

Riberia Street Pre-Construction Public Meeting
January 13, 2011
Minutes of Meeting

Attendees:

Martha S. Graham, P.E., Director, Public Works
Todd Grant, P.G., Deputy Director, Public Works
William G. Mendez, P.E., Engineering Manager
Jason Hall, P.E., England Thims & Miller
Bill Davidson, Senior Project Representative, England Thims & Miller
Ron Ratliff, Inspector, Public Works
Leo Masci, President, Masci General Contractors Inc.
Public

Introduction:

Introductions were made of all City staff, Engineers, Inspectors and Construction Contractor. Jason Hall of England Thims & Miller gave a power point presentation with an overview of the project. Jason described the scope of the project: King Street to Bridge Street which includes new underground storm drainage system, water and sewer utilities, sidewalk along the west side of Riberia St., removing over-head electrical crossings, and new asphalt road surface. A general sequence of construction was discussed and the proposed detour; ML King Blvd. was discussed. Following the brief (15 minutes) presentation, the floor was opened for questions and comments from the audience.

Comments/Questions from the Public:

Attendees voiced concern regarding the posted detour route (via ML King) because of the limited turning radius available at ML King & King St. which is too small for tractor trailers to negotiate. Project staff discussed that wide-load deliveries should be scheduled with the construction contractor as much as possible and that wide loads would have to be limited to a pre-determined evening and scheduled in advance. Staff agreed to examine what could be done to improve the turning radius at ML King and King St.

A business owner said that he would make his facility available for staging commercial vehicles at US1 and Diesel Road, if necessary. There was general concern regarding access for businesses, especially for marine industry and commercial and industrial properties on Riberia St. and the ability for commercial deliveries south of the project area to move south along ML King to South St. Staff assured attendees that access would be accommodated as much as possible. The Contractor stated that he would be knocking on doors and making contact to property owners/tenants about scheduled closures or scheduling times when access would be limited due to work directly in front of driveways.

A resident voiced concerns regarding road safety and that safety must be observed and given highest priority for school children on ML King. There was concern of insufficient turning

radius for large vehicles, and parking is to be restricted to make travel easier. A comment was made that vehicles are parking along yellow curbs and parking restrictions were not enforced. Engineers and City staff agreed to review traffic operations along the posted detour routes. There will be additional yellow curb painted as well as additional No Parking signs placed as part of the planned MOT.

A question/comment was raised about the need to increase green time on ML King at King Street traffic signal to allow additional cars to move through the intersection. The City stated that this could easily be done.

Many people raised concerns over ability to access commercial property for customers and deliveries. The contractor stated that each property owner would be contacted to work out access issues. Every effort will be made to accommodate access for local properties.

There was further discussion about discouraging through-traffic and the engineer stated that flyers would be distributed to businesses and owners and other organizations to avoid the area; such as National Guard, Council on Aging, etc. Project staff agreed that notices and flyers would be distributed to discourage through traffic on Riberia Street during construction and to take alternate routes.

A question was raised about water and/or electric outages. The contractor stated that any outages would be very brief and the customers would be notified first.

A resident voiced concerns over vibratory compaction being performed in front of his older home. The resident was assured that No Vibratory Compaction will be permitted, only static rolling of the trenches with some hand operated walk behind plate compactors or jumping jacks. The roadbed will be constructed using black base not limerock and this base also negates the need for any compaction of the subgrade.

The same resident also voiced concern regarding turbidity within the San Sebastian River and was assured the NPDES and SWPPP protocol will be followed and no sump pumps will be utilized. The de-watering will be accomplished by well points only which pull clean water from below the ground. The discharges from a construction site are typically monitored and the water sampled for cleanliness regularly regarding any turbid (silty) discharges.

A comment was made that the drive-through mail box was adding to congestion and maybe it should be relocated to the other side of the street or removed. Another comment was made about a concrete stoop located in the intersection of ML King and Bridge St. in the SW corner may contribute to a reduced turning radius. The City agreed to look into these suggestions.

The City requested that all attendees sign the attendance sheet and provide email contact information. A mail list of businesses and residents affected by the road construction would be compiled. Frequent updates with latest traffic information, road closures, detour changes, etc., will be emailed to everyone on the mail list.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.