



Mt. Washington Landslide Mitigation

Public Meeting #2- April 25, 2023 (5:30- 7:00 PM)

Hybrid: In person at the Carnegie Library-Mt. Washington, 311 Grandview Ave., 15213; and online via Zoom

Meeting Summary and Question/Answer Log

Project: William Street

Questions & Discussion:

Janai Williams Smith facilitated the discussion portion of the meeting

- 1. Question:** When they're delivering all of the supplies, big steel beams and other materials, on the open portion of William St, they should be required to bond the road, because we don't want to be re-paving it a year and a half after it's been redone.

Response: The contractor will be required to replace anything that they damage, back to the existing conditions.

- 2. Question:** How wide is the temporary road going to be from Neff St to Cola?

Response: The temporary roadway will transition from 12 ft at Cola, which is the current width of Cola, to [approximately] 20 ft wide. We want to make sure that cars can pass each other.

- 3. Question:** Once the temporary road is removed, can that path be restored with either grass or bricks?

Response: Restoration will be performed to restore to the existing conditions (grass) with minimal other alterations with the exception of the existing trail. City Park Services would like to see it remain a trail as part of the Emerald View Trail system, and they will add additional markings to designate the trail crossing alignment.

- 4. Question:** In relation to drainage of the temporary road. Where and which way is the water going to drain?

Response: The proposed surface will be gravel. Therefore, water will not pond on the surface. The surface will be sloped to drain to the low site of the roadway. The contractor will be required to maintain the temporary roadway.

- 5. Question:** I'm a park ranger up at EVP, my question is, was there consideration for the landslide that happened last spring and the work being done with this project literally right underneath it? My concern is continued destabilization of that hillside. Has that been addressed?

Clarification: Between Bigby Field and Grandview Park. Concerns about the retaining walls at areas 6 and 7. (To reference these project areas, please see slide 9 of the William Street presentation)

Response: This area is not part of the project area, we do not plan to further destabilize the area.

- 6. Question:** I live at the bottom of William Street, and we do a lot of walking in this area. A tree has fallen in the area and knocked out a couple of street lights. I didn't call 311 because I thought that work would start in this area in April. It gets really dark, and there are also people that walk down in the morning to get to work. Can/will this get fixed during the

William St Public Meeting April 25, 2023

project? I'm going to call 311 to get those lights back on right now. They just wrapped the wires up and laid them down.

Response: Calling 311 is a good first step. We may be able to get that done outside of this project, or inside. Thank you for bringing that up, we'll attempt to address it.

7. **Question:** Is the hillside stable from #3 on William, up to the end of Neff, on William St?

Response: There are many areas of Mt Washington that are landslide prone. If you go on the county's website, they have landslide maps. You can see that there are a lot of ancient landslides, recent landslides, past landslides, that dot the whole landscape all around Mt Washington. To answer your question, we didn't really study anything from the end of our area to the top of William St.

Question: Shouldn't that area be part of your pre-study before you do the work and create more damage? Because like the gentleman said beforehand, the heavy trucks, used to fix the [Liberty] tunnel, were the primary reason why the road and the hillside was destabilized at Area #3, where it fell off.

Response: (After area clarifications) We don't plan on destabilizing anything.

Question: I know you don't plan on destabilizing the area, neither did the tunnel construction. Wouldn't it be a good idea to check before you do anything? Instead of creating a further problem?

Response: I think the work that we are doing will be to stabilize the area. I don't think we will be destabilizing it.

Question: It would be good to really look at that area, to see if there are any problems that could happen, or that heavy equipment could cause. I want to make sure that I can get out of my house and onto William Street.

Response: That area is not city property, and we don't know of any issues in that area.

Question: I'm not referring to all of Mt Washington, I'm referring to an area that has been prone to problems in the past, due to heavy equipment., and you look at the hillside above Cola Street onto William Street, I could see that that would be destabilized.

Response: It might be helpful if you drop your contact information in the chat, and we can get back to you and answer more of your questions.

8. **Question:** This is a follow up question to every question so far. I live on Cola Street and we have some issues with our basement, some landslides during the previous Williams Street renovation, and some of the, residential renovations upstream from us. We're still in the process of fighting through permitting to get those fixed. During the process are the people on Cola Street and William Street in the process of current renovations still going to be able to get equipment and materials, etc?

Response: That was one of the reasons we wanted to establish the temporary road, it will be maintained by the contractor, which will eliminate having to bring you through some of the narrow passages that will be created when he takes out parts of the end of Cola Street, yes, you will be able to bring

William St Public Meeting April 25, 2023

in your equipment or construction materials along that temporary road.

Question: Obviously, you have to store equipment and materials while you're doing that. Where will that be?

Response: The contractor will pick his own lay down areas within the site or off-site well, it'll be closed right at the end of Cola Street.

Question You're saying that only William Street will be closed and Cola will be accessible to residents, and there will be no equipment, storage, and things of that nature on Cola. And the William stuff will start by area 3 and move to 4 as you progress.

Response: Yes, and the only place they can store materials will be from area 3 down to Arlington

9. **Question:** I like the idea that area one will go back to being a trail at the end of this project, but right now it's a massively overgrown with knotweed, and at the end of August I have to stand about 3 quarters to walk through with my dog. If your temporary road is going to be gravel, that will be a knotweed patch by July, so is there a way to mitigate that? And preferably keep the knot weed from coming back after the project?

Response: I'm sure we're going to work with the city parks and their forester to come up with a way to try to combat that while we're working. We will also have to reestablish the trail that is there now.

Question: The last couple of times they've done stuff to William Street, Cola Street, or the area, they've inadvertently spread the knotweed by digging giant holes and not cleaning up knotweed, and there's probably 4 times the knotweed each time there's a construction project, and it's been a lot of work to keep that stuff out of my backyard.

Response: Understood. Yeah, we can certainly address that in the project specifications. We'll talk to the city parks people that I'm sure are aware of it, and try to provide some deterrent language in the contract.

10. **Question:** Pedestrian access. A lot of us will take William Street, either walk directly to downtown or get to the T. If we can't walk on William Street for 6 months, even if there's a sidewalk on the Cola Street extension, there aren't sidewalks on Sycamore going down, will something be done to allow people to still walk to the bottom of the hill?

Response: We haven't really considered leaving William Street open for pedestrians, but we certainly can.

Question: If you want to make a sidewalk along the temporary road, it's just that something has been done to Sycamore.

Response: We will look at it.

11. **Question:** Will there be a follow up meeting notifying residents that our questions have been addressed?

Response: We don't have a follow up meeting planned, but you can go to the Engage Pittsburgh website and you are welcome to call Brian or I (Tom) to get that information.

Question I think it would be really good for you, before the whole construction begins again, to have a community meeting to provide the

William St Public Meeting April 25, 2023

residents with more concrete details of what is going to happen.

Response: Okay, we'll consider that it's not in the plan at this point. We were trying to make this fairly detailed.

12. **Question:** Can we have some type of informational update, even if it's not another meeting? Some sort of notification that acknowledges the comments we heard today.

Response: Yes, we will publish information on the Engage Pittsburgh website.

13. **Question:** I'm working on a project team that's involved in a new single-family home at the end of Cola Street. The general timeline was likely to break ground this summer and then end next summer so I'm wondering, is that going to interfere with our construction?

Response: We received a copy of your drawings a couple of days ago. I did ask for any information that you might have regarding how you are going to impact Cola Street itself for your excavation area. We had approached the property owner regarding a temporary easement to allow us to put in the temporary road through the existing easement. As far as interference goes, we have to keep the road open for residents to get in and out the temporary road. So, if you have equipment and material, you're going to have to have a laydown area outside of the limits of Cola Street.

Question Would the machinery and deliveries and stuff for the public improvements come through the Cola corridor or along the Williams corridor?

Response: Whichever is more convenient for the contractor.

Question So there could potentially be large trucks coming through that little corridor against our foundations?

Response: I don't believe there are any weight restrictions on Cola Street or William Street at this point, so he can deliver material from any access point.

Question It's private property, could there potentially be weight restrictions put on that? Since it's private property it's not really designed to be public for those kinds of machinery. Could there be a limitation that that corridor is just for resident access? Could they restrict heavy truck access to just William so that it's not coming through that corridor.

Response: It can be considered, if the city has other methods to control contractor access

Question Piggybacking on some of the other comments, that these are un-engineered roads, when heavy machinery comes through, there are some adverse effects. If there is some wisdom we could put in place that genuinely protects some of these adverse effects. We can take this offline, and communicate over email, especially if there is a more appropriate point of contact.

Response: Thank you for your comment. If you send us any information or request (or through Engage Pittsburgh), we will be sure to get back to your questions.

William St Public Meeting April 25, 2023

14. **Question:** At the end of number 1, is that a connection to lower Neff, or is it Sycamore?

Response: From the end of Cola Street to Lava street below it and Neff Street above it. Which outlets on Sycamore.

15. **Question:** Is there any money available to repave Neff and Lava streets? It is currently starting to wash out from the big trucks that we have up above, and with more traffic coming down now from Cola Street. As it stands, it is tight for two cars to pass each other.

Response: Yeah, I understand that. And I think someone asked that question earlier today. And, as Tom explained this grant that the city has been awarded is intended for repairing the landslide areas, and the City is trying to use as much of that funding as possible to fix the landslides originally Scoped. I believe that there will be provisions in the contract for the contractor to put areas back the way he found them, so if there's any damage he would be responsible to make repairs, but not necessarily improvements. But again, I think the city can take your comments, and we can decide whether the city has any additional funding that they can put towards your question.

R. Ranallo: Informed everyone that the city just issued its press release last week that the City just kicked off the paving season for 2023. They release weekly lists of which streets are slated for paving. We can look to see, independent of this project, what paving work is planned for the area. So if we could just make a note of that, as one of the follow-up questions. What we can do, since we don't necessarily have another meeting planned for this engagement is, we have a sign in sheet where hopefully, all of you signed in with your contact info. The consultants will provide the city with that information so that we can stay in touch with you via email and make sure we follow up on your questions.

16. **Question:** The presentation a year ago had a slide that showed that you wanted to realign the driveway going onto William Street from my house. That would be the driveway just opposite your work area number 6. I don't see any of that in your present presentation, and I personally be very happy if you leave my drive alone, but I wanted to check with you guys, are you planning to do anything on the driveway?

Response: We were trying to come up with a way to repair the landslide that is in the front of your driveway, without actually having to build a retaining wall. But it became not effective to do anything else, because where your driveway comes out, it's very steep, as you know, and very sharp. We abandoned that plan, and now we're planning to build a retaining wall at location number 6.

17. **Question:** Cola Street is actually sagging in the middle, quite substantially, the storm drains are no longer the low point. If there is going to be a lot of equipment movement, it is a lot better to do it on William Street than Cola Street?

Response: Point taken, we'll look closely at the drainage. I'm not aware of

William St Public Meeting April 25, 2023

any sagging, but I'll take a look.

18. **Question:** The county's landslide map shows a yellow section all over the area between Sycamore and Cola and between Cola and William. I don't know what that means, I couldn't find a map legend, and I'm wondering if you could take a minute to explain.

Response: If you click on the shaded areas, it should bring up a box that tells you what the landslide susceptibility is. Yellow areas are landslide susceptible soils.

Question The landslide susceptible soil is the entire area from number 3 up to Neff, if I'm reading it correctly.

Response: You might be reading it correctly ma'am, but as I tried to point out earlier here, the yellow area covers most of the slopes on Mt Washington.

Question I did not see that when I looked on the map, but I would just like to have -clarification. If you can email me, I don't want to take any more time.

Response: Please leave your contact information in the chat and we will contact you.