



Meeting Notes

Meeting: West End, West End South and Westland Neighborhood Meeting
Date/Time: April 10, 2008
Location: R.J. Reynolds High School cafeteria
Attendees: 10 Attendees
Jumetta Posey – Facilitator
Pat Ivey – NCDOT Presenter

Agenda Items:

Welcome/Introduction

- Ms. Posey welcomed attendees to the West End, West End South and Westland neighborhood meeting for the Business 40 Improvement Project.
- The facilitator introduced Pat Ivey the NCDOT representative.
- 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. Ivey 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. Ivey 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. Ivey then provided proposed solutions for Business 40's existing flaws.
 - ✓ All 11 bridges crossing Business 40 will be removed and some or all will be 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 survey results for West End were presented to the meeting attendees.

- **Question – How long have you lived at your current address?**
 - ~31% - Have lived at their current address for 0-1 year
 - ~29% - Have lived at their current address for 10+ years

~23% - Have lived at their current address for 2-4 years

~12% - Have lived at their current address for 5-9 years

~6% - Did not answer

- **Question – Do you plan to be living in West End in 5-7 years?**

~66% - Will be living in West End in 5-7 years

~25% - Will not be living in West End in 5-7 years

~3% - Undecided

~4% - Did not answer

- **Question – What bridges do you typically use?***

~43% - Use Broad Street Bridge

~30% - Use Peter's Creek Parkway Bridge

~19% - Use Cherry Street Bridge

~15% - Use all bridges crossing Business 40

~12% - Use Marshall Street Bridge

~8% - Use Silas Creek Parkway Bridge

~8% - Use Fourth Street Bridge

~8% - Use Main Street Bridge

~4% - Use Knollwood Street Bridge

~4% - Use Stratford Road Bridge

~4% - Use Liberty Street Bridge

~3% - Use Cloverdale Avenue Bridge

~2% - Use US 52 Bridge

~2% - Use Hawthorne Road Bridge

~1% - Use Martin Luther King Bridge

~<1% - Use Church Street Bridge

~<1% - Use Green Street Bridge

~<1% - Use Spruce Street Bridge

*Some Residents answered this question more than once.

- **Question – How can transportation be improved in your neighborhood?**

~37% - Said that no improvements need to be made

~17% - Requested lower speed limits

~7% - Requested more stop signs/traffic lights

~6% - Requested bike paths

~5% - Requested sewage system repairs

~4% - Requested sidewalk repairs

~4% - Improved bus service/public transportation

~2% - Did not answer

~2% - Requested Street Repair

~2% - Requested safer neighborhoods

- **Question – What is your preference during construction?**

~60% - Completely close Business 40 for up to two years

~31% - Partially close Business 40 for up to six years

~7% - Had no preference

- **Question – Any additional transportation issues in your neighborhood?**

~51% - Said there were no issues

- ~16% - Stated bike paths
- ~8% - Did not answer
- ~8% - Stated better bus routes/public transportation
- ~6% - Stated sidewalks
- ~4% - Stated reduced speeds
- ~2% - Stated police patrols
- ~2% - Stated noise
- ~2% - Stated road/street repair
- ~2% - Stated speed bumps
- ~2% - Stated construction costs
- ~2% - Stated public involvement

The survey results for West End South were presented to meeting attendees.

- **Question – How long have you lived at your current address?**
 - ~32% - Have lived at their current address for 0-1 year
 - ~31% - Have lived at their current address for 10+ years
 - ~21% - Have lived at their current address for 2-4 years
 - ~9% - Have lived at their current address for 5-9 years
 - ~8% - Did not answer
- **Question – Do you plan to be living in West End South in 5-7 years?**
 - ~71% - Will be living in West End South in 5-7 years
 - ~21% - Will not be living in West End South in 5-7 years
 - ~9% - Undecided
- **Question – What bridges do you typically use?***
 - ~37% - Use Peter's Creek Parkway Bridge
 - ~35% - Use Broad Street Bridge
 - ~26% - Did not answer
 - ~22% - Use Fourth Street Bridge
 - ~9% - Use all bridges crossing Business 40
 - ~6% - Use Cherry Street Bridge
 - ~6% - Use Marshall Street Bridge
 - ~4% - Use Liberty Street Bridge
 - ~3% - Use Cloverdale Avenue Bridge
 - ~3% - Use Knollwood Street Bridge
 - ~3% - Use Hawthorne Road Bridge
 - ~3% - Use Silas Creek Parkway Bridge
 - ~3% - Use Main Street Bridge
 - ~1% - Use Green Street Bridge

*Some Residents answered this question more than once.
- **Question – How can transportation be improved in your neighborhood?**
 - ~31% - Reduce congestion
 - ~27% - Said that no improvements need to be made
 - ~22% - Requested speed reduction
 - ~19% - Requested better ramps
 - ~14% - Did not answer

- ~13% - Request child at play signs
- ~12% - Requested better bus service
- ~5% - Requested street lights
- ~4% - Requested improved safety
- **Question – What is your preference during construction?**
 - ~58% - Completely close Business 40 for up to two years
 - ~31% - Partially close Business 40 for up to six years
 - ~12% - Had no preference
- **Question – Any additional transportation issues in your neighborhood?**
 - ~41% - Said there were no issues
 - ~13% - Stated bike paths
 - ~13% - Did not answer
 - ~9% - Stated better bus routes
 - ~4% - Stated reduced speeds
 - ~3% - Stated stop signs
 - ~3% - Stated parking
 - ~3% - Stated safety
 - ~1% - Stated sidewalks
 - ~1% - Stated speed bumps

The survey results to Westland were presented to meeting attendees.

- **Question – How long have you lived at your current address?**
 - ~47% - Have lived at their current address for 0-1 year
 - ~20% - Have lived at their current address for 2-4 years
 - ~13% - Have lived at their current address for 5-9 years
 - ~7% - Have lived at their current address for 10+ years
 - ~7% - Did not answer
 - **Question – Do you plan to be living in Westland in 5-7 years?**
 - ~40% - Will be living in Westland in 5-7 years
 - ~47% - Will not be living in Westland in 5-7 years
 - ~13% - Undecided
 - **Question – What bridges do you typically use?***
 - ~67% - Use Peter's Creek Parkway Bridge
 - ~53% - Use Broad Street Bridge
 - ~33% - Use Cherry Street Bridge
 - ~13% - Unanswered
 - ~13% - Use Main Street Bridge
 - ~7% - Use Fourth Street Bridge
 - ~7% - Use Knollwood Street Bridge
- *Some Residents answered this question more than once.
- **Question – How can transportation be improved in your neighborhood?**
 - ~40% - Said that no improvements need to be made
 - ~27% - Requested more speed limit signs
 - ~20% - Requested lower speed limits
 - ~20% - Requested better bus service

- ~20% - Did not answer
- ~20% - Requested wider lanes
- ~13% - Requested Street upkeep
- **Question – What is your preference during construction?**
 - ~67% - Completely close Business 40 for up to two years
 - ~20% - Partially close Business 40 for up to six years
 - ~13% - Had no preference
- **Question – Any additional transportation issues in your neighborhood?**
 - ~47% - Said there were no issues
 - ~20% - Did not answer
 - ~20% - Stated safety
 - ~20% - Stated sidewalks
 - ~13% - Stated better 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:

QUESTION: What can be done about the noise? Is there a noise ordinance?

A: Noise levels will be evaluated during the EA process.

Q: Will construction take place 24 hours a day under the 2 year plan?

A: No, NCDOT does not intend to work on Business 40 24 hours a day.

Q: Will there be an opportunity for beautification during the project?

A: Yes, there will be funds available for beautification on Business 40.

Q: Has anyone spoken with the businesses on Hawthorne Road and First Street to get their input as to how they feel and how they will be impacted by this project?

A: The Business 40 Improvement Project is currently in the process of reaching out to those neighborhood businesses as we have with the majority of Winston-Salem. If we haven't spoken with you yet, we will in the very near future.

Q: What is the time frame that the work will actually be completed under the 2 year plan?

A: NCDOT intends to keep Business 40 closed for that two year time period only. However, there will be more construction that will be going on after that two year time frame, but NCDOT is unsure as to how long construction on infrastructure aside from Business 40 would take during this very early stage of the project.

Q: Is there a plan to look at more traffic lights and other infrastructure improvements that may be needed in order to mitigate the flow of traffic while traveling on the detour routes?

A: Yes, NCDOT is coordinating with WSDOT to improve the traffic light system in Winston-Salem which is in need of improvements, as well as other improvements to ensure that the construction on Business 40 does not impede travel through the city given the change in infrastructure.

Q: Under detours, will more traffic be sent to First Street with the amount of traffic that already flows there?

A: That is a definite possibility. However, the Business 40 Improvement project is here find out if residents feel that would have a positive or negative impact on the city. Please tell us how you feel and what you would like to see regarding these detour routes. NCDOT makes the commitment that they will not send an 18 wheeler through a residential street. They will be placing traffic in areas that can handle a large influx of cars, trucks, etc.

Q: Will NCDOT close the entire corridor in sections, or will the entire highway be closed during construction?

A: Under the two-year plan, the entire corridor will be closed with the exception of 2 bridges connecting the northern and southern half of the city. Under the six-year plan, two lanes on one side of Business 40 will be kept open heading east and west while the other side of Business 40 is closed for construction. So, the corridor will be closed under the two-year and will be closed in sections under the six-year option.

Q: Will there be a process to address issues that may arise in the affected neighborhoods during construction?

A: Yes, The Business 40 Improvement project intends to start issue working groups over the summer of 2008 to address issues such as bridges, concerned business owners, neighborhood impacts, etc.

Q: Since First Street is already over capacity, how can putting more traffic through the area be considered

A: Detour routes will be determined later in the project. Traffic information will be used to determine if a roadway is capable of acting as a detour route, no detour routes will be placed on roadways unable to support them.

Q: Financially which plan is less detrimental for taxpayers, the two-year option or six-year option?

A: Logically, the two-year option would seem to be less expensive than the six-year option. However, under the two-year there is the potential for unforeseen costs. So at this point, NCDOT cannot say which option will be less expensive.

Q: Is NCDOT considering using US 52 ramps at 4th Street as a detour route?

A: Detour Routes will be determined later in the project. Traffic information will be used to determine if a roadway is capable of acting as a detour route.

Q: Is NCDOT considering widening First Street?

A: No, NCDOT does not intend to widen First Street. The widening of streets will not take place on this project.

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