

**THE WILSON T. BALLARD COMPANY
17 GWYNNS MILL COURT
OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117**

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE TYPED: July 28, 2016

PROJECT: BR/CR/LR5355C12 Takoma Park Water & Sewer Main Replacement

FILE: 800-097.17

SUBJECT: Public Workshop 4 held July 26, 2016

PRESENT:

Crystal Wheadon	WSSC
Monica Johnson	WSSC
Paul Gray	WSSC
Doug Sievers	WSSC
Ayoka Blandford	WSSC
Brandon Stewart	WSSC
Kate Stewart	City of Takoma Park
Daryl Braithwaite	City of Takoma Park
Jeff Ziegenfuss	The Wilson T. Ballard Company
Jon Martin	The Wilson T. Ballard Company
Matt Dewese	The Wilson T. Ballard Company

Approximately 30 Residents
(See attached sign-in sheet)

The meeting was held at the Takoma Park Community Center to discuss solutions to the failing infrastructure in the project area and to provide an update to property owners adjacent to the project. After introductory remarks by Ms. Johnson, Ms. Wheadon provided an overview of the project, presented the selected solutions, and discussed the next steps.

The following comments (C) and questions (Q) were conveyed regarding the project. Answers (A) were given by WSSC unless otherwise indicated.

- Q:** In your presentation you mentioned that seven trees will need to be removed from properties with Westmoreland Avenue addresses. Which seven trees are you referring to?
- A:** That statement was a worst case scenario based on preliminary designs. These trees may not all need to be removed, root pruning and health monitoring may be all that is needed for some of the trees.

- Q:** Has pipe installation via boring been investigated to save these trees?
- A:** Jack and bore is under investigation. Thus far this investigation has indicated that jack and bore will cost twice as much, will require multiple jacking and receiving pits, and will require additional construction strip. This decision will be made by WSSC upper management.
- Q:** [Kit Gage, Friends of Sligo Creek president] We are glad you are taking this issue seriously. We are surprised you are not talking about replacement trees. Trees are incredibly important to reducing storm water runoff.
- A:** WSSC will provide money to Takoma Park's tree planting fund. Takoma Park will decide where to plant new trees.
- Q:** [Ann-Mari Gemmill, Westmoreland Avenue resident] I am not ready to accept a forester/arborist's word that there will be no storm water impacts from this project.
- A:** Storm water delegation is under the jurisdiction of the City of Takoma Park, they will review the plans. Also, WSSC will have an analysis completed of the potential storm water runoff changes from the proposed work.
- Q:** [Gresham Lowe, 35-year arborist] Has the option of grinder pumps been dropped?
- A:** Yes, the residents already voted against grinder pumps. (Discussion followed and an attendee stated that the deal breaker was that WSSC refused to own or maintain the grinder pumps).
- C:** [Gresham Lowe, 35-year arborist] In my yard anchor roots were cut when a utility was installed via open trench. The trees fell down.
- Q:** [Cindy Dyballa, gave written comments to Ms. Wheadon] I will summarize my written comments by requesting that WSSC take another look at the storm water impacts and requesting that WSSC might want to take another look at alternatives that were discarded earlier.
- A:** WSSC will put reasons for alternative rejection into the Frequently Ask Questions section of the project website. WSSC will complete a storm water analysis.
- Q:** [Mike Tidwell, Chesapeake Climate Network] It is mandatory that a hydrology study be completed before selecting an alignment. Also, please provide the cost estimates utilized for analyzing the options.
- A:** WSSC will take the hydrology/storm water study into account when analyzing the alternatives. WSSC will provide the requested information.
- Q:** [Bill Brown, Westmoreland Avenue resident] I want to assure Eastern Avenue residents that the Westmoreland Avenue residents support them. (To WSSC) Please provide a breakdown of the cost estimates.

- A:** WSSC will provide the requested information.
- C:** [Carol Hotton, Takoma Park Tree Commission, gave written comments to Ms. Wheadon] We urge WSSC to look at all options including a gravity option in the street. The needs and desires of the Westmoreland Avenue residents need to be considered.
- C:** [Patty Mallin, Little Eastern Avenue Resident] I have replaced my sewer lateral from my house to the sewer main approximately six years ago. There is a specimen tree near where the trench was dug and it is fine. Regarding grinder pumps versus gravity sewer: gravity wins against power.
- Q:** Thank you for not making a decision before doing a hydrology analysis. Would the different methods save the trees in the easement? Open trench versus jack and bore?
- A:** Jack and bore may save a few trees along the back of the easement.
- Q:** [Colleen Cordes, Takoma Park Tree Commission] Has WSSC furnished the environmental impact assessment?
- A:** No, Mr. Sievers is still working on it.
- Q:** [Colleen Cordes, Takoma Park Tree Commission] The mayor and others have asked for information to be sent to the County. Has the requested information been sent?
- A:** Some of the information has been sent.
- Q:** [Colleen Cordes, Takoma Park Tree Commission] Jack and bore versus open cut, has Ballard included the cost of tree removal?
- A:** Yes
- Q:** [Colleen Cordes, Takoma Park Tree Commission] What is the status of the environmental report that was promised to the County from the Town?
- A:** (from Ms. Braithwaite) The Town needs to see the final WSSC plans before completing an environmental assessment.
- Q:** Who at the City is an expert in storm water management?
- A:** The City has three engineering firms on board who can do this work.
- C:** [Tommy Heyboer, Councilman Hans Riemer's office] We have been reviewing this project with DEP. We need final plans. The County is taking a hard look at this.
- Q:** [Andrea Pearson, corner of Westmoreland Avenue and 1st Avenue] 1st Avenue will be the entrance point for construction. This will be disruptive and I'm worried about the condition of the road.
- A:** 1st Avenue is the only access point. WSSC will be responsible for roadway restoration.

Q: [Jean Capps] A few points of information:

- There are retaining walls along the back of some of the Eastern Avenue properties. This will make construction complicated.
- We have asked multiple times for cost estimates.
- We have asked for details that have not been provided.

A: WSSC will update the Frequently Ask Questions section of the project website.

Q: Could a before and after study be done for storm water runoff?

A: This will be included in the report.

C: The back wall of my basement collapsed. I now have a system which drains 200 gallons/day away from my house. This is a safety issue for the people on Westmoreland Avenue. [Elizabeth Finley, Westmoreland Avenue Resident]

This meeting was recorded by Takoma Park City TV who indicated that the recording will be available from their archives. The information above is not a transcript of this recording; it is a compilation of notes taken during the meeting.

A handout was provided at the meeting and is attached to these minutes.

BY:  _____

JEM

cc: Crystal Wheadon (via email)
File