



**40th AVENUE EXTENSION/UPGRADE**  
**CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 3**

**September 9, 2007**

***MEETING NOTES***

**ATTENDEES:**      ***Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)***  
John Smith, P.E., Project Manager  
Julie Makela, P.E., Project Administrator  
Bob Kniefel, P.E., Municipal Traffic Engineer

***DOWL Engineers (DOWL)***  
Steve Noble, P.E, Project Manager  
Brad Melocik, P.E., Project Engineer  
Kevin Doniere, PLA., Landscape Architect  
Eric Voorhees, EI, Engineer

***Community Participants***  
Beau Bassett  
Barbara Garner  
Ed Leonetti  
Dale Rahn

***Not in attendance***  
Alison Smith - resigned from the committee  
Jerry Jenkins

Brad Melocik and Steve Noble discussed the project elements with the group. Please see attached PowerPoint Presentation.

The group discussed the recommendations for how the hill near Folker Street will be treated. The team suggests a terraced wall so that there can be greater landscape opportunities.

Ed Leonetti asked about the size of the proposed roundabout at Piper Street and 40th Avenue.

Steve Noble (DOWL) said that the design is similar to the one on Southport Drive and is larger than the minimum guidelines for traffic circles.

Ed said that he liked the size and feel of the roundabout (RAB) at O'Malley and C Street. Steve said that RAB was designed for large trucks, which are not a requirement on 40th Avenue.

Bob Kniefel (MOA) said the RAB will double as a traffic calming measure in the area.

Barbara Garner mentioned that she was just recently in Ireland and she witnessed RABs all over the country.

Ed agreed and said most were more similar to the C Street and O'Malley RAB.

Barbara commented that, in the past some patients would travel by foot from Alaska Psychiatric Institute to the Anchorage Community Mental Health (ACMH) building and that the team should consider providing a walking access.

There was discussion about the fire lanes. Steve asked Bob if the team needs to put break-away fire gates on both of the driveways for fire access.

Ed mentioned that the code requires that the trucks be within 150 feet of the building, and that perhaps one of the side entrances off of 40th Avenue would not have to be as long if that access can be gained from the front of the building.

Kevin Doniere (DOWL) discussed some of the landscape elements along the project corridor.

There was more discussion about the retaining wall. Committee members expressed interest in having textures and colors on the walls. Kevin said that some graphic/texture element would be on the walls but that he had not gotten to that level of detail yet.

Barbara asked that the separated path on the north side of the street meander as much of the length as possible. Kevin said that if there is sufficient right-of-way (ROW), the team will be able to incorporate the meander.

Kevin Doniere discussed the RAB and said the team is looking at options for decorating the interior. There was a discussion about standards for the center of RAB's. Steve said that in some cases, they are designed for maximum visibility and others are designed to mask visibility. Steve said the one in Southport was built very high and has worked very well as an aesthetically pleasing element and a way to slow traffic down.

Kevin said the gateway at 40th Avenue and Piper Street will be affected by the RAB and the team will have to decide what to do with it. Ed said he favored simply relocating it a few feet away, if possible.

Kevin said he worked on the plantings along the north side of 40th Avenue to try to screen some of the new development on Providence's campus. These new plantings will be preserved, to the best extent possible, in order to keep that screen from the neighbors into the Providence campus.

There was a discussion about whether or not the theme and look of Piper Street should be carried over to 40th Avenue.

While the committee as a whole expressed positive feelings toward the design of Piper Street, Ed said that he thought that some of the elements should be changed because much of 40th Avenue is not residential and the Piper Street design was to show a sense of arrival to the neighborhood. He gave the example of perhaps using a different color scheme. He said that he would prefer some slight changes to the theme unless the neighborhood as a whole thought differently.

There was discussion about the need to have some sort of signage identifying where the University-Medical District area is. Dale Rahn (Providence) said that they will be putting a new sign down on Piper Street and Tudor Road but then there is not another one until folks get to the Hickel House.

Julie Makela (MOA) mentioned that she has seen that some of the retaining walls and aesthetic elements on Piper Street have gotten beat up by cars/snow plows running into them over the last year. She suggested the team consider moving these types of elements a little further away to help preserve their look.

Julie also mentioned that the owners of 4001 Lake Otis Parkway (Planned Parenthood) said that they would like some visual screening between their parking area and the sidewalk as to screen the potential picketers from the parking area.

Kevin said that there would not be room for plant screening, just fencing to separate the proposed parallel parking and the sidewalk.

Beau Bassett said that maximum greenery is preferred along the corridor. He said that attractive art would be nice but that trees and maximum greenery would be the best look for the area.

Kevin mentioned that if the project affects the trees that were planted two or three years ago by the Renal Care Center, the team will look at transplanting them.

Barbara said that her vision is to maintain the current look and feel of the area that has a lot of untouched natural landscape. She said the area should be made to be aesthetically and pedestrian friendly. She said a large public art piece in the center of the RAB would decrease velocity of drivers and be pleasing to look at.

Beau expressed discontent with the sidewalk situation on Piper Street during winter months and asked how/if we can solve the issue this winter.

Steve said the strategy for this is to try to leave a seven-foot-wide area between the back of the curb and the sidewalk or trail. This gives street maintenance somewhere to pile the snow.

Ed said he sees the snow removal as a three step process and the sidewalks do not get cleared until the third passing, which can be much later than when the snow first falls.

John Smith (MOA) said each street is treated differently. Typically they clear the shoulders first and then the sidewalk needs to be on their pathway clear route.

Dale said that he noticed that street maintenance started doing a much better job at the end of the year on Piper Street.

Dale discussed the existing trees north of 40th Avenue on Providence property and asked the group if he should remove dead and dying old-growth trees to plant more plentiful and new landscaping. The consensus was that he should only cut down dead trees and should leave all healthy forested vegetation.

Ed shared his thoughts on the design of 40th Avenue. He said the traffic calming measures are good in spots but that he is not sure if it slows traffic down in between. He said that on Piper Street vision was narrowed by providing vertical elements which makes people feel as though they are going faster than they are. He said the RAB needs to incorporate vertical elements that are stepped or tiered. He said he would like to see a structure in middle that plays off the gateways, even a piece of art.

It was suggested the team look at the RAB at the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) building, which is said to be attractive.

Julie expressed concern over hardscaping (adding decorative treatments) to the walls as cumulative nicks here and there take away the beauty. She suggested putting art pieces in more protected areas to protect them.

Barbara mentioned that skateboarder's use/abuse is to be considered in the design.

Ed suggested the MOA give the snow plow drivers more training so that they do not ding the very expensive landscaping/hardscaping.

Brad said that perhaps markers would help define where the hardscape and landscape elements are located.

There was discussion about trees along the road. Committee members expressed a desire to have as many tree plantings as possible along the route. There was discussion regarding whether or not seven feet is enough room to plant trees.

There was a discussion about pathway connections for the proposed Chester Creek trail and if they would/could match in with paths being built for 40th Avenue.

Beau and Barbara expressed interest in having pedestrian crosswalks at Wright Street and Folker Street.

Kevin noted that this project will tie back into Folker Street and will eliminate the existing cul-de-sac there.

There was discussion about the need for pedestrian connections in this area from the new 40th Avenue Extension down to 42nd Avenue. There was discussion about replacing the cul-de-sac with the proposed tie-in and that the roadway will have the same cross section as the proposed 40th Avenue.

There was discussion about water levels in the area and the fact that, especially near Laurel Street, it is fairly wet there.

Beau said that Providence should consider more garden-like areas on its campus.

Beau asked about the street lighting plan.

Brad said it will be placed on the north side of the road similar to what Piper Street has.

Beau requested the lighting plan take aesthetics into consideration.

Brad explained that it is important the street lighting is compatible with what is installed throughout Anchorage so that street maintenance does not have to warehouse and inventory multiple different types of lighting fixtures and parts. Brad said there are new municipality specifications for the type of street lighting that is more of a white, daytime look as apposed to the old yellow hue.

Beau said he just does not want it to look like parking lot lighting.

Ed asked about pedestrian scale lighting.

Brad said they have found that once they install the light for road, then there is already enough light for pedestrians.

Steve said that there may be areas on this project where it will make sense and the project team will look at it.

Barbara said she liked the poplars she has seen around town.

Kevin said he believed what she is seeing are upright aspen and he said he will look at the possibility of using them on this project.

There was discussion about the prevalence of moose eating trees in the area.

Steve thanked the group for coming and said the team will be going to 35 percent design completion soon and that there will be a public meeting in late October.

### **Tentative Next CAC Meeting**

Winter 2008.