



Prosperity & Livability Committee Meeting
Chaired by Mayor Pro Tem Ewing
Committee Members: Ewing, Hudson, Peters, and Golden
June 5, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
3rd Floor Lobby Conference Room
Minutes

“A Quorum of the Committee was not present”

Present:

Acting Chairman Jeff Golden, and Committee Member Wesley Hudson

Absent:

Chairman Jason Ewing and Committee Member Monica Peters

Also Present:

Council Member Don Scarborough

Staff Present:

Staff present: Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager; Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager; Mark McDonald, Transportation Director; Greg Venable, Transportation Planner; Matt Carpenter, Traffic Signal Engineer; Lee Burnette, Planning and Development Director; Eric Olmedo, Managing Director; Lisa Vierling, City Clerk; and Mary Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

Others Present:

Patty P. Eason, P.E. Division Construction Engineer; and Brian Thomas, PE, Regional Traffic Engineer, Highway Divisions 7 and 9

News Media Present:

Pat Kimbrough, *High Point Enterprise*

Acting Chairman Golden called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m..

Presentation: NCDOT Route Changes

Mark McDonald, Transportation Director introduced Patty P. Eason, P.E. Division Construction Engineer to give an update on the Skeet Club Road Project; and Brian Thomas, PE, Regional Traffic Engineer, Highway Divisions 7 and 9 to present the Proposed US 70 Route Changes.

Mr. Thomas made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP) on the NCDOT Route Changes; spoke to the history of collapsing numbered routes onto existing pavement led to significant route overlaps; to how overlapping routes required overly large freeway signs with multiple route designators; to reducing the number of routes on freeway signs; to better serving the community by providing route continuity and alternate primary highway access to Guilford county; and to removing and diverting traffic from congested concurrent interstate routes. Mr. Thomas continued discussion regarding minimizing the number of routes on a given facility; simplifying freeway sign designs to make them less confusing and promote quicker motorist comprehension; discussed elimination of I-85 Business; stated it is not recognized as part of the official interstate route system; and that it was eliminated by NCDOT in the Greensboro area in the late 2018; discussed the proposed relocation of US 70 process; the requirements on applying to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; spoke to requesting resolutions for support from the Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the High Point Urban Area MPO. Mr. Thomas stated he contacted and presented the proposal to local communities that were impacted; and provided Anticipated Questions on the proposal as follows:

- Will traffic increase?
The Department does not expect additional traffic along the route.
- What about trucks?
The proposal does not provide additional truck access. No additional truck traffic expected.
- Will this proposal limit/control access along the corridor?
No. The proposal does not introduce access control along the corridor.

Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager asked if the signage was the only change. Council Member Golden inquired on the timeframe for Google Maps to be updated for the new signage. Mr. Thomas replied that the signage was the only change; and spoke to a two-month timeframe for Google Maps to be updated.

Matt Carpenter, Traffic Signal Engineer asked if there is a financial commitment required from the city for signage changes. Mr. Thomas replied no.

Randy Hemann, Assistant City Manager asked if the local community would have an opportunity to review the new signage to assure correctness of locations. Mr. Thomas stated it would not affect any Way Findings; and that they would only be adding upgraded route signage primarily to locate that route.

Update Skeet Club Road Project

Patty P. Eason, P.E. Division Construction Engineer Patty extended greetings; spoke to the delayed progress of the Skeet Club Road Project; explained issues with the project due to the weather and utility relocations; spoke to having a four lane pattern completed by the end of the year; to adding funds to the contract for utilities; and to having weekly meetings with the management and the NCDOT to address issues before construction.

Randy McCaslin, Deputy City Manager asked was the four-lane project from Barrow Road to Eastchester; and inquired on the timeframe for the project from Barrow Road to Johnson Street. Ms. Eason replied yes, and gave a timeframe of 7 to 8 months.

Matt Carpenter, Traffic Signal Engineer inquired about the closure schedule and timeframe for the intersection at Waterview Road. Ms. Eason stated there would be an update and press release to the public when the closure happens; that updates would be provided; and gave a timeframe of four to five months.

Ms. Eason Patty voiced appreciation for patience from community; spoke to the contractors efforts to keep the project moving; to widening the bridge; spoke to the shift at Gordon Road and Cypress Court to continue; to resolving utility issues; to concerns of speeding from the community; to enforcing the recommended speed of 35 mph with a message board displayed for drivers.

Mr. McCaslin asked what the speed limit would be after completion of the project. Ms. Eason stated the design speed was 50 mph by the NCDOT; and that they could accommodate with a speed limit of 45 mph.

Mr. Carpenter inquired on the York and Ambassador realignment design. Ms. Eason stated the preliminary design was being reviewed by the road work staff; and that updates would be provided.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Prosperity and Livability Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m. upon motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

Jeff Golden, Acting Chairman