # 2 is "Medicine." Noise wall theme # 3 is "Government." The fourth noise wall theme is "Music."
- Brad said the "Music" noise wall theme will be located on a portion of the noise barrier near the Richard Penniman home.
- Brad Hale said currently text is being developed to put on the noise walls. This text will be posted to the project website.
- Brad said theme # 5 is "Literary." The sixth noise wall theme is "Churches." Theme #7 is "Schools."
- Brad said the eighth and final noise wall theme is "Education."
- Jeff Dickerson said visitors can learn a tremendous amount of information about Pleasant Hill on the plaques which will be on the noise walls.
- Jeff said GDOT thinks this is an ideal noise wall plan because it is the plan of the Pleasant Hill Community.

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Agenda Item 5: Open-House Question & Answer Session

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Jeff Dickerson said there are stations around the room where GDOT representatives will be waiting to answer any questions you may have about the project.

- Peter Givens said the noise walls are just a very small portion of the mitigation plan. Mr. Givens encouraged others in the Pleasant Hill Community to go to the project website to learn more about the mitigation plan for the project.
- Jeff Dickerson adjourned the meeting.