Public Information Open House: Response to Comments

Meeting Date: April 23, 2013

Savannah, Georgia

P.I. Nos. 0008358, 0008359 and 0010236

Project DeRenne

1. Sharrows should be marked on DeRenne Drive for existing bicycle and pedestrian use

- The proposed concept design includes sharrow markings on DeRenne Drive. Wider sidewalks are proposed along DeRenne Avenue for pedestrians.

2. A buffer of plants between neighborhood and DeRenne Avenue for visual impacts

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when developing the landscape plans.

3. Concern of how bikeway will connect with Truman Linear Trail Park

- Project DeRenne improvements end at the existing bridge over the canal. The City is in coordination with Chatham County regarding the design of the trail and its connection to DeRenne Avenue.

4. There should not be a left turn from DeRenne Avenue to Ranger Street due to the amount of traffic volume onto a residential street

- The proposed concept continues to accommodate a left turn from DeRenne Avenue to Ranger Street, however would prevent left turns from Ranger to DeRenne.

5. Speed limit should not exceed 30 mph on Hampstead Avenue

- The current concept includes a posted speed limit of 35 MPH on the portion of the Boulevard that approximates the alignment of the current Hampstead Avenue.

6. Roadway buffers needed throughout the project between residential areas and high traffic areas

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when developing the landscape plans.

7. Do not plant red tips

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when developing the landscape plans.

8. Respondent was informed that the [project] design was the results of Kimley & Horn to make the change of the concept after the residents resolved that the concept would be a part of the design contingent to the environmental, proposed Roadway from Georgia Department of Transportation

- We do not fully understand your comment. Please feel free to contact Heather Fish - Hfish@savannahga.gov – 912-651-6488 with any questions.

9. Add stop bar to Habersham Street crosswalks

- The cross hatched markings to prevent blocking access to DeRenne Drive necessitate moving the stop bar.

10. A northbound right turn lane should be installed on Habersham Street

- The need for a right-turn lane at this location will be reviewed when further developing the plans.

11. Additional intersection modification to Derenne Avenue & Sanders Street and DeRennne Avenue & Ranger Street to address traffic congestion

- The current concept design includes left turn lanes to store and process turns from DeRenne to both Sanders and Ranger, however eliminates the more challenging left turn movements out of both streets across the westbound traffic merging into the eastbound traffic.

12. Landscaping, current and new, needs to be maintained

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when developing the landscape plans.

13. Will this project reduce congestion west of Abercorn intersection?

- The Boulevard Concept would accommodate approximately ½ of the peak hour traffic currently utilizing DeRenne Avenue between I-516 and Abercorn Street. This reduction in traffic volume processing through the signals along that segment of DeRenne will allow for a considerable reduction in peak hour delay.

14. Turn lanes along DeRenne should be longer due to traffic volume

- The development of the Boulevard concept would change traffic patterns in such a way that the signalized intersections will operate differently and as such, turn lane lengths will be redesigned to match the planned future turn patterns.

15. Landscaping should begin after construction is completed

- Although it has not yet been planned, any landscaping associated with the project would typically occur at the conclusion of heavy construction or thereafter (depending on the season).

16. Support of the refuge islands and construction of medians on DeRenne Avenue

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

17. Will transportation of natural gas be allowed on roadway

- You are likely referring to public hearings that were held regarding the potential to transport liquefied natural gas (LNG) by truck along DeRenne Avenue. That is/was a separate public input process and is not in any way affiliated with Project DeRenne.

18. Eliminate the business bypass flyover design

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

19. Install Emergency Vehicle Only lane

- An emergency vehicle only lane is not a proposed concept for DeRenne Avenue. The proposed Boulevard Option would reduce the amount of traffic on the most congested segments of DeRenne Avenue.

20. Concern about new intersection at Hampstead Avenue and White Bluff Road because it requires northbound and southbound traffic to shift directions

- The Boulevard concept would redirect White Bluff Road such that it included a sweeping curve to align with the connector to I-516. In the center of that curve would be a traffic signal. Northbound traffic on White Bluff would take a right turn and southbound traffic would take a left turn at that signal. This would be a change in the current travel pattern, however would represent a minority of the movements as compared to the volume utilizing the Boulevard.

21. Get rid of multiple curb cuts

- Existing and future access control will be considered and addressed when further developing the plans.

22. Plant bushes and trees for scenery

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when developing the landscape plans.

23. Unclear on how cars moving from Hampstead Street would reach Savannah Technical School

- The proposed concept design would allow vehicles traveling from the west to access Savannah Tech utilizing the current access road on Hampstead Avenue

or via the main entrance on White Bluff Road. Vehicles traveling from the east would be able to access Savannah Technical School utilizing the White Bluff Road entrance.

24. Prefer Boulevard design

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

25. Well planned and coordinated with state agencies

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

26. Pave dirt roads near Mildred Street and DeRenne Avenue

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when further developing the plans.

27. Agree with flyover design

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project.

28. Support the White Bluff Road design to remove traffic from DeRenne Avenue

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project.

29. Put canopy shade trees in medians

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when developing the landscape plans.

30. Irrigation should be installed in medians

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when developing the landscape plans.

31. Flooding occurs with heavy rain on side street across from hospital .

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project.

32. The new Hampstead Avenue roadway limits access to residents and visitors of the Savannah Summit Apartments.

- The design team is currently investigating ways to develop access to Savannah Summit from westbound on Hampstead Avenue.

33. Would like to schedule a meeting with Fairway Oaks Greenview Board to discuss sidewalk location and red tips.

- The City of Savannah Citizen Office will contact Fairway Oaks Greenview Board to discuss the red tips and sidewalk location.

34. Would like to see the budget for the project looks expensive and hard to see how it improves things much.

- The project budget is available on the Coastal Region Metropolitan Planning Organization website. Project DeRenne Boulevard Concept, East DeRenne Avenue Improvements and West DeRenne Avenue Improvements are listed in the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program. This document contains programmed costs for planning, engineering and right of way.

35. Travelled in the area for years, most dreaded part of the drive. From utilities perspective: very dangerous area to work in.

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

36. Be sure to make any path connectors, linking segments of E. DeRenne Drive bikeway through the intersections.

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when further developing the plans.

37. Make sure multi-use trails are 10-foot wide including through intersections.

- The multi-use paths will be designed to a 10' width where achievable .

38. The Fairway Oaks Neighborhood Association approved an earlier concept with serpentine wall with plantings and removal of red tips.

- The City of Savannah Citizen Office will contact Fairway Oaks Greenview Board to discuss the red tips and sidewalk location.

39. Sidewalks and bike lanes should not be installed on DeRenne Drive in the Fairway Oaks subdivision.

- The City of Savannah Citizen Office will contact Fairway Oaks Greenview Board to discuss the red tips and sidewalk location.

40. Concern about accidents at I-16 and 516.

- The intersection of I-16 and I-516 is outside of the proposed project area. However, your comment has been forwarded to the Georgia Department of Transportation District Five Office for further consideration. If you have any additional questions regarding those intersections, please contact Karon Ivery, the District Five Engineer, at (912) 427-5711.

41. At Victory Drive South off ramp from Truman Parkway there is a "bow" closing down one lane, this should be fixed.

- Victory Drive is outside of the proposed project area. However, your comment has been forwarded to the Georgia Department of Transportation District Five Office for further consideration. If you have any additional questions regarding those intersections, please contact Karon Ivery, the District Five Engineer, at (912) 427-5711.

42. Access to the businesses on the east side of White Bluff Road via U-turn at White Bluff Road and Hampstead Avenue.

- The design team will give consideration to the feasibility of U-turns from southbound to northbound White Bluff at the intersection with the Boulevard when further developing the plans.

43. Making a left turn out of business is already difficult, but crossing lanes to get in left turn lane for a U-turn, because of the proposed median, will be even more difficult.

- In most locations along the corridor it is possible to utilize parallel streets (for example 72nd Street) to access the closest signalized cross street to make a left turn onto DeRenne.

44. For residents on Hampstead Avenue, concern about exiting and entering driveway of proposed higher traffic roadway.

- The traffic signal located at the Boulevard intersection with White Bluff Road would routinely stop westbound traffic creating gaps in traffic flow.

45. The City of Savannah honoring its agreement to compensate concerned residents on Hampstead Avenue.

- The City is committed to maintaining an open dialogue with residents living along Hampstead Avenue, as well as other residents, businesses, and properties impacted by the project.

46. Masthead poles and internally lit street signs should be used.

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when further developing the plans.

47. Wayfinding signs and "Next Signal" cross streets should be part of the proposed project.

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when further developing the plans.

48. Clear signage for new street grid created and avoid use of altered road names.

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when further developing the plans.

49. Landscaping compatible to other Savannah landscape and representative of older established areas.

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when developing the landscape plans.

50. Utility lines should be moved underground.

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when further developing the plans.

51. Residents along Hampstead Avenue should be allowed access to their properties through an alley due to hazards from New Hampstead Avenue.

- The potential of utilizing the existing alley for access has been investigated. For various reasons, including resident input, access via the existing alley is not preferred.

52. Avoid creating new street names, i.e. White Bluff Extension.

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when further developing the plans.

53. Plant landscaping that is appropriate for the area and climate.

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when developing the landscape plans.

54. A historically representative brick wall should be built between DeRenne Avenue and DeRenne Drive.

- A noise impact assessment is currently underway to determine noise impacts from the proposed project. As part of the noise assessment, the feasibility and reasonableness of noise abatement, including noise walls, will be analyzed.

55. A bridge over DeRenne Avenue would fix DeRenne area.

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

56. For Hampstead Avenue, a frontage road should be installed, similar to DeRenne Drive.

- The design team will take your comment into consideration when further developing the plans.

57. Do not want to relocate my house.

- Land acquisition for transportation purposes is strictly governed by numerous state and federal laws and regulations. Since it is not appropriate to discuss individual impacts and compensation in this format, the City of Savannah and/or

GDOT Right-of-Way Office will send out letters under separate cover to those property owners who would be affected by land acquisition for the proposed project. For additional information, please contact the City of Savannah via Heather Fish - Hfish@savannahga.gov – 912-651-6488.

58. Options should be considered to adequately compensate affected personnel who are required to relinquish their land.

- Land acquisition for transportation purposes is strictly governed by numerous state and federal laws and regulations. Since it is not appropriate to discuss individual impacts and compensation in this format, the City of Savannah and/or GDOT Right-of-Way Office will send out letters under separate cover to those property owners who would be affected by land acquisition for the proposed project. For additional information, please contact the City of Savannah via Heather Fish - Hfish@savannahga.gov – 912-651-6488.

59. The proposed medians would increase traffic congestion.

- The medians along DeRenne Avenue are being proposed with the intent to also reduce the number of conflict points, improve overall traffic operation, and reduce the potential for related crash and injury along the corridor.

60. Ranger Street is currently used by Memorial Hospital employees and ambulances and the proposed project will only increase traffic on the residential street.

- Three of the four movements currently allowed to and from Ranger Street are proposed to remain. The fourth is the left turn from Ranger Street to DeRenne Avenue. Traffic counts show this to be a relatively minor movement. The intent is to eliminate the more challenging left turn movement from Ranger Street across the westbound traffic merging into the eastbound traffic along DeRenne Avenue.

61. Pedestrian crosswalks should be set to work on a timer on Saturday and Jewish holidays.

- Your comment will be submitted to the City Traffic Engineer.

62. Concern about how the proposed project would help with traffic congestion turning south onto Abercorn for DeRenne Avenue westbound .

- The Boulevard Concept would accommodate approximately ½ of the peak hour traffic currently utilizing DeRenne Avenue between I-516 and Abercorn Street. This reduction in traffic volume processing through the signals along that segment of DeRenne (including Abercorn) will allow for a considerable reduction in peak hour delay.

63. There should be U-turns allowed between Truman and Waters Avenue Westbound and Ranger Street and Truman Parkway Eastbound, since Truman Parkway intersections are currently dangerous and difficult and stoplights are not very visible.

- You are likely denoting that the signals at the Truman Parkway intersections are dangerous and it is difficult to see the traffic signals. The Truman Parkway is beyond the limit of this project; however your comment will be forwarded to the City Traffic Engineer.

64. Concerns regarding businesses due to installation of access to medians.

- The median would limit the number of left-turn and U-turn locations which also reduces the number of conflict points, improves overall traffic operation, and reduces the potential for related crash and injury along the corridor. The current design of median openings provides access to all businesses within the project limits.

65. Traffic circles, or roundabouts, are not the best option for the amount of traffic anticipated or for larger vehicles.

- The proposed roundabout on Montgomery Street will be evaluated using the GDOT approved existing and future traffic volumes and the design of the traffic control feature will be accommodate large vehicle movements.

66. There is a potential bottleneck where Hampstead Avenue (Boulevard) meets White Bluff Road.

- This intersection is needed to maintain access between the east/west flow of the Boulevard and the north/south movements along White Bluff Road.

67. What about ambulances going down DeRenne [Avenue] to Hospital.

- The proposed Boulevard Option would reduce the amount of traffic on the most congested segments of DeRenne Avenue, thus allowing more efficient flow to and from the Hospital along DeRenne Avenue.

68. Traffic will increase White Bluff Road and through Poplar Place neighborhood.

- The Boulevard concept would accommodate a larger volume of vehicles utilizing the alignment of Hampstead Avenue, however it would not be expected that there would be an appreciable increase in traffic moving through the internal streets of Poplar Place.

69. Concern about increased collisions at Hampstead Avenue from increased traffic and safety of nearby homes.

- The Boulevard concept roadways and associated traffic elements would be designed to meet or exceed GDOT standards for the projected traffic volumes and speeds.

70. Traffic will increase on Waters Avenue and the neighborhoods once the proposed median is installed.

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

71. Project will eventually result in congestion when drivers learn of new route.

- The project roadways and intersections are being evaluated using GDOT approved existing and future traffic volumes. The future traffic volumes account for future regional background growth and additional incremental growth created by the proposed improvements.

72. A bridge over DeRenne Avenue would fix DeRenne area.

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

73. This project is necessary to improve traffic congestion.

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

74. Support of bike paths and sidewalks included in proposed project.

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

75. The proposed project should be constructed soon.

- The proposed project is currently scheduled for right-of-way acquisition to begin in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, with construction following. This schedule may be subject to change as the project develops. Prior to construction, engineering design and environmental permitting must be completed.

76. Federal matching funds should be arranged to complete this project.

- The City intends to seek Federal funds to construct the proposed project improvements.

77. Be sure to complete the multi-use trail as they complete the entire project.

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

78. The project is needed and will be a benefit to the area.

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

79. Charge a toll for non-Chatham County residents.

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

80. This does not provide a long term solution for the area.

- Thank you for your input regarding the proposed project. Your interest in this meeting and your comments are appreciated. Your comments will be made a part of the official record of the project.

81. A wall or buffer of plants is needed between neighborhoods and DeRenne Avenue and White Bluff Road for noise reduction.

- A noise impact assessment is currently underway to determine noise impacts from the proposed project. As part of the noise assessment, the feasibility and reasonableness of noise abatement, including noise walls, will be analyzed.

82. A noise buffer is needed along I-516 near Tatemville and Liberty City.

- A noise wall is currently under construction between Mildred Street and Montgomery Street along the north side of DeRenne Avenue. A noise impact assessment is currently underway to determine noise impacts from the proposed project. As part of the noise assessment, the feasibility and reasonableness of noise abatement, including noise walls, will be analyzed.

83. Undertake an economic impact study analysis of the affected area.

- Thank you for your comment. An economic impact study is not required during this phase of the project. A study may be conducted in coordination with planning and zoning efforts along the corridor at some point in future phases.

84. This project will change the environment of the area and will alter the current quality of life.

- The city has conducted extensive outreach with citizens, businesses, and stakeholders such as Hunter Army Air Base. The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) included representatives from residential areas, businesses, and government entities affected by the project. Input from the PAC, and public outreach efforts, have aided in developing the proposed alternative.

85. Not sure if Boulevard concept will look and fit into the area.

- The proposed alternative would construct new infrastructure within the existing area that achieves the Need and Purpose of the project with as minimal an impact as possible to the area.

86. I don't know how the bridges will fit into the area.

- The proposed alternative would construct new infrastructure within the existing that achieves the Need and Purpose of the project with as minimal an impact as possible to the area.

87. Concern about increased noise levels at Hampstead Avenue from increased traffic.

- A noise impact assessment is currently underway to determine noise impacts from the proposed project. As part of the noise assessment, the feasibility and reasonableness of noise abatement, including noise walls, will be analyzed.

88. The proposed project should give preference to Poplar Place neighborhood since it is an eligible historic district.

- Poplar Place, as well as six other resources, is considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register. The survey report is currently in review and the GDOT and the GA SHPO have not yet concurred with these determinations. All eligible historic resources, included Poplar Place, would be afforded certain considerations in compliance with federal regulations. The proposed alternative will be developed to minimize impacts to the Poplar Place neighborhood while achieving the project Need and Purpose.

89. Since the concept goes further south now, I guess the persons who live on Hampstead really would like the city to consider upholding the resolution that was made earlier with the neighbors.

- The city is committed to maintaining an open dialogue with residents living along Hampstead Avenue, as well as other residents, businesses, and properties impacted by the project.

90. Noise walls should be installed on the western section of DeRenne Avenue and White Bluff Road.

- A noise impact assessment is currently underway to determine noise impacts from the proposed project. As part of the noise assessment, the feasibility and reasonableness of noise abatement, including noise walls, will be analyzed.

91. Installing sidewalks on DeRenne Drive will decrease the historic appeal of the Fairway Oaks neighborhood.

- The City of Savannah Citizen Office will contact Fairway Oaks Greenview Board to discuss the red tips and sidewalk location.

92. Parcel 347 is a wetland.

- An ecology survey has been conducted for the project area, and no wetlands were identified on Parcel 347 within the area surveyed. That does not mean that wetlands may not exist in other areas of the parcel, but areas of Parcel 347 potentially impacted by the project were not identified as wetlands.