

Meeting: Reynolda Park, Boston Thurmond, Old Cherry, Drayton Pines, Kimberly Gateway Commons, and Providence Square Neighborhood Meeting

Date/Time: March 6th, 2008

Location: Paisley Middle School

Attendees: 2 Attendees

Marion Combs – Facilitator

Claude Williamson – NCDOT Presenter

Agenda Items:

Welcome/Introduction

- Ms. Combs welcomed attendees to the Reynolda Park, Boston Thurmond, Old Cherry, Drayton Pines, Kimberly Gateway Commons, and Providence Square meeting for the Business 40 Improvement Project.
- Ms Combs introduced Claude Williamson the NCDOT representative.
- The slide show presentation began.

Community Outreach

- Ms. Combs 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. Combs 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: How are you going to reroute traffic?

ANSWER: There is currently no reroute plan developed. The detour routes will be developed in the future after other roadway improvements planned for the area are implemented.

Q: Have you agreed to a 2 year plan or a 6 year plan?

A: No, the reason we are meeting with the public is to determine which of the options is preferred by the public.

Q: Would a 6 year plan cost more than a 2 year plan?

A: There are various factors that affect cost whether you do a two year or six year plan, so while it would seem logical that the 6 year plan would cost more it is not certain at this point of the project.

Q: Under the 2 year plan will all the bridges be worked on at the same time?

A: Not all of the structures would be closed at the same time; NCDOT is committed to keeping north-south access through the city during the construction of the project and would keep as many structures open as possible during construction.

Q: Are you going to widen the highway?

A: No, the project hopes to minimize property acquisition and will keep the roadway improvements limited to Right-of-Way it already owns. The auxiliary lane will be widened to a full lane width and a full width shoulder will be constructed. No additional travel lanes will be constructed

Q: When was the discussion of this project started?

A: The project has been discussed in some way for maybe 50 years; this version of the project has been discussed for easily 10 years.

Q: When you decide what plan you are going to do, 2 or 6 years, will you notify the people?

A: Yes, the public will be notified through the media.

Q: Are there any buildings that you will be tearing down because of the reconstruction of the bridges?

A: Right-of-Way will be acquired for the project, but at this point of the project it is impossible to know for sure if any buildings will be required.