

2015-10-13 North Avenue Task Force Meeting #7 at the Miller Center

NATF Attendance

Jason L'Ecuyer - Co-chair, Ward 7 Council Appointee

Paul Sisson - Co-chair, Ward 4 Council Appointee

Andrea Todd - Ward 3 NPA Appointee

Ben Bloom - Ward 3 NPA Alternate

Rich Nadworny - Ward 4 NPA Appointee

Patrick Kearney - Ward 4 NPA Alternate

RJ Lalumiere - Ward 7 NPA Appointee

Nicole Losch - Dept. of Public Works (DPW)

Jason Charest - Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)

Meagan Tuttle - Planning and Zoning (DPZ)

Community Attendance

Approximately 15-20 persons

Agenda

Housekeeping

- NATF members and public introduced themselves.
- Councillor Hartnett noted his previous commitment to help with outreach. Would like timeframe and materials for doing so.
- ACTION: Approved agenda without modification.
- ACTION: Approved September minutes without modification.
- Google Groups check-in - Everyone confirmed they are receiving emails sent to the group list.
- RJ Lalumiere volunteered to take notes.
- Next meeting is Nov. 10 2015 6-8PM at Miller Center.

Public Comments

- Question about how service vehicles (e.g., garbage trucks, buses) will handle the reconfiguration. Noted that this has been a topic of discussion for the Task Force at previous meetings.
- Noted that "before" travel time metrics have been collected already and will be recollected "after".
- "Looking forward to trying the pilot." Hoping more kids will bike to school cutting down on motor vehicle traffic.
- Would not let his kids bike on North Ave as it is; he himself rides it however. Doesn't feel safe - would like it to feel safer. Not a friendly place for cyclists.

- Rich Nadworny noted that we are looking to share models, designs, etc. imminently.
- Question was asked about timeline to begin implementation. Nicole Losch stated late spring 2016 at the earliest.
- Noted that crossing guards can affect traffic, may want to measure their impact and impact from additional crosswalks.
- Noted that the last two weeks of school for Burlington High School are a special project time with non-representative traffic patterns. Jason Charest from CCRPC replied that this was taken into account when doing observations and that the Institute Rd area was prioritized for measurement at the beginning of the data collection.

Proposal to Phase In Pilot

- Nicole Losch said if the VT 127 intersection is done first there may be negative perceptions. Noted that a citizen question “Why not just do Ethan Allen Parkway to Shore Rd first?” prompted the suggestion to phase in the pilot.
- Noted that this refers specifically to the VT 127 to Shore Rd four lane segment. Other segments’ implementation would proceed in parallel.
- Arguments made for both implementing two phases and doing it all at once.
- Phased in: More gentle, allow for acclimation, greater certainty of handling the lower traffic volumes of the Ethan Allen Pkwy to Shore Rd section (well below capacity for the design, opposed to being closer to the design capacity in VT 127 to Ethan Allen Pkwy section), magnitude of changes needed at the VT 127 intersection (Jason Charest drew diagram to illustrate the changes)
- All at once: Systemic issues need to be addressed comprehensively, more confusion making multiple sets of changes.
- Stated support for each position seemed near equal.
- ACTION: Agreed to brainstorm arguments for each position and vote on the matter next meeting.

Measurement of Resident Feedback

- Deadline: Recommend plan to City Council in December.
- Who is the public which is giving input? “Everyone who uses North Ave?”, e.g., “8-80”?
- How do we maximize participation?
 - Desire to make sure folks at senior centers, schools, community gathering places, etc. have a chance to give their input.
 - Mailed survey? Skepticism expressed about response rates.
 - Twitter sentiment algorithms that have been developed by UVM?
 - Text message feedback?
 - Tablet voting?
 - Must have both online and offline modes for providing feedback.
- Andrea Todd will be at Burlington High School on 10/22/2015 at 08:00 for a presentation on transportation and the impact of place on students. Invited other Task Force members to attend.
- Definitely looking for more brainstorming and community input on the matter.

Outreach Updates

- How did the community members hear about the meeting?
 - Signs on North Ave
 - A couple folks said Front Porch Forum
 - Seven Days
 - NPA
 - Prior public meetings
- NATF would like to do several outreach activities:
 - Hannafords outreach
 - Lawn signs
 - More visuals in general
 - 10/29/2015 & 11/5/2015 15:30-17:30 Radar gun activity at Ward St, Washington St, Institute Rd. Interest was expressed in also a point in the VT 127 to Ethan Allen Pkwy section as that is where the highest average speeds have been observed.
 - Pedestrian Challenge: How long to legally cross from Thayer Common to Ethan Allen Residence. Public suggestion to also observe the morning school crossings.
 - Video documentations: all modes current conditions, animations of changes, outreach
 - Counterpoint traffic counting: Smart phone app that allows anyone to measures all modes anytime. Need to set a couple dates and prepare a quick training.
- Noted that between Pat Kearney and Jason L'Ecuyer both Wards 4 & 7 can be covered in Front Porch Forum. Ward 3 coverage was not noted.

Literature Update

- Having card/pamphlet designed for handing out to explain the project and solicit input.
- \$1500 grant from AARP for printing/website/outreach.
- Ben Bloom designing outreach website.
- Target date for materials is first week of November.

On Street Parking Report

- The ~200 residences on North Ave in the areas where it is suggested on street parking be removed, Institute Rd to Vt 127 and Shore Rd to Plattsburgh Ave with the exception of St. Marks, have had letters sent from the City late last week. Only one citizen from that cohort has contacted the city so far.
- Jason L'Ecuyer spoke to the priest at St. Mark's explaining the parking plan and he had no issue and was willing to let us put a flyer about the project in the back and he would let parishioners know it was available.
- Potential to connect with schools to distribute info as well (Newsletters, PTO, etc.)

Actions Taken

- Approved agenda without modification.
- Approved September minutes without modification.
- Agreed to brainstorm arguments for each position and vote on the matter next meeting.