

MEETING NOTES

MACON/PLEASANT HILL PROJECT

MASTER CONTRACT#: TOOELNV100523 · TASK ORDER#: 10 · PROJECT#: NHIM0-0016-01(092), BIBB

Version #: 1.0

Issue Date: 10/17/13

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

EnviroResolution (ER): Tommy Craig, Jeff Dickerson
Moreland: Brad Hale, Karla Poshedly

Community: Approximately 75 meeting attendees.

Location: Highland Hills Baptist Church/1370 Briarcliff Road, Macon, GA.

Date: 10/17/13

Purpose: Macon/Shirley Hills/North Highlands-Noise wall meeting

CC:

Discussion

Item 1: Project Status

Action Item(s)

Tommy Craig called the meeting to order with introductions of GDOT, EnviroResolution, and Moreland officials and stated that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss noise wall options for the Shirley Hills and North Highlands Communities:

- Tommy Craig referred to the handouts, comment cards, a court reporter, and stations that are available to help those who have specific questions or concerns.
- Tommy Craig informed the meeting attendees that there will be a noise wall presentation by Brad Hale, with a questions and answer session following the presentation.
- Tommy Craig told the community members if his/her question relates to a specific, individual circumstance, then that community member should visit one of the stations following the questions and answer session.
- Community member, Lee Martin, objected saying GDOT isolating the community members to stations is unacceptable. Mr. Martin said there might be a collective response which community members may want to hear.
- Tommy Craig responded saying the purpose of breaking the meeting down into stations is not to stifle public comment and input.
- Tommy said every community member will get the opportunity to state his/her question publicly.

Item 2: Review of the Current Noise Wall Plan and Specific Noise Wall Locations

Action Item(s)

Brad Hale began the noise wall presentation:

- Brad Hale began his presentation by stating the purpose of the meeting is not to debate the project, or discuss issues unrelated to noise.
- Brad Hale said the purpose of the meeting is to discuss proposed noise barriers and the aesthetics of the proposed noise barriers.
- Brad stressed the importance of public involvement.
- Brad Hale said GDOT recognizes the importance of an informed and engaged public and is committed to ensuring that members of the public are fully informed and have an opportunity to

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be heard.

- Brad Hale said input received on the comment cards will be used to develop a final design for the noise barriers.
- Brad Hale began discussing the background and general outlines of the project, Community member, Lee Martin, interjected to ask if Brad was going to “talk about sound barriers or justification for the project.”
- A community member asked how the noise barrier spans the Ocmulgee River.
- Brad Hale responded that the noise barrier will be attached to the bridge spanning the Ocmulgee River.

Item 3: Noise Wall Examples

Action Item(s)

Brad Hale displayed the different noise barrier locations for the Shirley Hills and North Highland Communities:

- Brad Hale displayed View #1: a before and after of I-16 Westbound.
- Brad Hale displayed View #2: a before and after of Glenridge Drive at Ocmulgee Heritage Trail
- Brad Hale displayed View #3: a before and after of Glenridge Trailhead
- Brad Hale displayed different aesthetic finish options for the noise walls proposed for the Shirley Hills and North Highlands Communities.

Item 4: Attendee Input

Action Item(s)

Brad Hale ended the presentation and began the question and answer session:

- A community member asked if the noise barriers will be constructed after the interchange improvements.
- Clinton Ford said the construction could start in the summer of 2017.
- A community member asked if GDOT would learn to do better signage. The community member said at Pierce Avenue and Riverside Drive traffic backed up onto the interstate.
- Clinton Ford explained that the traffic was backing up because paving was taking place at that time.
- Rick Hutto asked if the noise barrier will be on top of the ramp that was proposed to be fifteen feet higher.
- Brad Hale said the proposed noise barrier will extend twenty two to twenty five feet higher than the elevation of the ramp.
- A community member asked if there was any public input for the metal noise barriers at Pierce Avenue.
- Keisha Jackson said GDOT is now seeking more input from communities.
- A community member asked about the cost difference between vinyl noise walls and concrete noise walls.
- Karlene Barron said GDOT will no longer be building vinyl or metal noise walls because of maintenance issues.
- A community member asked when construction is scheduled to begin. The community member also asked what GDOT’s plan is for noise abatement during construction.
- Brad Hale responded that the proposed start date for construction is 2017. Brad said there is no temporary noise abatement plan during construction.
- Community Member, Lee Martin, said that at a meeting at L.H. Williams, GDOT showed the

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same noise barrier pictures. Mr. Martin also said the community received vinyl barriers....”We come to these meetings and say what we want and GDOT does what it wants to do anyway.”

- Karlene Barron said GDOT policy on noise walls has changed.
- Brad Hale said on this project GDOT is committed to concrete barriers.
- A community member asked if the noise barriers have to be so tall to contain the noise.
- Karla Poshedly responded that GDOT predicts future sound levels through a noise wall program. After making determinations, GDOT does a noise barrier analysis to determine how high the barrier needs to be in order to obtain a five-decibel reduction in noise.
- Brad Hale explained GDOT had obtained better than a five decibel level reduction in noise for the noise barriers on this project.
- A community member asked how GDOT will construct the project without destroying Ocmulgee Heritage Trail and old growth trees. She further commented that fake rock is tacky and she will vote for concrete panels.
- A community member said she is concerned about noise barrier finish. She said it is important not to get too fancy on the noise wall aesthetics so the design is easy to maintain.
- A community member said someone will try and damage the noise barriers with graffiti.
- Brad Hale responded that GDOT will coat the noise barrier panels with anti-graffiti coating.
- A community member asked if the noise barriers will be constructed after breaking ground in 2017. Brad responded it will be four or five years after GDOT breaks ground before the noise barriers will be constructed depending on funding.
- A community member asked if the noise barriers will look the same on both sides.
- Brad Hale responded that it depends on the local government. The local government will be deciding on the aesthetic design for the side of the noise barriers facing the interstate.
- Brad Hale said the feedback GDOT is seeking is for the neighborhood side of the noise barriers.
- Community member Jackson asked what the current container traffic is out of Port of Savannah and what is the projected container traffic out of Port of Savannah.
- Brad Hale responded that traffic projections for the project are for 2036. This number includes increases in truck traffic as well as passenger traffic.
- Rick Hutto asked what the plan is to ensure the construction doesn't cause Macon to lose visitors.
- Brad Hale explained GDOT will maintain 55 mph traffic flow.
- A community member asked if the noise barriers will funnel sound to those farther away.
- Karla Poshedly said some noise will continue above the noise walls.
- A community member asked if there are any plans for plant material to mitigate sound.
- Karla Poshedly said vegetation is not a good noise barrier.
- Keisha Jackson said Federal regulations don't allow for vegetation to be used as a noise barrier.
- A community member said Shirley Hills has a large deer population. The community member asked if deer will be able to cross the interstate.
- Brad Hale showed an elevated section where deer can pass underneath.

Item 5: Next Steps

Action Item(s)

- Brad Hale said the next steps are to develop proposed noise wall details and graphics (renderings) based on community input.
- Brad said GDOT will be posting the input received to the project website.
- Brad said GDOT will be scheduling a follow-up meeting with the Shirley Hills and North

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Highlands Communities.

- Brad said GDOT will be presenting noise wall details and renderings based on the comments received tonight.
- Brad said GDOT will then be finalizing the noise wall details and renderings. In addition, GDOT will be updating the project website.
- Brad said finally, GDOT will be presenting the proposed aesthetic improvements to City of Macon(Mayor, Chamber of Commerce, City Council etc.).
- Tommy Craig refers community members to stations, comment cards, and court reporter.
- Brad Hale said GDOT will need names and addresses for all comments, and a sketch of the proposed design for the noise barriers.