

## MEETING NOTES

### MACON/PLEASANT HILL PROJECT

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

Version #: 1.0

Issue Date: 8/15/13

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

FHWA: Chetna Dixon

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

Moreland: Brad Hale; Russell Claxton, Karla Poshedly

PHNIG: Peter Givens, Captain Willie May

Local Elected Officials: Senator David Lucas; Representative James Beverly; Sam Henderson (Mayor Reichert's office)

Pleasant Hill Community: Yolanda Latimore; Rudy Mendes

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

**Date:** 8/15/13

**Purpose:** Community Leaders Work Session

**CC:**

## Discussion

### Agenda Item 1: Project Overview

#### Action Item(s)

Brad Hale began the project overview by discussing the history of the project.

- Brad Hale said the project has been going on since the 1990's. An early concept for the project was developed in 1995. Moreland-Altobelli joined the project in 1999.
- Brad Hale said an advisory committee was created that helped to finalize the final design alternative.
- Brad said the Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was approved in 2010.
- Brad said the right-of-way acquisition phase of the project is very close to being completed.
- Brad stated Moreland is close to completing the final design plans. Brad said the final design plans will be completed in the next twelve to eighteen months.
- Clinton Ford said the project mitigation has been recommended to be moved into fiscal year 2016.
- Eric Duff gave an update on the project mitigation.
- Eric Duff said the oral history may be completed by early 2014. The oral history has been underway for close to 18 months.
- Eric Duff stated the right-of-way acquisition is very close to completion. All but four of the houses will be mothballed by the end of August 2013.
- Eric said the Vacant Lot Plan went to SHPO in August 2013.
- Eric Duff commented that the environmental studies are currently underway on the Jefferson Long Park, streetscapes, and vacant lots. Eric added that the environmental studies have been completed on all but two of the vacant lots.
- Eric Duff said GDOT hopes to be moving structures by 2014.
- Brad Hale displayed an aerial photograph depicting noise walls and visual barriers proposed for

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- the Pleasant Hill Community.
- Brad Hale said the green markings on the aerial photograph depict visual barriers, and the red markings depict noise barriers.
  - Brad Hale said at the last Pleasant Hill public noise wall meeting at the Booker T. Washington Community Center, the Pleasant Hill Community requested more viewpoints/renderings of noise walls in the Pleasant Hill Community.
  - Brad said he will be discussing noise wall material options, Pleasant Hill public noise wall meeting written comments received by Moreland, and noise wall aesthetic/design options. Brad added that the court reporter's comments will be added to Moreland's noise wall presentation once the comments are received by Moreland.
  - First, Brad discussed Moreland's ground level rendering of a proposed barrier in Pleasant Hill on Middle Street at First Avenue looking north.
  - Brad said the dark gray line running through the middle of the rendering depicts the elevation of the roadway. Brad said there is a short tunnel proposed to go underneath the interstate ramp to the David Lucas Pedestrian Bridge.
  - Brad said the barrier height in this image is around thirty three feet (ground to top).
  - Brad said to keep in mind that landscaping improvements may be possible.
  - Next, Brad displayed an image of Fourth Avenue from the drainage canal.
  - Brad said GDOT is looking at different options for finishing Fourth Avenue.
  - Peter Givens asked how much space is between the barrier proposed at Fourth Avenue and the end of the cul-de-sac.
  - Brad Hale said around fifteen feet. Brad Hale said this is a pinch point or choke point.
  - Brad stated the Linear Park then spreads out somewhere between forty and sixty feet.
  - Brad commented the pedestrian trail moves away from the barrier at Fourth Avenue and runs through the middle of the proposed Linear Park.
  - Brad said the barrier height is twenty feet high at the Linear Park.
  - Finally, Brad displayed an image of west Pleasant Hill from Frontage Road looking north.
  - Brad said the barrier has a ten foot maximum height at this point.

### Agenda Item 2: Potential Noise Wall Material

#### Action Item(s)

Brad Hale began the discussion of potential noise wall material.

- Brad Hale said GDOT is proposing concrete paneled barriers.
- Brad said GDOT has received some comments requesting information about absorptive barriers. Brad said GDOT doesn't have specifications for absorptive barriers because absorptive barriers have not been used in Georgia yet. Brad said GDOT is currently researching the specifications of absorptive barriers.
- Brad commented that absorptive noise walls are a precast concrete wall barrier with a noise absorptive layer on the front made of wood or rubber.
- Brad said an absorptive noise barrier has been used by Ohio DOT. GDOT has contacted Ohio DOT to get more information about absorptive noise walls.
- Peter Givens said he was approached by a firm in Florida that manufactures concrete, absorptive noise walls. The Florida noise wall firm said the concrete absorptive noise walls are FHWA approved.
- Karlene Barron said there is a GDOT process to get products qualified by GDOT's materials and research department.

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- Karlene said GDOT will provide Mr. Givens with contact information for Chuck Hasty who is in charge of GDOT's materials and research department.
- Mr. Givens said he believes he has contact information for Chuck Hasty.

### Agenda Item 3: Pleasant Hill Public Noise Wall Meeting Written Comment Summary

#### Action Item(s)

Next, Brad Hale summarized the results of the Pleasant Hill Community input received at the public noise wall meeting on July 25, 2013 at the Booker T. Washington Community Center.

- Brad Hale said there were approximately forty attendees at the meeting.
- Eighteen written comments were received by Moreland.
- Fifteen of the eighteen written comments were related to noise barrier types.
- Three of the comments were concerned about noise wall material.
- Three of the comments recommended a Booker T. Washington noise wall theme.
- Seven of the comments recommended a Pleasant Hill history noise wall theme.
- Six of the comments recommended a Little Richard or music noise wall theme.
- One of the comments recommended a Mattie Hubbard playground noise wall theme.
- One of the comments recommended a Rodney Davis memorial noise wall theme.
- One of the comments recommended a scene of children playing on playground, sports, etc.
- Brad Hale said Russell Claxton and Rudy Mendes are here today to help sketch potential noise wall designs the Pleasant Hill leaders come up with. Once there is consensus about the noise wall design, GDOT will present this design to the entire Pleasant Hill Community at the next Pleasant Hill noise wall meeting.
- Clinton Ford said the Pleasant Hill Community will get to decide noise wall material and design on the side of the noise wall facing the Pleasant Hill Community.
- Peter Givens asked who is making the decision for the design of the noise wall facing the interstate.
- Clinton Ford said the local government in Macon will be making the decision about the design on the noise wall facing the interstate.
- Clinton Ford said the local government in Macon will be making this decision because the local government has to maintain the side of the noise wall facing the interstate. In addition, all the citizens in Macon may desire a uniform pattern on the interstate side.
- Peter Givens said uniformity on the noise walls is best. Otherwise, the noise walls will be too busy.
- Brad Hale said one thing to think about is you won't see the side of the noise wall facing the interstate and the side of the noise wall facing the community at the same time.
- Rudy Mendes said some people in Pleasant Hill want a design on the interstate side to show motorist that they are passing through the historic Pleasant Hill district.
- Peter Givens said this could also be achieved by a sign on the David Lucas Bridge.
- Brad Hale said it is important to mention that the barriers have a graffiti resistant surface.
- Peter Givens said GDOT and the Pleasant Hill Community need to discuss the configuration for the tunnel under the interstate ramp at a later date. The Pleasant Hill Community wants to avoid possible criminal situations.
- Brad Hale said GDOT's proposed design of the new David Lucas Bridge has eliminated right angles which people could try to hide behind.

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### Agenda Item 4: Potential Noise Wall Aesthetics/Design

#### Action Item(s)

Next, Brad Hale began the discussion about potential Noise Wall Aesthetics/Design:

- Rudy Mendes said the noise barrier is nice, but people will tag the barrier with graffiti unless there is a smaller area that people have permission to paint.
- Peter Givens said he prefers some form of landscaping in front of the barriers to get away from a bare wall look.
- Clinton Ford asked for other suggestions or ideas from other members of the Pleasant Hill Community. Clinton emphasized how important it is for everyone to bring forth their creative ideas.
- Yolanda Latimore suggested using excerpts from the works of author John Oliver Killens.
- Peter Givens said using excerpts from John Oliver Killens is a great idea.
- Rudy Mendes suggested creating a timeline of the history of Pleasant Hill on the noise wall. Rudy said the important historical figures from Pleasant Hill's history could be depicted at certain points on the timeline. Rudy said then people can trace the entire history of Pleasant Hill while walking down the pedestrian trail that GDOT will be constructing.
- Sam Henderson suggested using a plaque on the wall for each historical figure in Pleasant Hill's history to give a little information about that person's life.
- Russell Claxton suggested putting low lying landscaping along certain points of the noise wall where no timeline or plaques are displayed.
- Karla Poshedly requested that the Pleasant Hill Community put together a list of Pleasant Hill historical figures that could be used for the timeline on the barrier.
- Brad Hale said the timeline and landscaping idea is a great idea because it incorporates every comment received at the Pleasant Hill noise wall meeting on July 25, 2013.
- Peter Givens said he believes everyone from Pleasant Hill could meet and agree on the historical figures that will be presented on the noise wall timeline.
- Clinton Ford said he likes the timeline/landscaping idea, but GDOT wants to hear from everyone and make sure everyone's viewpoint has been heard. Clinton asked for any other suggestions.
- Sam Henderson said it seems to me like everyone in the Pleasant Hill Community is in agreement that they would like to see landscaping and low lying shrubs mixed in with a Pleasant Hill timeline running along the length of the proposed barrier.
- Tommy Craig asked Eric Duff the name of the manufacturer of the attractive historic markers used by Georgia's Historic Marker Program.
- Eric Duff said Pleasant Hill would have to apply for the historic markers.
- Tommy Craig said historic certification aside; GDOT could use a marker similar in appearance on the barrier which would create a handsome finish for the barrier.
- Peter Givens said he believes GDOT is also investigating the possibility of QR code scanners for cell phones where people can scan and read more information.
- Clinton Ford said it seems given this new landscape/timeline design theme GDOT will likely use a concrete wall on the side of the noise wall facing the Pleasant Hill Community.
- Karlene Barron said an absorptive noise wall does limit the creative aesthetic possibilities on the noise wall.
- Peter Givens said the Florida firm told him designs can be made on both sides of an absorptive noise wall.
- Peter Givens said he wants the most noise reducing material first and foremost. Peter cares about design of the noise wall second.

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- Tommy Craig said GDOT would like to thank Yolanda Latimore and Rudy Mendes for being present tonight because the landscaping/timeline noise barrier design was their idea.
- Peter Givens said Pleasant Hill needs to find out the length of the barrier so Pleasant Hill can decide how many historical figures can be included on the barrier.
- Russell Claxton said GDOT and the Pleasant Hill Community need to give some thought to appropriate points on the barrier to place the plaques of the historical figures.
- Peter Givens said I believe the Pleasant Hill Community has come up with a good theme for the barrier today. Peter said there seems to be consensus among the Pleasant Hill Community about the design theme for the barrier. Peter Givens said the Pleasant Hill Community needs to meet on its own and develop the landscaping/timeline theme further.
- Peter Givens said the Pleasant Hill Community also needs to meet on its own because the Community needs to come up with the final list of historical Pleasant Hill figures for the barrier.
- Yolanda Latimore said she and Peter Givens will meet with the Pleasant Hill Community to get a consensus about the historical figures to be used on the barrier. Yolanda said she and Peter Givens will likely send the final list of historical figures back to GDOT by the end of August 2013.