Penn Avenue Reconstruction Committee

Thursday, May 2, 2019 @ 11:00 a.m.

BGC's Community Activity Center, 113 N. Pacific Avenue

MEETING MINS

Attendees: Nina Gibbs, Jeffree N.V., Terence Olesniewicz, Gene Volpe, Eric Boerer, Ed McCabe, Emily Gaspich, J. Coleman.

Nina Gibbs called to order at 11:08 A.M.

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Previous Meeting Minutes

Emily approves the meeting minutes and Gene seconds to approve. Nina indicated that there were a few typographical errors that she would correct.

III. Preliminary Engineering Update/Review Prelim. Engineering Schedule

Emily gave an update. The limits of the project were confirmed to be from Evaline Street to Graham Street and the construction duration is anticipated to be approximately 18 months. The City's five (5) year moratorium on disturbing pavement or sidewalk was discussed. Opening or excavating within the final pavement (asphalt or concrete) or sidewalk is prohibited for non-emergencies from five (5) years after project completion. Emergency work will be allowed, but must adhere to City design and construction requirements. Ed asked about the limits of sidewalk improvements. The project will be rebuilding the corners for curb ramps and bump-outs typically ten feet (10') back from the intersection. Currently individual property owners are responsible for the curb and sidewalk abutting their property. Ed and Gene indicated that waiting to replace sidewalk in right-of-way or on-site may be advisable so they can see what is completed as part of the project and what style of sidewalk can be matched. Emily indicated that DOMI has two (2) new staff members working on sidewalk policy and that they are looking to see if the City can help with sidewalk reconstruction and/or provide a reimbursement-type option.

Jeffree N.V. (5425 Penn Avenue) questioned whether or not a depressed curb (cut-out) for his property driveway would be replaced or eliminated. Trans Associates (TA) stated that existing curb opening or curb cuts would be replaced in kind as long as it is still an active property access. He also indicated that his water valve was not marked by the PA One-Call and asked if this was an issue. TA indicated that it should not be an issue and that if it is visible, the survey would have picked-up the feature.

a. Public Meeting – Tentative 08/2019

Emily explained that the public meeting will be pushed back to August to have a more efficient meeting by allowing more time for coordination with property owners and utility coordination. Nina asked when a firm date will be available and Emily indicated that she would review with the project team and advise. Everyone would be welcome at the public meeting.

b. Property Owners Meetings – 06/07/19 – 06/17/19

These will include individual one-on-one with businesses. Business impact and mitigation plans will be developed for each large land owner and smaller businesses would be included with a combined or overall plan. These meetings are anticipated to be held in June. The City and project representatives will go to the actual business and discuss how owners actually use and access their properties. The City and TA will develop a list of owners that are anticipated to be included and will also coordinate with BGC. Some interested non-business/residential owners may also be included if requested.

c. Utility Coordination

Utility coordination is still underway. TA's subconsultant is performing Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigation of the roadway to determine the location of the trolley ties and rails as well as any previously undiscovered utilities. Additional GPR investigation will be done along the sidewalk to determine the presence of any additional vaults and/or utilities within the sidewalk. This work is typically performed during the night within busy corridors such as Penn Avenue.

Ed inquired regarding lateral water lines and sanitary sewer lines as they relate to the project. Emily indicated that PWSA can be called to test water lines and Nina indicated that PWSA has completed curb box testing already, however, the results may not be available. Nina is to provide the available lateral information that was original provided in previous meeting minutes. Emily explained that it is the property owner's responsibility for sanitary sewer laterals and that they can be televised by a plumber to determine if the sewer line repair is needed. There are several options for sewer line repair including replacement and in-place lining of the existing pipe. The property owner would be responsible for coordination with and obtaining any necessary permits from PWSA. It is recommended that if an owner wishes to replace their sewer lateral it should be done during the construction project when the existing roadway and sidewalk is removed. Ed asked what happens if the laterals are excavated and are found to have failed – it would be the owner's responsibility to repair unless damaged by the contractor. TA indicated that sanitary sewer lines are typically buried deep and that the roadway excavation may not uncover existing sewer laterals. All of Allegheny County is under a consent order which mandates separating storm water from sanitary sewer water and monitoring and reducing lead levels in water. Gene asked about this separation of storm and sanitary sewer flows and it was discussed that this is typically only required for a new occupancy permit depending on the size of the development. TA indicated that they are coordinating with PWSA to determine their anticipated planned improvements in the project area. PWSA should be contacted by any owner with concerns regarding their sanitary sewer laterals.

Gene asked if water would be shut off during construction. Emily indicated that if this was the case any outages would be well coordinated with all effected property owners. Nina asked if there would be any issues with gas lines and Emily indicated that this is not currently anticipated.

d. Final Design-05/2020

The project is currently in Preliminary Engineering Design at the Line and Grade stage of design which is about 10% complete. These plans have been completed and reviewed by the City and returned to TA. The comments from the City will be addressed and the plans will be reviewed by PennDOT. The Final Line and Grade stage will be 20% completion. At the end of the Preliminary Engineering Design Phase the Design Field View stage of design is prepared and will represent approximately 60% completion. Final Design is anticipated in mid-2020 to early 2021.

IV. Other Issues / Items

PWSA flyers regarding lead waterline replacement and a fact sheet with PWSA information and overall reconstruction project information was provided along with the previous meeting's minutes.

Adjourned at Noon

Date for next meeting: August 1, 2019