

2016-01-12 North Avenue Task Force Meeting #10 at 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)
Marshall Distal - Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)
Kirsten Merriman-Shapiro - Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO)

City Council Attendance

Tom Ayres - Ward 7

Community Attendance

Approximately 12 persons

Agenda

Housekeeping

- North Avenue Task Force (NATF) introduction by Jason L'ecuyer.
- NATF members and public introduced themselves.
- ACTION: Approved agenda without modification.
- ACTION: Approved December minutes without modification.
- RJ Lalumiere volunteered to take notes.
- Next meeting is Feb. 9 2016 6-8PM at the Miller Center.

Public Comments

- Man liked the cross section diagrams, but wanted info on the crosswalks that will be added.
 - Nicole Losch noted that in 2013 City applied for a grant for 5 new crosswalks and it was awarded, but it is a slow process. City is trying to see if any of them can be put in with the pilot project. Gave the 5 locations.
 - Rich Nadworny thought maybe a picture with their locations would help. Noted we could add that to the website.
 - Nicole Losch said that crosswalks would get their own meeting when more is known. Still in the design review process.
- Man wondered about Washington St to North St.
 - Nicole Losch noted only changes are SB sharrows and narrowing NB lane

- Tom Ayres noted that he has heard some misunderstanding about where funding is coming from (i.e., federal funding) although it is city and state (grant) funded. He thinks it would be good to make that info abundantly clear.
- Ken Peterson wondered about where runners and skateboarders go.
- Liam Griffin had a question about intersection treatments and when that info would be available; e.g., Village Green turn lane lengths.
 - Nicole was hoping to bring that info in Feb but now it is looking like March meeting will have that info available.
- Rich Nadworny had a Q about bike lane markings through intersections.
 - Nicole said striping will be continued but not green paint.
- Andrea had a question about simulation on side street left turn outs.
 - Marshall Distal said not at this time.
- Gary Dion has lived here ~40 years, talked to Rich at last NPA. Neutral. Believes in 2012 city commissioned NPA to form a committee to get input. 2014 all the info that gathered went to city council. Kurt and Dave had to vote for it to get an amendment. People in NNE aren't here because of the Mayor and the agenda to reconfigure N Ave w/o the general public knowing what is going on. Heard about it at the store. Today has been working on the petition to put it on the ballot. At Heineberg Sr Ctr playing bingo; Chapin Spencer went there and talked to the people there. They are scared. Last friday granddaughter on her way home off Plattsburgh Ave, she's going north and got in a collision. Throw a bike lane in there all you're doing is adding another hazard. It's dangerous. At 802BWS with petition, guy said yes I'll sign it.
 - Rich stopped him there in the interest of time.
 - Gary "It's not over yet. Turned it into turmoil. They were not informed of what you are doing."
 - Liam "How do you know if something is going taste good if you've not tried it?"
 - Gary went on about scofflaw cyclists.
- Ron McGarvey move on to the business.
- Ken Peterson Williston Rd has way more traffic than here and loves the Center Turn Lane portion. Any time you can give cyclists their own space out of the way he loves it. "Let's give it a try."

Councilor Comments

- Tom Ayres - no more comments.

Public input proposal

- Copies of the proposal were distributed.
- Rich Nadworny gave background. It says clearly in the resolution that we need to gather public input to gauge the success or failure and if opposed the pilot will be reversed. This is a draft for a plan on how to do that. How can we get as many people of possible to give input? Who are all the people who could be affected? Residents, people who work here, children who go to school and parks, etc. 10.5K residents alone. Goal is to get 50-70% of those folks to give responses. 6-8 weeks combination of online, in person and

phone surveys. Targeted outreach through city bills, AARP/Senior homes, etc. If successful framework may be used for future projects.

- Tom Ayres asked who from the City has seen this.
 - Nicole Losch noted that only her so far. Vetting with Task Force then will be brought to the city.
- Rich Nadworny noted many folks in the city have survey expertise. We need to be able to validate the data, protect privacy and avoid ballot stuffing.
- Jason L asked that everyone has read it?
- Jason L'Ecuyer does the city have a good idea on how to get the right people doing the survey? How do we validate the data Tom Ayres (e.g., redundancy)?
 - Rich Nadworny "How do we craft the survey? Have to work with professionals to develop this. Not counting double is an open question.
- Tom Ayres asked how do you deal with disconnects between quantitative vs. qualitative data?
 - noted that this will be based on people's' experience
 - Rich Nadworny noted that pre-survey will also be done
- Man asked from village green, walks/bikes/runs/drives; survey should reflect that folks get around all ways.
- Gary D - currently raining/snowing, lines are not clear. Maybe the city reevaluates how striping is done to be reflective.
- Jason L'Ecuyer asked Tom Ayres, with Dave Hartnett and Kurt Wright, trying to suss out how we'll measure things. Kurt said we need something in front of city c as to how we're measuring input and how it will be provided.
 - Tom Ayes said we want to see both kinds of info. Hasn't seen anything to suggest we won't get that.
- Andrea Todd noted we are breaking new ground with this public input effort. This is an ambitious first step. It is a big challenge.
- Jason L'Ecuyer seeing 3 things: have to decide if demographics appropriate, method, and recommended time frame.
- Andrea Todd would like to add to who are we going to talk to. SA and IAA should be added to school list.
- Jason L'Ecuyer re: timeframe 4-6 months
 - Nicole Losch noted that DPW will be accepting public comments the whole time.
 - Andrea Todd asked for clarification on schedule.
 - Tom Ayres said resolution does not specify 4 month report form; he expects mostly quantitative.
 - GD when Barbara Grime was on BED they wanted to save some money so they turned the lights out. Had a survey, but no one saw it. Including it with bills is a good way to get it out.
- Lady asked who we have doing this? Hopefully someone experienced.
 - Rich Nadworny said hopefully a team from the city. Unique opportunity to build relationships with in city talent.

- Tom Ayres said 4 month will not likely pull the plug unless there are clear quantitative problems.
- Tom Ayres said it is important to go through all seasons as part of the pilot.
- Lady noted that short term changes can be volatile at first.
 - Nicole Losch said yes, that is why the city does not want to run, e.g, a 30 day pilot.
- GD asked that when survey is done, reference dorset st MUP.
 - Rich Nadworny said it would be good to have someone from the anti camp help develop the survey.
- Jason L'Ecuyer re: method. Likes it generally because it is ambitious. Can do in person, mailing, online, paper.
- Tom Ayres asked if we've talked to UVM about consulting on the survey process. City will be concerned about the cost if it is too big.
 - Rich Nadworny noted that code BTV, ignite BTV, etc. may also be tapped.
 - Nicole Losch noted that city has request in to CCRPC to help cover the costs.
- KMS said yes it is ambitious. Will need to look to other community partners. Making an honest effort to get to everyone.
- Jason L'Ecuyer asked if approved?
 - All agreed.
- Lady asked about people who don't speak english as their first language.
 - Noted that is not currently addressed.

Public outreach check-in

- Rich Nadworny asked about todo's?
 - Jason L'Ecuyer said he checked in with St Marks. Andrea Todd and Jason L'Ecuyer are to touch the schools.
 - Rich Nadworny asked about Hannaford's? PS will talk to them.
 - Andrea Todd wanted to make calendar.
- Pat K asked about parking discussion at Public Works Commission.
 - Noted that recommendation to remove was approved.
- Nicole Losch will continue to look into the utility mailings and crosswalk info.
- Andrea Todd and Jason L'Ecuyer to go to PTO's
- Paul Sisson will do handouts at Shopping Center 1/25-1/26
- Nicole Losch said that she can send informational emails for the group.
- Rich Nadworny noted that they can go on the website in the Events section.
- Rich Nadworny said if you are part of a group and would like us to speak just let us know.
- Rich Nadworny noted AARP is planning to do direct outreach in the spring.
- Rich Nadworny would still like to try the "pilot of the pilot" e.g., in Leddy Park parking lot mock up the configuration.
- Rich Nadworny noted Del Pozo said there is some money for bike safety outreach.
- Rich Nadworny said today there was a press conference at City Hall to officially launch www.avenueforeveryone.com . Rich Nadworny, Kelly Stoddard-Poor from AARP and

Dave Hartnett, (someone else?) and the Mayor. Major local outlets all showed up, BFP, WPTZ. Already been shown on WPTZ.

- Ron McGarvey volunteered to distribute flyers to Lakewood neighborhood.
- Nicole Losch applied for grant from American Planning Assoc and got another \$750 for NATF.
- Tom Ayres asked if doing anything like “breakfast with the mayor”?
 - Jason L'Ecuyer said he might be able to do that.
- Ron McGarvey noted non-native speakers was mentioned; need to ID folks to interface with them. FPF one of the best ways to get the word out; ongoing frequent notice about the website would be desirable. Also North Ave News.
 - PK said parking changes could be noted in FPF and NAN.
- Petition is proceeding, but regardless it does not affect NATF’s work; advisory only, before pilot tho CC said after, etc.

Project schedule check-in

- What will the bike lanes look like?
 - Nicole Losch said the City will re-pave a portion of the eastern most lane. Will regard it after the winter to see how bad it is. General paving budget does not have the funds for FY16, would not happen until July, but if other funding is found could be done concurrently.
- GD asked about fixing the drains at the same time.
- Nicole Losch trying to get the designer onboard.
- Talking to contractors in March.

Actions Taken

- Approved agenda without modification.
- Approved December minutes without modification.
- Approved draft Public Input Plan.