



## Final Meeting Minutes

Lynette Royster of BREE & Associates, Inc. facilitated the meeting at the HAYTI HERITAGE CENTER. The meeting began promptly at 7:00 P.M. Ms. Royster encouraged each attendee to sign-in and pick up the handouts.

She then gave the order for the meeting starting with the design presentation by Ariana Jeske of The Louis Berger Group, Inc., then the landscaping plan was presented by Shawn Krawetzki of Lappas & Havener, PA. Following each presenter, technical questions or comments relating to the design of the trail or the landscaping were addressed.

Following questions/ comments were raised about the trail's design included:

1. Will vehicular traffic be maintained during the construction?  
Vehicular traffic on the streets with existing vehicular traffic will be maintained.
2. Will the project be built in stages?  
First, grading will occur to put the trail in, once the trail is installed, the bridge will be removed.
3. Has there been any provision for bicyclists riding the connection down to connect with the ATT? The trails meet ADA requirement. The landing areas have been extended 10 feet instead of 5 feet to incline with the trail for a smoother ride.
4. Will there be any steps going down to the trail? No, the trail access has been designed as a ramp for ADA Compliance for wheelchair access. Stairs are not included to minimize costs.
5. Can the Ramp be shortened on the Fargo side? No, the grade requirements of ADA compliant design dictate the maximum grade and in turn the length of the trail..
6. Will there be plantings at the entrance? Landscaping will be used to screen the trail from vehicular traffic.
7. Will handrails be installed? Hand rails will be installed along the retaining wall
8. What materials will the wall be made of? Materials for the proposed retaining walls will be similar in nature to those used on the existing trail connection.

9. Will traffic on Fargo and Apex Street be blocked during construction? The streets will not be blocked during construction. Pedestrian traffic from Apex Street to Carolina Circle will be maintained through construction. The contract will stipulate that penalties be accrued against the contractor if traffic is not maintained.
10. What is the project schedule? The project will be advertised for bid in February 2008 with project completion proposed for September 2008.
11. Will benches be placed along the trail? Existing benches will be relocated along the trail.
12. Will the City maintain the landscaping? The city will maintain the trail although it is NCDOT property.
13. Why is the trail longer on the Apex side? There is a bigger change in elevation from the ATT to Fargo/Apex Street. Therefore, had to extend the length of the trail to be ADA Compliant.
14. Will there be steps built? No steps will be installed; there will be ramps on both sides.
15. Will pedestrian access be maintained during construction? Yes

Following the presentation of the Apex Trail Connection and its landscaping plan, the public comment portion of the meeting was opened.

Ms. Beart Truitt–Braswell presented various documents that she had collected over the years of being involved as a community spokesperson for the repair and replacement of the Apex Street Bridge. She acknowledged that the community had worked hard in its efforts of trying to save the bridge from being demolished and having it registered with the historical society. She said that the community did not want the bridge to be torn down, but repaired.

Kathryn Kalb from City of Durham Public Works Department addressed the comments shared by Ms. Truitt-Braswell. She commented that there had been previous proposals from the City to replace the bridge, but Council asked the City in 2006 to remove the bridge and install the connecting trail. According to Ms. Kalb that action by Council waived the discussion on the bridge, and it was Council that requested the demolition of the bridge.

There was very strong sentiment in the community about the process in which City Council reversed its original decision to repair the Apex Street Bridge. Some felt that the goal of this project was to contain the people on the Fargo/ South Street side of the bridge. The residents were upset that with this action, since there had never been community support for the closing and demolition of the bridge from residents on the Fargo side.

Anita Keith Foust commented that the process in which this action and other projects, such as the Durham Freeway are done in Durham are creating distrust in the community. The residents are paying taxes and squeezed out when it comes to projects they support.

The meeting ended.