



**Haverhill Stormwater Improvements Project
Community Meeting Notes
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28, 2022**

**University of Pittsburgh Community Engagement Center – Homewood
Virtual on Zoom**

Attendees

The 16 meeting participants included local residents, project stakeholders, and representatives from community organizations.

Presentation

Elaine Hinrichs, Education and Outreach Associate at the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), welcomed attendees and introduced the project team. Ryan Quinn, Project Manager at PWSA, provided an overview of stormwater issues in Pittsburgh. Barton Kirk, Project Manager at Ethos Collaborative, explained the two sites within the Haverhill Stormwater Improvements Project: 1) Haverhill Street at Oakwood Street; and 2) existing stormwater infrastructure at the intersection of Oakwood and Batavia streets. Aaron Birdy, Programs Assistant at Upstream Pittsburgh, shared the history of the Oakwood and Batavia site within the Rosedale Runoff Reduction Project. Barton Kirk explained some of the issues that are impacting the Oakwood and Batavia site, including a landslide on Haverhill Street and repeated vehicle strikes to the stormwater bump-outs. Barton shared the preliminary designs for the Haverhill Stormwater Improvements Project, including a potential rock buttress at the landslide site on Haverhill Street and potential structural changes to the Oakwood and Batavia stormwater infrastructure. The presentation slides and a recording of this meeting are available at www.pgh2o.com/haverhill.

Discussion

- Zinna: What is planned for Wilkinsburg Ave? If you don't address the underground spring that sits above Bricelyn Street that runs down Wilkinsburg Ave, then the issue on Haverhill Street will not be fully addressed. During winter, there is a sheet of ice down Wilkinsburg Ave. Maybe you could create a gully to catch that water so it doesn't coat the road.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: That is much appreciated. I haven't observed that yet.
 - Rose Flowers, Upstream Pittsburgh: We have heard about that at local meetings.
 - Zinna: If the aspect above Crescent isn't dealt with now, it will have to be later.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: I will look at that further. It has not been within our purview, so I appreciate that information. If there is another seep that is contributing to the site, we may be able to apply the same or similar treatments that are proposed for Haverhill.

- **ACTION:** Barton Kirk will look into the underground spring near Bricelyn Street that runs down Wilkinsburg Avenue.
- Zinna: How long does a rock buttress last?
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: Rock buttresses have been applied across Pennsylvania for decades and have been virtually unchanged in that time. We can assume a rock buttress would last at least 50 years if not longer.
- Rose Flowers, Upstream Pittsburgh: Is there a chance to do traffic calming measures further down from Oakwood and Batavia, like speed bumps?
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: We have been focused on the stormwater infrastructure itself, but now that we have some initial designs, we can consider the surrounding traffic infrastructure.
 - Rose Flowers, Upstream Pittsburgh: The Early Childhood Center is near there, and I have seen close calls with traffic there and families crossing.
 - Zinna: A speed bump may be an issue if it was on a hill, for school buses to be able to get up.
 - Mike Panzitta, City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI): We can talk to our traffic group about that.
 - Rose Flowers, Upstream Pittsburgh: Maybe a crosswalk.
 - Zinna: Or a red light.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: The intersection at Kelly is also an opportunity. We are at a stage where we now have some initial improvements to discuss, and can consider additional options.
 - **ACTION:** Mike Panzitta will discuss potential traffic control measures in the areas near the Crescent Early Childhood Center and/or the Kelly and Oakwood intersection, with the DOMI traffic group.
- Tanya: Glad to see you're addressing Bennett and Collier - I'll stop reporting the backup. The backup is at the sewer at the intersection at Bennett and Collier. They have worked on it several times. During heavy rains, it still backs up.
 - Zinna: This project is not at Bennett and Collier. It is at Oakwood and Batavia streets.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: We still appreciate the identification of problem areas. Was the sewer backup at Bennett and Collier on the street?
 - Tanya: Yes.
 - Ryan Quinn, PWSA: PWSA is actively responding to and tracking basement backup reports. This project is not at Bennett and Collier, but after today's meeting, we will look into that backup report.
 - **ACTION:** Ryan Quinn will look into the backup report at the intersection of Bennett and Collier.
- Hercurok: How does that affect Haverhill?
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: Haverhill Street drains down to Oakwood Street, then Oakwood Street drains down to the intersection of Oakwood and Batavia streets. The

landslide occurred up on Haverhill Street. We are trying to stabilize the landslide area, and address the erosion issues on Haverhill, so that it will no longer affect the Oakwood and Batavia stormwater infrastructure.

- Timolyn: All the basements on Oakwood Street are full of water, because of this river of water coming from Haverhill.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: That is a point I wanted to ask about. Do you know of specific addresses that experience flooding?
 - Timolyn: 606 Haverhill Street, 620 or 624 Haverhill Street, 500/600 Oakwood Street. The hillside is falling over down there, and it will be another landslide. Even the City steps are moving. The guard rail on Haverhill Street is falling over.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: One of our recommendations is to relocate the guard rail. We would then be reducing the width of Haverhill to some extent to make sure the roadway is in a stable location and construction.

- Resident: When is this project supposed to start?
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: We started initial design this spring and expect to finish the design late 2022 or early 2023. The plan is to go out to bid in spring 2023 and construction in summer 2023.

- Timolyn: I had to change my vehicle to drive up Haverhill Street, because of the seep.
 - Hercurok: Yes, because the whole street turns into ice during winter. The water ices over and you can't even drive up the street.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: The collection of that groundwater seep water is one of the fundamental purposes of this project. When the planned rock buttress is installed in the landslide area, it would attract much of the water that is seeping through the hillside, because it will create a low point that will flow into the drainage pipe that will be flowing along Haverhill Street. We have done a geotechnical evaluation to investigate the soil and rock, and we are still waiting on that report. It is not likely that our design will change much based on the geotechnical report, but it will help refine it.

- Zinna: Have you thought of doing a Lego-type demonstration/model to show the map area of Haverhill and Oakwood and Batavia?
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: We haven't yet.

- Resident: Is there an underground spring on Haverhill Street?
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: Yes, to our assessment that is the root cause of the landslide and the seepage issues we are seeing on Haverhill. The groundwater is moving along a layer of bedrock, and seeping out onto Haverhill.

- Resident: You said stormwater, but this water runs all year long whether it storms or not.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: That is a good point. This project is both addressing the groundwater seep issues that are going on continuously on Haverhill, and stormwater that drains onto Oakwood and Batavia.

- Resident: Across from the barriers on Haverhill, part of Haverhill already fell onto Oakwood next to the apartment building, back on 2006 or 2007. The hillside already fell. How will this address that?
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: Yes, we can see that there are already sections of sidewalk that have collapsed off the hillside. We want to maintain pedestrian connectivity on Haverhill. We know it is a low volume road. We want to maintain the connectivity to the pedestrian stairs in particular. As part of the repaving of Haverhill, we are proposing to replace a section of sidewalk, then stop the sidewalk before the area where the hillside is eroding. Then, from there the roadway will provide means of getting to the next set of City steps on Haverhill.

- Resident: Will they reinforce the street above Haverhill?
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: During our investigations, we didn't identify any flow contributions coming from above. But if anyone has seen anything, please let us know.
 - Resident: If the earth is moving, the earth up top is going to move also.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: The strategy is to fill the area where the landslide occurred. The rock buttress would pull the seep water to the drain, and also support the soils uphill to prevent it from moving.
 - Resident: The soil from Singer to Haverhill is not stable. Haverhill is not used a lot currently because it is unsafe. The water has been running for more than 20 years and it is just now being addressed. Have structural engineers looked at the area?
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: An important part of the work we are doing is looking at the condition of the soil and the rock in the public road and the public property. We are not looking at structural issues on private homes as part of this project. This project is working to stabilizing the situation on the City lot, which is impacting the neighbors, and to repair the roadway to make it safer.
 - Timolyn: If the land keeps moving, Oakwood, Haverhill, and Singer will all be one street.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: This is a perfect opportunity to hear from you all if you have seen issues that we haven't observed, I would love to get those detailed.
 - Hercurok: We have pictures of the landslide when it went into the middle of the street.
 - Elaine Hinrichs, PWSA: If you'd like to share photos or information about drainage issues in the project area, or your contact information for follow-up, you can reach out to me. My work cell phone number is 412-738-1887 and my email is ehinrichs@pgh2o.com.

- Resident: If you go up Haverhill to where the City steps go up to Singer, and then if you are looking straight ahead, there is a trail above Batavia where you can walk through and look down.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: Yes, there is a paper street there.
 - Resident: That part of the hill has been sliding also. When you come down Oakwood and turn right onto Batavia, there is a little alley on the right, and that street also had land sliding and falling on the street.
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: Yes, we have observed movement, particularly of the topsoil, all along Haverhill, and that is one of the things we are looking at.

- Resident: When will the final results come in for everything you have observed and all the information we have collected?
 - Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative: We do have a second community meeting planned, either late this year or early next year, to share out the information.
 - Ryan Quinn, PWSA: The meeting summary from this meeting will summarize the next steps, and then we can revisit the actions taken at our next community meeting.

- Zinna: Will there be a meeting to gather more input for design?
 - Ryan Quinn, PWSA: We scoped this out to have one design meeting and one pre-construction meeting.
 - Zinna: I think three meetings would be good. To have one meeting now with initial designs. Then one meeting partway through design. And then a last meeting overviewing the plans before construction.
 - Ryan Quinn, PWSA: That is valuable and we will consider that.
 - **ACTION:** The PWSA project team will consider holding another community meeting partway through design, in addition to the planned pre-construction community meeting.

- Zinna: I live in part of the community. For the folks who live in this particular neighborhood, I recommend you knock on your neighbors' doors before that next community meeting, to get as many people as possible at the meeting.
 - Elaine Hinrichs, PWSA: Thank you, Zinna. Also, I apologize because I found out yesterday that the postcard meeting invitations that I ordered actually did not make it into the mail to the residents near the project area. Some of you may have received a robocall about the meeting instead, in addition to the email notices that were shared out through our community partners. Normally the residents who live near a stormwater project area will receive a community meeting invitation postcard in their mailbox, but there was a mix-up this time.