



Construction Advisory Group

Route 141 – Kirkwood Highway to Faulkland Road

MEETING MINUTES – May 12, 2008

Date: May 12, 2008
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: DuPont Chestnut Run Plaza, Bldg. 700
Wilmington, Delaware 19805

Present:

Mr. Larry Mitchell – State Representative
Mr. Joseph Reda – New Castle County Councilman
Mr. John Janowski – New Castle Corporate Commons
Mr. Michael Alfree – DSCYF/DMSS
Mr. Eryl Roth – DSCYF/DMSS
Mr. Robert Bristow – DuPont Co.
Mr. Owen Robatino – NCC
Mr. Bill Osborne – TMA Delaware
Mr. William Wheatley – Brookland Terrace
Ms. Diane Iliff – Brookland Terrace
Mr. Charles Stirk – Brookland Terrace
Ms. Charlotte O’Sullivan – Willow Run
Ms. Phyllis Berggnun – Willow Run
Ms. Theresa Riddleberger – Willow Run
Mr. Patrick Coen – Willow Run
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 p.m.

Bob King informed group that:

- Stressed the importance of ensuring that sign-in sheet information is accurate. This is not only for the sending of the meeting minutes, but also for notification of any lane restrictions, road closures, or other activity that might impact traffic and businesses.

Tom Brooks updated the group on the project’s progress:

- Followed up on open items from previous meetings:



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1. More research needs to be done about sidewalks along Route 141, adjacent to Ferris School. One letter has been found; another is being looked for.
2. Gilpin Drive has been reviewed. The road will not be re-graded at this time because no significant problems were encountered.
3. A resident's concern regarding fencing is still in design. The fence will be within her property line and have a gate.
4. A fence along Field Road is still in design. Because of the graffiti problem, a 6-foot high wrought iron fence with landscaping is being considered. A resident commented that while an iron fence would be more expensive, it would last longer. A resident asked about space between the proposed fence and properties. Tom said more research would be done.

General discussion ensued:

1. A resident asked about speeding around the Route 141/Faulkland Road intersection. Tom said a guardrail would not be placed because there are no obstructions or obstacles within the clear zone that warrants the placement of guardrail. The Roadside Design Guide defines a clear zone as the total roadside border area, starting at the edge of the traveled way, available for safe use by errant vehicles. This area may consist of a shoulder, a recoverable slope, a non-recoverable slope, and/or a clear run-out area. The desired minimum width is dependent upon traffic volumes and speeds and on the roadside geometry. Simply stated, it is an unobstructed, relatively flat area beyond the edge of the traveled way that allows a driver to stop safely or regain control of a vehicle that leaves the traveled way. There will be plantings to slow traffic.
2. A resident asked about cleaning up concrete debris. Mark Buckalew said this has been addressed as much as possible, considering the project is still under construction.

Mark Buckalew updated the group on the project's progress during construction:

- The project is reasonably on schedule.
- The following work is being done:
 1. Constructing the southeast abutment wall on the Route 141 bridge over Little Mill Creek.
 2. Jacking the beams for the Route 141 bridge over Kirkwood Highway. The work will take place between the off-peak hours of 4 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. The bridge will be jacked half an inch. The work will take place within two months. The abutment wall and pedestal for the bearings



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must be repaired. This work will not require traffic stops like anticipated.

3. Excavating and placing stone for new northbound Route 141 lanes and bike path.
4. Some curb work has been placed along northbound Route 141 and Montgomery Road connector. Hot mix will be done soon.
5. There are intermittent utility relocations along the east side of Faulkland Road.
6. Gas line relocations along the southbound Route 141 travel lanes.
7. The next traffic switch will be a minor shift to the west along Route 141, north of Faulkland Road. Four travel lanes will be maintained after the switch.
8. Single lane closures will continue during off-peak hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

General discussion ensued:

1. A resident asked about when water lines would be worked on. Mark said other utility work would be done before the water lines. It would be at least another month before water would be affected. The resident said he would prefer for it to be performed at night.
2. A resident asked about dust. Mark said this has been addressed as much as possible, considering the project is still under construction.

Tom discussed new issues:

1. DelDOT will replace dead trees. It is already a part of the contractor's agreement to mow the grass during construction.
2. Speeding through Woodland Heights as a cut through has become an enforcement issue. DelDOT has posted signage prohibiting left turns from Route 141 through Woodland Heights. Tom said DelDOT's Traffic section is looking at the frequency of motorists cutting through Woodland Heights from Faulkland Road.

General discussion ensued:

1. A resident asked about tall grass growing on a stockpile by Ferris School. Mark said stockpiles aren't usually mowed because the grass dies on its own. The resident asked about a temporary walkway through the pile. Mark said the upcoming utility work would make a temporary walkway in this area impractical. Mark said he'd review the area to see if a temporary pedestrian passenger way in the area would be realistic.



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2. A resident asked if signs leading to Route 2 could also say “Kirkwood Highway.” Tom said he would check into it. The resident said it causes crashes because people don’t know Route 2 is Kirkwood Highway.
3. A resident asked about access to Brookland Terrace. Tom said the community’s access would be maintained throughout the project. The roads will receive overlay and pavement rehabilitation.

Dave DuPlessis updated the group on flooding on Wagoner Drive:

1. During the design of the new Little Mill Creek Bridge, JMT was required by New Castle County to ensure the opening of the bridge is “hydraulically equivalent” to the existing structure. “Hydraulically equivalent” means the amount of flow that passes through the existing structure should equal the amount of flow that passes through the proposed bridge. The county’s intent with this requirement is to make sure there are no downstream flooding impacts from changing the redesign of the new bridge. Therefore, the new bridge will not address any upstream flooding problems.

General discussion ensued:

1. A resident asked when the project would be completed. Tom said it is expected to be finished in fall of 2010. Landscaping will take place in 2011.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, July 14, 2008 at 5 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, July 14th - 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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