

**MONROE AVENUE BRIDGE
COMMUNITY LIAISON TEAM MEETING MINUTES**

February 9, 2006
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Team Members in Attendance:

Stephen Rideout – Old Town Greens
Patricia Schubert – Inner City
Mariella Posey - NorthEast
David Fromm – Del Ray
Buddy Johnson – Del Ray

Absent:

Michael Babin – Slaters Lane Businesses
Miles Keogh – Lynhaven
Kevin Reilly – Potomac West Business Association
Pat Phibbs – NorthEast

Also in Attendance:

Cathy Puskar – Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley, Emrich & Terpak, PC
Jason Edsall – Shirley Contracting, Inc.
Emily Baker - City of Alexandria, Transportation & Environmental Services

Introduction:

Cathy Puskar began the meeting with an introduction of the team and meeting purpose: providing a forum for community representatives to bring forward the concerns of neighbors and fellow business owners regarding issues related to the construction of the bridge. Citizens are encouraged to contact their representatives with any comments or concerns, which will then be brought forward at the Team meetings for discussion/resolution.

City Update Regarding Monroe Avenue Access and Pedestrian Connection

Cathy Puskar gave a brief overview of the February 7, 2006, Planning Commission Public Hearing. The Planning Commission (PC) addressed the different access configurations for the new Monroe Avenue Bridge. After comments and discussion, the PC recommended denial of a text amendment to change the current configuration and supported the original connections. The item will now be brought before the City Council for discussion.

The PC also addressed the four options for the bridge pedestrian connection. The PC asked City Staff to reevaluate the options and deferred this item. The item will be addressed again at a future PC Public Hearing.

PYD Update Regarding Upcoming Construction Activities and Associated Detours

Emily Baker introduced Jason Edsall of Shirley Contracting who gave a power point presentation illustrating the upcoming bridge construction activities and associated detours. The foundation construction of pile driving will begin the week of February 13, 2006. Shirley is contracting with an outside geo-tech company to monitor any vibrations that may occur due to pile driving. Given the location of initial construction, the monitoring device, will initially be located in Del Ray, approximately 300 feet from the point of activity. The device is similar to a seismograph and will be set to one-quarter below government regulated acceptable vibrations. If levels are exceeded, a text message will be sent to Jason Edsall's mobile phone and corrective action will be taken immediately. The monitoring device will be relocated throughout the pile driving based on the location of activity.

Pile driving will occur Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pile driving is allowed but not planned on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday work would occur only if a "make-up" day is needed due to an issue such as inclement weather.

Jason also showed the new set of detours for Slaters Lane but explained that they would not be implemented until March and will be discussed in greater detail in the March Liaison Meeting.

Team/Community Input

Q: Will there be interruptions in utilities because of construction work?

A: Utilities will not be moved until 2007. Any utility work will be done in phases for minimal interruption and notice will be provided to impacted property owners prior to such work.

Q: If Fayette is being used for construction detours, will there be anything done to improve the current condition of the street.

A: Yes, improvements are being made on Fayette before it will be utilized as a detour route.

Q: Will signage directing traffic to local retailers be provided?

A: Access to area businesses will be clearly marked. Potomac Yard Development, LLC (PYD) is discussing the possibility of publishing a flyer denoting detours and phases of construction. PYD is also considering running advertisements in local media. In addition, signage denoting construction detours will be posted two weeks before the detours take effect.

Q: What is being done to ensure pedestrian safety at Fayette and Route 1?

A: A traffic signal and crosswalk will be installed at the intersection.

Q: How long is the light at Fayette and Route 1?

A: The City will coordinate the timing of the traffic light and will monitor signalization to maximize traffic flow during the detour.

Q: Patricia Schubert expressed concern about construction haul routes through Old Town and pedestrian safety.

A: The designated haul route to the site will be from Interstate 395, east along West Glebe Road to East Glebe Rd and southbound along Route 1 to the project site, not through Old Town. Haul routes from the site will be the reverse. If an exception is sought for an alternative haul route, it will be evaluated by the City on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Some citizens are concerned about structural damage from pile driving.

A: Pile driving vibration will be constantly monitored. It is recommended that citizens take dated pictures or video of their homes to document existing conditions. If citizens believe their homes have been damaged due to the pile driving vibrations, they should contact PYD/Shirley Contracting representatives. Citizens are also encouraged to contact their home owner insurance agent if they believe they have sustained damage.

Q: Will there be a longer turn lane along Route 1 to the Shops at Potomac Yard?

A: That particular part of Route 1 is not part of the improvements that PYD will be making to Route 1, and therefore it is not associated with the project. If a formal request is submitted to the City, the improvement can be properly evaluated.

Q: What is the proposed Metro Bus rerouting?

A: This item will be discussed in detail at the March meeting. The City will coordinate with WMATA to provide advance notice to riders of upcoming changes in the routes or bus stop locations and the information will also be posted on the project website.

Q: Will the police be involved in traffic calming?

A: The City does not involve the Alexandria Police Department in traffic calming measures.

After discussion of traffic calming and monitoring measures, it was agreed that Emily Baker will ask a representative from the City to attend the next meeting to address traffic issues.

Q: Will the bicycle and pedestrian crossing at Slaters Lane be accessible throughout construction?

A: Yes, the crossing will be maintained throughout construction.

Q: Have other construction projects around Slaters Lane and their impact on traffic been factored into the PYD construction schedule?

A: Once a project has been approved, the City cannot control the phasing of construction on other projects. They can however, control the haul routes of construction projects to mitigate the impact on traffic flows.

Approval of Minutes

Patricia Schubert made a motion to approve the minutes from January 5, 2006. Mariella Posey seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

Cathy Puskar suggested citizens forward questions to their Community Liaison Team Members or PYD/City representatives before meetings. This would give the group time to prepare answers or ask knowledge-specific representatives to attend the meetings.

Mariella Posey thanked PYD, the City and Shirley Contracting for the compromises made concerning the Slaters Lane construction closure and detours.