

Freemason Area Water and Sewer Project Open House Meeting Minutes

11/03/08 Downtown Norfolk Council Conference Room

Attendees: See attached attendee list.

Presentation Overview

- Andrew Northcutt (Management Analyst, Norfolk Department of Utilities)
 - Welcome and Introductions
 - Handout (See attachment)
 - Agenda
 - Meeting Minutes
- David Speer (Civil Engineer, Norfolk Department of Utilities)
 - Project Overview/Update
 - Map Overview
 - Areas that are shaded black have completed the water & sewer pipe work
 - Areas shaded yellow are currently under construction
 - Project Update
 - Construction is currently underway in the 300 block of Bute St. Contractors are currently working in the Bute/Yarmouth intersection and will proceed west down Bute St.
 - Construction is also underway in West York St.
 - York Street construction will finish after the holidays.
 - Parking for customers of Omar's Carriage House is still being addressed.
 - Contractors are working to provide access to Omar's parking lot, however there will be a time when access will not be available.
 - If Omar chooses to provide valet parking, Norfolk Utilities will provide validation for the York St. lot.
 - When access to the YMCA lot on Bute St. is blocked, there will be an entrance opened on Dunmore.
 - Contractor will be shutting down for approximately four days for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years (Thursday-Sunday).
- Freda Burns (Right-of-Way Coordinator, Norfolk Department of Public Works)
 - Closure Update
 - Dominion VA Power will be starting work in the Bute/Duke intersection in the next few weeks.
 - There will be no staging of equipment on Bute Street.
 - Each day the intersection will be restored
 - The parking lane on Duke Street (alongside Serendip) will be closed.
 - Dominion Power is responsible to provide parking to those residents affected.

- Verizon manhole relocation at the corner of Boush and Bute started today. It will take approximately three weeks to complete. There are flaggers directing traffic.
 - Dominion VA Power will be digging a trench across Brambleton Ave. to The Hague Towers. This work will be done at night.
 - The two right turn lanes on Boush St. will be closed tonight for Dominion VA Power to provide service to the Residence Inn. They will be working from 7pm to 6am. An alternate route will be via Granby St.
 - Freda will call Dominion VA Power to see if they can provide someone to direct traffic at Botetourt St.
 - They are trying to stagger the work in Freemason to make sure that there is always at least one entrance from Brambleton in to the Freemason area.
- Paul Filion (Transportation Construction Project Manager)- Light Rail update
 - Light Rail update
 - Development will be going to DNC and giving a presentation about the downtown construction. He can see if this can be shared at next Monday's meeting.
 - There are 12 contracts, six have been awarded. Kirn/Baylor contract has not yet been awarded. They anticipate the demolition preparation to begin in the 1st quarter of next year.
 - Light rail is heavy in Harbor Park right now
 - Work on Monticello will begin early 2009.
 - Light Rail will be giving a presentation to FSAA on November 11th.

Discussion

- Jim O'Brien expressed concerns with the notification process regarding the closure of Bute St. businesses on Bute St. need to know in advance of what the closures will be so they can properly notify clients.
 - Kristen Lentz stated that the closure plan for Bute St. was changed to accommodate Omar. If any other changes occur, businesses will be notified in advance.
- Greta Gustavson (Representing Freemason Street Area Association) asked is there would be one lane of access on York St. west of Botetourt Street once construction begins. She also asked if the York St. businesses had been contacted.
 - David Speer stated that yes, access will be maintained to residents and businesses; however, the road will be closed to thru traffic.
 - Don Ewell and Lauren Harris have already contacted the businesses on York St.
- Discussion regarding the Botetourt/York intersection.
 - David Speer stated that the intersection would remain open with two police officers directing traffic.

- Concerns were expressed that two officers would not be enough to man that intersection.
- Freda Burns stated that intersection can remain open, but it will not be a smooth process. Dominion VA Power has a right lane closure on Brambleton Ave. Motorists turning onto Botetourt will have to turn from the middle lane. If the Dominion VA Power project is delayed, it will delay light rail, which is not an option. Utilities is working with transportation and traffic engineering and will provide the number of officers that they suggest.
- Kathy Coleman stated that every effort should be made to keep Botetourt open.
- Question concerning the accommodation of the YMCA's equipment loading.
 - Contractors will provide the YMCA with access to the 300 block of Bute St. on November 6th and 7th to allow them to move in their new equipment.