



Meeting Notes

Place: Plainville Public Library
Auditorium
56 East Main Street
Plainville, CT 06062

Date: October 3, 2016

Notes Taken by: Andrea Drabicki

Project #: 42201.00

Re: Plainville Collaborative Planning Workshop
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Gap Closure Study and
CTfastrak Connection Study (Gap Closure Trail Study)

ATTENDEES

Consultant Team

Timothy Malone, Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

Dave Head, VHB

Andrea Drabicki, VHB

Geoffrey Morrison –Logan, VHB

Mark Jewell, VHB

Dan Burden, Blue Zones

Samantha Thomas, Blue Zones

Mary Embry, Mobycon

Lennart Nout, Mobycon

The public planning workshop took place on Monday, October 3 and was scheduled from 5:00-8:00pm. The meeting consisted of a presentation and series of collaborative exercises with the public and consultant team.

Forty (40) people from the public signed in and participated in the collaborative workshop.

1. Call to Order: Mr. Tim Malone, CRCOG, called the meeting to order at 5:15pm and welcomed the public. Mr. Geoffrey Morrison-Logan, VHB, introduced the consultant team and informs the public what they are to expect for the evening.

2. Public Comment: Two (2) members of the public inquired:

Q: How far along into the planning study is the project?

A: Seven (7) months out of an eighteen (18) month project schedule

Q: Who does CRCOG answer to?

A: The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has a Policy Board which is it responsible to.

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3. Project Updates: Mr. Dave Head explained the objectives of the study, study area, and what has been completed to date.

4. Community Values Exercise

a. Ms. Samantha Thomas and Mr. Dan Burden, Blue Zones, then asked the public to participate in the Community Values Exercise. Each member of the public was given five (5) slips of paper and asked to write down one word per piece of paper which represents their community values.

Questions posed to the public were:

- Why did you move to the Plainville community?
- Why did you live here?

b. Mr. Burden presented the principles that are involved in establishing healthy communities

c. Blue Zones then reported back the answers received from the public based on the questions posed earlier in the meeting. These were c:

- Environment/Climate/Nature (27)
- Community/People/Culture (21)
- Connectivity/Proximity/Location/Access (15)
- Size/Character of Town (11)
- Education (10)
- Safety (10)
- Recreation (incl. bike trails and walkability) (8)
- Health (7)
- Economy/ Jobs/Opportunity (6)
- Faith (3)
- Quality of life (3)

5. Star Analysis Mapping Exercise

a. Mr. Lennart Nout, Mobycon, presented best practices applied in the Netherlands

b. Ms. Mary Embry, Mobycon, then explained the Star Analysis Mapping exercise and encouraged the public to break into groups. During this exercise the public was given a user type, based on trip types, to plan for. These user trip types consisted of, Shopping and Entertainment, Primary and Secondary Schools, Employment and Commercial and Commute Trips. The Public was asked to identify residential areas and plot routes to their user type (Schools, Recreation areas). Then they were to try and combine the individual routes into a single route connecting Downtown Plainville with the CTfastrak station in New Britain.

6. Group Report Out

- a. Each table or group was asked to report out their major findings from the Mapping Exercise. They were asked to answer several questions. Below is the questions and summary response:
 - i. What their user group was.
 - Each Table reported which user group they had.
 - ii. How well the trail alignment fit their user group network.
 - It fit, but there is a need for an east/west connection, or a loop through Town.
 - It didn't fit too well, while the group members individually wanted the trail to run along the railroad, they agreed that their trip type (shopping/entertainment) would be better served with an east/west connection.
 - iii. Did you user group change your route?
 - It determined the route choices to some extent, though most groups identified directness as the preferred characteristic for both the trail and the trip types.
 - The Parks & Rec group focused more on attractiveness, which led to a less direct alignment.
 - iv. What were your key challenges?
 - Infrastructure is a challenge in Plainville, especially at street crossings and railroads.
 - Linear alignment in residential area doesn't work. Destinations and the residential areas are to spread out.
 - A linear trail doesn't catch enough of the users, there is a need for an additional connection, or loop in Town.
 - Traffic is an issue
 - Good and clear wayfinding for any of the trails that aren't a straight line is important.

7. **Next Steps:** Mr. Dave Head then proceeded to explain the next steps in the process for the consultant team:
 - a. The consultant team will present and hold the same workshop format the next evening in the City of New Britain on October 4 from 5:30-8:30pm at the New Britain Public Library in the Community Room located at 20 High Street, New Britain.
 - b. Take all the information received from the mapping exercises in both communities and place all the drawn alignments by the public and combine them all into one map.
 - c. The consultant team will then spend an entire day reviewing all the alignments, values, and then report back to the public what they heard and saw on October 6 from 6-7pm at New Britain City Hall in Room 504 the findings from both the Plainville and New Britain workshops.

8. **Conclusion of Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Statement of Accuracy:

- We believe these minutes accurately describe the discussion and determinations of this meeting. Unless notified to the contrary within 5 business days, we will assume all in attendance concur with the accuracy of these notes.

Notes Submitted by:



David Head

Notes Approved by:



Tim Malone

Distribution: Attendees

Project File 42201.00