



**WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, September 28, 2005, for the purpose of receiving an update on the Soil Conservation Road realignment project from representatives of Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC).**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. It was held in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center.

*PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.*

*STAFF PRESENT WERE: Terri Hruby, Assistant Director, Planning; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.*

*ALSO PRESENT WERE: From GSFC—Teresa Spagnuolo, Chief, Facilities Management Division, Alan Binstock, Facilities Master Planner, Karen Flynn, Management Operations Directorate, Nina Harris, NASA Public Affairs Office, Barbara Cherry, Associate Director for Communications, Diane Williams, Director of Management Operations, Ray Rubilotta, Associate Director of Management Operations, and Tim Regan, Project Manager, Soil Conservation Road Project; Virginia Beauchamp, Greenbelt News Review; and Sheldon Goldberg, Advisory Planning Board.*

*After introductions, Ms. Cherry said they would also be meeting with the Community Council and other groups to talk about the plan, now that the contract for the work has been awarded.*

*Mr. Regan spoke in general about the process of getting the various approvals and permits that had been required. Among other things, he elaborated on the extensive improvements planned for the intersection of Greenbelt and Good Luck Roads and for Good Luck Road between the realigned Soil Conservation Road and Greenbelt Road. He said they had done everything they could by way of reducing impacts and complying with all requirements for permissions. He noted that there would be a new security gate toward the south end of the existing Soil Conservation Road and a new entrance to the visitors' center outside that security area.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Putens, there was discussion of what parts of the new road are to be secured. Mr. Regan said the part of the road falling within the area that had previously been fenced would continue to be fenced. The area south of the new road's intersection with Good Luck Road had not previously been fenced and would not be now.*

*Mayor Davis asked what reforestation they were doing for mitigation. At first, Mr. Regan said they were not doing any. He then explained that they were required to reforest only 2.72 acres and that they would meet that requirement by designating a 6.6 acre plot of existing forest as a long-term forest preservation area. He noted that*

*only 5 acres was required, so they were exceeding the minimum. The Mayor replied that, in that case, they really were not doing any mitigation at all. Mr. Roberts also remarked that in the past, their commitment to "long-term" preservation areas had not been very long term.*

*Mr. Binstock and Ms. Spagnuolo explained that as part of the overall master plan project, which would occur in phases, they would be doing considerably more planting of trees and "rejuvenation" of the existing forest but that these activities were not one-on-one mitigations for work being done in the specific project to realign the road. Mr. Binstock said that what Mr. Regan had been presenting was strictly what was required by the state.*

*Mr. Roberts expressed concern with the path the project had taken. He said originally they anticipated only 10 acres of forest and now it was in excess of 20.*

*Responding to the statement that more trees would be planted later, the Mayor asked if more trees would also be cut down later. Mr. Binstock said he could not answer that now but that it was possible there would be, since they are in a forest.*

*Mr. Putens said that since the City had supported this project based on assumptions regarding anticipated wetlands mitigation and reforestation, the Council would like to be assured that these results would be achieved as part of the overall plan. Mayor Davis added that citizens have high expectations that government agencies will do the right thing. She said that although their plans for wetlands mitigation sounded good, the City would never approve this "non-reforestation plan" if it fell within the boundaries of Greenbelt. Ms. Williams said they would bring their reforestation and forest improvement plans back to Council, since they intend to do much more than had been conveyed but were not prepared tonight to present it.*

*Ms. Hruby commented that she thought it was likely the case that the county's requirements were stricter than the state's. Since GSFC was required to comply with federal and state regulations but not county regulations, the bar was not as high as the one to which Council was accustomed.*

*Noting that the Greenbelt/Good Luck intersection was a major school crossing, Mayor Davis encouraged GSFC to try to get the state to install "count down" lights there.*

*At the Mayor's request, Ms. Cherry gave a general update on activities at GSFC, including some "challenges" involving the budget and shifting programs. A positive development was that about 75 employees of NOAA—with which agency GSFC does collaborative weather mapping—were being brought to work on site at GSFC.*

*After brief mention of developments in Greenbelt West, Council thanked everyone for coming and asked to be kept up to date on other developments of the plan. The GSFC representatives left at about 8:20 p.m.*

### **Other Business**

*Ms. Mach had attended a COG Air Quality meeting and a meeting regarding establishing a local community foundation.*

*Mayor Davis warned other Councilmembers that because of requirements of the Patriot Act, changing a treasurer on a business account, including political accounts, has become a much more complicated and longer-term process than it used to be.*

*At the Mayor's request, Ms. Gallagher updated Council on problems that were occurring with vandalism to sign poles and theft of one campaign sign.*

*It was agreed to place the minutes of the August 31, 2005, work session back on the consent agenda of the October 10 regular meeting.*

*Mr. Putens said he would provide Council with additional information related to the revisions made to the ballot question on collective bargaining.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kathleen Gallagher  
City Clerk*