



FIREWEED LANE/LATOCHE STREET UPDATE

MEETING NOTES

SUBJECT: Fireweed Lane/LaTouche Street Upgrade W.O. D58819
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting No. 4

DATE/TIME: January 17, 2007 / 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: DOWL Engineers, Kobuk Room

MEETING INFORMATION

Steve Noble (DOWL) opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. He explained that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss some of the design recommendations that have been added since the last meeting.

Brad Melocik (DOWL) then discussed the different types of roadway sections that will be used for this project. These types of sections include the typical section which has not changed since the previous meeting, and is a total of 31 feet from back of curb to back of curb. He then discussed the typical choker sections and stated that traffic calming will be used at the major intersections within the project corridor.

The coordination with Municipal Light and Power (ML&P) was then discussed. Brad pointed out the specific features of the ML&P utility design. He stated that ML&P would like to begin construction as soon as possible, and that the schedule will be included in the Fireweed/LaTouche bid package. John Smith (MOA) stated that the utility design will be included as supplemental specifications to the report.

Kevin Doniere (DOWL) then discussed the lighting that was chosen. He explained that there will be approximately 12 light fixtures, and the lights will be used to spread light on the roadway as well as the trails and sidewalks. The poles will be about 30 feet high, and be a black light-pole with a black fixture. John asked about the lead time for ordering these lights. Brad explained that they are the standard lights with no customization, so the lead time should not be an issue.

Kevin then discussed the raised crosswalk. There was discussion on why this crosswalk would not be moved south of E. 27th Avenue. It was stated that the traffic department requested that the raised crosswalk stay in the location north of E. 27th Avenue because of the taper in the road to the south. The final decision was to leave the raised crosswalk where it is shown now, north of E. 27th Avenue.

Steve commented that people should not be crossing between the stop bars at the Bannister Drive/Fireweed Lane intersection. The intersection should be designed to help alleviate that unnecessary crossing.

John commented on the access to the houses on Juneau Street during construction. There was discussion on the various properties that have alley access, and that this issue will need to be considered when construction begins.

There was also discussion on the curbs that will be put in place on the south side of Juneau Street. Brad explained that there will be a six-inch expressway curb that will be placed along the road, but that it does not impact the gates or fences along the property lines.

There was a comment made regarding the grading of the roadway on both 26th and 27th Avenues. Brad stated that he does realize that there are some potential grade issues, and that he will continue to think about how to deal with them.

Kevin then discussed the gateway concepts that are being recommended. There will be a gateway structure at each end of the project area, one at the intersection of the Seward Highway and Fireweed Lane, and the other at the intersection of Northern Lights Boulevard and LaTouche Street. There will also be four decorative columns that will help tie in the theme of the area.

There was then discussion regarding the various types of plant species that will be used throughout the project area. Kevin explained that the moose in the area are being considered when choosing the types of landscape plantings that will be used. John asked if moose fencing was going to be used during the first few years of the new trees being planted. Brad stated that this can be added.

There was a comment regarding the cul-de-sac being added to the end of Juneau Street. The dead-end that is there currently is used for snow storage in the winter, and also allows for parking. Brad explained that the snow can still be stored in the cul-de-sac until the MOA has time to remove it. It was also stated that there will not be any "No Parking" signage in the cul-de-sac, so it can still be used for parking.

It was also commented that the residents along Juneau Street are opposed to the trail. They do not believe that it is practical because people will not use it, and it also removes the green space that is presently there. Sharon Ferguson (MOA) stated that a comment was received earlier on in the project regarding the trail. The comment was in favor of an ADA compliant trail.

It was asked why Colorado Blue Spruce is being used at the end of Juneau Street rather than the native trees of the area. Kevin explained that this is being looked at.

Steve then reviewed the project schedule. He explained that the team is working on the final design and hopes to have the project completed and out to bid in March. Sharon asked if the landscaping will be able to be completed this summer with the rest of the project. Steve explained that there are other outside influences that can affect this, but he believes that the landscaping can be completed by August 15, 2007. He also mentioned that the ML&P work will be done at the same time under the same contractor.

John asked about the temporary construction permits because of the driveways in the area. Brad commented that the parcel maps for the slope easements are in progress. He will be working on the Temporary Construction Permits (TCP) for driveways.

Steve then thanked the meeting participants for their involvement in the project and stated that the website will be updated as the project progresses.