

East Side Trail Connections Stakeholder Meeting - April 26, 2022 at 6:30pm (Zoom)

In Attendance:

Ashley Smith
Paige Pryor
Arthur Hall
Stephanie Barber-Geter
Stephanie Lee
Steven Butler
Allison DeHoney
Ellen Harris-Harvey
Angie Davis Leveritte

I. Project Management

A. Planning Consultant updates

1. Planning Consultant, Alta Planning + Design, has since dissolved their New York office, which had been contracted by GObike to serve as the technical design consultant for this project. Ashley has terminated the existing contract with Alta. In order to maintain consistency and minimize disruptions, the designers and engineers who were originally assigned to our project by Alta, will now be individually contracted to stay on as technical consultants for the East Side Trails project.

B. Outreach to the Atlanta Beltline

1. Per advice from Stephanie Barber Geter, our project team reached out to the Atlanta Beltline, Inc., the economic development organization maintaining the Atlanta Beltline. We've secured a representative from their organization to speak at the next committee meeting (5/24/22).
 - a) Stakeholders expressed the importance of learning lessons from the Atlanta Beltline planning process, and clearly explaining how our plans will acknowledge and learn from those mistakes

II. Outreach and Engagement

- A. Direct mailing campaign hit nearly 30,000 households within the project area, specifically the following zip codes:
 1. 14208
 2. 14211
 3. 14214 (east of Main St)

4. 14215
- B. Targeted Facebook advertising reached nearly 17,000 people, but returned only 261 clicks to the website link.
- C. Engagement site has recorded 45 survey responses, 22 comments (both the Idea Wall and Interactive Map), and 7 phone calls into the project hotline
- D. Discussions/Questions
 1. Trends are showing that while we are reaching a broad area of neighborhoods and communities, it is not being translated into active engagements
 2. Need to be more opportunities at smaller community or neighborhood meetings and events to show people how to use tools and take survey
 - a) What are the community events that we can be present at?
 - (1) Allison DeHonney suggested a healthy foods/gardening initiative that may have a reception (?) where we could be present
 - (2) Summer festivals in the area (Juneteenth, University Heights, etc.)
 - (3) GObike's mobile repair events during Bike Month
 3. Importance of feedback onto our engagement sites
 - a) Angie Davis Leveritte of Norfolk Block Club cited the unruly wildlife in her neighborhood and in the surrounding areas as a point of concern for the trail design

III. Equitable Development planning

- A. Introducing the Equitable Development plan: the strategic planning document that will inform the actionable steps toward actualizing and developing the trail itself, while limiting the effects of displacement and ensuring equity, representation, and inclusion throughout the process. Project team has considered several different indicators that will help guide the plan and will serve as metrics to measure our progress (and process) against
 1. Fostering community ownership
 - a) Creating opportunities for community groups and leaders to support and drive the process for implementing the trail
 2. Building capacity through strong partnerships
 - a) Developing institutional resources and capacity, using the existing, local entities within the community
 3. Healthy communities
 - a)
 4. Heritage preservation

- a) Considering the value of historic landmarks and community landmarks
- 5. Sustainable wealth creation
 - a) Developing an economic development strategy that can create opportunities for new and existing businesses, and to sustainably build wealth for and by the local communities
- 6. New and reformed policy for neighborhood development
 - a) Advocating for policies, agreements, and recommendations to address neighborhood development, in terms of housing and real estate development
- 7. Growth management
 - a) Preparation for long-range planning and understanding how our planning process can accommodate the trails growth and maintenance over the next 10-15 years
- B. Matching stakeholders with indicators
 - 1. Stephanie Barber-Geter (New and Reformed Policy for Neighborhood Development)
 - a) How to connect the dots between our project and the Olmsted Parkway system
 - b) How to plan for the development of the neighborhoods south and east of the Kensington Expressway – reaching even toward the airport
 - 2. Allison DeHonney (Healthy Communities)
 - 3. Stephanie Lee (Growth Management)
 - a) Developing a sustainable maintenance plan
 - 4. Ellen Harris-Harvey (Building capacity through strong partnerships, fostering community ownership)
 - a) Working to bring in other partners, and sustaining the trail and its usage in the community
- C. Who else can we partner with, or need to reach out to, in terms of expertise or experience with the topics covered under these indicators?
 - 1. Involving the Albright Knox Art Gallery - Northland campus
 - a) How to involve them in the trail process, the maintenance of the trail
 - b) Reaching the board of Albright-Knox, finding who has the power to say yes
 - 2. Involving National Grid
 - a) Arborist program could be a potential for maintenance and employment

- b) Community benefits agreement – with City of Buffalo’s power grid
 - 3. Outreach to OSC, Safetec, and AMR
 - a) These businesses manufacture the heavy equipment that could be used to help construct and maintain the trail
- D. Notes about neighborhood development
 - 1. Homeowners, property owners and local, community developers to be part of this planning effort

IV. Next Steps

- 1. Follow up with Allison DeHoney about an opportunity to speak at her fellowship reception
- 2. Confirm details for the Trinidad Neighborhood Association’s next meeting in May