
CITY OF BALTIMORE

MARTIN O'MALLEY, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ALFRED H. FOXX, Director
417 E. Fayette Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

March 5, 2004

Stakeholder:

On behalf of Mayor Martin O'Malley, I am pleased to inform you that the Baltimore City Department of Transportation has initiated preliminary engineering/planning activities for the reconstruction of Charles Street between 25th Street and University Parkway. This letter serves to announce the initiation of these activities and establish a schedule for the selection of an improvement concept by July of 2004.

As a Stakeholder in this important project, your continued involvement will assure our success in achieving an urban design and transportation solution that supports the premier character of Charles Street. We will be developing the preferred improvement concept consistent with the Mayor's vision for a revitalized and re-energized Charles Street.

The attached **Project Development Flowchart: January - July 2004** depicts the Planning Activities, Design Activities, and Stakeholder Meetings & Issues we intend to follow. Consistent with City, State, and Federal environmental regulations, a cooperative design development process will be used to quickly resolve design issues and select an improvement concept for the reconstruction of Charles Street between 25th Street and University Parkway. I wish to alert you to the following key dates as depicted on this chart:

April 7, 2004 – Afternoon We will conduct a Stakeholder's charrette with the goal of finalizing the concept for a "Preferred Alternate". Critical design issues on the table include typical section, the east side service drive, the 29th Street transition, and bicycle lanes. We plan on holding this meeting at RK&K's Offices; details to be provided.

May 5, 2004 – Afternoon We will conduct a Stakeholder's pre-public meeting before public Meeting #1. We plan on holding this meeting at a location along Charles Street.

May 5, 2004 – Evening We will conduct Public Meeting #1 to present the "Preferred Alternate".

June 2, 2004 – Evening We will present the "Selected Alternate" at Public Meeting #2.

Following the June meeting, we will "lock" typical section details including location of curbs, roadway widths, roadway medians, sidewalks, parking, and bicycle lanes. Remaining issues of the design process to be completed include surface landscaping features and streetscape amenities. Our goal is to complete contract documents ready for advertisement in Fall 2005.

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I am also pleased to inform you that consistent with the Mayor's request for two-way traffic on Charles Street, the City has initiated final design services to return two-way traffic to Charles Street from the vicinity of Penn Station to 29th Street. These are interim improvements, which will consist primarily of signing, pavement striping, and other minor roadway adjustments. At the critical intersection of Charles Street and 29th Street, however, minor curb adjustments will be required in order to facilitate two-way traffic at this location. Clearly, long-term improvements at this intersection to facilitate two-way traffic on Charles Street will be one of the critical issues addressed by the City and Stakeholders over the next 5-months.

On behalf of the City, we and our consultant team led by the RK&K/WRT Joint Venture, are committed to an open and responsive process driven by our desire to create a premier street within our budget. We will continue to maintain the Charles Street website (www.CharlesStreet.mdprojects.com) as one of our techniques for communicating with the Stakeholders and public. We will rely upon your support to share project information with your community/institutional representatives.

In summary, we sincerely appreciate your continued interest and support for this exciting project and look forward to finalizing the "Selected Alternate" in June 2004. Please feel free to contact me should you have questions.

Respectfully,

ALFRED H. FOXX
DIRECTOR

AHF/RW:kc

cc: Mayor Martin O'Malley
Dominic Murray, Deputy Mayor
Michael Rice, Deputy Director of the Department of Transportation
Maryam Babaki, Department of Transportation
George Winfield, Director of Public Works
Otis Rolley, III, Director of Planning
Jay Brodie, Baltimore Development Corporation
Paula Johnson Branch, 2nd District Council Member
Bernard C. "Jack" Young, 2nd District Council Member
Pamela V. Carter, 2nd District Council Member
Karen Arnold, Maryland State Highway Administration
Darrell Sacks, Maryland State Highway Administration