



Meeting Notes

Meeting: Happy Hill, Winston-Salem State University & Skyline Village Neighborhood Meeting
Date/Time: February 26th, 2008
Location: William C. Sims, Sr. Recreation Center
Attendees: 12 Attendees
Michelle Tyler - Introductions
Anne Morris – Facilitator
Claude Williamson – NCDOT Presenter

Agenda Items:

Welcome/Introduction

- Ms. Tyler welcomed attendees to the Happy Hill, Winston-Salem State University & Skyline Village neighborhood meeting for the Business 40 Improvement Project.
- The Ms. Morris introduced Claude Williamson from NCDOT.
- The slide show presentation began.

Community Outreach

- Ms. 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. Williamson 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. Williamson discussed why the project is needed.
 - ✓ Business 40 is over 50 years old and is starting to deteriorate.
 - ✓ The 11 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. Williamson 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.
 - ✓ Widening Business 40 auxiliary lanes in addition to placing full shoulders.
 - ✓ Reconfigure the entrance- and exit-ramps.
 - ✓ Most improvements will take place within the existing right-of-way.

Ms. 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.

ASKED QUESTIONS:

QUESTION: Will the ramp from Peters Creek Parkway to Broad Street (eastbound) and Broad Street to Peters Creek Parkway (westbound) be widened?

ANSWER: Yes, there are plans to widen the ramp from Peters Creek Parkway to Broad Street and from Broad Street to Peters Creek Parkway. The current ramps are narrow because they are reconstructed shoulders. Widening these should increase traffic flow by giving people the room they need to be able to operate their vehicle effectively.

Q: Will this project create new jobs and improve the economy?

A: In the short-term, the public involvement portion of the project has provided jobs for more than 80 local residents and utilized local businesses in the project area and the greater Winston-Salem area. In the long-term, construction opportunities should be available for local firms and individuals.

Q: Will NCDOT value every neighborhood's input?

A: Yes. NCDOT is taking the information collected from each neighborhood that has been canvassed and is looking at the information, suggestions, and concerns equally. One of the reasons that the survey asked specific questions was to provide each individual and neighborhood with an opportunity to identify its own issues and concerns.

Q: Has every home in the 'core neighborhood' area been interviewed?

A: No, but we have knocked on every door in the core neighborhood area. Some residents did not want to take the survey, some gated communities (apartment complexes or senior centers) did not wish to participate, and on other occasions the residents were not at home. The first attempt to reach a resident was during the morning and afternoon, the second attempt was made during the early evening, and the third attempt was made on a Saturday. In addition, a flyer was left telling the resident that they could call the project office and make an appointment for a survey at their home, or have a survey conducted over the phone when they called.

Q: Will the Stadium Drive exit on US 52 be closed?

A: There are several projects that needed to be undertaken in order to improve traffic flow in the area before the Business 40 project is begun; US 52 is one of those projects. There will be a public hearing within the next two weeks on that project. Several ramps on US 52 are scheduled to be closed and one of those is Stadium Drive. The Salem Creek connector will be open as a new roadway and it will run very close to where Diggs Drive runs off of Martin Luther King and interchange with US 52. This will be done before construction begins on the Business 40 project.

Q: What information is available on the Business 40 Improvement Project website?

A: The meeting summaries of each of the neighborhood meetings will be placed on the project web site (www.business40nc.com) following each meeting. It will include a summary of the questions and answers, the number of people attending, and the location of the meeting.

Q: How much of Martin Luther King Drive will be closed?

A: The NCDOT is going to close several ramps on US 52, one of which is going to be Stadium Drive. Prior to this another project, the Salem Research Triangle Park connector, is going to be constructed. In addition, the Salem Creek Connector which will run very close to where Diggs Drive runs off of Martin Luther King will be connected and there will be an interchange at US 52.

Q: Will beltways be used during construction?

A: The Transportation Improvement Plan has scheduled the sections of the beltway between 158 and Business 40 for construction in July 2012. The two sections on either side, from New Walkertown Road of U.S. 311 back to 158 and from Business 40 to I-40, are scheduled for construction in July 2015 at the earliest. These beltway projects will have to be constructed before construction on Business 40 begins.

Q: How important is the input of the public on this project?

A: The public's input on this project is extremely important. You have the ability to change what NCDOT does. Residents, business owners and employees, and commuters have all be included in this extensive public involvement effort because they could each have a different perspective. Each is just as important as the other.

Q: How will neighborhood improvements tie into the project?

A: One of the things that will be done with the information that has been collected by the surveys and neighborhood meetings will be provided to the city of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County so that they can head exactly what you had to say. This information will make them aware of your concerns.

Q: Can residents request sidewalks in their neighborhoods?

A: You can always request sidewalks from the city or your elected officials, or if the roadway is a state maintained road you can request them from NCDOT.