

Freemason Area Water and Sewer Project Open House Meeting Minutes

12/22/08 Downtown Norfolk Council Conference Room

Attendees: See attached attendee list.

Presentation Overview

- Bob Batcher (City of Norfolk, Department of Communications)
 - Introduction and meeting purpose
- David Speer (Civil Engineer V, Norfolk Department of Utilities)
 - Freemason Project Overview/ Update
 - New Map Overview
 - Areas that are shaded black have completed the water & sewer pipe work
 - Areas shaded yellow are currently under construction
 - Project Update
 - Freemason area construction began with the construction of a new sewer pump station across from the YMCA on York Street. The construction of this new pump station was necessary to provide sanitary sewer service to support new developments in the Freemason area.
 - We have been continuing to work in the same areas:
 - The 300 block of Bute Street.
 - Sanitary sewer installation has been completed from Yarmouth to Dunmore.
 - Water line installation is 75% complete.
 - This block remains closed to through traffic, local traffic still has access.
 - The 400 block of York Street
 - Water line has been laid from Dunmore almost to the NOAA lot.
 - Installation of sanitary sewer line will begin 12/22 in the York/Dunmore intersection and 12/29 in the York/Botetourt intersection.
 - Two crews will be working to expedite the construction of the sanitary sewer line.
 - Construction is expected to continue on the 300 block of Bute Street and the 400 Block of York Street through the end of January.
 - Upon completion of Bute Street or York Street, whichever is first, that crew will then move to Dunmore Street.
 - Construction on Yarmouth Street will not begin until Dunmore, Bute, and York are 100% complete. Construction will then continue on a block by block basis.

- St. Paul's Project Overview/Update
 - This project consists of the construction of sanitary sewer lines only. Construction is necessary to support new developments in the downtown area, including the Wachovia Center development on Monticello.
 - Construction began in the St. Paul's/Brambleton intersection and has continued to proceed south down St. Paul's. Contractors have almost reached the Scope garage entrance.
 - Sanitary sewer pipe has been laid in Charlotte Street from St. Paul's almost to Monticello.
 - Sanitary sewer pipe has been laid in Bank Street from Charlotte Street almost to Freemason.
 - Construction will be suspended from 12/25/08 thru 1/5/09 for the Christmas and New Years holidays. All lanes on St. Paul's and Brambleton will be open. Charlotte Street will remain closed for equipment and material storage. Bank Street will be open to local traffic only.
 - On 1/5/09 there will be a dual lane closure of St. Paul's Boulevard, from the Scope garage entrance to Charlotte Street. The curb and middle lanes will remain closed all of the time. The right turn lane from Brambleton to St. Paul's will continue to remain closed. There is a one lane closure of St. Paul's north of Brambleton to align traffic with the St. Paul's closure south of Brambleton.
 - Linda Davis and Parking are implementing a new traffic pattern for exiting the Scope garage after events. Police Officers will be on site to ensure the safety of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Utilities will coordinate with Parking and Scope on this new pattern.
 - Alternate routes for the Brambleton turn lane closure are Virginia Beach Boulevard and Tidewater Drive.

Discussion

- Heather Stein inquired if the Botetourt/York intersection will be closed for the sewer work.
 - Utilities' contractor has requested the closure of the intersection to thru traffic. The businesses and residents on the 400 block of York Street will have access.
- Greta Gustafson inquired how other residents should exit the Freemason area.
 - Duke Street remains open via College Place.
- When will this closure begin and how long will it last?
 - Closure should begin 12/29/08. The road will be opened by the end of the day 12/31/08-1/4/09 for the New Years holiday. The permit is good until 1/21/09. The contractor has requested longer hours and Saturday work to expedite construction in the intersection. Utilities will look into the possibility of having the intersection open with flaggers.

- In response to a comment from Cathy Coleman, it was stated that Bute Street and York Street have been worked simultaneously for weeks. Construction on Dunmore will not begin until construction on Bute has been completed.
- Question inquiring if you could get to Botetourt from Bute.
 - No, you can from Yarmouth or Duke. The 300 block of Bute is closed to through traffic.
- Jim O'Brien inquired if construction trucks and equipment will be relocated once the water installation is complete on Bute Street?
 - Once all Bute Street construction is complete, Utilities equipment and trucks will be moved to York Street. Verizon has to do construction in the Bute/Yarmouth intersection.
- Mary Miller inquired into an estimated completion date for Bute Street, because Restaurant Week is 1/18-1/25 and both of Omar's restaurants are participants.
 - Construction on Bute Street is estimated to continue through the end of January. You can access Omar's Carriage House from Bute. The Voila parking lot is accessible via South Botetourt and the 400 block of York is accessible via Brambleton.
- Will Dunmore be open during restaurant week?
 - Yes, Dunmore should not be impacted until we are 100% complete with York or Bute.
- Cathy Coleman requested a detailed map of the Botetourt/York intersection to show where you can and cannot turn, for businesses and residents.
 - Utilities will develop this map.
- What signage will be in place for the Botetourt/York intersection closure?
 - Utilities will coordinate with the Traffic Department and install the signage that they recommend.
- Who puts out a media notice for the intersection closure?
 - Public Works distributes media notices regarding closures with information that they receive from Right-of-Ways.
- Concern was expressed that there is no room for motorists traveling from South Botetourt to turn around once they reach the Botetourt/York intersection.
- Jim O'Brien stated concern for those who park on Botetourt that their parking is not taken by contractors' vehicles.
 - Parking on Botetourt will not be impacted. Utilities will make sure that their contractors do not park any vehicles there.
- John Sires asked if there is an estimated start date for Dunmore work.
 - Upon completion of Bute Street or York Street, whichever is first, that crew will then move to Dunmore Street. Dunmore work is still several weeks away. Utilities will provide a date as that work gets closer.
- Question regarding when Charlotte Street will be reopened.
 - Charlotte Street is expected to be closed for Utilities work until May.