

Freemason Area Water and Sewer Project Open House Meeting Minutes

10/20/08 Downtown Norfolk Council Conference Room

Attendees: See attached attendee list.

Presentation Overview

- Andrew Northcutt (Management Analyst, Norfolk Department of Utilities)
 - Introductions and project purpose
- David Speer (Civil Engineer, Norfolk Department of Utilities)
 - Project Overview/Update
 - New map overview
 - Water and sewer pipe work is complete in the areas shaded black. These completed areas only refer to the Department of Utilities water and sewer work being completed. Other private utility companies may still need to work in these areas.
 - Areas shaded yellow are currently under construction.
 - Project Update
 - The intersection of Yarmouth Street/Bute Street and a portion of Bute Street to Omar's Carriage House are blocked off.
 - Omar's Carriage House and the YMCA surface parking lot have access from Bute Street.
 - 300 block of Bute Street will be accessible from Dunmore Street.
 - Water installation in York Street will be extended just past Botetourt Street to the NOAA property.
 - Construction on Bute Street and York Street will continue for some period of time.
 - We are starting construction in the east half the 300 block of Bute Street starting at Yarmouth Street. Road closure barricade placement allows access to Omar's Carriage House parking lot.
 - The water and sewer construction is "stubbing out" down Yarmouth Street to ensure the Bute Street/Yarmouth Street intersection is closed only once.
 - The Bute Street detour signage plan was introduced and discussed.
 - Utilities will be working on opening up the intersection of Bute Street/Yarmouth Street when the contractor moves far enough down Bute Street.
 - Work in the 300 block of Bute Street will start shifting westward after the intersection is complete. Eventually, the 300 block of Bute Street will be closed to through traffic.
 - Accommodations will be made as much as possible for YMCA and Omar's Carriage House access and parking.
- Freda Burns (Right-of-Way Coordinator, Norfolk Department of public Works)
 - Closure Update

- A number of Permits are set to expire this week.
 - Permits on Brambleton Avenue to Boush Street will be closed out for the Residence inn by 11/19.
 - Dominion Virginia Power will close a lane of Brambleton Avenue from the Brambleton Bridge to Botetourt Street. This closure will last through the holidays.
 - Clancy & Theys will close one lane on Brambleton Avenue from Botetourt Street to Duke Street.
 - Mastac (works for Dominion Virginia Power) will be performing the relocation work along with Carolina Systems in the downtown area for Dominion.
- Paul Filion (Transportation Construction Project Manager, Norfolk Executive Department)
 - Light Rail Update
 - Light Rail Downtown Construction Matrix passed out and reviewed. Items shaded gray are complete. The matrix is updated as new permits come in.
 - Skanska has a barge near the Brambleton Bridge for the rest of the year for pile driving.
 - Kirn Library has a time capsule located somewhere on the site. Although the Kirn does not know where it is they asked for it to be recovered during demolition.
 - Dominion Virginia Power is still working on their plans for the Civic Plaza phase.
 - Verizon is having difficulty making their connections in the Harbor Park area which is holding up Skanska
 - Special Events Update
 - Grand Illumination Parade is coming 11/22.
 - Serendip has a large sales event they are planning for this weekend.
 - Town Point Park is closed for renovation until July 4, 2009.
 - Jack Kavanaugh – On Sunday, December 7, 1pm-6pm, the holiday Home Tour in Freemason will be going on.
 - ROW and Tammy Gilikin will talk to contractors working in the area this week to make sure the area is clean and construction sites are “safed up”. This is due to the large number of pedestrians with this event.
 - There will soon begin a project in the St. Paul’s Boulevard area. They have been in contact with all impacted parties and will be holding monthly meetings with those in this area.
 - Guzin Akan – Traffic management in all of downtown is going to be challenging over the next couple of years.

Discussion

- Jack Kavanaugh – Omar needs a sign saying “Omar’s Carriage House Open”.

- John Sires – When will work on Bute Street and York Street be complete?
 - It is anticipated that York Street will be complete before Bute Street. Once York Street is complete, crews will begin work on Dunmore Street.
- Cathy Coleman/Jack Kavanaugh – Has the Bed and Breakfast/Law Office on York Street been contacted?
 - Don and Lauren visited the Bed and Breakfast, but have not been able to speak to them directly. Cathy will give Don an email address and phone number for the Bed and Breakfast.
- Jack Kavanaugh – Will talk to Frank Duke, Planning Director, about easing the historic district/design review requirements for parking lots on a temporary basis due to light rail and other downtown construction underway and planned.
- Jack Kavanaugh – Will there be a time when there will be no access to Omar’s parking lot or the YCMA parking lot?
 - Our intent is to maintain access to Omar’s parking at all time, however, there may be a brief period where there will not be access.
 - YMCA will have access to their parking lot at all times during construction, either via Bute Street or Dunmore Street.
- Will Omar have parking available in the YMCA parking lot?
 - The YCMA will be using the parking lot for construction staging therefore the lot will not be available for additional parking.
- Cathy Coleman – Remembers Omar requesting that we have access to his restaurant during the holidays. Everyone said no, Omar said that access during the holidays was not that important. He said the holidays were not as important as the January to March time frame.
- John Sires – What if there is a fire in the area?
 - At night the road is drivable. The Fire Department would be able to move the barricades and drive on the roads. During the day we would ensure the fire trucks were able to pass.
- Freda Burns – Clancy & Theys is working with Omar to get him parking access in the Belmont garage.
- Jack Kavanaugh – The YMCA began selling parking passes today.
- David Klempt – Talked to Omar and Mr. Klempt does not feel Omar understands the effort Utilities is making to help him out as best they can.
 - With construction on Bute Street underway, Lauren will be touching base with Omar at least every other day.
- David Klempt mentioned he is satisfied with the current status.
- Paul Filion – Omar has concerns about the adequacy of the street lighting on his block.
 - Jack Kavanaugh – Talked to owner of the Baylor Building about turning on the large light on the top of their building. This would help with some of the issue.
 - Freda Burns – The new parking garages will add addition light to the area, but this will not address all areas that are in question.
- John Sires - A Cox Communications box is sinking and another one was knocked over if front of Cavalier Land, 234 West Bute Street.
- What will be done with the Amtrak bus stop?

- John Sires stated the Chrysler Museum purchased the old Wachovia branch which has a good sized parking area.