

## MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 12, 2015

TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

LOCATION: Roof with a View  
800 West Hill Street, Suite 104  
Charlotte, NC 28208

TOPIC: Second Public Meeting – City Design/Selected Alternative  
Hill Street Storm Drainage Improvement Project

PRESENT: *Charlotte Mecklenburg Storm Water Services (CMSWS)*  
Danee McGee (DM) and Doug Lozner (DL)

*Dewberry*  
Chris Fleck (CF), Crystal Williams (CW), and Jonathan Drazenovich (JD)

*Public Attendees*  
Monte Ritchey, Danny Watts, Brent White, and Larry Core

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The City Project Manager/Project Engineer presented the meeting, as outlined below.

- ❖ (DM) Introduction of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services (CMSWS) staff and Dewberry staff.
- ❖ (DM) Overview of agenda for the meeting.
- ❖ (DM) CMSWS Summary:  
Storm water items that do and do not qualify for service, the difference between public and private storm water, goals of the storm water department, and components of the storm water program.
- ❖ (CF) Explanation of Hill Street Overview Map and how the project is broken into smaller maps for the breakout session after the presentation.
- ❖ (CF) Project Selection and Citizen Involvement:  
Project selection based on citizen input from 311 requests, significant flooding in the area, deteriorating infrastructure, CMSWS watershed ranking, and larger watershed-wide drainage issues. Citizen involvement includes citizen input from 311 requests and citizen questionnaires, feedback on existing drainage issues not previously reported, areas of roadway or structural flooding within the project limits, and support for the project's future phases.

- ❖ (CF) Existing Conditions (EC) Analysis Overview:  
A Brief overview of the EC Analysis for the Hill Street area. Explanation of the EC Overview Map and deficient pipes, culverts, channels, inlets and the potentially flood prone buildings.
- ❖ (CF) City Design Standards (CD) and Selected Alternative (SA) Analysis Overview:  
CF presented the findings from the CD phase and the SA Phase. CF noted that the CD phase followed existing alignments where possible and designed the system to all the current City Standards. The SA phase then analyzed several other alternatives that utilized reduced criteria and different alignments for the storm system. From those alternatives, one alternative was selected that maximizes the cost benefit and constructability of the storm system.

CF explained the SA system Overview Map and the addition of new inlets and pipes to the storm system. CF noted that significant improvements are needed in the upstream system to alleviate flooding in the downstream areas of the project. The proposed SA system captures the storm water and transfers it to an underground pipe system before the storm water causes flooding issues. CF also noted that the Selected Alternative utilized new alignments to move storm pipes into right-of-ways and off of private properties where possible.

CF compared the pros and cons of the CD and SA system such as:

- One con of the CD storm system is the boring of large storm pipes under HWY-277
- One of the pros of the SA storm system is the realignment of the storm system in SA to utilize more NCDOT right-of-way

CF reviewed maps A through D for both EC and SA storm systems [note: the presented SA maps matched the maps on display for the breakout sessions]. CF noted the typical deficiencies on each map and the SA solutions to improve the storm system.

- ❖ (CF) Future Project Milestones  
Planning
  - Survey (completed)
  - Existing Conditions (completed)
  - City Design Standard Analysis (completed)
  - Alternatives Analysis (completed)
  - Geo-Environmental (in progress)

Design (estimated 1-5 year duration depending on phasing and construction documents)

Real Estate / Easement Phase & Permitting (estimated 1 year duration)

Bid (estimated 9 month duration)

Construction (estimated 1-2 year duration per phase)

#### General Questions / Comments / Concerns

- **Question – Is there funding for the Hill Street Project?**  
**Answer (DM)** – We will be phasing the construction to better handle the cost of the Hill Street Project.  
**Answer (CF)** – This project will be one of the most complex and expensive projects CMSWS will construct in the next several years.
- **Question – I thought CMSWS was already finished with design?**  
**Answer (DM)** – Explained the CMSWS Planning Process and that SA was the final phase of planning and the project would now be moving into the design phase.  
**Answer (CF)** – Explained that the SA design is a preliminary design and the details of the design, such as geo-environmental, utility and real estate impacts, will need to be looked at in the design phase.
- **Question – How will the project be phased during design?**  
**Answer (CF)** – The phasing will be determined further along in the design process but the system will be constructed from the most downstream end to the upstream end.  
**Answer (DM)** – The project will continue to be designed as one system throughout the Geotechnical/Environmental phase and 70% construction plans. The project will then be broken into phases in order to bid and construct the storm system.
- **Question – Will some of the existing storm system be used?**  
**Answer (CF)** – Yes we will use as much of the existing system as possible. The existing system will be left in place as long as it is in suitable condition and there are no safety concerns.

At this point all attendees were referred to break-out sessions where individual maps and personnel were stationed for more detailed question / answer opportunities.

#### Break-Out Sessions

- ❖ Map A
  - 800 W. Hill St. – Brent White (Owner)  
Contact: 704.634.2416
    - **Question: What is happening to the large box culverts located on the property?**  
**Answer:** CF describe that there will still be some large box culverts in the parking area to the east of the building, but the large box culvert section that crosses the property to the north of the building will be replaced with smaller pipes.
  - 1000 W. Morehead St. – Monte Ritchey (Developer)  
Contact: 980.722.0922
    - **Question: What is an M-team project?**  
**Answer:** DM and CF explained that the Design Maintenance Team does minor fixes to the public storm system when problems are reported.

- **Question: Will the pipe be removed at the existing downstream outfall for the storm system?**  
**Answer:** CF stated that the large box culverts would be removed but that the existing system would have to remain due to private connection to the system.
- **Question: What is currently know about other utilities in the area?**  
**Answer:** DM stated that there are some videos of the existing sanitary sewer lines and there are maps of the water and sanitary sewer systems in the area. CF said that further investigation of utilities would be performed during the design phase.
- **Question: Are there plans to extend the project area to the west side of W. Morehead St.?**  
**Answer:** CF stated that there are no plans at this time to expand the project area.

❖ Map B

- 750 W Morehead Street – Danny Watts (owner).  
Contact: 704.372.2340

Owner stated that there is a sinkhole at 750 W Morehead St. The owner has discussed the sinkhole with the CMSWS previously and been told that the sinkhole would not be fix by the CMSWS. Owner hired an engineering firm to perform an engineering investigation on the sinkhole including video of a storm pipe in the area. The investigation showed that the sinkhole is caused by a joint gap in the storm pipe. The owner stated that he wants the sinkhole to be fixed by CMSWS. DL stated that the pipe is not a CMSWS owned pipe because CMSWS does not have easement around the pipe. DL also said that repairing the pipe is the owner’s responsibility. The owner then asked that if it was his pipe, could he just dig it up. DL responded that it is against NC state law (NC Statute 14-142) to divert water and that owners upstream of the pipe could file lawsuits. The owner stated that that was a fair statement.

❖ Map C

- No one visited this map to ask questions.

❖ Map D

- No one visited this map to ask questions.