

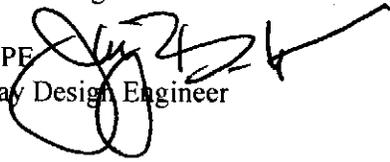


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PAT MCCRORY
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY J. TATA
SECRETARY

MEMO TO: Post Hearing Meeting Attendees

FROM: Jay Bennett, PE
State Roadway Design Engineer 

DATE: June 4, 2013

SUBJECT: Project: 34472.1.1 (R-2582 & R-2584) Northampton County
US 158 from I-95/NC 46 Interchange West of Garysburg to the
Murfreesboro Bypass

Post Hearing Meeting Minutes

The post hearing meeting was held in the Structure Design conference room at 1:00pm on May 13, 2013, to discuss the comments received from the subject projects Design Public Hearings. These hearings were held on August 14, 2012 at the Conway Middle School located on East Main Street in Conway, August 15, 2012 at the Garysburg Town Hall located on Old Highway Road in Garysburg, and August 16, 2012 at the Northampton County Cultural & Wellness Center located on NC 305 Highway in Jackson. Over 160 people attended these events.

Below is an **executive summary** of the main issues concerning the project, with a more detailed explanation of those concerns following.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The purpose of these projects is to improve traffic flow and level of service (LOS) on this section of US 158, fulfill US 158's role as a Strategic Highway Corridor and Intrastate Route and improve safety and connectivity along this section of US 158.
- A lot of public concern questioned the need of the project. Many people do not support the above stated purpose of this project and feel the funds would be better used on other projects such as eliminating the tolling concerns on I-95 or improving education in the county.
- Many property owners and local farmers are concerned with reduction in agricultural resources, access to fields, and the new restrictions to equipment movement along the project corridor.
- Many questions were raised about the proposed service roads and the additional travel requirements they will cause to people accessing their existing properties.
- Since the public hearings, many have requested additional information on how the project will physically affect specific properties. Many times design changes are requested. We are accommodating those that are practical and will continue to reduce the impacts as the design is further developed.

MAJOR CONCERNS:

A.) LONG FARM BISECTION

1. Derreck Long of Seaboard wrote Representative Michael Wray opposing this project and questions the impacts to his hog farming operations. He's concerned about access to hog waste spray fields and the current moratorium on new lagoon construction. He also asked about access to his hunting cabin, farm equipment travel distances, and compensation for both Right of Way and loss of future revenue both for himself and future generations. He recommended an alternative alignment that went through his house but missed his farming operations. Betty Jo Wren, Stuart & Kathy Bowers, David G. Burke, Rev. David Foster, Mickey Love, Wilson Love, Tom McKiernan, and Wendy Odom sent correspondence supporting Mr. Long's position, opinion, and suggested alternate.

RESPONSE :

Two alternatives based on Mr. Long's suggestions were investigated. Each had substantial impacts on adjacent property owners, some who were previously unaffected by the project. It has been determined that the proposed reduction in Mr. Long's spray field availability will not affect the capacity of Mr. Long's operation; therefore, NCDOT will continue with its original alignment. A formal response will be sent separately to Mr. Long.

B.) PROJECT IS UNNECESSARY

1. Wendy Burgess of Pendleton is opposed to the project as a whole, citing low traffic volumes that do not support the need for a bypass and the project's impact on farmers due to limited access. She expressed concern for historic properties and questioned the benefits to the existing residents.
2. David Burke of Northampton County is opposed to the project as a whole and believes the money should be spent elsewhere. He maintains area traffic does not support the need for a bypass and the project, rather than encouraging economic development, will have the opposite effect on existing businesses. He would rather the money be used on I-95 instead of adding tolls.
3. Robert Davis of Seaboard is opposed to the project as a whole feeling it's a waste of money. He is concerned about the negative secondary impacts to local business the bypasses will create.
4. Dana M. Hicks of Western North Carolina is opposed to the project as a whole. She feels the project is unwanted by the residents of the area and will provide only financial and cultural hardship, calling it "the road to nowhere".
5. HMM, full name and address withheld, questions the need of the project, citing area traffic does not support the need for the project, nor will the project bring any new business to the area. She feels project funds could be spent more wisely on other NCDOT obligations such as bridge replacements.
6. Carolyn G. Morris of Glenn Dale, Maryland, plans to retire to this community and questions the need for this project and objects to the change in nature this project will bring to the area. She is also concerned about being able to find suitable housing. She asks for traffic numbers, information on Eminent Domain, potential economic development, funding information, and document details.
7. Elliott and Lou Stephenson of Seaboard feel the project shows very little regard for farmers.
8. Thelma G. Swain of Garysburg was dissatisfied with the method of notification of the hearings. She felt the project was not warranted and the money would be better spent on the educational system. She also had questions about project schedule and future meetings.
9. Mildred G. Williams of Irvington, New Jersey plans to retire to this community and questions the need for the interchange in Garysburg as opposed to Conway. She was upset she had not received any correspondence until July 2012 and expressed concern in receiving fair compensation in situations involving Eminent Domain.

10. Ronnie and Jan Wood of Enfield questioned the need for this project and noted that it is a waste of tax dollars. They feel the money would be better used on education and creating new jobs.
11. Laleitha Underdo called to express her feelings that the widening of NC 46 disproportionately affects minorities in the Garysburg and questioned the economic benefit to that particular area.
12. An unknown caller felt this project was not a good idea and was concerned with relocating and losing people's history. The caller asks that NCDOT think about the situation and not what one person wants to do.
13. Christie Cox of Conway opposes this project mistaking clearing across from her property as the beginning of our Roadway Construction.

RESPONSE :

US 158 is a part of the NCDOT's Strategic Highway Corridor Plan. In the plan, the ultimate goal for the US 158 corridor is to provide a four-lane facility that will serve all of northeastern North Carolina. This section of US 158 in Northampton County has been currently prioritized high for this region; however, legislation is currently being considered by the General Assembly that would change the funding formula for our road projects. If passed into law, this project would be reprioritized based on new criteria. See <http://www.ncdot.gov/strategicmobilityformula/> for additional information.

Request for specific project information (if available) will be or has been sent by separate transmittal.

C.) REDUCE IMPACTS ON PROPERTY

1. Rockie Vann Brett of Murfreesboro asks that we leave his home as is.
2. Ronald DeBerry of Gaston requests that we move the right of way to Miss Flossie DeBerry's house.
3. Judy DeBerry Harvin of Garner is concerned with the loss of her mother's house (same property as above) and the increased speed potential of a divided four-lane highway. She asks that we consider only realigning the existing road in places and saving the existing farm land.
4. Danny and Darlene Jernigan of Jackson request that we move the road to avoid their property. They ask that we consider only realigning the existing road nearby and spend the rest of the money on I-95.
5. Anna R. Jones of Durham owns a property being bisected by a service road. She asks that the service road be moved to the edge of her property.
6. Benita Lee, Sheila Black, Roxanna Williams Bullock, Veronica Bullock, Christopher Clark, Taylor Clark, Wanda Bullock-Kelley, Joyce C. Bentley, Nathelia High, Betina Lee, Keisha Lee, Antonio Manning, Artelia Porter, Annie Venable, Deborah Williams, Donald Williams, Donald Williams, Jr., Gwendolyn T. Williams, Malinda Williams, and Ruth Williams all wrote and/or called separately asking to save their family's ancestral home of Annie P. Williams.
7. Wallace W. Dickerson on Conway contacted Division 1 Locating Engineer Casey Whitley, PE and stopped by the Roadway Design office to request that we move the road to avoid his property on Deberry Mill Road. There are two abandoned homes and an open field next to his home; however, he understood that the constraints might prevent this request from being filled.
8. Lionel Lewis does not want his mother's 50 year old funeral home off US 301 in Garysburg to be effected by this project.

RESPONSE :

Many of the requests to change the design are in areas where we are widening existing US 158 to retain existing pavement and/or the existing Right of Way. This limits our options in reacting to these requests; however, revisions will be made where practical. Further means to reduce impacts such as reducing the proposed Right of Way width will be investigated once the Hydraulic and Utility designs are finalized.

D.) ACCESS QUESTIONS

1. Steven R. Burgess of Conway had questions about access.
2. James E. Kerr of Roanoke Rapids is concerned the Right of Way isn't wide enough on the service roads for farming and logging equipment and his property will be inaccessible.
3. Gilbert Vaughn of Jackson asked about getting a service road to his property and had questions about Right of Way acquisition and uneconomic remnants.
4. Steven Rose of Conway had questions about access to his property.
5. Paylor Spruill of Garysburg had questions about a service road accessing his property.
6. Tom and Sandy Sperry of Jackson had questions about impacts to their property and access to their farm. They are unhappy with the proposed distance to median crossover locations.

RESPONSE:

NCDOT personnel have been working with residents to explain how access to their properties will change as a result of the proposed project. Service roads are being proposed at select locations based on the cost of construction verses the estimated value of acquiring inaccessible land. Restricting crossing movements with the median and limited crossover locations reduces the number of conflict points and focuses them in the safest locations practical.

E.) IMPACT QUESTIONS

1. Catherine Moody of Garysburg asks for information about her property and believes the project could have been planned better so she would not lose her heritage.
2. Lawrence Pittman of Columbia, Maryland, requested information about properties owned with Rozelia Pittman and Claudia Pittman.
3. Wes P. Terry, Jr. of Jackson requests a personal meeting with a NCDOT representative to discuss impacts to properties in his area. He would rather his entire property be purchased rather than have the control access fence through his front yard.
4. Josh Turner of Jackson bought his home after the property data was acquired for the hearing maps. He also wants more information on how the project will impact his property.
5. Robert F. and Susan E. Whiteoak of Jackson have septic field in front yard and want to know how much of their property needs to be acquired.
6. John and Catherine Boone of Seaboard had questions about the Right of Way and Easements on their property.
7. Stuart Bowers requested information about 2 additional stakes he found buried in the ground that were not where the road was going to be located.
8. Bill Terwilliger of Seaboard wanted to know if his property would be impacted directly by the project.

RESPONSE:

Some residents called and spoke with NCDOT representatives by phone while others used email or the "Contact Us" feature on our website. Frequently visual aids such as labeled clips of the hearing maps were used in electronic correspondence to help the residents better understand the impacts to their property. Most of the information shown to the public was based on preliminary survey data used to prepare the hearing maps and therefore the exact impact to individual properties is subject to change.

F.) MISC.

1. B. M. Askew of Conway offers free gravel in exchange for construction of a pond out of the pit.
2. Carolyn Brown of Murfreesboro asks that her section, R-2584C, be constructed first so land and home owners can get prepared.
3. Gary Brown of Conway praised the design and was much in favor of the project as a whole.
4. Kelly and Reba Davis of Conway provided name and address but had no comment.

5. Arthur and Carrie Everett of Murfreesboro asks that the projects start from east to west (R-2584C built first) citing heavy traffic, difficulty entering their driveway, and related accidents as frequent problems in their area.
6. Linda W. Howell of Como asks that we build the eastern end (R-2584C) first since construction of the nearby Winton bypass is already underway.
7. Audrey Nicholson of Jackson requested assistance in accessing the hearing maps online.
8. John B. Parker of Murfreesboro requests the utility poles be removed from his front yard. He installed underground electric cable to the Francis Parker House and the poles are no longer wanted.
9. Margaret Long Stephenson of Murfreesboro feels the Turner House is a Rosenwald School possibly eligible for the National Register and would like to be notified of the results of the final historical investigation.
10. Anthony and Marissa Jordan of Garysburg will have their property impacted by the project and want to be on the mailing list of all future correspondence relating to his area.
11. Ms. Vickie Bennet is interested in purchasing homes that will be acquired along the project.

RESPONSE :

The western end of the project is phased for construction first where projected traffic volumes are highest. The above comments are noted and entered into the official record for this project. Requested information has been sent if available. Some issues cannot be addressed until later in the project development process.

Any questions or comments regarding this information, please contact me or Jason Moore, PE, Project Engineer at (919) 707-6286.

JAB/ajm/bck

cc: Post Hearing Meeting Attendees *

Jay Bennett, PE *	Roadway Design
Doug Taylor, PE	Roadway Design
Glenn Mumford, PE *	Roadway Design
Jason Moore, PE *	Roadway Design
Bryan Key, PE *	Roadway Design
Robert O'Dell *	Roadway Design
Paul Chan, PE	Roadway Design – Lighting & Electrical
Rob Hanson, PE *	Project Development & Environmental Analysis
Charles Cox, PE *	Project Development & Environmental Analysis
Matthew Potter, PE *	Project Development & Environmental Analysis
Chris Rivenbark	PD&EA Natural Environment Section Regional Manager
Elena Talanker	Transportation Planning Branch
Steve Kite, PE	Work Zone Traffic Control
Drew Joyner, PE *	Office of Human Environment
Jamille Robbins	Public Involvement Group Leader
Harrison Marshall	Community Studies Team Leader
Tris Ford *	Community Studies
Art McMillan, PE	Hydraulic Design
Jay Twisdale, PE	Hydraulic Design
Paul Atkinson , PE *	Hydraulic Design
Ray McIntyre, PE *	TIP Development Unit
Hardee Cox *	TIP Development Unit
Dewayne Sykes, PE	Utilities Unit

Pamela L. Alexander, PE
Jerry Jennings, PE *
Bob Capehart, PE
Mohammed Mulla, PE
Betty Yancey
Stuart Bourne, PE
Omar Azizi, PE
Shane Petersen *
W. David Hinnant
James B. Harris, PE
Bill Biddlecome
Chris Rountree
Bryant Buck
Commenting Citizens

Signals Design Unit
Division 1
Division 1
Geotechnical Unit
Right of Way Branch
Traffic Management Unit
Structure Design
Historic Archaeology
Engineering & Safety Branch
Environmental & Planning Branch
US Corps of Engineers
RPO Coordinator
RPO Coordinator