



# Community Connection

BRIMF-McCalla Community Outreach Group

Community Connection Meeting  
April 14, 2011  
11 am-1 pm  
JeffMet Executive Center

Members Present:

Carl Addison  
Woody McDaniel

Steve Miranda  
Joel Frederick

Members Absent:

James Askew  
Allen Farley  
Pat Breden

Jim Lowery  
Virginia Williams  
Sam Russell

Guest: Rudy Husband, Norfolk Southern Company  
Lee Cochran, Norfolk Southern Company

- I. Welcome-Ashley Cousins
- II. Proposed Construction Schedule and Sequence
  - Bids will be opened to select a contractor on April 21, 2011.
  - Norfolk Southern is awaiting issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit and an Alabama Department of Environmental Management stormwater permit prior to mobilization of the contractor.
  - Stormwater will be captured in detention ponds on-site and used for irrigation.
  - Mobilization is tentatively scheduled for May 2011.
  - Construction will take approximately 16 months, weather dependant.
  - A temporary construction access will initially be constructed off McAshan Road to bring equipment into the site. The temporary access road will be completed as the facility access road as part of the construction.
  - Some construction material will be brought into the site via rail to minimize the use of McAshan Road.
  - The plan is to construct the berm near the McAdory Elementary School during the summer months while the children are on summer break.

III. Issues with McAshan Road

- Members asked Norfolk Southern if they were aware of any plans to address the needed improvements on McAshan Road. Norfolk Southern reported that they had talked with ALDOT, Bessemer and Jefferson County and everyone was aware of the concerns of the residents, but that because the different sections of the road were maintained separately and funding is limited, there is currently no plan. Norfolk Southern representatives indicated that the increase in traffic would be gradual, rather than a surge on the date that the facility opens. Representatives of the group noted that there is an existing problem from the current traffic associated with Home Depot, particularly between 3 and 4 pm. The group discussed involving local elected officials to help formulate a plan.

IV. Continuation of Community Connection Group

- Several members commented that they were concerned about the lack of participation on the Community Connection Group and wanted to try to replace members. Ashley Cousins explained that the purpose of the group was to enhance communications between the community and Norfolk Southern during pre-construction and environmental studies and share issues and ideas about the project. It was discussed that the group was not elected by the community, but rather a group of volunteers nominated and selected by an independent selection panel. Additional meetings can be scheduled at the request of the group to discuss issues regarding construction or operations of the facility.

V. Community Enhancements

- Norfolk Southern's senior management is evaluating requests for community support from various entities. At this time, no announcements have been made regarding community enhancement requests. A primary consideration is enhancements for long term benefit, such as public safety and benefits for the youth in the community.

VI. Information during Construction

- Information about construction will be located on [www.thefutureneedsus.com](http://www.thefutureneedsus.com)
- Contact information for complaints or concerns will also be available on the website when the construction begins