

North Minneapolis Greenway Steering Committee Meeting Monday, July 7 at Sumner Library

Notes:

• Outreach updates

- North High Event with NRRC– placed in class room with older age kids. Filled out surveys. Nice. Kids didn't know what it was at first, once you broke it down kids had a lot to say. More receptive then. Pros and cons. Quite impressed with people who were willing to do surveys. Really nice turnout. Gave them information and things to take home to their parents. Summer school, freedom school, and project sweetie pie and other programs going on at the school. Junior and senior students. Still gap about whether people use it for recreation or to get where they need to go. Cultural gap or difference.
- David Kang – another round of surveys at the end of June. Still surprised that many people had not heard about the greenway. Collected 20 plus surveys in an hour or two.
- Russ – do people fill like they have finished their outreach?
- David – depends on what it needs by finished. Not doing more surveying but still working on the project in some ways. Still putting final touches on the video and posting things on line.
- Ishmael – geographically focused. Safe to say that a significant portion of the community don't have a grasp of the proposed project. For consideration, see that there is a round 2 – concern that something that will affect a large portion of the community.
- Russ – my read of the proposal and year 2 program is that there is still engagement and vision to be done. A good conversation to be done, what are the gaps we want to fill that we didn't accomplish.
- Sarah – the whole 3 year grant period, we have funds for outreach and engagement. Need to decide what that looks like. Will have quite a few. Agree with Russ that we will be finding those gaps – what are they and how do we fill them? Not decided about what it looks like. Don't know yet.
- Russ - Will have more info that we can look at. Small scale/ medium public meetings. Year 2, building off of year 1. Gathering input in year 2.
- Ishmael – process of accomplishing a goal of connecting with our latino population. Outreach went well, filling out the surveys were a gap. Tradition of storytelling and dialogue and fitting it into the surveys were a struggle.
- Chue – most of the surveys, we helped them fill out. Rephrased so that they could understand. Survey portion not as successful on our part. Seems like each time I go talk with someone, it is a new idea.
- Diedra – barriers of language. Read the survey to them and try to explain it. Ethiopian and Somali population. Show the map and picture and that visual helped.
- Ebony – is there a better way to collect information than the surveys?
- David – longer conversation and dialogue. Not always efficient, but deeper meaningful conversations. Fine line
- Chue – more recently did community engagement for MnSure – big part that made it successful, elderly people involved with promoting it. Culturally elders have more buy in. Find a pull to get elders there, more food. Way Hmong people represent their voice, ppl follow what
- David – one approach to the language issue, mobilizing young people. A lot of times, they are bilingual and have to communicate with their parents who might not be proficient in English. Making sure youth have the right information.
- Will – did surveys and that is what happened. On the spot interpreters.
- Russ – generational difference in what people wanted.
- Ishmael – outreach people bilingual. The way the questions were worded/
- Russ – when we do engagement for year 2, devices where you get instant feedback.
- David – personality and characteristics of the Asian community. Wilder research

- Makeda – have we mapped out the surveys yet?
- Sarah – not finished entering in the data. Not yet. 600 to 700 paper surveys. 1000 online surveys.
- Ishmael – when you are online, the survey does not uniquely identify who is completing the survey.
- Sarah – didn't do that. Surveys online no way to track who completed it unless people chose to share their contact information
- Ishmael – what weight will be given to online/ offline
- Sarah – run the data, show how long it took for people to complete surveys.
- Russ – online surveys separated from the paper ones.
- Sarah – have data experts
- Matthew – some analysis by address.
- Sarah – will have to run the data and look at it in different ways. What do paper and online surveys tell us? Surveys that live right on the route. Pull out in different ways and bring back to the group to make sense of it.
- Bill – how many people are filling out the surveys more than once?
- Sarah – can't say how many people. We actually do know that there are people who completed it more than once.
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- TAC updates
 - Bill - Working from BCBS grant. Felt it was important to put together a report for year 2. 50 page report that goes into the weeds. Some of the key points. Talk about the possible route and basic greenway types. Note that currently the southern terminous, different alternatives there that depend on many factors including LRT stations. Don't know the answer to that question. Something we need to get to.
 - Matthew – for the part of the route south of Plymouth, year 2 might look more like year 2. Help that part of the route catch up with the rest.
 - Bill – traffic and circulation analysis. Closing intersections and adjacent streets. Street design perspective. Will increase traffic on some side streets. Similarly with parking density in current conditions. How many people would not be able to park in front of their house anymore, we need to flesh that out. What's the parking capacity in the back yards, alley ways. Lighting, we need more feedback. Trails and sidewalk. Think it is one of the things we heard from the outreach group, gets to be expensive. Bikeways/ sidewalk well lit. Have a preliminary cost estimate of \$13 million. Started looking into the legal aspects if we closed the streets.
 - Russ – is there a terminology issue here or usage. Streets in Mpls that have blvds, greenry, trees, etc.
 - Bill – could consider a bike blvd to meet transportation needs. Can't make it a park. Not definitive. Initial legal opinion. If some of the streets were condemned or purchased for other reasons, gets more complicated.
 - Kenya – would be great to get a timeline moving forward. Object to it being published without feedback from the group. Get the deadline and administrative things, it is important that we have a chance to weigh in.
 - Bill – being careful that we have not made any decisions. Concur that this group and TAC need to work very closely together. TAC group to support the outreach group and vice versa. In terms on schedule, want to get a report out as a milestone of June 30. Going forward, want to get input from this group about what the survey says and what it says.
 - Kenya – what I am most concerned about is how the input that is happening now, will be considered in the engineering going forward. How does that get included. We are aiming to target these communities.
 - Sarah – wanted to add to what Bill says in that report is very factual. Is funding going forward split between technical and engagement report. Final report from what consultant did this year. Not decisions, just information. If we can get the report out to people that would be great.
 - Russ – we should have TAC and this group sit in a room together and discuss the input. Say what things come up that make us think that we should be looking at this a different way. How will you change your approach based on the findings.

- Ishmael – which route alignment does the \$13 million consider.
- Matthew – not the final actual budget, but close detailed look. Lighting based on pedestrian standard for a commercial street. Makes up 30 – 40 % of the greenway costs.
- Bill – Matthew, Sarah and Jim Skoog with Bill sit on TAC. Scheduled to sit down with barb Johnson in a week.
- Kenya – is there a political strategy here? Important moving forward that folks within the steering committee have the opportunity to participate in these settings. Are we going to approach the park board and other bodies? Get feedback from them. Interested in how we do that forward.
- Updates from Meeting on June 27 RE: BAC Recommendation
 - [Meeting notes](#)
 - Russ: Meeting called very quickly that recommendation from BAC had gone out. Public works set aside 750K for greenway. Problematic recommendation. One was that we have been going door to door, saying no decision had been made. When saw the recommendation, creates appearance, perception problem that is inconsistent. Also, trying to build a committee that is representative of the community. Body and process to move ideas through. This recommendation should have gone through this committee for them to vet. Think that everyone recognizes that people were trying to move in a way that they thought was beneficial for the process. Certain parts of the city gets very little out to the cliq process. Trying to make sure resources are spread equally. Sometimes you have to give up on pots of money to follow a process. Have to give things up to follow a process.
 - Kenya: Ishmael and myself are commissioners for the city of Mpls, district rep from NRRC to Elliot Park. Came across this info at a nonrelated meeting. Saw this and immediately asked if people knew this was happening. Became problematic for me. Breached the promise of the community to do engagement before we moved forward on things. Hashed it out. Bottom line: we either are a team or not. Worth having the conversation with the team. Have to give us the opportunity to allow the community to make the decision. We are not only creating a perception but a reality. Says to the community that you made a decision before getting the communities' input. The real bottom line and the reason for the meeting. Being inclusive about information and making decisions together.
 - Ishmael: we were looking at this as a process for engagement. For being one that wears multiple hats and having accountability. Cant say we didn't know because we are at all these meetings. Things happening without transparency and disclosure.
 - Bill: Can we get the minutes to the council members?
 - Kenya: What is the city's role here since we are in this process BCBS? Moving forward would like to figure out what role the city is playing – health department. Not just pushing issue forward. Didn't discuss what we are going to do next. Changing language to North Side greenway to be more generic.
 - Bill: never really went anywhere. Public works didn't know about it.
 - Ishmael: do like the idea of notes going to public officials.
 - Russ: send draft notes to group, have a few days to look them over and then send them to elected officials. Think it would be wise for folks to have conversations with Yang and Johnson – need to know our feeling about this. Could draft a provisional statement.
- Communications moving forward