

**Myrtle/Morehead Storm Drainage Improvement Project**  
**Public Meeting Minutes**  
**January 29, 2013**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- Kate Labadorf, Charlotte Mecklenburg Storm Water Services (CMSWS) project manager, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the public meeting for the Myrtle/Morehead Storm Drainage Improvement Project.
- Doug Lozner – CMSWS
- Steve Frey – City of Charlotte Engineering & Property Management (E&PM)
- James Shapard – Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- J. Daniels – Charlotte Housing Authority (CHA)
- Chip Smith – Woolpert
- Attendees received agendas, CMSWS handouts, placed dots on the overall exhibit to designate their address and were asked to sign in.
- Attendees list (attached)

**II. Meeting and Project Purpose**

- Kate Labadorf informed the group that the meeting's purpose was to discuss the preliminary design of the recommended improvements that were discussed at the last public meetings (August 2011) and also to discuss the need for easements to construct the improvements.
- Kate explained that the goals of this project are to reduce flooding of streets and structures and provide a structurally sound storm water system.

**III. Project Status Update**

- Kate updated the attendees on the status of the project related to the design, easement acquisition and permitting. The update items are listed below:
  - The team has been developing construction drawings for the selected improvements. These plans are to include many details, such as pipe sizes and locations, utility relocations, and easement locations.
  - The team has been coordinating with other City and Development efforts.
  - We have incorporated CDOT's Euclid Traffic Calming project into our plans.
  - We've been working with CHA on the timing of the drainage improvements relative to their redevelopment plans.
  - We are corresponding with the Duke Endowment with their plans.

- Chip Smith, the project manager with the engineering consultant Woolpert Inc., described the proposed improvements with the design of the by-pass line and the street drainage improvements while referring to the exhibit map at the front of the room.
- Chip explained the existing culvert location under and behind houses could not be upgraded in its current location. This led to the by-pass line been designed in the existing City streets as depicted on the exhibit.
- Kate discussed that the permitting and easement phase runs concurrently with the design phase. She described that the project will require an encroachment from NCDOT and Duke Energy in addition to the normal erosion control permit for construction. She also explained that we are working with the state and local landfills for pre-approval for soil disposal and ground water treatment for the construction near Morehead Street where we've discovered contaminated soils related to former dry cleaning operations.
- Kate described that the easement acquisition phase runs concurrently with the design phase. The City's real estate staff will begin working with citizens and businesses to acquire easements needed to construct the recommended improvements and provide future maintenance. Currently, it appears that we need easements from properties down in the Morehead/McDowell/Baxter, the Charlotte Housing Authority, and Myrtle Square Apartments. We do not currently anticipate needing easements from any of the residential properties. If this changes, we will work our real estate staff and contact the specific property owners.
- Coordination continues with the City's landscape staff and City arborist to protect the street trees and minimize the impacts from the construction.

#### IV. What Happens Next?

- After all design plans are finalized, permits and encroachments obtained, and easements acquired, the final plans will go out to contractors for bid. By state law, the lowest responsible bidder is awarded the construction contract.
- Construction: Throughout construction, efforts will be made to minimize disruption to nearby property owners. Construction of proposed improvements will be supervised by City inspectors. Notifications of key construction dates will be mailed and/or e-mailed to residents throughout construction.
- Kate requested the attendees' feedback throughout this entire project and mentioned that her business cards were on the table.

#### V. General Questions and Comments

- The attendees questions, comments, and responses are listed below:
  - **How large are the pipe sizes on the secondary systems?** The secondary pipe systems will vary between 15" and 36", much smaller than the main bypass pipe.
  - **Will the 90 degree bends be designed to account for the force of the water?** Yes, the structures are being designed taking the losses into account.
  - **A resident asked about how the abandoned pipes will be treated (left empty, removed, filled with grout).** It was explained that it varies by location and the individual locations can be reviewed on the plans. Pipes that will continue to receive local drainage will stay in service and select pipes will be filled with grout.

- **Will the existing box culvert become the Caves of Dilworth?** A condition assessment survey was performed on the main drainage system piping. Issues found in the survey will be repaired in sections that will remain in service.
- Myrtle Square storm system currently qualifies as storm water maintained since street water drains through the system. The City will ask for a temporary easement access the existing system to perform repairs on the system. With the completion of this project, the street water will be removed from the existing system and it will become a private system.
- Chip discussed the parking and access during the construction. The construction will be performed as 100 to 200 linear foot moving closure. The City inspector will assist with parking and access coordination with the residents.
- **How long will construction take on each street?** The project's construction will be very slow due to the size of the piping, depths and utility conflicts. It could potentially take three to six months on each street block. The project will utilize a sequential 100 to 200 linear foot street closure that moves with the pipe installation
- **When will the project construction begin?** The fall of 2014 is the tentative schedule.
- **Will rock blasting be performed during construction?** There has been geotechnical surveys performed with several soil borings. There are areas of rock that will likely require blasting. The contractor will attempt to excavate with their equipment before moving to blasting. Pre-blast surveys will be performed on the residences prior to blasting activities and post-blast surveys will be performed should any issues arise.
- **Will the other utilities: water, sewer, electric, and gas be impacted by the construction?** Yes, the project will impact the other utilities. We have been coordinating with the utility providers to resolve conflicts. Temporary water and sewer lines and services will be used on several of the streets to minimize disruption of service. There will be instances of short-term outages when transfers or repairs are necessary. The project inspector will work closely with the residents when outages are necessary.
- **A resident commented that she was impressed with project planning and neighborhood coordination efforts.**
- **An Oriole Avenue resident was concerned about communication with the streets' residents as many travel very often.** Kate explained that e-mail is the best form of communication with the residents to keep everyone up to date on the construction progress, street closures, parking, etc.,
- **Is the Duke Endowment Building Construction affecting our project?** As of right now it is not. We are coordinating access with the Duke Endowment.
- Kate described the tunneling effort planned to occur under Morehead Street. The crossing will be tunneled to keep Morehead open to traffic while the piping can be installed underneath all the utilities. There have been multiple soil borings performed in Morehead Street to determine the tunneling methods and tunnel design. The soil borings have detected contaminated soils under Morehead and a mixed rock and sand ground composition which will make the tunneling process very slow to complete the crossing. The contaminated soils near the Oriole and Morehead intersection likely stem from environmental spills occurring over the history of dry cleaners and gas stations located at the intersection. The tunneling process will begin from Oriole Street which will close Oriole at Morehead for several months.

- Prior to construction, Storm Water Services will likely send a mailer and/or hang door mailers in order to obtain the residents' e-mail addresses for project coordination during construction.
- **When will the project be finished?** We don't have a firm date yet. The project will be phased with the tunnel construction occurring first.
- **Where is the lowest elevation?** Myrtle Square's Courtyard is the lowest area which frequently floods.
- **By the time the project is constructed will the system be large enough?** The storm system is being sized to meet current design storm standards. The modeling and design looked at both the existing and proposed land uses for the drainage basin. Flooding will be reduced with the project but flooding could still occur in the future.
- **Does our design consider the future Charlotte Housing Authority (CHA) site development?** Yes, we are coordinating with the CHA and taking the future build out condition into consideration. The CHA redevelopment will need to incorporate storm water quantity controls and quality requirements.
- **Do residential redevelopments need to put in storm water quantity controls? Some of the houses in Dilworth are being expanded from 2,500 square feet to 5,000 square feet.** Currently there is no Charlotte Storm Water requirement for small individual lots to incorporate storm water quantity controls.
- Kate described the CDOT traffic calming project planned for Euclid Avenue.
- **Will the Euclid traffic calming project change bus routes?** The bus routes will not change.
- **What are the anticipated contractors working hours?** The contractor's usually work from about 7 am to dark Monday through Friday with some weekend work.
- **Can the commercial buildings in the area provide parking spaces?** We can try to coordinate this but they usually request compensation.
- **The Myrtle Square residents have parking concerns as they will lose 10 to 15 spaces during construction.** Kate will investigate parking options for the Myrtle Square residents.
- **A resident mentioned that during Panther games there are a lot of people parking in the neighborhood.** The construction areas will be barricaded for local traffic only.
- **How long will the Euclid Apartments access drive be blocked off during construction?** It will probably be impacted for a couple days while the pipe is installed across the drive.
- **Will the construction block the entire street on Lexington, Oriole, and Myrtle?** Yes, the entire street width curb to curb will be blocked off with a work zone of about 200' long.
- **How long will it take to get past my house or driveway?** It will likely take a few weeks for the construction to pass your house.
- **Will it be fenced along the sides of the trench?** Yes, it will vary between orange construction fencing and barricades. **A resident recommended concrete jersey barricades.**

- **Will portable toilets be provided to residents?** This should not be necessary. The contractor will coordinate providing temporary sewer services to the houses as necessary. There could be brief outages while they make transfer connections.
- **Will the City maintain the storm water easements if the pipe is not active?** The City will not maintain a private system. **If there is no easement, can we build a garage over the pipe?** This is not recommended as the pipe could develop a defect in the future. We will research this location to see if the pipe can be abandoned and filled with grout.
- **A resident asked about the Mt. Vernon improvements.** The improvements will be less disruptive than the large system because the pipe size is much smaller on Mt Vernon.
- **A resident asked to clarify the pipe abandonment near the Euclid Apartments.** The abandonment procedure will need to be investigated at each location to make sure the pipes are not conveying local drainage even if the street water is taken off the system.
- **A resident described some small pipe draining through the curb at 809 Lexington Avenue.** Woolpert will investigate the pipes to incorporate into the plans.

## **VI. Small Group Discussions – Break Out RE and Design Questions**

- At the end of the presentation the attendees had an opportunity to review the current construction drawings and ask the project team questions and discuss the project.