

NORTH MAIN STREET STREETSCAPING PROJECT

MEETING

1301 COLUMBIA COLLEGE DRIVE

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2007

5:00 P.M.

NOTES

Community Members Present

Paul Bouknight, Cottontown Neighborhood  
Ellen Cooper, Cottontown Neighborhood  
Rev. Wiley Cooper, College Place United Methodist Church  
Henry Hopkins, Eau Claire Community Council  
Robert Johnson, Northwood Hills Neighborhood  
Deborah J. Livingston, Elmwood Park Neighborhood  
Carolyn Lucas, Northwood Hills Neighborhood  
Patti Marinelli, Cottontown Neighborhood  
Marcus Miller, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary  
Christie Savage, Northwood Hills Neighborhood  
Roland Smallwood, Cottontown Neighborhood  
Jerry Vaughn, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Others Present

Sam Davis, Columbia City Council  
Charles P. Austin, City Manager  
Steve Gantt, Sr. Assistant City Manager for Operations  
Allison Baker, Assistant City Manager for Public Services  
Charlene Cassidy, Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Joey Jaco, City of Columbia Engineering Department  
Chris Johnston, SCDOT  
Gale Bowers-Nash, City of Columbia Engineering Department  
Michael Manis, Eau Claire Development Corporation  
Derek Piper, Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Kimberley R. Roof, Construction Management  
Thomas W. Ward, Construction Management  
Paxton Williams, City of Columbia Engineering Department

I. Welcome

Sam Davis, Columbia City Councilman, welcomed everyone present.

II. Introduction

Steve Gantt, Sr. Assistant City Manager for Operations introduced and thanked staff for assembling everyone present.

III. Business

A. Condemnation Update

Ms. Nash relayed to the group that there were 121 tracks involved in the right of way acquisitions for the North Main Street Streetscaping Project. Of the 121 right of way acquisitions required all had been obtained with the exception of six tracks that are owned by two property owners in Phase 1. Due to the lack of the two right of way acquisitions required for the project a Condemnation Hearing will be scheduled for later in the year. To enable the project to proceed prior to the Condemnation Hearing, the City of Columbia has requested a Right to Take Action from the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The City of Columbia is currently awaiting a response.

B. Right of Way Update

Mr. Chris Johnston, with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) conveyed to the group that the SCDOT is awaiting a certification letter from the City of Columbia listing each track, their status, right of entry information and the status of any relocations. In addition, an additional certified letter is required stating the revised routs for the Project. Once SCDOT receives and reviews the information required it would be authorized by SCDOT and the City of Columbia can proceed within the next two weeks with the project. Councilman Davis requested that SCDOT work with the City of Columbia to expedite the process for obtaining authorization once all certified letters had been submitted.

C. Schematics

Charlene Cassidy, with Parsons Brinckerhoff provided schematics of the North Main Street Streetscaping Project for Phase I. The schematics for the North Main Street Streetscaping Project identifying sidewalks, landscaping, and new traffic lights that were reviewed by the group before and after the meeting.

D. Project Schedule

Tom Ward, with the Construction Management Department relayed to the group contingent upon receiving authorization from SCDOT regarding Encroachments Permits and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC)

regarding Storm Water and Water Permits the North Main Street Streetscaping Project will be advertised for three consecutive Sunday's on September, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. The Bid Opening will be held on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Columbia City Council will be asked to approve the selection of a General Contractor and the Contract on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Once Columbia City Council approves the Contract the contractor will have two – four weeks to review and sign the Contract. A Notice to Proceed will be issued on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 dependent upon when the contractor signs the Contract.

Mr. Gantt relayed to the group that the Construction Management Department is in the process of pre-qualifying contractors to ensure that the General Contractor selected has experience in streetscaping projects. At this time we have approximately 15 contractors pre-qualified for the North Main Street Streetscaping Project.

#### IV. Other Business

Ms. Savage relayed the need for a light at the intersection of Fairfield Road and North Main Street. Councilman Davis relayed that SCDOT did not regard that intersection to be qualified as “a dangerous intersection” and that the City of Columbia disagreed with their determination and that the City of Columbia would continue to pursue SCDOT in reconsidering their position.

Rev. Cooper asked staff what would be done first on the North Main Street Streetscaping Project? Ms. Cassidy relayed that the under grounding of utilities will be done followed by curb and gutter, sidewalks, overhead poles, traffic lights, street paving and street markings.

Mr. Bouknight asked staff if the members of the community would be provided with a schedule of activities for the project? Mr. Gantt relayed that staff would prepare a status report that will be distributed to the community.

Mr. Miller asked if the leadership would be advocating for additional funds within the next 24 months for the remaining phases of the Project? Councilman Davis relayed that members of Council and Staff will be attending a trip to Washington, DC in August 2007 requesting additional funding for all City of Columbia Projects.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.