

North Avenue Task Force  
 Meeting Minutes  
 June 15, 2015

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

I. Housekeeping

Introductions. Agenda approved. May minutes approved with correction: Russell Moore is Ward 7. Google Groups signups are making progress. RJ can directly add new members and will resend invite.

II. Public Comments

Chair: public comments will be allowed at any point during the meeting.

Jason Van Driesche, Local Motion: suggestion for fall pilot to include video of intersection before/after for easy visual review of impacts rather than just perceptions and hard data.

III. Data Collection Update

Nicole: DPW intern has begun parking inventories between Shore Rd to Plattsburg Ave and Rt 127 to Institute Rd, three times of day and Sundays. Very, very little parking has been observed during the weekdays so far.

Suggestion: include parking lot of St. Mark's and Shore Rd. to assess availability off of North Ave on Sundays.

RPC: intersection counts underway for cars, peds, bikes. Travel times and side street delays begin next week. Will send data to post online.

Andrea will consult with Jason at RPC and will begin travel times by bike.

IV. Pilot Project Planning

Rt. 127 Intersection

- Traffic trends:
  - o 8 am peak but very brief, roughly 480 vehicles
  - o 4:45 – 5:45 pm peak, longer but still roughly vehicles

- Simulation of PM peak: removed porkchop island, retimed signal, added advanced ped phase; some cars are numbered to follow and track the longest queues
  - o Northbound may wait 2 cycles, 1 min 34 seconds max – area of longest queues
  - o Westbound may wait 2 cycles = 1 min. 46 seconds max
  - o Eastbound 50 seconds max

Discussion: show simulation outside of peak to see more of the average travel experience. Post simulation online with introduction about improvements and a graphic. Include AM peak also. Is turning radius for northbound traffic okay? Jason will check. Do we need or can we have signal pre-emption?

- Data collection will also include Plattsburg Ave before Rt. 127 and North Ave/127 ramps to gauge any change in volume of cars leaving North Ave for Rt 127
- Level of Service (LOS) analysis – note urban LOS design for C or D, and F is okay in some places
  - o LOS now
    - Southbound A
    - Eastbound D
    - Northbound B
    - Westbound A headed northbound and D for left/through
  - o LOS changes
    - Southbound A for right/through and D left
    - Eastbound C
    - Northbound B for left turn, D for through/right
    - Westbound C headed northbound and D for left/through
      - Most substantial change is westbound for left/through, going from almost 0 delay to 43.4 seconds average
  - o General message: (put a positive spin on everything!)
    - now waiting about 30 seconds to travel through this intersection, after the change the wait will be about 40 seconds during the PM peak, or at worst 2 light cycles (one and a half minutes) – focus on times, not “delay”
    - Emphasize benefits (it’s hard to tell the positive side of this project...) – designing the intersection for what is an acceptable design for urban areas; take 15 seconds from your commute to improve pedestrian safety and safer bicycling
      - People walking will have 2 fewer crossings, advanced walk timing, all controlled crossings
      - People bicycling will have 2 fewer crossings, all controlled crossings

Discussion: any similar intersections with similar delays? Eleni will look into it. Public’s #1 worry is backups and delays. What if we don’t do this in advance? Any backups at intersection will be seen as delay from road diet. Does this have to happen in the fall? We’re still planning for it but it is not set in stone. Discussing with Mayor next week. Will set up time for Mayor with Jason and Paul. How can we make the times relatable? Pop songs?

## V. Focus Groups

Forums: Andrea, will post ideas online (targeting Neighborhood News, NPAs, FPF, Open house, meetings)

Messaging: Rich, Andrea – will post ideas online

Metrics: RJ

Discussion: July 24 deadline for Neighborhood News. Link to website on agenda doesn't work.

## VI. Next Steps

Next meeting: July 14, August 11, September 15. Prefer Miller Center if available.

### Task Force homework:

- Focus groups
  - o Draft text for Neighborhood News July edition
  - o How can we make the travel times relatable? Pop songs?

### DPW/Staff homework:

- Parking inventory: include parking lot of St. Mark's and Shore Rd.
- Post simulation online with introduction about improvements and a graphic
- RPC:
  - o Send data to post online
  - o Send simulations
  - o Simulation of AM peak also
  - o Is turning radius for northbound traffic okay?
  - o Do we need or can we have signal pre-emption?
  - o Any similar intersections with similar delays?
- Set up time for Mayor with Jason and Paul
- Fix link to website on agenda