



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 31, 2011

To: File

CC: Tim Gibbs, Leon Howe, Veronica Wallace, Chandler Crofts, Jahmal Pullen, Brian Gacksetter

From: Alan Morrison

RE: N Church Street Project March 16, 2011 Public Meeting Minutes

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the discussion of the meeting held on March 16, 2011 regarding the N Church Street /CSX Railroad Corridor Street Closure & Improvements. The meeting was held at Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center. Staff from the City and other agencies included the following:

- Leon Howe– Engineering Services, In-house Design
- Alan Morrison -Engineering Services, In-house Design
- Chandler Crofts – Engineering Services, In-house Design
- Tim Gibbs– CDOT
- Veronica Wallace– CDOT
- Jahmal Pullen-NCDOT Rail Division
- Brian Gacksetter –NCDOT Rail Division

The meeting started with welcome and introductions. Mr. Morrison introduced the project team consisting of Engineering Services staff along with members from CDOT and NCDOT.

Introductions were followed by a brief PowerPoint presentation. The first topic presented was the purpose of the meeting. The last meeting was held in June of 2008 and City staff wanted to review what has occurred, provide an opportunity for input, answer questions and present the planned improvements.

Tim Gibbs followed this part of the meeting with a brief discussion about the project history and background. Major milestones that have occurred include:

- January 2007, CDOT and NCDOT entered into a Memorandum of Understanding identifying crossing closings and improvements citywide.
- In that agreement, Church Street was identified to be closed.
- In the fall of 2007, a public meeting was held to obtain citizen input.

- In June 2008, a second public meeting was held to propose alternate access to businesses located off the 900 block of N Church Street.
- A four-party agreement was signed by the City, NCDOT, CSX Railroad and Norfolk Southern Railroad regarding crossing closings and improvements.
- The agreement called for improvements to be made in the N Tryon St corridor before the N Church St crossing could be closed.
- NCDOT requested the City manage the project for closing N Church St and the CSX crossing.
- N Church St crossing must be closed in conjunction with the grade separation project planned for the North Commuter Rail and CSXT located northwest of N Church Street.

Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Morrison discussed the planned improvements associated with the N Church Street closure. These were proposed in response to the concerns raised at the first two public input meetings. The first planned improvement is the extension of Wadsworth Pl. To create an opportunity for access to N Church St when heading southbound on N Tryon St, Wadsworth Pl would be extended from Tryon St to Church St and the intersection signalized. A concept plan with the proposed road was shared with the attending citizens. The road extension would be two lanes with curb & gutter and sidewalk.

The second planned improvement is a conversion of N Church Street to facilitate two-way traffic from 11th Street to the 900 block of N Church Street. This will allow access to N Church Street from Brookshire Freeway.

The last planned improvement presented is the turn-a-rounds planned for the newly created dead-end sections of N Church Street. This was requested by the businesses located adjacent to the CSX crossing. The businesses have large truck traffic coming to the site each day and need the opportunity to turn around after loading or unloading. The City and NCDOT had proposed a hammer head type of asphalt apron that would allow vehicles an opportunity to make a three-point turn and reverse direction.

Mr. Morrison then talked about the proposed tentative project schedule as outlined below:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Planning & Survey | April 2011 to July 2011 |
| • Design | Aug 2011 to Dec 2011 |
| • NCDOT/CSX Approvals | Oct 2011 to Jan 2012 |
| • Real Estate/Business Relocation | Feb 2012 to April 2013 |
| • Bid Phase | March 2013 to July 2013 |
| • Construction | August 2013 to Dec 2013 |

Following the planned improvements and tentative project schedule, staff opened up to answer questions. Only two representatives or property owners were in attendance and expressed concern about the plan to turn vehicles around at the proposed dead end section of N Church Street.

Bill Ruetters with Southern Cast, Inc. expressed concern about the operation of his business. He stated that even with the ability of a u-turn or three-point turn, the number of trucks coming in and out would create a problem. He also stated that the area planned for the turnaround area was a drainage channel that would be difficult to fill in and place asphalt. City staff agreed to continue looking at this during the planning phase and will coordinate with the business owner on the issue of ingress and egress for large vehicles.

Mr. Ruettgers continued to explain that his business floods and that City Storm Water was working with CSX to solve the problem. However, there is an apparent hold up in getting approval from CSX to make the necessary improvements. Engineering staff agreed to follow up with Storm Water Services and see if there is anything that can be done to get the necessary permit approval from CSX.

Susan Lindsay, representing the owner of Southern Cast, Inc. building inquired about the location of fire hydrants and if any fire hydrants would be installed with the N Church Street improvements. Engineering staff committed to following up with CMU about the location and installation of fire hydrants in the area of the project.

NCDOT staff pointed out that the grade separation project west of this location made it imperative that this project stay on schedule. The project to grade separate the Norfolk Southern and CSX railroads calls for beginning the trench for CSX in the project area in 2014.

Attachments:

Meeting Agenda
Sign-in Sheet
Concept Plan for Wadsworth PI Extension
Concept Plan for N Church St Conversion
Concept Plan for u-turn

PUBLIC MEETING

N. CHURCH STREET /CSX RAILROAD CORRIDOR STREET CLOSURE & IMPROVEMENTS

Date: March 16, 2011

Time: 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Location: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center-
Room 266

600 East Fourth St, Charlotte, NC 28202

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Presentation

a) Purpose of Meeting

b) Project History/Background

c) Planned Improvements

i. Wadsworth Extension & Signal

ii. N. Church St and N. Tryon St. 2-way Traffic Conversion

iii. Closing of N. Church St and CSX at-grade crossing

iv. Anticipated Schedule

3. Questions & Answers

Sign-In Sheet

N Church St/CSX Rail Crossing Closure and Improvements

March 16, 2011

Name	Address	Phone
Dennis Tindley	PO Box 42476 Char 28215	704/537-2269
Bill Ruetzger	Southern Cast Inc 901 N. Church	704/335-0692
PRINCE GEORGE	SUCOCT	704.715.2332
SOUTHERNCAST, INC.	PO BOX 9427 CHARLOTTE NC 28299	

Wadsworth PI Extension



U-turn Areas

