

MEETING NOTES

MACON/PLEASANT HILL PROJECT

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

Version #: 1.0

Issue Date: 8/14/14

Attendees: GDOT: Eric Duff, OES; Clinton Ford, OPD; Karlene Barron, Communications; Kimberly Larson, Communications; Iris Hernandez, Chad Carlson, Sandy Lawrence; Terri Lotti, OES

EnviroResolution (ER): Jeff Dickerson, Jenny Carter

Moreland: Brad Hale

URS: Nick Castronova, Erin Lane, Michelle Palmer, Travis McClam

New South: Jackie Tyson

SHPO HPD: Stephanie Jordan, Stephanie Cherry-Farmer

Macon-Bibb: Latoya Jones, Julie Moore, Wanzina Jackson

Land Bank Authority: Alison Goldey

Linwood Cemetery: Yolanda Latimore

PHNIG: Peter Givens, Naomi Johnson; Carolyn Nedd

Local Elected Officials: Representative James Beverly;

Pleasant Hill Community: Alice Jackson; Russell Claxton, Jason McClendon (Community Church of God)

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

Date: 8/14/14

Purpose: Mitigation Progress Meeting-Streetscape Features, Heritage Tour, Interpretive Signage and Linear Park

CC:

Discussion

Agenda Item 1: Heritage Trail and Streetscape Features

Action Item(s)

Eric Duff called the meeting to order and began with introductions.

The meeting began with a tour for URS to present the proposed streetscape features.

The first stop was on Walnut Street near the bridge over I-75

- Walnut Street improvements will run from Gaillard Street to Madison Street;
- The bridge over I-75 will be replaced as part of the overall project; a 10-foot walking path will be added;
- Will keep sidewalks that are in good shape and repair/replace sections as needed;
- ADA compliant handicapped ramps will be installed; there was a discussion about the color/materials to be used with a recommendation that the color/materials blend with the sidewalk, rather than stand out (i.e., no bright yellow);
- Bike lanes will be added;
- On-street parking spaces will remain;
- A 5-foot landscaped median is proposed in places; there was discussion of the advisability of a median and the landscaping to be used; Macon-Bibb expressed a preference for grass for ease of

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maintenance;

- There was discussion of the existing granite curbing; use of granite curbing is currently not consistent, and this is not proposed to change.

The second stop was at LH Williams Elementary School at the intersection of 3rd Avenue and Pursley Street.

- Streetscape improvements on 3rd Avenue extend to Walnut Street;
 - Will keep sidewalks that are in good shape along one side and repair/replace sections as needed; will connect sidewalks on other side where possible considering right of way and other constraints;
 - Drainage will be improved as some curb inlets will be replaced;
 - On street parking spaces will remain.
- Streetscape improvements on Pursley from Jefferson Long Park to Walnut Street;
 - Will add competent sidewalks for Heritage Tour; propose to lower sidewalk along Pursley where there is currently a substantial drop;
 - Propose to make the end of Pursley a one-way street in the direction of Walnut Street beginning at 4th Avenue; there was a question as to whether this would impact school bus routes at all- this needs to be confirmed.

The third stop was at Jefferson Long Park

- 1st and 2nd Avenues will be fully reconstructed as concrete streets; 1st Avenue will end with a hammerhead turnaround at the pedestrian bridge, and a section of 1st Avenue will be removed;
- Construction will be staged to retain access to churches at all times;
- Pecan Street will be removed in the park; a passive park with walkways will be constructed; the Community Garden will remain;
- The Penniman House will be placed on the other side of Craft Street across from the Community Garden;
- A question was asked about the house on the corner of 1st Avenue and Pecan Street; this is exclusively a city initiative and at present the intention is for this house to be purchased and demolished;
- HPD expressed concern at the existing road remnant in the park being removed.
- HPD expressed concern about the changes to 1st Avenue.
- A question was asked about the granite markers in the community; these will be retained;
- URS is also trying to identify areas suitable for landscaping within current right-of-way.

The final portion of the tour was to drive to the Half House and see the Linear Park area on the other side of I-75.

Agenda Item 2: Interpretive Signage

Action Item(s)

Jeff Dickerson called the second portion of the meeting to order and began with introductions of community members who were not present for the tour.

Jackie Tyson from New South Associates gave a presentation on interpretive signage:

- The presentation started with an overview of considerations to keep in mind when using

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- interpretive signage. Placement of the signage is a key consideration.
- Several new tree-themed logos were presented for consideration; these would go on the visual barriers with the various theme names;
 - Alternate theme names were proposed;
 - A four-sided entrance kiosk was proposed for the entrances to the parks and entrances to the community;
 - Kiosks will also be placed along the Heritage Tour;
 - A list of key figures was presented along with a map showing geographic landmarks; Ms. Tyson asked that the community members review the landmarks and let her know if others need to be added;
 - Four options were presented for consideration:
 - Option A- a small plaque with information and a place for a QR code on the visual barrier near the theme design;
 - Option B- a wayfinding sign by the walking path near the location of the theme design on the visual barrier;
 - Option C- a covered 3-panel sign by the walking path near the location of the theme design on the visual barrier; the panels had prominent text and smaller pictures;
 - Option D- a covered 3-panel sign by the walking path near the location of the theme design on the visual barrier; the panels had prominent pictures and smaller text;
 - Discussion:
 - Peter Givens requested that the designs previously selected by the community be used rather than any of the proposed new tree designs;
 - Peter Givens expressed his preference that the QR codes be placed near the walking trail rather than on the wall; others agreed;
 - Peter Givens asked that the Heritage Tour signs address all elements of Pleasant Hill, not just the Linear Park; Mr. Givens stated that the community has a plan for this and just needs to sit down and discuss it further;
 - With respect to the list of names, several community members present stated that there had already been agreement on the names for the walls/signs; QR codes would be used for additional names and information;
 - Jason McClendon asked whether the Community Church of God could be a landmark; one of the HPD representatives will speak with him about this;
 - Yolanda Latimore asked about the maintenance for the QR codes; Eric Duff stated that GDOT will develop a website if QR codes are used; GDOT is working on determining who would host the web site, perhaps Macon-Bibb; other suggestions were Historic Macon and the Conventions and Visitors Bureau;
 - There was additional discussion about the pros and cons of QR codes;
 - Community members discussed the various signage options presented;
 - Decisions made:
 - Proposed four-sided entrance kiosk was not well received, and that style will not be used;
 - The covered 3-panel style sign proposed with Option C (see picture, attached) will be used in place of the entrance kiosks;
 - The wayfinding signs (see picture, attached) will be used in conjunction with the visual barrier themes.

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Agenda Item 3: Linear Park

Action Item(s)

Brad Hale from MAAI presented the Linear Park Design

- The Linear Park begins near the intersection of 1st Avenue and Middle Street goes to 5th Avenue which will be extended to Walnut Street;
- The park will be landscaped and contain a multi-use path;
- The pedestrian bridge will be reconstructed with curving entrance ramps (to eliminate the 90 degree turns) near the 1st Avenue park entrance; due to the height of the ramp, there will be a short tunnel under the new ramp to connect to the pedestrian bridge; the bridge is being relocated so that the current bridge can continue to be used while the new bridge is being constructed;
- A small parking area is proposed near the 1st Avenue entrance to the park;
- 2nd and 4th Avenues will terminate near the location of the existing concrete culvert; the previously proposed asphalt cul-de-sacs are being replaced with pavers with grass in between. This will allow for emergency vehicles to turn around;
- The drainage canal will be enclosed in a box culvert and landscaped with special design features to represent the stream that once flowed through the area;
- A keyboard motif is proposed for the walking path near the current location of the Penniman House;
- Discussion
 - A question was asked as to the reasoning behind covering the culvert and whether it is a historic feature; Mr. Givens stated that this is part of the MOA because it resulted from the original construction of I-75 and was not wanted by the community as it presents a safety and mosquito hazard;
 - Mr. Givens requested that the keyboard motif contain the correct number of keys;
 - A question was asked about the location of the Half House; Clinton Ford stated that this is still being worked out;
- Decisions made:
 - The community agrees with the park design as presented;
 - Peter Givens added that there needs to be additional discussion as to smaller items within the park such as benches and water fountains.

Agenda Item 4: Community Feedback

Action Item(s)

- Peter Givens stated that he needs to have meetings with specific GDOT personnel to discuss different aspects of the project; he will be sending an email of the points he would like to discuss;
- Naomi Johnson raised a concern that there was some incorrect information in the newsletter articles; one item concerned the Amelia Hutchings Memorial Library; Jeff Dickerson responded that there will be an effort to prevent inaccurate information in future editions.