

PBCIP Community Meeting

CENTRAL GATEWAY TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Special Purpose Meeting Report

Date: May 1, 2007
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center
1600 Haddon Avenue
Camden, NJ 08103

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Phone / E-mail</u>
Kwame Cone	1504 Bradley Ave.	856-964-1683
Michelle Spearman	1471 Baird Ave.	856-541-1322
Hewell F. Lewis	1226 Morgan Boulevard	856-964-1950
Ronald Thomas	1172 Empire Ave.	856-963-1968
Delbert Nelson	1142 Empire Ave.	856-966-6792
Eunice Hargrove	1215 Langham Ave.	856-963-9134
Rev. Sharon Smith	1655 Park Blvd. Apt. 109	856-963-8399
Wayne E. Williams	1532 Bradley Ave.	856-365-1022
Oscar Spencer	1442 Haddon Ave.	856-541-6872
Theodore Godfrey	1547 Weldwood Ave.	856-963-2210
Gladys Godfrey	1547 Weldwood Ave.	856-963-2210
Bill Spearman	1471 Baird Ave.	856-541-1322
Carlton Henry Sr.	1148 Langham Ave.	856-544-2114
Thomas E. Sellers	1526 Ormond Ave.	856-966-3173
Bonnie Hawkins	1262 Magnolia Ave.	856-541-5914
William Bennett	1420 Park Blvd.	856-465-4820
Donavon Archer	14661 Ark Blvd.	856-283-4240
Mimi West	1219 Princess Ave.	856-952-0170
Evelyn West	1476 Ormond Ave.	856-365-5131
William R. West Jr.	1476 Ormond Ave.	856-365-5131
Betty Brown	1224 Princess Ave.	856-966-5654
Mary Whitfield	1010 Langham Ave.	856-365-9189
Mabel J. Whitfield	1010 Langham Ave.	856-365-9189
Angela L. Whitfield	1010 Langham Ave.	856-365-9189
Thelma M. Williams	1069 Langham Ave.	856-365-3675
Preston T. Williams	1069 Langham Ave.	856-365-3675
Lois Grant	1259 Langham Ave.	856-963-2125
Michele Wells-Bates	1610 Park Blvd.	856-964-3638
Fran Marshall	1447 Belleview Ave. Apt .A-8	856-979-9500
Bridget Phifer	PBCIP	
Kathy Thomas	PBCIP	
Patti DuBode	1460 Kenwood Ave.	856-966-4878
Leroy H. Gould	NJ Dept. of Transportation	609-530-3864
John Mullen	2001 Market St., 10th Floor	215-592-4200
Jonathan Wetstein	2001 Market St., 10th Floor	215-592-4200

Purpose of Meeting

By invitation, the NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) participated in the Parkside Business and Community in Partnership, Inc., (PBCIP) monthly Community 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
- Project Area Aerial map (Community Facilities)
- Stakeholder Comments maps, including:
 - Comprehensive Comments
 - Transportation – Circulation & Access
 - Transportation – Traffic & Geometry
 - Economic Development
 - Schools, Parks & Recreation

Meeting Handouts

- PIC Meeting Notice
- Comment Form
- Study Fact Sheet

Summary of Meeting

The PBCIP Community Meeting consisted of reports from several individuals and organizations related to activities in the City of Camden, NJ. During the meeting, the NJDOT was invited to present the Central Gateway Traffic Circulation Project to the attendees.

John Mullen opened the discussion by thanking the group for allowing NJDOT to participate in the meeting. He indicated that the 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.

John 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, the 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. John stated the project team is also 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, informational interviews and meetings with local stakeholders, and a Public Information Center for all residents. He indicated that the informational interviews were held at the Camden County Council for Lanning Square, Bergen Square and Central Business District residents, as well as the Parkside United Methodist Church for stakeholders from the Parkside and Gateway neighborhoods in order to encourage as much public participation as possible.

Jonathan Wetstein provided an overview of the study to the meeting attendees and summarized the interview discussions on the illustrative maps. These stakeholder comments maps, which presented the breadth of comments received in geographical context to the study area, were on display during the meeting.

Specific comments received from meeting attendees included:

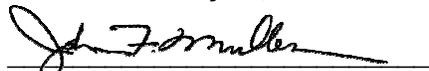
- The intersection of Baird Boulevard and Kenwood Avenue should permit right-turns on red.
- Lansdowne and Haddon Avenues need improved traffic signal timing as well as stricter on-street parking enforcement along Lansdowne Avenue.
- Mt. Ephraim Avenue and Ferry Avenue intersection should have a left arrow signal.

John then provided his contact information and circulated copies of the study fact sheet and comment form to the meeting attendees. He then thanked the participants for providing a forum for the NJDOT to present the project.

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

The presentation ended at 9:00 p.m.

Report prepared by:
McCormick Taylor, Inc.



John F. Mullen, AICP