

Freemason Area Water and Sewer Project Open House Meeting Minutes

12/29/08 Downtown Norfolk Council Conference Room

Attendees: See attached attendee list.

Presentation Overview

- Bob Batcher (City of Norfolk, Department of Communications)
 - Introduction and meeting purpose
- Ken Turner (Engineering Manager, Norfolk Department of Utilities)
 - Freemason Project Overview/ Update
 - Map regarding Traffic flow in the Freemason Area for Botetourt/York St. Intersection Overview
 - Areas shaded yellow are currently under construction
 - The Botetourt Intersection is closed to thru traffic; the map provides alternate routes through the Freemason Area.
 - Project Update
 - Construction continues to work in the same areas:
 - The west end of 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 from Yarmouth Street.
 - The 300 and 400 block of York Street
 - Water line has been laid from Dunmore Street almost to the NOAA property.
 - Installation of sanitary sewer line has begun in the York/Dunmore intersection
 - Two crews will be working to expedite the York Street construction of the sanitary sewer line from Dunmore to Botetourt Street.
 - Sewer construction had begun in the York/Botetourt intersection and is expected to last approximately 2 weeks.
 - Construction is expected to continue on the 300 block of Bute Street and the 300 and 400 Blocks 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 southward on a block by block basis.

- St. Paul's Project Overview/Update
 - Construction is on a temporary shut down until 1/5/09 for the Christmas and New Years holidays.
 - 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; however, we will re-evaluate as construction proceeds to possibly re-open the turning lane. 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.
 - The Sanitary sewer mainline in Charlotte Street and Bank Street is substantially complete. Sanitary sewer will still need to be installed on Bank Street near Freemason Street and on a short portion of Freemason Street. Multiple sanitary laterals will still need to be installed in Charlotte Street and Bank Street.

Discussion

- Jack Kavanaugh asked if the police officers directing traffic at the Botetourt/ York Street intersection have been informed of the new traffic flow, as well as how they were directing Voila customers to access the restaurant.
 - Ken Turner stated that minor changes were being made to barriers as well as additional signage is being made to better accommodate the traffic flow. An additional driveway was made for Voila; located from York Street.
 - Don Ewell and Lauren Harris spoke with the police officer working this area on 12/29/08 to ensure common communication is delivered to all future officers working the area.
 - The Department of Utilities will also speak with Officer Baron to ensure all officers working the Freemason area have traffic control experience.
- Mary Miller asked if the City of Norfolk could provide a map identical to the one distributed today (Traffic flow in the Freemason Area for Botetourt/ York Street Intersection Closure) with the addition of identifying Voila and Omar's Carriage house on the map. This would be useful for directing patrons to the various locations during restaurant week.
 - Ken Turner said yes, the Department of Utilities would provide an updated map.