

North Avenue Task Force

Kick-Off Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2015

Present:

Andrea Todd, Ward 3 NPA
Rich Nadworny, Ward 4 NPA
RJ LaLumier, Ward 7 NPA
Justine Sears, Ward 3
Paul Sisson, Ward 4
Jason L'Ecuyer, Ward 7
Jon Moore, CCTA
Marty Spaulding, School District

Barry Simays, Fire Department
Sandrine Thibault, Planning & Zoning
Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, CEDO
Nicole Losch, DPW
Eleni Churchill, CCRPC staff
Pat Kearney, Ward 4 alternate
Muffie Milens, Ward 7 alternate

Next meeting: TBD, roughly 6 weeks away

I. Task Force Introductions

Agenda approved. Homework was appreciated.

II. Task Force Workplan & Roles

Task Force: Operating Guidelines were informally approved. Reached consensus on leadership concept. Will discuss election of Chair and Vice Chair at next meeting, by nomination or self-nomination.

Immediate workplan: Pilot project, 5 new crosswalks – public process and decisionmaker consultation will need to be defined and incorporated.

Discussed public process needs:

- Public should know of the project and should be involved;
- Public outreach should happen as much as possible;
- Outreach shouldn't be words, talk, and Powerpoints but should focus on how to let the public work together;
- North Ave Corridor Study process didn't articulate the problem enough so improvements were seen as bikes taking over;
- Public outreach at the same times and same days every time don't work;
- Public outreach should be led by the NATF.

III. Public Comments

No members of the public today. Future meetings should be advertised.

IV. Pilot Project Preparation

(Meeting materials viewable in Meeting Packet).

Videos from Dan Burden, VTrans, and CA to illustrate what road diets are and introduce measurables. Defined pilot project. Discussed North Ave schedule. Discussed typical project flow chart, identified current steps.

Introduced measurables and metrics:

- crashes / observational safety improvements (frequency, type, location, severity, modes),
- traffic speeds (85th percentile, % vehicles at high speeds),
- traffic volumes (all modes),
- traffic operations (including Rt 127),
- intersection operations (level of service, queues),
- travel times,
- quality of service (all modes),
- level of comfort,
- transit operations,
- emergency vehicle operations,
- two-way-left-turn-lane operations,
- public perception (livability of corridor, survey)

Discussed metrics:

- crashes will be difficult to measure in 4 months;
- 1-year pilot?;
- base metrics on data that is regularly collected;
- Rt 127 counts should include Plattsburg Ave intersection;
- travel times need to be presented with speed data;
- BFD response times acknowledging dispatcher response times vary so numbers can't be compared 1:1;
- crash severity from BFD – work with Barry on crash data;
- CCTA on-time performance in addition to general operational impacts;
- CCTA ridership;
- bike counts on and off road;
- crash data needs to be evaluated from defined time period
- BFD approval needed for any changed in public roadway, interested in signal pre-emption

Identified additional metrics:

- # of public participants, # of outreach efforts, types of outreach – show transparency;
- traffic violations (acknowledging the data may be subjective);
- road conditions? More biking = less driving = less wear and tear on the road? – potential long-term measurable;
- randomized public survey in addition to online;
- "counterpoint" data collection;
- # of cars dropping off at schools;
- % kids walking & biking; business impacts;
- building permits and commercial vacancies (measure growth – may be long-term metric);
- qualitative transit rider survey;

- # of emergency vehicles;
- on-the-ground conversations with neighbors;
- parking utilization

Introduced data collection plan: turning movements/counts (all modes) at all signalized intersections, bike counts (on/off road) by video near schools

Identified data needed while school is in session: bikes, bikes/peds through intersection counts

Identified side streets to evaluate: Leddy Park Road, Village Green / Killarney, Saratoga Ave

Discussions to continue next time:

- walking is low-hanging fruit – can install crosswalks sooner than grant-funded installation, or install some with pilot?
- Rt 127 proposed ramp removal is problematic and will skew perception of lane reassignment. Need to discuss design details, phased approach with other pilot improvements, separate public feedback on intersection from other pilot improvements.
- BFD signal pre-emption?

Task Force homework:

- public outreach schedule and ideas?
- Identify what people will push back on.
- Advertise meeting on FPF, NPAs, social media.

DPW/Staff homework:

- Next meeting: RT 127 details, crosswalk details, how business impacts may be measured, public process conversation, metrics in more detail
- Website/forum/group development. DPW working on interactive website / blog. No interest in static website. Can create Google group for communication?
- Draft minutes
- Advertise meeting on government calendar, social media
- Doodle poll for next meeting 6-weeks away. Mondays 6-8pm work well but avoid City Council, NPA, Planning Commission.
- Add into metrics:
 - o Rt 127 counts should include Plattsburg Ave intersection;
 - o travel times need to be presented with speed data;
 - o BFD dispatcher response times vary so numbers can't be compared 1:1;
 - o CCTA on-time performance;
 - o CCTA ridership;
 - o crash data needs to be evaluated from defined time period
 - o BFD signal pre-emption?
 - o # of public participants, # of outreach efforts, types of outreach;

- traffic violations (acknowledging the data may be subjective);
- road conditions? More biking = less driving = less wear and tear on the road? – potential long-term measurable;
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