

Meeting: Ardmore Neighborhood Meeting

Date/Time: February 18th and 19th, 2008

Location: Miller Park Recreation Center

Attendees: 50 Total Attendees
Jumetta Posey (18th) and Ann Morris (19th) – Facilitators
Drew Joyner (18th) and Pat Ivy (19th) – NCDOT Presenter

Agenda Items:

Welcome/Introduction

- Ms. Posey/Morris welcomed attendees to the Ardmore neighborhood meetings for the Business 40 Improvement Project.
- The facilitators introduced Drew Joyner /Pat Ivy and other NCDOT representatives.
- The slide show presentation began.

Community Outreach

- Ms. Posey/Morris discussed the outreach process.
- How community outreach has been conducted (door-to-door surveys, neighborhood business surveys, downtown business surveys).
- The canvassing process (19 core neighborhoods were being surveyed).

Project Overview

- Mr. Joyner/Ivy gave a brief history of Business 40.
 - ✓ Business 40 is the oldest interstate in North Carolina.
 - ✓ It originally wasn't intended to be an interstate.
 - ✓ Business 40 carries on average 70,000 cars a day.
- Mr. Joyner/Ivy discussed why the project is needed.
 - ✓ Business 40 is over 50 years old and is starting to deteriorate.
 - ✓ The bridges have major design problems. (The steel beams are deteriorating; the bridges have clearance issues, etc.)
 - ✓ Business 40's lanes tend to be narrow.
- Mr. Joyner/Ivy then provided proposed solutions for Business 40's existing flaws.
 - ✓ All 11 bridges crossing Business 40 will be removed and replaced.
 - ✓ Sidewalks and bicycle lanes will be considered for the roads crossing Business 40.
 - ✓ Drainage on Business 40 will be improved.
 - ✓ Widen Business 40 auxiliary lanes in addition to placing full shoulders.
 - ✓ Reconfigure the entrance- and exit-ramps.

The Ardmore survey results were presented to the meeting attendees.

- Question – How long have you lived at your current address?
 - ~28% - Have lived at their current address for 0-1 year
 - ~23% - Have lived at their current address for 5-9 years
 - ~19% - Have lived at their current address for 2-4 years

~30% - Other

- Question – Do you plan to be living in Ardmore in 5-7 years?
 - ~43% - Will be living in Ardmore in 5-7 years
 - ~33% - Will not be living in Ardmore in 5-7 years
 - ~24% - Undecided
 - *Question – What bridges do you typically use?
 - ~5% - Unsure as to which bridges they cross typically
 - ~4% - Use Broad Street Bridge
 - ~2% - Use Peter's Creek Parkway Bridge
 - ~5% - Use other bridges crossing Business 40
- *Not everyone who took the survey in Ardmore answered this question.
- Question – How can transportation be improved in your neighborhood?
 - ~87% - No complaints
 - ~8% - Sidewalks need to be improved
 - ~3% - Other
 - Question – What is your preference during construction?
 - ~46% - Completely close Business 40 for up to two years
 - ~52% - Partially close Business 40 for up to six years

Ms. Posey/Morris talked about future plans for the Community Outreach process.

The Business 40 improvement project will be speaking with:

- large institutions with intranet access.
- R.J. Reynolds
- Wake Forest University
- Winston-Salem State University
- Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center
- Wachovia Bank

The Business 40 Improvement project will be using other forms of community involvement.

- Issue working groups
- On- and Off-ramp surveys
- Neighborhood Meetings
- Corridor-Wide Meetings

The slide show then concluded and the question-and-answer period began.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

QUESTION: Will the North Carolina Dept. of Transportation be widening Business 40?

ANSWER: NCDOT will not be providing any additional travel lanes during this project. However, NCDOT wants to widen the existing auxiliary lanes in addition to placing ten-foot paved shoulders beyond those auxiliary lanes.

Q: Will revisions be made to the bridges that cross Business 40?

A: Yes. We will completely redesign and replace the bridges within the mile-long corridor.

Q: Is there any chance that Business 40 will be closed for more than two years?

A: NCDOT has made the commitment that Business 40 cannot be closed for more than two years. NCDOT plans on meeting this commitment through the use of hiring construction firms that will work 24 hours a day or will use multiple crews within that two year period. NCDOT stands firmly behind the commitment to finish the project within two years if that is the preferred option for all affected by the project.

Q: In order to alleviate traffic flow in the affected corridor, what measures will be taken to ensure less heavy traffic during the project?

A: Measures will be taken by NCDOT to ensure that traffic is at its' lowest level possible given the circumstance that a major artery in Winston-Salem is closed/under construction. Alternative routes will be created and NCDOT is speaking with the Winston-Salem about updating the traffic signal system in the City.

Q: When will the project start?

A: The project itself will begin sometime in the next decade (the earliest the project would start would be 2015).

Q: How long will the construction on Business 40 last?

A: NCDOT wants to make sure that these improvements to Business 40 will last for as long as possible. Typically with concrete pavement, which is what NCDOT is considering for the project, lasts about 50 years.

Q: Will the design be commiserate with the historically-rich surroundings of Winston-Salem?

A: NCDOT is looking at what is called context sensitive design, where engineers take a discerning eye to the area they're designing for and design structures that fit better with the its' surroundings. As a result of context sensitive design, there can be economic returns for the city.

Q: These changes to Business 40 seem to be very car-oriented, has any consideration been put into placing some type of transit system with Business 40, for example a subway system?

A: Unfortunately, it's not cost effective for NCDOT place a mass transit system in Winston-Salem because the population in the city is much too small. The goal of this project is to maintain safety of cars on the roadway.

Q: Will this project coincide with any other construction efforts in Winston-Salem?

A: Yes, there are several projects NCDOT is looking at coordinating with The Business 40 Improvement Project. These include the US 52 short-term improvement that NCDOT is looking at starting in the first part of 2009, and the Salem Creek Connector which will connect the downtown area with the southern part of US 52.

Q: Considering that there has been an extensive outreach process surrounding this project, how come we don't have concrete answers regarding a time frame, alternative routes, etc.?

A: NCDOT wanted to start the outreach process a few years ahead the proposed construction so they could plan how this project would progress and be implemented. However, as time goes on, more answers will be available to the public before the project itself starts.

Q: What factors will be taken in to consideration for choosing either the two-year option or the six-year option.

A: NCDOT is specifically looking at what will be most beneficial to the people who will be most affected by the proposed changes of this project, the residents of Winston-Salem. NCDOT is also taking into consideration traffic control, etc.