

NC 119 Relocation Steering Committee Meeting

Mebane Arts and Community Center

March 30, 2006 6:30 PM

NC 119 Relocation Project

TIP Project U-3109

MEETING MINUTES

Prepared by RS&H, Inc.

The NC 119 Relocation Steering Committee held a meeting at the Mebane Arts and Community Center on Thursday, March 30, 2006 which was attended by members of the Committee, representatives of NCDOT and the consultant firms of Buck Engineering, Inc. and RS&H Inc. Twelve (12) of the twenty (20) members of the Committee attended the meeting as well as other members of the community. The meeting attendees list is attached to the meeting minutes. The following is a summary of the issues discussed at the meeting as per the meeting agenda.

I. Introduction

II. Current Project Activities

III. Future Activities

The meeting was opened by Jennifer Fuller, NCDOT Project Development Engineer for the NC 119 Relocation project, and a meeting agenda and handout were distributed to the attendees. The meeting attendees introduced themselves. A Project Fact Sheet handout was distributed that included a project description, overview of project history, current activities and the next steps in the project development process, a project schedule, and opportunities for public comment on the project.

Aileen Mayhew, Buck Engineering, Inc. presented an overview of the project and an update on the modifications to the project alternatives and the progress of the Draft EIS and design plans for the project. The upcoming schedule of the EIS process was reviewed and the meeting was opened for questions and comments by the Steering Committee members. The following is a summary of the comments and questions expressed at the meeting:

- A commenter asked if there would be a connection of Corrigidor Road with Tate Avenue and Roosevelt Street. NCDOT explained the proposed connection of Corrigidor Road with Tate Avenue.
- A commenter asked about the location of the 6-lane section of the Project. NCDOT explained the travel demand need for a 6-lane section between I-85 and the 3rd St/5th St. realignment.
- A commenter asked for confirmation that the NC 119 access to Fieldstone Drive had been removed. NCDOT confirmed that this access had been removed.
- A commenter asked if cultural/social impacts are being considered. The commenter does not see real benefits of Project which also must consider historic resources and

effects on the general environment. NCDOT responded that the Community Impact Assessment (CIA) would address those types of impacts.

- A commenter objects to growth and development that would result from the Project that the community has been fighting since 1993. The commenter does not agree that the Project is needed for future north/south traffic demand.
- A commenter is concerned about Project dividing the community of Woodlawn and feels that it will negatively affect the whole community.
- A commenter stated that truck traffic will use NC 49 and the new NC 119 Relocation which will pass nearby two schools that have serious traffic problems now.
- A commenter feels that the proposed NC 119 Relocation is at a very bad location. The commenter stated that 13 of 20 committee members signed a petition that opposed the Relocation.
- A commenter said that the committee has not heard much about the Project during the last two years and would like to know what is being planned for this Project. The NCDOT staff responded that the NC 119 Relocation project is an active project.
- A commenter stated his opposition to the Project because it is not necessary and he feels that the Project will not relieve traffic congestion in downtown Mebane. The commenter thinks that the real intent of the project is to encourage future development in the area. The commenter felt that the NC 119 Relocation overpass of NS RR is outside of downtown Mebane, and at some point, the existing RR at-grade crossing of NC 119 will be closed. He stated that a railroad underpass was proposed for this Project in the past. The commenter asked the dimensions of the new overpass. The commenter asked if Holt St. would be directly connected to the Project. NCDOT responded with information on the proposed design of the NC 119 Relocation overpass and that there would be no direct connection of the Project with Holt St.
- The commenter stated that he does not have confidence in the NCDOT process which has been going on for many years. The commenter felt that environmental justice issues had not been adequately considered on this project.
- A commenter stated that the West End has no access to other parts of Mebane except to Holt St. and asked how Corrigidor Road access would function and the connection of Smith Drive to NC 119. NCDOT provided information about the Corrigidor Road connection and the proposed access of NC 119 Relocation with Smith Drive.
- A commenter stated that the NCDOT's primary reason for the Project is to relieve congestion in Mebane, but City officials state that it's for economic development and to provide a corridor to Virginia. The commenter challenged NCDOT to show that this Project is needed and that the proposed corridor is the best route. The commenter said that a Woodlawn group was formed that opposes the Project. The commenter asked where the access points in Woodlawn would be. The commenter asked if Cates Farm historic property were to be developed, what kind of access would there be to that development. The commenter stated that the MPO-LRTP has listed this Project as a (TIP) priority but he thinks this is a "road to nowhere". NCDOT responded that there would be limited access control along NC 119 Relocation and that specific access points would be determined in the future.
- The commenter asked about consideration of historic sites and that some are not listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), but they are considered by some to

be historical sites. The commenter asked if the White Level Primitive Baptist Church is an official historical resource. NCDOT responded that the Church was not on the NRHP but would be considered in the CIA.

- A commenter stated that WERA filed in 1991 – a Title VI complaint against this Project. The commenter felt that there is a pattern of racial discrimination in highway development projects. The commenter thinks that NCDOT is operating under a Civil Rights complaint and refuses to acknowledge this issue. The NCDOT and consultant staff provided an explanation of the EIS process and opportunities for legal challenge of the EIS. NCDOT responded that the final decision on the Project is made by NCDOT Board.
- A commenter stated that public officials have “stacked the deck” against the residents of Woodlawn who oppose the Project.
- A commenter stated that the City of Mebane has done nothing to improve traffic circulation in-town and the City wants to shift all the trucks and traffic to the outer communities.
- A commenter asked why Section A of the Project has not been built if it has received funding. NCDOT responded that no decision has been made on any portion of the Project and that the EIS is evaluating the community’s concerns.
- A commenter asked if it would be more than 15 years until Section B is built. The commenter felt that it would be more sensible to construct the whole project at one time rather than doing just Section A because this would create traffic problems at US 70 and the NC 119 Relocation.
- A commenter asked if 5th Street could be widened. NCDOT responded that the impacts of this would be unacceptable; however, the “No-Build” alternative will be evaluated in the EIS.
- A commenter stated that they hope all these comments are being considered in the decision-making on the Project. NCDOT responded that all of the public comments are documented as part of the EIS process.
- A commenter stated that traffic projections over the next 25 years will not be significant and not many vehicles will come from/to Caswell County. The commenter asked about limited access vs. controlled access on NC 119 Relocation. The commenter felt that White Level, Woodlawn and West End residents have no way to influence the City of Mebane decisions and they will not benefit from this Project.
- A commenter asked about paving Allen Baynes Road and when that would occur. NCDOT stated that they would provide contact information regarding the paving of this road.
- A commenter asked about consideration of the petition that was signed by 13 of the 20 Committee members opposing the Project. NCDOT responded that they have that petition in the Project files.
- A Committee member requested a copy of Wills Duncan Group final report. NDOT responded that they will provide copies of the report to the Committee.
- A commenter asked if the earlier petition that was signed will be included in the DEIS. The commenter also asked what will be done with tonight’s comments by the

Committee. NCDOT responded that all public comments are part of the Project EIS documentation.

- A commenter suggested that the entire meeting be video taped and a transcript be made as an official record of the meeting and be provided to participants.
- A commenter stated that externally it may appear to the public that the Steering Committee endorses the Project when actually the majority is in opposition to the Project.
- A commenter asked if the project limits is at Mrs. White Lane or White Level Road and where 4 lanes will transition to 2 lanes on NC 119. NCDOT explained the northern Project limit and extent of improvements.
- A commenter asked about impacts to the church and houses along White Level Road near NC 119. NCDOT stated that this would be evaluated in the EIS for the Project.
- A commenter asked about the access to US 70 near St. Luke's Church and it was explained that the previously proposed full interchange has been redesigned to avoid having ramps on either side of the church.
- A commenter asked about impacts to residences at Edgewood Church Road and NC 119 Relocation corridor. NCDOT responded that there would be right-of-way acquisition impacts in this area as a result of the Project.
- A commenter asked if there would be a dead end of Woodlawn Road at Mebane Rodgers and a diversion of Woodlawn Road to Mebane Rodgers Road. NCDOT explained that the connection to Mebane Rodgers and Woodlawn Road has been removed and that Woodlawn Road would become a cul-de-sac near Mebane Rodgers Road.

Five written comment sheets were submitted by meeting attendees that expressed the following concerns:

- Traffic congestion problems with building the southern portion of the Project and the delayed construction of the northern portion of the Project in future years.
- Concerns that the Project is cultural and racially motivated.
- Concerns that the project is intended to encourage future development and not needed for traffic demand.
- Requested clarification on the timeline for a decision to be made on the Project.
- Concerns that the Project will result in further traffic congestion in Mebane.

Ms. Fuller concluded the meeting by stating that the future project activities anticipated during the next several months involve the continuation of work on the preliminary design of the NC 119 relocation alternatives and preparation of the Draft EIS for the project. She stated that NCDOT will continue to keep the community and the Steering Committee informed about the project through distribution of a newsletter in the near future and information posted on the project website.

The NC 119 Relocation Steering Committee meeting of March 30, 2006 concluded at approximately 9:00pm.

List of Attendees of the NC 119 Relocation Steering Committee Meeting
March 30, 2006

Steering Committee Members

Jill Auditori	Mebane Business Assoc.
Pat Brewer	Woodlawn
Steve Cole	Woodlawn
Evon Connally	White Level
Connie Johnson	West End
Ted Johnson	Woodlawn
Melvin King	Woodlawn
Mary M. Love	White Level
Bruce Middleton	Fieldstone Farms (3rd Street)
Roger Parker	Mill Creek
Donald L. Tate	West End
Gail Thompson	West End

Other Community Members

Marilyn Snipes	West End
Laura Snipes	West End
Omega Wilson	West End
Omari Wilson	West End
Jackie Cole	Woodlawn
Joe L. Johnson Sr.	West End

NCDOT Representatives

Jennifer Fuller	NCDOT-PD&EA Branch
Derrick Weaver	NCDOT-PD&EA Branch
Eric Midkiff	NCDOT-PD&EA Branch
Tony Houser	NCDOT-Roadway Design Unit
Bruce Payne	NCDOT-Roadway Design Unit

Consultant Firms

Aileen Mayhew	Buck Engineering, Inc.
Craig Young	Buck Engineering, Inc.
Glenda Gibson	Gibson Engineering, Inc.
Jan Anderson	RS&H, Inc.
Debbie Porter	RS&H, Inc.