



**Greenlink Operations & Maintenance Facility**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
March 18, 2021

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Greenlink Operations & Maintenance Facility Stakeholder Meeting #2: March 18, 2021. Meeting was held at Happy Hearts Community Center. There were two sessions, one at 11:00 AM and one at 5:30 PM.

**11:00 AM Session Attendees**

Stakeholders:

- Adriene Atkinson (v)
- Charity Jones
- Donnie Madison
- Emanuel Duncan
- Eric Richey
- Ernest Burgess
- Jonathan Hanna
- Jonathan Navarro
- Kevin Mitchell
- Lisa Hallo (v)
- Susan Frantz (v)
- Tiphany Powell (v)
- Ty Houck (v)
- Wes Dripps (v)

GTA/Design Team:

- James Keel
- Nicole McAden (v)
- Addy Matney (v)
- Anne Maguire
- Lisa Lanni
- Nicole Andrews (v)
- Silvia Chan
- Ayeesha Jahi (v)
- Ron Reekes

**5:30 PM Session Attendees**

Stakeholders:

- Charity Jones
- Jonathan Hanna
- Kevin Mitchell
- Angela Aiken
- Angelica Childes
- Carolyn Williams
- Channing Banks (v)
- Charles Gardner
- David Modeen
- Jean Phelps
- Jon Childes
- Louise Coltson
- Shelby Richards (v)
- Tamela Spann (v)

- Vic Gardner
- Jerri Brinkley

GTA/Design Team:

- James Keel
- Nicole McAden (v)
- Stephen Astemborski (v)
- Anne Maguire
- Lisa Lanni
- Nicole Andrews (v)
- Silvia Chan
- Ayeesha Jahi (v)
- Jonathan Guy
- Ron Reekes

## 1. Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves, the organizations they represented and why this project is important to them. (v) indicates virtual attendees

### a. Why Stakeholders Care

- To be a good neighbor, form partnerships, use voice to influence local govt, get involved and meet needs of people in this neighborhood
- Generational commitment to neighborhood
- Quality of life for nearby communities and residents
- Work with community here, not neglect the past, but move forward while respecting people who live here
- Here to stay, raising children, teacher of students in neighborhood, many years there was an afterschool program, but stopped last year because of the Greenlink project
- Help advocate for taking care of the community, work together to be good neighbors
- As Alumni of Washington School, want to make sure we commemorate the school was here and significance
- Preserve and provide historic resources
- Create something everyone is proud of - from people who work here to those who live here
- Authentic resident engagement
- Want our voices heard throughout process
- Make sure community has a voice, respected and has a true seat at the table
- If we are "defeated" let's get something positive out of it
- Looking forward to coming to understanding
- Tired of seeing history of poor communication between county and community, lack of communication
- Participate in process and communicate to neighborhoods nearby
- New Washington Heights community assoc. presence
- United Way of Greenville County - how to increase participation in Greenville Dreams program (coalition of neighborhood + community leaders organized to empower residents to improve their neighborhoods)
- Emission Issues - what will the buses do once they come into the depot?
- Public transportation is key to growing cities like Greenville
- Public transport often intersectional with food security
- Watch the steps and make sure everyone comes out of this ok
- Improve ridership in neighborhoods, especial black neighborhoods, speak for those who cannot speak for themselves
- Advocate for others who have not had access to previous hearings or for those who cannot advocate for themselves
- New to the neighborhood - want to work with developers
- Partner with Greenlink to improve neighborhood, infrastructure
- Contribute to a transformational project
- Proximity to the area that was proposed by Greenville County Recreation to expand the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail's orange line
- Home is adjacent to the site

### b. Project Guiderails

- i. Critical Dates
  1. Greenville County Board of Zoning Appeals – **Summer 2021**
  2. NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Review – **Fall 2021**
- ii. FTA Funding
  1. Project Funding can include:
    - a. On the property, mitigation measures can include:
      - i. Park, trails, activity pods, etc.
      - ii. Shared used Community Room
    - b. Immediately adjacent to property & to provide connectivity
      - i. Sidewalk Improvements
      - ii. Bike paths
      - iii. Street lighting
  2. All must be tangible capital improvements

## 2. **Overview: What We Heard and Listening Sessions**

Shared an overview of what the design team heard from Stakeholder Meeting #1. Stakeholders were asked to provide additional concerns and priorities, as well as identify additional opportunities.

### a. **Community Concerns and Priorities**

- i. Trust and Community Participation
  1. Virtual option for public meetings
  2. Address notification for those without internet access (printed flyers, yard signs, signs on buses + in person updates at neighborhood association meetings, PDF for organizations to print and share with constituents)
  3. Lack of communication from Greenville leadership
    - a. Want better communication
    - b. Talk and talk and nothing has happened
  - c. Please help us understand what is happening, still hurting, help us trust you are going to do it soon.
  - d. Greater distrust will develop in community if nothing changes
  4. Furman Study: consider as guiding principles, want to benefit the New Washington Heights and not just the general community
  5. Greenville Journal had article about project and New Washington Heights, people in this neighborhood don't get the GVL Journal, knew for 16 months before people in the neighborhood knew, trust went down
  6. How to get on GTA Board? Can we have a seat on the board?
  7. Stakeholders were invited by the GTA Board, approached community associations and got names. List of stakeholders is available on Greenlink website
  8. GTA makes final decisions after getting input from community, stakeholders, but the goal is to build consensus with stakeholders.
  9. Survey was sent to get input from stakeholders on meeting frequency.
  10. Stakeholder meetings every 3 weeks, but be flexible to schedule sooner if needed (project milestones that need buy-in and sign off)
  11. Dedicated website accessible for everyone is currently in progress
- ii. Wildlife and Natural Habitats
  1. Preserve Falcon Nests

2. Discussed natural buffer, thick tree line and integrate recreation areas inside as well - mixture of evergreen and native deciduous trees
  3. Possible link to Swamp Rabbit Trail
- iii. Light and Noise from the Facility
1. Lighting will be dark-sky friendly
  2. Buses will enter and exit through Arcadia Dr. only
  3. Facility and bus entrance furthest away from entrance of neighborhood
  4. Buffer will be a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees and plants that are nursery grade size at time of installation.
  5. Electric buses - almost no noise, will be charging if they run out of power
- iv. Health (Emissions and Runoff)
1. Storm water will be captured on site. By law, water must be captured on site, quantity and quality - absorb into natural flow - will help with sedimentation happening now in creek today, filters out pollutants.
    - a. What happens if something goes wrong - can ponds be moved to commercial building side of site?
  2. Transferring diesel fleet to electric or compressed natural gas buses, still have a few diesel buses
    - a. Transit system is generally better for overall emissions reduction
    - b. All additional fleet will be electric or natural compressed gas
    - c. Buses will not idle. They will come in, get washed, parked and turned off until following day or until it needs maintenance
- v. Traffic Through Neighborhood
1. Concerns regarding increased traffic if people outside of the area are coming to access the amenities
  2. Ensure all traffic including construction doesn't go through Loop and O Jones Streets. GTA will limit employee traffic from using Loop and O Jones Streets
  3. Ensure buses don't enter and exit on smaller roads
  4. Traffic calming measures to deter cut-through (Asked for speedbumps in the past)
  5. How many people will be at work at one time? (30 people per shift)
- vi. Property Value
1. Concerns of property values
  2. Don't have research in this type of project and what impact it may have on property value. Design team will continue to research and will report back
- vii. Public Spaces (*added concern in Stakeholder Meeting #2*)
1. Would like to see the park parking spaces be used by community and not from other people outside of community.
  2. Would like to understand the management of the park and who is responsible.
  3. Incorporate places to eat in the park section
  4. Steer design to what is good for the community
  5. Pavilion and other learning and play areas
  6. Outdoor Learning & Activity building

- viii. Preserving History (*added concern in Stakeholder Meeting #2*)
  1. Mitigate feelings of lost history of the High School that has shaped the neighborhood
  2. Provide history inside and outside of the facility
  3. Incorporate old bricks from high school into design
  4. Potential monument, engage local artist (mascot of Washington High School was a falcon)
  5. Looking for ideas from artist to provide monument / memorial
  6. Used to host school reunion in the old school, would like to be able to host reunion in the Community Room

- ix. Security (*added concern in Stakeholder Meeting #2*)
  1. Security Cameras
  2. Entire property will be fenced
  3. Fencing around storm water areas (to meet FTA security requirements, area will be fenced)
  4. Kids safety (extend fencing around park area as well)
  5. Don't want to create hiding spots
  6. Provide enough lighting for nighttime
  7. Emergency phones (blue phones)

**b. Opportunities**

- i. Build Partnerships
  1. Include diversity in hiring
  2. Include diversity in procurement
  3. Partner with local artists
  4. Invest in human capital, invest in the kids in the community. Can United Way partner for scholarship?
  5. Where can we get help with grants?
  6. Can Greenlink provide scholarships to the youth in the afterschool program when it's time for them to go to higher education? Maybe it can be in memorial of the school
  7. Utilize the training program that GTA has (CEL program) & partner with Greenville Tech
  8. Can GTA partner with Greenville Tech for vocational training (bus maintenance)
  9. How can GTA and Design Team use their voice & influence to help community
  10. GTA will provide support to help with County/City relationships to assist with better roads, lighting, etc.
  11. GTA and Community to Work together to approach GVL County together
  12. Upstate Forever can potentially help with funding with aspects not covered within project scope
  13. Hollingsworth Funds can potentially help with philanthropy efforts
  14. Restart after-school program
- ii. Possible Benefits to Neighborhood
  1. Want to bring positive value to neighborhood
  2. Bring value to neighborhood. Able to walk to work - added benefit.
  3. Next Thursday 3/25/2021 - GTA Board is voting to approve the design of the park, continue to enhance area with BB court with a playground

4. Design team will hold off on designing the park elements until we hear from the community
5. Community Room to share with neighbors & Washington Height alumni
6. GTA will make pledge to not make commitments until they know they can deliver, but committed to make project successful; make it positive for the community; employment for people who want to walk to work; looking for partners to fund these things with help from county & philanthropy; add park; improve O Jones St and entry into neighborhood; want to give community something that has been promised to community for a long time; want to not just be GTA, but community partner.
7. GTA wants this to be successful. Not just a new facility, want better transit for the community

3. **Shared Progress** – *see attached powerpoint presentation*

4. **Q&A and Parking Lot**

Below are notes taken from questions and answers that were given throughout the listening session and individual ideas that will be addressed later.

- a. Progress to date has been slow because design team wasn't identified yet. Now that the team it has been identified, progress will start.
- b. Frequency of meeting depends on progress of process
  - i. Get meetings on calendar ahead of time
  - ii. Design team will take 3 weeks to get input, process and advance and respond
- c. NEPA/Traffic studies initiated, will report findings upon completion.
- d. Research how this type of project will impact property value.
- e. Pictures from Washington High School – look in SC Room at Greenville Library
- f. Flyers/Memos are important to distribute to community, especially for elderly members
- g. Consider 15 min update for neighborhood members w/o online access
- h. Part of neighborhood falls in Greenville County and part falls in Greenville city limits

5. **Next Steps and Closing**

- a. ***Next Public Meeting will be on March 30<sup>th</sup>***
- b. ***Next Stakeholder Meeting in 3 weeks***
- c. ***Stakeholders are asked to bring their ideas about any community amenity preferences to the next Stakeholder Meeting***

- End of Minutes -