

East Side Trail Connections Stakeholder Meeting – July 5 at 6:30pm (Zoom)

In Attendance:

Ashley Smith

Paige Pryor

Stephanie Barber-Geter

Stephanie Lee

Allison DeHoney

Ellen Harris-Harvey

Angie Davis Leveritte

Jasmine Westbrook

Dr. Callie Johnson

Stephen Arlington

I. Project Team Updates

A. Addition of two new stakeholders:

1. Stephen Arlington of University Heights Collaborative
2. Dr. Callie Johnson, Director of Communications and Community Engagement at Albright Knox

B. Departure of Paige Pryor, GObike's Community Engagement Manager

1. Last day will be July 29, though invites will be circulated to this group for a send-off on July 28.
2. Next stakeholder meeting will likely be introducing new staff to take over the engagement role for the EST project
3. Call to this group for qualified applicants for the newly vacated position

II. Reconvening and Space to Discuss May 14

A. How have the events of May 14 shaped your perception and association with this project?

1. A. Leveritte emphasized the importance of sustainability and maintenance for these trails—project plans need to be able to sustain the facility for years to come and prevent things from being neglected or falling into disrepair
 - a) Residents across the city, especially those living in the East Side deserve the same opportunities for greenspace and recreation
 - b) Being able to plan for long term

2. A. DeHoney brought up the importance of mental health and how these trails would be a great resource for healing and social interaction
 - a) The East Side needs beautiful green spaces and places for inspiration or contemplation
3. Potential for memorializing the victims of May 14
 - a) Waiting for direction from the victims' families and how they'd want their family members to be remembered
 - b) Different ideas of memorials or objects to pay tribute to the victims
 - (1) And to acknowledge the survivors and Tops employees affected by the attack

III. Scheduling Public Meetings and Site Visit

- A. Looking to schedule next stakeholder meeting, hopefully to coincide with a site visit with the engineer for our project team
- B. Separately, looking to set dates and locations for 2 public corridor tours, which will serve as initial public meetings for the planning project.
 1. Saturday, July 30, 12p-3p at William L. Gaiter Parkway
 2. Wednesday, August 17, 5p-8p at Scajaquada Creek Trail
- C. S. Barber-Geter wanted to define how these public meetings would be utilized, in terms of our engagement process.
 1. Per the project team, these public meetings will absolutely serve as the initial public awareness for the project (original public meeting date was scheduled for May 28)
 2. It will serve to introduce our project to the public, hear from people and hopefully elicit some feedback
- D. E. Harris-Harvey suggested having bikes or bike rental present at these public meetings
 1. Looking to have a presence from the East Side Bike Club and/or ReddyBikeshare present at these public meetings
- E. E. Harris-Harvey mentioned that National Night Out occurs on Aug 2.
- F. A. Leveritte would prefer July 30 as the day for the William L. Gaiter location, because their monthly block club meeting will occur on July 30.
- G. S. Barber-Geter brought up the idea of having wildlife or environmental control representatives
- H. S. Barber-Geter asked who owns/maintains the parkway?
 1. A. Leveritte offered that the Chevy/American Axle plant once owned, then OSC has control over the parcel near the parking lot, potentially owned by the railroad company?—expressing general confusion over

who has responsibility for maintenance of the trail: private companies or the City of Buffalo?

2. S. Barber-Geter hoping to have involvement from the City's Department of Public Works—Michael Finn
- I. Separating out National Night Out, from the public meeting events
 1. GObike supporting block clubs with their own National Night Out events, but still having dedicated public meeting events (July 30 and August 17)
- J. A. Smith brought up the "community" ownership component of this project.
 1. Project engineer will look to survey the land use and ownership maps, to figure out who exactly owns what
 2. Defining what the maintenance plans or responsibility plans could ideally look like for this project
 3. S. Barber-Geter discusses a community benefits agreement that was likely in place as the parkway was renamed for William L. Gaiter
- K. A. Hall asks Dr. C. Johnson about availability for the Art Truck at the public meeting
- L. S. Barber-Geter discusses the passing of Pastor Gillison, a prominent faith leader in the Delavan-Grider community
 1. Recognizing and memorializing Pastor Gillison at the public meeting

IV. NYSERDA Project Proposal

- A. NYSERDA Clean Neighborhoods Challenge proposal was submitted, with gratitude for the letters of support from this stakeholder committee
 1. Money coming from this opportunity will be instrumental in funding the long term maintenance goals and structures for this project, specifically in terms of resourcing the capacity within the communities and neighborhoods impacted by the construction of these trails
- B. Project team is led by LISC WNY, but includes GObike, Shared Mobility, Inc., the East Side Bike Club, Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc. (HOCN), Coalition for Economic Justice (CEJ), and the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC)
- C. NYS Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) award was granted to the City of Buffalo for the Scajaquada Creek Trail Extension to rebuild, but the grant period is up to 10 years for spending the money

V. Remaining Business

- A. Rescheduled William L. Gaiter clean-up with Tool Library on July 9 at 10am
- B. EST project team to meet with the Department of Public Works on July 12

- C. Requesting video interviews from stakeholders at upcoming outreach/engagement events they plan to attend
- D. Sending out preliminary survey results and data to stakeholders

VI. Next Steps

- A. Following up with Dr. Johnson about Albright Knox's presence at the upcoming public meetings (July 30 and August 17)
- B. Discussing the presence of a community benefits agreement regarding William L. Gaiter parkway, with City of Buffalo officials
- C. Schedule the next stakeholder meeting—ideally as a site visit.