

North Avenue Task Force

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2015

Attendees	Absentees
Andrea Todd, Ward 3 NPA Rich Nadworny, Ward 4 NPA RJ LaLumier, Ward 7 NPA Paul Sisson, Ward 4 Jason L'Ecuyer, Ward 7 Pat Kearney, Ward 4 alternate Nicole Losch, DPW CCRPC staff Eleni Churchill, Jason Charest, Chris Dubin, Marshall Distel	Barry Simays, Fire Department Sandrine Thibault, Planning & Zoning Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, CEDO Justine Sears, Ward 3 Muffie Milens, Ward 7 alternate Marty Spaulding, School District Jon Moore, CCTA

I. Housekeeping

Introductions. Agenda approved. March minutes approved with correction: metrics should include business financials, self-reported increase/decrease in business to assess changes.

II. Leadership

Nominees elected: Jason L'Ecuyer, Chair, and Paul Sisson, Vice Chair

III. Public Comments

Katelin Brewer Colie: Local Motion staff, advocate, land use planner. Experience with road diets in Pacific northwest, more than traffic metrics; benefits for livability, operations, safety; metrics should include livability, #s of bikes & peds, # of people out. Offers guidance as needed.

Liam Griffin: regarding business metric, Rutland's businesses with negative reactions were automobile-based – gas stations, auto repairs – so differentiate between businesses when compiling data; clarify intentions for parking on North Ave north of Shore Road and south of Route 127? (Response from Nicole: per North Ave resolution, "no parking on at least one side" and "where width and parking allows adding buffering and protection for bike lanes on bike lanes" so intent is to assess parking and make the final determination for parking on one side or no parking on-street; counts and observations in 2015)

Russell Moore (Ward 7): wondering when project will happen and how the planning is happening; lives in Lakewood Estates and uses bike path – could that just be maintained in winter? Consider road registration fee for bicyclists to offset gas tax that funds improvements.

IV. Data Collection Update

Jason Charest introduced data to be collected by Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) and the collection schedule. (Materials available in meeting packet)

Q&A and discussions:

Do travel times include bike travel times? Many factors can impact travel times for bicyclists and are very interpersonal. Could review bike speeds or could select bicyclists to measure their own travel times before/after. *When and where should bike counts be done?* South of BHS counts should be done in June 2015. Count on and off road. 1 manual count near Hunt School. 2 video counts at north of 127 intersection and north of Ethan Allen Shopping Center.

Reviewed "Pilot Project Metrics" spreadsheet – will be a living document as project continues.

V. Pilot Project Planning

Public Outreach:

- materials / tabling at Hannaford, CSA drop offs, school pick/up drop offs, PTOs;
- monthly bike rides, driving ride-alongs, walking tours – start with "here's where data is being collected"
- FAQs about road diets for city website
- Support for data collection – need update on where we are in the process
- 1-on-1 ethnography of a few people as case studies
- Surveys, in-person "interviews" before and after

Rt. 127 Intersection:

- Challenges: ramp removal during road diet pilot will skew perception of road diet, 4-lanes is troublesome for merging at intersection (especially for bikes), without 3-lanes merging will happen near Saratoga Ave (increasing delay at side streets)
- Watched Synchro video simulation of "after" ramp removal – includes pedestrians, doesn't include CCTA stop – includes No Right Turn on Red (NRTR) for westbound lane to show worst case scenario delays
 - o Average PM peak delay (heaviest traffic) 50 seconds
 - o Q&A: having westbound stops will be seen as a negative impact, getting whole project off on negative foot; summer planning while school is out? 3-months seems to short, can stay for 6-months?

VI. Next Steps

Next meeting: before last week of June, before 5/7 NPA

Next agenda (as time allows)

- Rt 127 details
- Parking assessment schedule
- Crosswalk grant details, schedule
- Tools to measure business impacts
- Rutland details
- Data updates

Task Force homework:

- Jason L. will ask FPF re: access for NATF
- Rich will ask Cliff re: North Ave News column options
- RJ will create Google Group

DPW/Staff/CVC homework:

- Add North Ave project link to DPW homepage
- Send Advisory Committee list as Excel file
- Share online survey used for Colchester / Pearl / Prospect intersection
- Update project spreadsheet with outreach tool, data needs, and schedule for each item
- Poster-size cross sections and 4-lane aerial photo for NPA
- Update Synchro file
 - o add CCTA stop southbound at Alliance church
 - o create model without porkchop island
 - o show delays with current alignment, pork chop island, no pork chop island, with/out NRTR
- FAQs on road diets for website
- "Where we are" update blurb
- Can 127 pilot stay for 6 months, over winter?

Don't forget...

- Can signals be timed for bike travel?
- Graphic presentation with North Ave facts for flyers
- Before outreach: survey perceptions