

Mayor's Community Outreach Meeting

CENTRAL GATEWAY TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Special Purpose Meeting Report

Date: March 28, 2007
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center
1600 Haddon Avenue
Camden, NJ 08103

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Darryl Lee Dozier	Dept. of Health and Human Services	856-757-7194	
Greg Iantosca	United Water / Camden	856-635-1495	gregory.iantosca@unitedwater.com
Victor Figueroa	Housing Authority of the City of Camden	856-968-2788	vfiguroa@camdenhousing.org
Patricia Feliciano	NJDOT - OCR	609-530-2110	patricia.feliciano@dot.state.nj.us
Evans	Dept. of Health and Human Services	856-757-7285	
Calvin Woods	Parkside United Methodist Church	856-964-2254	calvinwoods@sbip.net
Denice M. Bembery	Gatekeepers	856-342-8045	prayerwarrior@gkm.org
Cheryle Cooks	Gatekeepers	856-342-8045	cherylccooks@aol.com
Tangela Lane	Gatekeepers	856-342-8045	
Sara N. Gomez	1000 Atlantic Avenue, Camden	856-966-3606	sgomez@welcomenj.net.org
Sheila McCray	PNC Bank	856-757-3625	sheila.mccray@pnc.com
Jim Wallace	Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center	856-757-3625	wallacej@lourdesnet.org
Pastor William Henry	Great Awakening Ministries	856-583-0769	wshencey@yahoo.com
Minister Michelle Bowen	Bright Star Christian Center	856-757-9097	micala8@yahoo.com
Dr. Lauren Hill	Education Law Center - Camden	856-541-9300	lhill@edlawcenter.org
Theresa Atwood	Retired Board of Education - PBCIP	856-635-0687	goldenlady323@aol.com
Gwen Watson	Camden Coalition for Education Reform	856-963-8339	bdpltd@yahoo.com
Mary Hodge	1128 Kenwood Avenue, Camden	856-365-1631	
Candace Jefferson	Development and Planning / CRA	856-757-7600	cajefferson@ci.camden.nj.us
Ronald Evans	CCOP - KACE - St. Bartholomew's	856-365-8294	
Trooper L. Freitas	NJ State Police - # 6352	856-757-0300	lpp6352@gw.njsp.org
Trooper B. Carswell	NJ State Police - # 5924	856-757-0300	lpp5924@gw.njsp.org
Linda Winfield	PNC Bank	856-757-4608	lindawinfield@pnc.com
C. Louise Dobbs	United Neighbors of Whitman Park	856-541-7656	
Emma Filmore	1260 Sheridan Street	856-966-2719	efilmore@comcast.net
Colandus "Kelly" Francis	NAACP - PBCIP	856-964-6705	
Ronald Thomas	PBCIP	856-963-1968	ronaldthomas1@hotmail.com
John Mullen	McCormick Taylor, Inc.	215-592-4200	jfmullen@mtmail.biz
Sean M. Brown	646 Berkley Street	856-236-2705	smb6723@gmail.com
John Kromer	Development and Planning / CRA	856-757-7600	
Jdg Theodore Z. Davis	Camden COO	856-757-7000	

Purpose of Meeting

By invitation, the NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) participated in Mayor Gwendolyn Faison's monthly Community Outreach Meeting at the medical annex building across from Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center. The purpose of the meeting was to present an overview of the

Central Gateway Traffic Improvement Project and corresponding community outreach program to various community leaders and local stakeholders.

Meeting Displays

- Central Gateway Traffic Circulation Improvement Project plan

Summary of Meeting

The Mayor's Community Outreach meeting consisted of reports from several individuals and organizations related to activities in the City of Camden, NJ. At the conclusion of the meeting, the NJDOT was invited to present the Central Gateway Traffic Circulation Project to the attendees.

Patricia Feliciano of the NJDOT Office of Community Relations opened the discussion by thanking the group for allowing NJDOT to participate in the meeting. She indicated that NJDOT is in the process of designing transportation improvements in the Central Gateway area of Camden. Construction for these improvements is slated to begin in spring 2008 with completion of work expected by the end of 2008. She then asked John Mullen of McCormick Taylor to summarize the community outreach program for the project.

John Mullen presented a engineering plans display of the proposed project for the meeting attendees. He stated that the study area is bound by I-676 on the west, Federal Street on the north, Cooper River on the east and Pine Street on the south. The improvements are designed to enhance traffic circulation and safety within the Central Gateway area for both vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

The proposed project is designed to convert one-way streets to two-way streets, eliminate confusing loop ramps and install or upgrade traffic signals. In addition to improving vehicular circulation, the project is also designed to: provide enhanced access to and from major arterials such as I-676 and Route 30; employ traffic calming measures to enhance safety; provide improvements to pedestrian safety and related facilities; and encourage local economic development and redevelopment.

John stated that in addition to coordination with local business and residences in the Central Gateway area, NJDOT is including adjacent neighborhoods in its community outreach program to address and mitigate potential Environmental Justice impacts. Neighborhoods included in the outreach study area include Gateway, Parkside, Lanning Square, Bergen Square and Central Business District (CBD).

These local neighborhoods are being examined to catalog the location of existing community facilities such as schools, parks, major businesses. In addition, the project team will be soliciting input from residents, businesses and other local stakeholders to determine potential impacts to local neighborhoods as a result of changes to the transportation network in the Central Gateway area.

John stated that today's meeting follows a Local Officials Briefing at Camden City Hall where the project team presented the project to members of Camden's City Council. Future outreach activities will include informational interviews with local stakeholders as well as a Public Information Center for all residents.

John indicated that the informational interviews have been scheduled for two days in April. The first series of interviews will be held on Tuesday, April 3 at the Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity located at 538 Broadway in Camden. This meeting is being held to accommodate stakeholders from the Lanning Square and Bergen Square neighborhoods, as well as from the Central Business District. The second set of informational interviews will be held on Thursday, April 5 at the Parkside United Methodist Church located at 1420 Kaighns Avenue in Camden. This meeting will include stakeholders from the Parkside and Gateway neighborhoods.

The informational interviews will be held in a one-on-one format, with specific time slots provided to interviewees for discussion. The project team will provide an overview of the study to each attending stakeholder and solicit comments and feedback regarding the study. Once the interviews are complete, the project team will summarize the interview discussions and prepared illustrative maps and displays showing the breadth of comments in geographical context.

A follow-up meeting will then be held for all stakeholders to review the summaries. The follow-up meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 24 at the Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity at 2 p.m. During this meeting, attendees will be asked to help refine the display materials in advance of the Public Information Center.

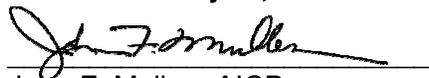
The Public Information Center is scheduled for Monday, April 30 at the Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity. The meeting will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will be open to all residents of Camden. The meeting will be in an open house format and will include various display materials, including, the Central Gateway Traffic Improvement Project plan; summaries from the stakeholder interviews; facts sheets; and a comment form.

John stated that NJDOT is committed to holding all of these outreach meeting in neighborhoods local to the project area to encourage as many residents and stakeholders to participate as possible. He then provided his contact information and stated that all attendees in the Mayor's Community Outreach Meeting are invited to participate in the informational interviews as well as the Public Information Center. He then thanked the participants for providing a forum for the NJDOT to present the project.

Mayor Faison thanked the NJDOT for presenting this project for the meeting, and encouraged everyone to participate in the outreach program for the project.

The meeting ended at 11:30 a.m.

Report prepared by:
McCormick Taylor, Inc.



John F. Mullen, AICP