

Freemason Area Water and Sewer Project Open House Meeting Minutes

10/6/08 Downtown Norfolk Council Conference Room

Attendees: See attached attendee list.

Presentation Overview

- Andrew Northcutt (Management Analyst, Norfolk Department of Utilities)
 - Introduction
 - Handout overview (See attachment)
 - Agenda
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Checked to make sure that next week's meeting was not a conflict due to the Columbus Day holiday.
- David Speer (Civil Engineer, Norfolk Department of Utilities)
 - Project Overview/ Update
 - Last weeks meeting minutes review
 - Project Update
 - Construction is continuing on Duke St. between York St. and Brambleton Ave.
 - Norfolk Utilities is estimating being out of this area in 2-3 weeks.
 - Construction is continuing on the East and West end of York St.
 - Norfolk Utilities could be out of East York St. by the end of the week.
 - Discussion between Norfolk Utilities and local businesses is still underway regarding which route to proceed with construction, 300 block of Bute St. or Yarmouth St. There was a meeting today and a decision will be made before next week's meeting. Flyers will be distributed and emails will be sent as soon as a decision has been made.
 - Construction on Yarmouth St. will last approximately 4 months.
 - Construction of the water main on Freemason St. will begin after the holidays.
 - Norfolk Utilities will be moving forward with a proactive parking plan. A second round of flyers will be distributed to those affected by the construction on York St. These residents/businesses will be able to park in the York St. garage at no charge. Overnight parking is permitted in the York St. garage.
- Freda Burns (Right-of-Way Coordinator)
 - Map of Freemason Area
 - Many of the Light Rail relocations will be within existing closures.

- It will be hard for the contractor to move the fence back at 270 Bute St. when they are not working. They are currently building right up to the fence and they are working on the weekends. They are moving as quickly as possible and they are on schedule.
 - Residence Inn may now be opening in January. The Residence Inn/Brambleton Ave. street closure is still scheduled to expire at the end of December.
 - Virginia Power will be working in manholes on Brambleton Ave. between Duke St. and Boush St. She has requested night work. This work should not cause any power outages.
 - There are 13 locations in the commercial business area that have to be moved by Dominion Virginia Power. This will begin in February. Light Rail will come through after Virginia Power.
 - There will be an open cut on Brambleton Ave. in the Duke St. area.
- Paul Filion (Transportation Construction Project Manager)
 - Light Rail Overview
 - Update from matrix handout from 10/6/08
 - Distributed a HRT FAQ pamphlet
 - He will speak to Skanska about taking down orange barriers on the south side lane of the Brambleton Ave. Bridge on the weekends for runners, bikers, etc.
 - On Oct. 13th Verizon will be relocating manholes on Colley Ave.
 - There were 7 bidders for demolition of the Kirn library. The contract winner will also demolish the Baylor building. Demolition of the Baylor is not required until Late March/Early Spring.
 - Some citizens were concerned about the removal of Crepe Myrtle trees at Harbor Park. Unfortunately, they had to be removed.
 - There is going to be a lengthy closure on Brambleton Ave. near NSU for Light Rail.
 - Encroachment letters for the Light Rail route will be mailed soon. This will be discussed more after encroachments are finalized.

Discussion

- Guzin Akin stated that each household in the Freemason area receives one parking permit per car. Businesses receive one permit per 350 square feet and one for each employee. Residential units receive one additional hanger for visitors. Parking Permit regulations were distributed.
- Jack Kavanaugh stated that PETA has multiple hangers for volunteers and they move their sticker decals from car to car.
 - Guzin Akin will look into this.
- Jack Kavanaugh suggested that Zone 1/2 Hour parking on blocks surrounding Yarmouth St. be changed to Zone 1 only during construction to force YMCA patrons to use the YMCA lot.
 - Ken Turner stated that there are businesses in these blocks and making these spaces Zone 1 only would eliminate parking for their customers.
- Question inquiring when construction on the 300 block of Dunmore would begin.

- Freda Burns stated that she received a query requesting to begin Dunmore in the next 2 weeks.
- Question inquiring if flow of sewer will change at Dunmore.
 - Ken Turner responded, yes it will.
- Question inquiring if it would be better to get York St. at Yarmouth St. completed before Dunmore.
 - Ken Turner stated that there is a logical progression of the project and none of the laterals will be connected until after Dunmore is complete. #11 was done out of sequence because of the Light Rail.
- Question inquiring about Brambleton Ave. closures due to Duke St. construction.
 - Ken Turner answered that there are other activities on Duke St. after Utilities is finished.
 - Freda Burns stated that VA Power would be coming back to do work on Duke St. between York St. and Bute St.
- John Sires stated that there were city vehicles in the Bute St. lot this weekend that were doing testing at the York St. garage.
 - Freda Burns responded that they were from the Parking Department and this issue was being taken care of.
- Jack Kavanaugh stated that there were only 3-4 parking spaces on South Bute St. Could those parking spaces be made no parking during construction to allow for better traffic flow?
 - Guzin will look into it.
- Question inquiring why there was still no stop sign at the YMCA garage.
 - Freda Burns stated that there was a temporary stop sign but a permanent one has not been approved yet.
 - Ken Turner stated that they are working on getting power to the garage so that access gates can be installed.
- Question inquiring as to what portion of the NOAA property was purchased for Light Rail.
 - Paul Filion is looking into this.