



# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors  
**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager  
Paul Fredette, Director of Public Works  
**DATE:** May 23, 2013  
**REF:** Update - Roanoke Avenue Storm Water Project Phase III & Discontinuance of the Herrington Road Bridge over Charles Creek

On Monday, May 20 City staff presented a project update to the Quality of Life Community Watch meeting at the St. James AME Zion Church on Park Street. The intended purpose of the meeting was to receive feedback from the Community Watch on plans to abandon the Herrington Road Bridge over Charles Creek.

Over the past two years, there have been four or five concept plans prepared for Phase III of the Roanoke Ave. Drainage Project. Most of the changes to the project design were to address property or property easements that the City was unable to secure. One of the concept designs was taken to final design and the City solicited and received construction bids for the project. However, the low construction bid for the project was \$800,000 over the project budget; hence all construction bids were rejected.

After the construction bids were rejected, the City went back to the drawing board. Before a concept was developed for the storm water project, NCDOT notified us of their plans to reconstruct the South Road St. Bridge over Charles Creek. During our discussions with NCDOT, consideration of removing the Herrington Road Bridge became a viable option. Considerations justifying the removal of the bridge included:

- The State's recently completed bridge inspection concluded that there were deficiencies in the bridge. The bridge was to be posted for weight restriction and eventually the bridge will have to be removed or replaced.
- The traffic counts on Herrington Road are very low. The City did a two-day traffic count and found the average daily traffic was only 615 vehicles per day. Of interest is that 90% of the vehicles counted were traveling northbound and only about 60 vehicles (10%) were traveling southbound. The peak traffic flow was between 4 and 5 p.m. at which time there were 70 vehicles per hour.

- With the Herrington Road Bridge eliminated, a redesign of the drainage project would allow for a much improved storm water discharge configuration into Charles Creek.
- The design concept of eliminating the Herrington Road Bridge will also contribute to a better and safer road design at the intersection of Herrington Rd., South Road Street and 'B' Street.

During the Community Watch meeting the following points were made by those present:

- The number one priority they have is to minimize the amount of flooding and the recurrence of flooding in the local neighborhoods.
- Continuing traffic flow on Herrington Road from the south towards Shepard Street was important to those at the meeting.
- Those present at the meeting encouraged property owners to negotiate in good faith to help advance the storm water project.
- All present wanted to avoid the million dollar future costs of rebuilding the Herrington Road Bridge to a 40 foot span to eliminate the current restriction in the Charles Creek flowage.

Staff is still in the process of receiving input on the proposal to remove the Herrington Road Bridge over Charles Creek before the first public hearing scheduled for June 23. During the Public Hearing, the City Council will have at least three possible alternatives to consider for the advancement of Phase III of the Roanoke Ave. Drainage Project. Those alternatives include:

1. To secure the necessary property and property easements along Herrington Road so that the dike and discharge from the storm water pump station can be built generally along the alignment of the existing Herrington Road. This alternative will leave as a contingent liability the repair and replacement of the Herrington Road Bridge.
2. To close the Herrington Road Bridge minimizing the need for any additional property to build the dike and storm water pump discharge. This alternative will eliminate the ability for northbound traffic to continue along Herrington Rd. to get to Shepard Street.
3. For the City to purchase the Rice property located between Herrington Road and South Road Street. With the Rice property, the City can optimize the Phase III drainage project, eliminate the future cost and liability of the Herrington Road Bridge replacement and provide a continuation of Herrington Road traffic traveling north to Shepard Street.