

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

PROJECT: Re-alignment of the P608 and D604 Greater Kokstad Municipality, Harry Gwala District Municipality		
Venue: Power of Prayer Crechè, Pakkies Farm	Date: 29 March 2023	Time: 11:50- 13:00

ATTENDEES*

*only those who spoke in the meeting, details of other attendees are indicated on the Attendance Register

Name, Surname and acronym for minutes purposes	Organisation and Designation	Email Address	Contact Number
Ntsebo Mkhize (NM)	Terratest (Pty) Ltd: Senior Environmental Assessment Practitioner	MkhizeN@terratest.co.za	033 343 6700, 072 550 9669
██████████ (MK1)	██████████	██████████	██████████
Michael Kanchwa (MK2)	Pakkies Farm Resident	██████████	██████████
██████████ (MJ1)	██████████	██████████	██████████
Pani Jafta (PJ1)			
██████████ (EM)	Pakkies Farm Resident	██████████	072 049 7828
██████████ (MP)	Pakkies Farm Resident	██████████	081 812 6884
██████████ (WJ)	██████████	-	-
██████████ (AJ)	██████████	-	-
██████████ (DJ)	██████████	-	-
██████████ (MJ2)	██████████	██████████	██████████
██████████ (PJ2)	██████████	-	-
██████████ (ZJ)	██████████	██████████	██████████

██████████ (MD)	██████████	-	██████████
██████████ (ZN)	██████████	-	-
██████████ (ES)	██████████	██████████	██████████

APOLOGIES

None provided or requested

MINUTES COMPILED BY:**

Ntsebo Mkhize, Terratest (Pty) Ltd: Senior Environmental Assessment Practitioner

** Proceedings were conducted in isiZulu, isiXhosa, Sesotho and English

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- 1. Welcome and introductions**
 - MK1 opened the meeting, welcomed all attendees and introduced NM
 - MK2 opened the meeting with prayer.

 - 2. Agenda**
 - None was agreed upon.

 - 3. Purpose of Meeting**

NM stated this as follows:

 - To present the proposed realignment of the P608 and D604 project and the required environmental approvals; and
 - To obtain comments, questions, concerns or other matters from the public

 - 4. Project Discussion**
 - NM discussed the project with the use of the project layout on the A2 copies of the Site Notice Board and outlined the following:
 - The project developer is the KwaZulu- Natal Department of Transport;
 - Roads will have support infrastructure, e.g. stormwater, road signs, etc.;
 - Motivation of the project is the high number of accidents that have occurred at the intersection of the N2 and D604 due to the steep slope on a curve and absence of turning lanes. Realignment of the D604 and P608 and new intersection on the N2 has been proposed;

- N2 intersection will be about 200m north of the Pink Church and will cater for the realignment of the D604 and P608, will have turning lanes in both directions of the road to ensure safety of motorists, the flat terrain of the area will also contribute to safety;
- The distance that one will cover along the new D604 route to the new intersection with the N2 will only differ by approximately 300m when compared to the current intersection of the D604 and N2.
- Due to some triggers on the project, an Environmental Authorisation (permission for the project to go ahead), as one of the various applications required on the project and handled by government departments, will need to be applied for with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs (EDTEA). This is because the proposed re-alignment will impact on the natural environment, e.g. streams;
- To obtain the Environmental Authorisation, a Basic Assessment process is required and will be handled by NKM as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner
- The Basic Assessment process will require notification of various Interested and Affected Parties to obtain the comments of the project and afford them an opportunity to ask questions;
- Previous application which covered some parts of the current project (excluded private access road to farm) was issued in 2017 and lapsed in 2022 as construction had not commenced on the project;
- Public need to be notified of the project,
 - Newspaper Advert- English advert was placed in Kokstad Advertiser (23.03.2023) and isiZulu advert was placed in Isolezwe (24.03.2023)
- A2 Site Notices will be placed in community, asked that these should not be removed;

5. Discussions

- 5.1 MJ1 expressed gratitude about the upcoming project and is grateful that jobs will be obtained. NM mentioned that all job opportunities will be handled by the KZNDOT in a separate platform.
- 5.2 PJ1 concerned about the additional distance that people, especially pedestrians, will need to walk before getting to Kargs Post road. While 300m was mentioned, the safety of people walking in remote area may be compromised. NM stated that while there will be a fence around the road, she has no response to the concern as no one can guarantee safety of people.
- 5.3 EM requested clarity regarding whether or not the section of the current D604 between the proposed turn off for the new section and the section up to the current intersection of the D604 and the N2 will be closed off. NM stated that this will be the case and if the landowner wishes to have a passage he may do so.

- 5.4 MP asked how the new intersection will differ for the current one. NM stated that one of the new features will be turning lanes to allow for vehicles to stop safely before turning. MK2 added that this will be different to the current intersection where turning lanes are absent.
- 5.5 WJ stated that the proposed project is a good idea as getting onto or off the N2 from the current intersection is problematic. WJ enquired about construction will commence based on notification on the day of the meeting. NM stated that the KZN DoT will determine the construction date. NM added that an environmental approval, one of the requirements for construction to start, was obtained in 2017 but it has lapsed. In the 2017 application, the road leading to Mr Bastard's property was not included in the layout. There are also new Environmental Consultants in the project and new Engineers. NM concluded by stating that when they started on the project, they were informed that the KZNDOT would like to start with construction urgently.
- 5.6 AJ mentioned that in his opinion the environmental processes is just a means to pass time while awaiting for construction to start as the process will not change anything as the layout has already been drafted. AJ enquired about why turning lanes cannot be created at the current intersection of the N2 and D604. The current intersection can be fixed. NM stated that the proposal by AJ will be discussed with the project Engineers.
- 5.7 DJ stated that the KZN DoT is 'selling away' people. DJ asked why people must be forced to walk among fields. The current road is already scary and if there is an incident at night on the new road there will be nowhere for them to hide unlike with the current situation where Max's place is available for them to get shelter in case on incidents. DJ asked if Max perhaps has something to benefit from the project. NM mentioned that according to the information she has received, the land to allow for the re-alignment has been donated to the KZNDOT by Max so there is no financial benefit. NM noted the issue of safety.
- 5.8 MK1 mentioned that the approach of the consultation is 'top-down' as affected people were not consulted before a decision was made. While the current intersection is unsafe, there must be ways to work around this to make it safe as the current proposal increases the distance that people will have to walk to get to the intersection with the N2 and cross fields. Earthworks should be explored at the current intersection. While it is well that max has donated land for the re-alignment, the money budgeted for this can be used towards the earthworks and redesign of the current intersection to make is safe and there might even be a cost saving. NM stated that what the KZN DoT has drafted is a proposal as one cannot come to people without a proposal on the table
- 5.9 MJ2 the proposed road is not safe, especially for ladies, and will be of a greater distance. It must be made compulsory for Max to open a passage for at least pedestrians to walk through his land to still access the current N2 and D604 interchange. NM stated that she will engage Max regarding the proposal.
- 5.10 PJ2 stated that walking within and around fields is too far and Max must allow people to walk through his land.

- 5.11 ZJ requested clarity on the closure of the section of Kargs Post. ZJ added that the road is long and safety is an issue that must be considered as some community members have to hike along the N2 as public transport is not available from 09:00. NM noted ZJ's comments.
- 5.12 MD mentioned that while there are numerous accidents at the intersection of the N2 and the D604, people should have been consulted before plans were made. NM noted the point.
- 5.13 ZN mentioned that the current road can be redesigned to avoid accidents. NM noted the point.
- 5.14 PJ1 asked that the project must be halted as consultation was inadequate.
- 5.15 ES stated that the KZNDOT did not consult will people upfront. The distance to the new intersection is far. Enquired if it was Max who said that the section of the D604 must be closed, if Max did not push for the project or did someone else come up with it. The current intersection can be revised as the proposal does not consider the safety of people. NM was not afforded an opportunity to respond to the comment as MK1 opened the floor of community announcements.
- 5.16 Various attendees gave community announcements that were not related to the project.

6. Closure

- MK1 closed the meeting and thanked all attendees for their availability. MK2 closed the meeting with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Name: Ntsebo Mkhize

Signature:

For: Terratest (Pty) Ltd

Date: 24.05.2023

Name: Malibongwe Kutshwa

Signature:

PP

For: Willowdale Housing

Date: 24.05.2023