



Construction Advisory Group

Route 141 – Kirkwood Highway to Faulkland Road

MEETING MINUTES – January 14, 2008

Date: January 14, 2008
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Elsmere Fire Company
1701 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, Delaware 19805

Present:

Ms. Patricia M. Blevins – State Senator
Mr. Larry Mitchell – State Representative
Mr. Timothy Sheldon – NCC
Mr. Joseph Reda – NCC
Mr. Wayne Ashbee – Woodland Heights Civic Org.
Mr. Robert Bristow – DuPont Co.
Mr. Jim Wheeler – DuPont – ESL
Mr. Al Conner – Berca
Mr. Eryl Roth – DSCYF/DMSS
Ms. Charlotte O’Sullivan – Willow Run
Mr. Rod Crawford – Willow Run
Mr. James Wrightson – Brack-Ex-Roselle Civic Org.
Mr. Michael Stanek
Ms. Chris McEvelly – Care 141
Mr. Tom Brooks – DelDOT
Mr. Harry Cooper – DelDOT
Mr. Mark Buckalew - DelDOT
Mr. Robert King - DelDOT
Ms. Misty Seemans - DelDOT
Mr. Dave DuPlessis – JMT
Mr. Brad Herb - JMT

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Bob King informed group that this advisory group has been formed to receive information from state officials on construction activities such as: lane closures, traffic detours, impact on community, and other events of the Rt-141 Project that might result due to an active construction site. Advisory group members (including area businesses, outdoor recreation organizations, civic associations, chambers of commerce, etc.) will also provide the community with a voice as to its needs and views on a one-to-one basis and report back to the community in general.

Bob informed the group that while it was the hope to hold future meetings at the on-site construction trailer, due to parking availability and construction activity at the site, this has proven unavailable. Bob mentioned that future meetings could be held at the



Construction Advisory Group

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Canal District Maintenance Office on Route 7, just south of Rt-273. Members thought this would be too far a distance to travel. Bob discussed the importance of holding the future meeting at a single location to prevent confusion and booking locations on a monthly basis based on availability. Two members of the group (from DuPont and Ferris School) offered their facility on a permanent basis. Bob will follow-up with both and schedule a location for future meetings.

There was a question concerning the availability of the project Web site. The group was informed that it could be found on the DeIDOT Web site. Bob mentioned to group that the specific site link – www.de141.deldot.gov – would be provided to the group.

Tom Brooks updated the group on the project's progress. He said the construction plans have been completed, and the contract awarded to Greggo & Ferrara (G&F). G&F has removed the existing frontage road median along the west side of SR141. Utility corridor work is being performed on the north side of Faulkland Road. The stormwater management pond has been completed.

Tom opened the floor to members. General questions from group followed:

- A resident asked about tree removal along the Woodland Apartment complex. Mark Buckalew said all trees that were planned for removal, have been removed. No other trees are expected for removal. The resident later asked if trees could be planted earlier.
- A resident asked for earlier notice of roadwork (i.e. signs) on Rt-141 southbound.
- A resident asked about double left turn lanes from north bound SR 141 onto Faulkland Road. This will be evaluated as necessary, once construction is completed.
- Mark said the service road would be closed until at least early April.
- A resident asked about the stormwater management pond. Much discussion ensued. Project representatives said the pond would help with flooding in Little Mill Creek and it would be vegetated to filter runoff water. A resident asked about the possibility of phragmites. A project representative said the design should prevent phragmites, but they could still occur. Harry Cooper



Construction Advisory Group

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MEETING MINUTES – January 14, 2008

said a service road to maintain the pond is part of the plan. A resident was concerned about safety issues. Tom said there is 10-foot terracing. Senator

Patricia M. Blevins said she wants DeIDOT to inform her about fencing options.

- A resident said DeIDOT showed care when trimming trees for utility lines.
- A resident asked about sidewalks on Rt-141, adjacent to Ferris School. A project representative said the sidewalks would affect drainage issues and most pedestrians walk on the side of Ferris School adjacent to Faulkland Road. The resident asked about plans to make Rt-141 accessible to pedestrians. Senator Blevins said because Ferris School is part of a trust, it is difficult to create sidewalks in said area.
- A resident was concerned about the ramp from Kirkwood Highway to Rt-141. A project representative said the ramp would be graded to meet the new road.
- A resident asked whether the bridge over Little Mill Creek would be closed. Tom said that the new bridge would be constructed in stages and that the old bridge would be demolished once the first bridge stage was completed.
- A resident asked whether Gilpin Drive will be re-graded to allow for better visibility when motorists turn left from Brook Lane. Tom said he would look more into this.
- A resident asked about scheduling. While currently slightly behind in phase one, Mark said utility work has been started on Faulkland Road, which is part of phase three. Also, the stormwater management pond construction is part of phase two.
- A resident asked about accessible pedestrian signals. A project representative said DeIDOT is testing accessible pedestrian signals on a department-wide scale.
- A resident requested a landscaping committee to be developed for the Rt-141 project. A resident asked who would maintain the plantings. Tom said that the Department is looking into alternative ways to fund and maintain landscaping projects in all construction projects. One concept being considered is to have a



Construction Advisory Group

Route 141 – Kirkwood Highway to Faulkland Road

MEETING MINUTES – January 14, 2008

maintenance agreement funded by local businesses and civic associations. Senator Blevins stated that the Legislators are aware of the problem. Much

discussion ensued. A resident asked for a berm near the Kirkwood Highway end of the project. Tom said landscaping would be addressed later in the project.

- Representatives from Dupont Chestnut Run and Ferris School said they would like better notice when utilities are impacted. Especially for planned outages. Project representatives agreed to contact those present in the future.

Prior to the close of the meeting, there was discussion as to the frequency of future meetings and it was agreed upon during the winter months, and at the beginning of the project when not much is going on, to hold the meetings every other month. Once the weather improves and construction accelerates, meetings shall be scheduled on a monthly basis.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2008 – 5:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, March 10th - 5:00PM

***DuPont Chestnut Run Plaza
Building 700
Cafeteria***

*Directions: Use Route 141 entrance, north of the Faulkland Road intersection
Travel on South Mall Road
Left on Third Street
At stop sign, left on North Mall Road
Parking is available on all four sides of Building 700
The main entrance faces North Mall Road*



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MEETING MINUTES – January 14, 2008

