



Draft Meeting Notes

Meeting: East Winston, North Winston and Northeast Winston Neighborhood Meeting
Date/Time: March 11th, 2008
Location: 14th Street Recreation Center
Attendees: 34 Attendees
Jumetta Posey – Facilitators
Drew Joyner – NCDOT Presenter

Agenda Items:

Welcome/Introduction

- Ms. Posey welcomed attendees to the East Winston, North Winston and Northeast Winston neighborhood meeting for the Business 40 Improvement Project.
- The facilitator introduced Drew Joyner and other NCDOT representatives.
- The slide show presentation began.

Community Outreach

- Ms. Posey 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 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 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 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 East Winston 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 10+ years
 - ~28% - Have lived at their current address for 2-4 years

- ~25% - Have lived at their current address for 0-1 year
- ~17% - Have lived at their current address for 5-9 years
- ~1% - Did not answer
- Question – Do you plan to be living in East Winston in 5-7 years?
 - ~66% - Will be living in East Winston in 5-7 years
 - ~32% - Will not be living in East Winston in 5-7 years
 - ~1% - Undecided
 - ~1% - Did not answer
- *Question – What bridges do you typically use?
 - ~29% - Use Broad Street Bridge
 - ~26% - Use Peter’s Creek Parkway Bridge
 - ~29% - Use all bridges crossing Business 40
 - ~18% - Use Cherry Street Bridge
 - ~12% - Use Liberty Street Bridge
 - ~11% - Use Marshall Street Bridge
 - ~9% - Use Main Street Bridge
 - ~5% - Use Fourth Street Bridge
 - ~6% - Use Martin Luther King Bridge
 - ~3% - Use Silas Creek Parkway Bridge
 - ~2% - Use Stratford Road Bridge
 - ~1% - Use US 52 Bridge
 - ~1% - Use Third Street Bridge
 - ~<1% - Use Knollwood Street Bridge

*Some Residents answered this question more than once.
- Question – How can transportation be improved in your neighborhood?
 - ~39% - Said that no improvements need to be made
 - ~14% - Requested better bus service
 - ~10% - Unanswered
 - ~4% - Requested Street Repair
 - ~6% - Requested lower speed limits
 - ~4% - Requested sidewalk repairs
 - ~4% - Requested more speed bumps
 - ~2% - Requested more stop signs
 - ~1% - Requested wider lanes
- Question – What is your preference during construction?
 - ~70% - Completely close Business 40 for up to two years
 - ~27% - Partially close Business 40 for up to six years
 - ~3% - Had no preference
- Question – Are there any additional issues in your neighborhood?
 - ~6% - No Issues
 - ~12% Unanswered

- ~1% - Reduced Speed
- ~1% - Road Repair
- <1% - Speed Bumps
- ~8% - Sidewalks
- ~1% Police Patrols
- ~5% - Bike Routes
- ~12% - Bus Routes

Ms. Posey 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:

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. There will also be coordination with the Winston-Salem beltway, the planning of which is near completion.

Q: Will DOT hire any ex-offenders to work on this project?

A: As far as this particular project is concerned, NCDOT believes that it's much too early in the process to know what kind of labor force will be hired for construction.

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: What will happen to access to emergency health care while Business 40 is under construction?

A: NCDOT is coordinating with emergency response systems to ensure that emergency services can still reach residents in the affected corridor. NCDOT is unsure at the moment what routes will be available. However, NCDOT guarantees that those connections are still available because NCDOT does not want to create issues in safety because of construction.

Q: Have there been any funds allocated to educate minorities about the actual bidding process for the construction of this process?

A: The Business 40 Improvement Project feels that this could be a part of the issue-working group forum, however since NCDOT is not a part of the process, no funding will be available.

Q: How will construction on Business 40 affect access to the new Ballpark off of the Broad Street exit?

A: NCDOT understands that the Broad Street exit from Business 40 is a major hub and because of that simple fact, it will most likely be among the first bridges that will undergo construction. However, NCDOT does not have any definitive answers regarding how construction will affect traffic to and from the new ballpark.

Q: In the six year plan, how will two lanes be kept open during construction?

A: If Business 40 is kept partially open, two lanes (traveling east and west) on one side of Business 40 will be kept open while the other side is completely closed for construction. When the other side is finished, traffic will be moved to the completed side.

Q: Will the Salem Creek Connector be in place by the time construction on Business 40 starts?

A: That is a question that NCDOT is looking to answer with the traffic studies regarding travel throughout Winston-Salem. NCDOT wants to see what projects will benefit this one by being in place first. NCDOT will possibly have more answers regarding the Salem Creek Connector and how it will affect Business 40 during construction at the first corridor-wide meetings.

Q: Will NCDOT remove/reconstruct the bridges crossing Business 40 all at once or one at a time?

A: NCDOT cannot shut down all bridges crossing Business 40 at one time because it would most like close off downtown from the rest of Winston-Salem. However, NCDOT does not have a definitive answer as to how bridge removal/reconstruction will be completed.

Q: Is this meeting to decide who will get the contract for construction?

A: No. These meetings are being conducted to collect information from the residents of Winston-Salem regarding their concerns, suggestions, and the improvements they would like to see on Business 40.

Q: Will traffic be re-routed through MLK?

A: NCDOT will certainly look at MLK as a detour route once Business 40 is under construction. However, NCDOT is unsure of detour routes at this point.

Q: Which bridges will be removed?

A: All 11 bridges will be removed and some or all of them will be replaced.

Q: How will the potential closure of Business 40 affect neighborhood businesses?

A: The potential closure of Business 40 will have far reaching effects for neighborhood businesses. However, the Business 40 Improvement Project is here to see how neighborhood business owners and employees feel they will be affected by the potential closure of Business 40.

Q: Will city, county and state officials' comments have more weight regarding what happens on this project?

A: The Business 40 Improvement Project and NCDOT are looking comments from everyone who travels through Winston-Salem through the same critical lens. No one has been given preferential treatment regarding this project.