SR 41 (Lancaster Pike) Safety Project
July 12, 2005 Meeting Minutes

DelDOT
Delaware Department of Transportation

Date: July 13, 2005
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: DelDOT Field Office
Re: July 12, 2005 - Construction Working Group (Meeting Minutes)

Attendees

Hon. Roger Roy, State House of Representatives
Hon. Liane Sorenson, State Senate
Mr. Ken Murphy, GHADA
Ms. Peg Castorani, Gateway Garden Center
Mr. James R. Sapp, Sr., Hockessin Fire Department
Mr. Mike Balbierer, DelDOT
Mr. Ted Parker, DelDOT Project Resident Engineer
Mr. Vernon Lawton, DelDOT
Mr. Jesse Chadderdon, Community News Publications
Mr. Chuck Gregory, Whitman, Requardt & Associates

Public Comments

Any persons with comments, questions or issues they would like to raise, should do so by contacting Ted Parker at 239-0981. Mr. Parker is the project Resident Engineer, and will work to resolve issues in a reasonable time frame.

Mr. Balbierer stressed that any public concerns should be brought up immediately to DelDOT so that they could respond accordingly. Mr. Parker documents all public comments/concerns.

Mr. Balbierer stated that it was previously brought to his attention by Mary Grace Fariello that some business owners' concerns were not being addressed or heard. Mr. Murphy stated that everyone has had a chance to voice their concerns at the GHADA meetings. GHADA meetings occur once a month. Hockessin Community News has offered to publish upcoming monthly GHADA meetings where general project information will be discussed and general project concerns can be given to Ken for discussion at the working group meetings.

Project Schedule

Mr. Parker explained that the project was originally scheduled to begin early in the spring and to end before winter (one construction season). However, due to utility issues, the project has gotten off to a slow start and now will not be able to be completed within one season. Construction began in May and is currently in Phase 1 (southbound side construction). Phase 1 is expected to last into September/October. Phase 2 will then commence, and will last through the winter. It is expected that Phase 2 will be completed in spring 2006. The project is currently scheduled for a July 2006 completion. Phase 3 is anticipated to last between May and July.

Construction operations will continue until winter conditions do not allow. At that time, work will slow down considerably due to the inability to handle materials at lower temperatures. There

is a small elevation difference between the proposed pavement and the existing pavement. Before the winter slow-down period begins. DelDOT will evaluate the roadway conditions and may perform some temporary paving to remove any uneven pavement situations as necessary. Drums and barriers will be removed as much as possible during the winter to not hinder traffic operations during this time.

Valley Road Signal

The group questioned when the signal would be operational. It was explained that due to roadway width restrictions, there is no room for a left-turn lane until the near-completion of the project, which will likely be July 2006. Mr. Murphy asked if the work in the Valley Road area could be expedited so that the signal could be constructed earlier. It was explained that due to maintenance of traffic issues with the culvert extension, that this was not possible.

The issue of having an advanced warning sign for the Valley Road signal was raised. Mr. Balbierer answered that there will be an advance warning sign with flashing yellow lights that reads "SIGNAL AHEAD – 2000 FT".

Mr. Sapp asked if the new signals at Valley Road, Yorklyn and PAL Center would have the Opticom system, which allows authorized emergency vehicles to preempt the signal to allow them to safely enter the intersection. Mr. Balbierer confirmed that all signals will be equipped with Opticom.

Mr. Sapp added that the Opticom system at the Brackenville Road intersection does not work properly. Mr. Balbierer will have DelDOT Traffic look into issue.

Maintenance of Traffic/Access

Mr. Murphy asked about the status of the entrance permit of the proposed business just north of Happy Harry's. Mr. Balbierer stated that DelDOT's Subdivision section is working with the owner's design consultant to configure the entrance. As of this meeting a site plan has not been submitted to DelDOT's Subdivision section for entrance approval. This property will have a cross access agreement with Happy Harry's.

It was explained that the Shoppes of Coffee Run and Happy Harry's will have cross access, and both will maintain their own entrances, each of which will have full access.

It was stated that the Exxon station has been closed since June. There is no word on when it will reopen.

It was brought to the group's attention that the owner of Kim's Café said that they are not getting flooded from storm events since the existing stormwater management pond has been cleaned out.

Ms. Castorani stated that people making left turns into Rita's are not pulling into the center turn lane, and they are stopped in the southbound through lane. It was determined that this might be because the plans show this area as a left turn lane for northbound traffic. Mr. Parker will confirm that this is the case. The length of the left turn lane is based upon existing conditions, but could potentially be shortened if conditions warrant. Mr. Parker will monitor the length of the left-turn queue and will shorten the limits of the left-turn lane if appropriate. Additionally, he will verify that the striping for the center turn lane has been placed per plan, and will verify location of arrows in center turn lane.

DelDOT will take a look at the striping for the temporary access for Wachovia Bank and refresh striping and/or add traffic arrows if necessary.

The group asked if the traffic barriers at Yorklyn Road could be removed to allow for more turning lanes. It was explained that the barriers need to be there for elevation differences between the existing roadway and excavated areas for proposed pavement and could not be removed.

The access status of the Goodyear dealership was brought up. It was explained that their access will remain as it is today, right-in access only. Due to the proposed crossing gates, it would not be safe to allow vehicles to turn left at this location. Exits will continue to exist in the rear of the property.

DelDOT will address any identified access issues or unusual conditions that may occur as they develop.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Murphy asked how many contractors are on site. Mr. Parker explained that there is only one "Prime" contractor on site (A-Del Construction, Inc.) who is responsible for all of the many subcontractors on the site. He added that people may see vehicles with Century Engineering on them, and that they are DelDOT's inspectors.

Mr. Murphy asked if there have been any changes to the contract since it was last shown to the public. Mr. Parker responded that there have been no changes in the project scope, except that the mill and overlay slated for the area north of Valley Road has already been completed.

Mr. Murphy mentioned that it was his understanding (through discussions he had with the owner of the PAL Center) the fence adjacent to the PAL Center was slated to be removed. Mr. Parker stated that DelDOT has already relocated the 12' fence along the PAL Center property per plan. It was explained that DelDOT Real Estate had discussions with the property owner during the right-of-way acquisition period (related to the Permanent Easement required in this area), and there was no mention of the fence removal by the owner. Mr. Murphy is to check with the PAL Center to see if they still want the fence to be removed.

Mr. Murphy asked for a description of work and the phasing of the project for the GHADA meetings. Mr. Parker will provide work description and schedule.

Mr. Parker will provide GHADA with a list of entrances on northbound side that will be impacted (and when) by next meeting.

Meetings

The Working Group agreed to meet the following dates:

August 15th
September 12th
October 10th
November 14th
December 12th

Meeting minutes from this meeting and subsequent meetings will be provided electronically on the project website.

It was agreed that these meetings would just involve the core group to keep the meetings manageable. Mr. Murphy would bring any concerns raised at the GHADA meetings to the Working Group's attention.