Mayor and Council Communication
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CHARLOTTE.

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INFORMATION:

July 20 - Public Meeting Regarding Proposed CSX Railroad Corridor Improvements and Street Closures in the Hoskins Community

Staff Resources: Tim Gibbs, CDOT, 704-336-3917, tgibbs@ci.charlotte.nc.us
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On June 28, Council deferred action on these street closures until the July 26 business meeting.

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 20 at Chappell Memorial Baptist Church, located at 110 Bradford Drive, to present railroad and street changes planned in the Hoskins Community. This meeting is a follow-up to two prior public meetings to obtain public input on this topic. Those meetings were held on February 25 at the New Outreach Christian Center located on Gossett Avenue and on June 3 at the Thomasboro Elementary School.

CSX Railroad is proposing to add a railroad track parallel to the current track between I-85 and the Pinoca Yard intermodal facility. The Pinoca Yard is where CSX Intermodal operates a truck-to-rail transfer terminal. It is located off Rozzelles Ferry Road between Hoskins and Hovis roads in northwest Charlotte. The proposed project will increase overall corridor capacity and assist with moving trains into and out of the Pinoca Yard. Population and business growth in the Charlotte region has generated demand for intermodal freight movements which necessitates the additional terminal capacity. Trains arriving at the yard currently block the Hoskins Road crossing for several minutes during switching operations.

CSX's proposal to add an additional track within their existing right-of-way will allow for more switching to be contained within the yard, minimizing impacts at the Hoskins Road crossing. The transportation study completed for the project shows that the crossing would be closed for periods no longer than under current conditions.

The City is being asked to close the S. Crigler Street railroad crossing and a portion of Marvin Smith Road just south of its current intersection with Hoskins Road. Marvin Smith Road is located within the CSX right-of-way parallel to the current railroad track. Since the streets are being closed without right-of-way being abandoned, public hearings are not required.

CSX initially proposed also closing the Golf Street crossing, but decided against it based on feedback received at the February 25 meeting. CDOT staff met with neighborhood leaders following the June 3 meeting and will continue to work with the Hoskins Park community on access to the area thoroughfare network.

CSX is not asking the City to participate in funding the project. The attached map shows the proposed closures and the area where the additional track will be built.

(see left side table of contents for attached file)

INFORMATION (continued):

Virginia Paper Building

Staff Resource: Ben Krise, N&BS, 704-336-2485, bkrise@charlottenc.gov

The media has recently covered a story regarding the condition of the Virginia Paper Company building located at 416 W. Third Street. Prior to the story, Code Enforcement had been monitoring the dilapidated conditions at the property and waiting for the City's Non-Residential Building Code (NRBC) to become effective on April 1, 2010 to begin the code enforcement process.

Upon verifying that the County owned the property, the NRBC team contacted the County and obtained contact information for the Charlotte Knights who lease the property. The Charlotte Knights have cooperated with the NRBC team and consented to an inspection that will be conducted Thursday, July 15, 2010.

Within 30 days of the inspection, the NRBC inspector will issue a Complaint and Notice of Hearing listing any violations and establishing a hearing date. Following the hearing, the NRBC inspector will inform Mecklenburg County and the Charlotte Knights of the decision and 30-day compliance period.

2010 Final State Legislative Report

Staff Resource: Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office, 704-336-2009, dfenton@charlottenc.gov

Attached is the Final State Legislative Report for the 2010 General Assembly Session of issues monitored at the North Carolina General Assembly. The General Assembly adjourned in the early morning of Saturday, July 10. The underlined language indicates the ending status of monitored issues.

(see left side table of contents for attached file)