

Freemason Area Water and Sewer Project Open House Meeting Minutes

12/08/08 Downtown Norfolk Council Conference Room

Attendees: See attached attendee list.

Presentation Overview

- Andrew Northcutt (Management Analyst, Norfolk Department of Utilities)
 - Introduction and project purpose
 - Handout overview (See attachment)
 - Agenda
 - Meeting Minutes
- David Speer (Civil Engineer V, Norfolk Department of Utilities)- Project Overview/ Update
 - New map overview
 - Areas that are shaded black indicate the water and sewer work has been completed.
 - Areas shaded yellow are currently under construction
 - Project Update
 - Construction on Bute Street is underway, continuing to work westward in the 300 block
 - The water and sewer lines have been installed to a point from the Yarmouth/ Bute Street intersection to a point 20 feet west of Omar's Carriage House main entrance driveway.
 - The YMCA has access to their flat parking lot via Dunmore Street
 - Traffic flow has been reversed on the 300 block of York Street and Dunmore Street, moving north from the Bute/ Dunmore Intersection and West on the 300 block of York Street.
 - The water main is being installed from east to west in the 300 block of Bute Street. Once the water main has been installed to Dunmore Street; crews will install temporary pavement from the Yarmouth/ Bute Street intersection up to/ past Omar's Carriage House west entrance driveway.
 - Weather permitting, paving will begin this week. Access will then be from Yarmouth Street (east) with Dunmore Street access (west) being closed.
 - Construction is continuing on the 300 and 400 blocks of York Street.
 - Water main construction has moved out of the Botetourt/ York Street intersection, continuing west down the 400 block of York Street.
 - The Intersection has been temporarily re-paved

- Sewer line construction is scheduled to begin on the 300 block of York Street soon.
 - Dunmore Street will be the next block for installation of water and sewer lines.
 - Construction will begin after Bute Street or York Street construction is complete, whichever is completed first.
- Cathy Coleman- (Downtown Norfolk Council)
 - Introduction to new attendees: Outline of the purpose of these Open House meetings
 - Norfolk Utilities approached the Downtown Norfolk Council to use their conference room as a means of communicating to businesses and residents effectively regarding by the water and sewer work being performed throughout the Freemason Area.
 - Norfolk Utilities has done a superb job opening communication lines throughout the area for the project.
 - Freda Burns (Right of Ways Coordinator) has done a great job communicating permits and the conditions associate with those permits.
 - Has asked to extend this meeting to a downtown construction meeting in hopes to communicate with more of the downtown area and those affected, especially with the Light Rail contract.
 - With Charlotte Street being the next big Light Rail closure, this is a great meeting to discuss what to expect via detours as well as to voice concerns
- Freda Burns (Right of Ways Coordinator)-
 - Permit summary
 - Dominion Virginia Power has a pending permit for the closure of Charlotte Street for manhole and duck relocations due to the upcoming presence of Light Rail.
 - Conditions of permit include maintaining access to all businesses as well as they must provide access to parking facilities at all times. Virginia Dominion Power must also re-open the street to through traffic if they have two consecutive down days.
 - All system switch overs must be publicly communicated 48 hours prior to scheduled time to ensure proper notification and accommodations are met.
 - When Charlotte Street has its full closure, the detour will east bound via Freemason Street and west bound via Bute Street.
- Paul Filion (Light Rail Project Coordinator)
 - Light Rail matrix update
 - No major construction changes from last week
 - Skanska is mobilizing crews and equipment at the Smith Creek Bridge
 - Freemason construction for Light Rail is upcoming

- Heather Stein is planning on visiting affected business/ residents.
- Dominion Virginia Power still has work to perform in the Bute/Duke Street intersection; however, they have delayed work until after the new year.
- The Kirn Library/ Baylor lot demolition contracts have been awarded.
 - Contract begins January 5, securing a 120 day window for demolition.

Discussion

- Jack Kavanaugh commented that the police officers working the Botetourt/ York Street intersection need to be informed of the traffic flow change; flowing west on York Street
- Concerns with the increase of dump trucks throughout the Freemason Area. They are moving west on College Street, North on Botetourt, down to Brambelton and then turning right to enter the Clancy and Theys construction zone.
 - Freda Burns said they have been told to stay off of Botetourt Street and that she would speak with Clancy and Theys
- Jack Kavanaugh applauded William Nater's efforts with helping clean up Norfolk Utilities construction for the Freemason Historic Area Holiday Home Tour this past weekend.
- Baxter Simmons asked if the white fence located across from Baxters Sports Bar could be removed as drivers are not aware Bute Street is open via Granby Street.
- Jim O'Brien asked whose responsibility it is to ensure signage is correct as the traffic patterns change.
 - Freda Burns said it is the contractor's responsibility for signage.
- Question inquiring whether the Baylor/ Gilbert parking lot scheduled for demolition is going to be imploded or torn down.
 - Don Lint said it would be torn down.