

East Side Trail Connections Stakeholder Meeting - March 22, 2022 at 6pm
(Zoom)

In Attendance:

Ashley Smith
Kevin Heffernan
Paige Pryor
Arthur Hall
Stephanie Barber-Geter
Stephanie Lee
Steven Butler
Allison DeHoney
Sarah Dance (in for Robert Mootry)
LaTasha Bulluck
Ellen Harris-Harvey
Jasmine J. Westbrook
Nolan Kikula (Intern)
Deeksha Nagaraj

I. Introductions

- A. GObike Team
 - 1. Ashley Smith, Deputy Director
 - 2. Kevin Heffernan, Communications Director
 - 3. Paige Pryor, Community Engagement Coordinator
- B. Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc. (HOCN) Team
 - 1. Stephanie Simeon (not present), Executive Director
 - 2. Arthur Hall, Jr., Founder, Hallmark Planning & Development, LLC
- C. New Stakeholders
 - 1. Ellen Harris-Harvey
 - a) President of the Trinidad Neighborhood Association
 - 2. Jasmine J. Westbrook
 - a) Buffalo Urban League Young Professionals

II. Project Updates - Community Engagement

- A. Project logo was created, which was used in the graphic design for the direct mailing.
 - 1. Design for the direct mailing has been sent to the printer, where we will employ the US Postal Service's "Every Door Direct Mailing" option.

2. All households on postal routes with the following zip codes will receive the direct mail that introduces the project and provides action items to give feedback through the digital engagement site: 14208, 14211, 14215, and 14214, east of Main St
3. Looking for a response rate of 10-15% of the total population in these neighborhoods (¼ mile radius from project site), which is about 22,000 people.
4. Will identify several spots (community centers, libraries, small businesses, etc) for individual drops of the mailer
5. Looking for stakeholders to identify people in their own communities and networks to push these flyers/mailers out and canvass their neighborhoods
 - a) Continued focus around keeping the engagement for this project local and community focused, as opposed to opening up to the broader GObike community and to the rest of the city
6. Looking to meet with stakeholders separately, in order to train them on how to use the digital engagement platform

III. Introducing Case Studies

- A. Compiled examples (from Alta Planning + Design) of trail projects around the country, with specifics to the main components of our own planning process, which include a sustainable maintenance plan, and an equitable development plan to understand the things we need to implement, in order to ensure limits of displacement and gentrification
- B. Stakeholders will be sent the full memo of the compiled case studies and asked to identify certain examples for further research and review
- C. The following are examples of similar trail projects (in size and scope) around the country:
 1. Beerline Trail, Milwaukee WI
 2. Metropolitan Branch Trail, DC
 3. Robert Pira Trail, St. Paul MN
 4. South End Connector, Albany NY
 5. Atlanta Beltline, Atlanta GA
 6. Genesee Riverway Trail, Rochester NY
 7. Durham Belt Line, Raleigh-Durham NC
 8. South Charlotte Connector, Charlotte NC

IV. Questions/Open Discussion

- A. Ms. Barber-Geter asks about accommodations on trails/bike paths for e-bikes, along with questions about the Fillmore Business association, the Jefferson Business association, and contacting Sydney Brown and Dwayne (?) for another business association (continued discussions with the business community around these locations), and the inclusion of food carts/stands along the trail
- B. Ms. Lee asked whether or not existing bike lanes along the street will go away when the trail is implemented
 - 1. No, the trail is to complement and connect the existing bike lanes, and ideally, will push for safer on-street connections and bike lanes around the city. GObike's role is to advocate for both, off-road facilities that are separate from vehicle traffic questions *and* for improved streetscapes around town.
- C. Ms. Barber-Geter asks about the visioning statement for this project, especially as it relates to her own work with the ROCC. Looking to incorporate and integrate the trail project with the project to restore the Humboldt Parkway
- D. Ms. Lee would like to visit the project site itself, in order to visualize the locations of the trail and project site
 - 1. Art Hall and Ashley Smith mention plans of a stakeholder site visit/tour of the trail, as well as an engagement opportunity with the Tool Library for a tree planting event on the William L. Gaiter Parkway in May
- E. Ms. DeHoney asks about a maintenance plan for the project
- F. Ms. Westbrook asks if we can post some these case studies online, so the public can get a better understanding of what we're planning with our project

V. Setting Future Meeting Dates

- 1. April 26, 2022 @ 6PM
- 2. May 24, 2022 @ 6PM
- 3. June 28, 2022 @ 6PM

VI. Next Steps

- 1. Sending case study memo to stakeholders and receive feedback from them about which examples they'd like to see in-depth
- 2. Meeting with stakeholders separately to train them on the digital engagement site
- 3. More information about a site visit for stakeholders
- 4. Following up with Ms. Westbrook about an opportunity to table at her community event