

SUMMARY OF MEETING



ENGINEERS
PLANNERS
SURVEYORS

This meeting summary represents the writer's understanding of the major issues discussed. If you wish to suggest edits or additions, please contact the undersigned.

- DATE:** January 12, 2016
- PROJECT:** Delaware Avenue Complete Streets Feasibility Study
- PLACE:** Town of Bethlehem Town Hall
- TIME:** 4:00 pm
- PURPOSE:** **The purpose of this 2nd Study Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting was to discuss progress made to date and plan for the 1st public information meeting.**

ATTENDEES:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Title/Representing</u> | <u>Telephone</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
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See attached attendance sheet

SUMMARY:

1. Welcome – CM informed the group that since the last meeting, consultant efforts have been focused on putting together the existing conditions report. The objective of this SAC meeting was to verify the project goals/objectives and make sure that the existing conditions report can go live on the website.
 - a. As a follow-up to a comment from the last SAC meeting that speed limits were inconsistent in the area, CM presented a summary of speed limits on area roadways and noted that speed limits are relatively consistent and generally 30 or 35 mph. It was noted that Feura Bush is now 35 mph as of December 2016. Rob Cherry noted that the section of New Scotland Road between Mahar Road and the City line would be transferred to the town from NYSDOT and the speed limit is being lowered. Supervisor Clarkson commented that along Delaware Avenue the speed limit changes from 30 mph (in the City of Albany), to 40 mph within the study area, and back down to 30mph (west of the study area towards Four Corners).
 - b. Project Goals/Objectives – based on discussions at the first SAC meeting a more streamlined set of draft study performance measures was crafted. A hand out showing the pared down list was distributed and briefly discussed. The group agreed that this set will be useful to compare alternatives yet to be developed as well as against the existing conditions.
2. Draft Existing Conditions Overview – CM briefly covered the topics discussed in more detail in the existing conditions report. Any additional comments on the report besides those that are discussed below should be sent to Rob Leslie. During the overview that CM provided, the following comments and topics were highlighted:
 - a. Existing volumes on Delaware Ave. are acceptable for a Road Diet based on NYSDOT and FHWA guidelines.
 - b. Rob Leslie asked about the side street and driveway volumes. Some commercial driveways have more volume than the side streets during peak travel times.

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- i. CM noted that the volumes on Delaware Ave. are high, however, traffic flows fairly well for that volume.
- ii. CM notes that in general, not a lot of vehicles are turning in and out of the driveways and side streets. Volumes are in the 20-30 vehicle per hour range turning in and out of roads/entrances during peak travel times.
- iii. Regarding traffic volumes, there was no significant generator in the corridor besides Delaware Plaza.
- iv. Traffic volume peak hour is 4:45-5:45 PM.
- v. Jim Giacone asked
 1. If reducing vehicle speed would reduce level of comfort for bikes/pedestrians. CM responded that generally speed is a factor in the level of comfort for bikes and pedestrians and that reducing vehicle speeds would increase bike/ped comfort.
 2. Under the road diet scenario, with only 1 lane of vehicle traffic per direction and vehicles waiting in line at the Elsmere Ave traffic light, how would turning vehicles be able to turn from Delaware Ave? CM responded that a two-way left turn lane and left-turn lane at the intersections would be implemented. The Traffic model developed for the project will be used later in the study to understand the operational effects of the road diet alternative, including vehicle queues.
- vi. Scott Lewendon had the following comments:
 1. Suggested an additional narrative on Delaware Ave. as a bicycle commuting corridor to help identify its significance to the biking community. The average bike trip is approximately 5 miles or 20 minutes. Delaware Ave. makes a great connection between the Town of Bethlehem and employment locations in the City of Albany that the Rail Trail doesn't address due to its location.
 2. Suggested reviewing the bike crashes and confirm whether they were on sidewalks or crosswalks.
 3. Noted that sun glare is an issue for cyclists because of the direction of travel.
 4. Suggested CM clarify within the report that the bike/ped crashes were crashes of bikes/peds with motor vehicles. .
- vii. Virginia Acquario asked if the provisions for bicyclists would be improved by the road diet. She further noted that it is critical to maintain the character of the hamlet feel. CM responded that the Road Diet would add space for bicyclists.
- viii. Rob Leslie suggested the Existing Conditions report's finding could be summarized as: motor vehicle flow is good, accidents/crashes are poor, bike and pedestrian facilities are poor. Rob then noted that the alternatives to be evaluated need to maintain vehicular traffic, while addressing accidents and improving the bike/ped environment. CM responded that there are several competing demands and that the SAC should consider what level of travel time change would be an acceptable trade-off for improved safety and bike/ped accommodation.

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- ix. Supervisor Clarkson questioned how travel times were measured and do they consider areas beyond the Normanskill Bridge (eastern end of the study area). CM responded that end to end running times were conducted within the study area, but did not take into consideration areas beyond the Normanskill. The results indicate a 2 and ½ to 3 minute travel time from one end of the study area to the other. Dave Jukins added that the CDTC STEP model can provide travel times beyond the study area. Jeremy Martell noted that it would be useful to look at trip times for different neighborhoods along Delaware Ave. such as around Crannell Ave where it can take 5 to 7 minutes to take a left turn out in the morning.
 3. Field Walk Recap – CM noted that a field walk was conducted on October 18th. It was noted that the maintenance strip through the corridor is in poor shape. It is possible that a maintenance strip theme from the current Delaware Ave Enhancements project, could be carried through this section of the corridor.
 - a. Rob Leslie noted that there is an application for the Albany Med building at 99 Delaware Ave. They are looking for variances to parking and landscaping to have less parking and landscaping on the site. There will be a public hearing on the project. The Town Planning Board’s goal is to have the required landscaped islands in the parking lot run perpendicular to the roadway to add trees along the property edge facing Delaware Ave which will help aesthetics there. The applicant is looking to change the façade of the building to look like 3 different buildings. There are 3 curb cuts, Town has asked for owner to remove at least 1.
 - i. This Planning Study will identify recommended limits of sidewalk in this area.
 - ii. Virginia Acquario asked if the Board can be sensitive to the hamlet look of the façade.
 1. **ACTION: Rob Leslie to send an email link to the agenda, plans, pdfs, and views of the building.**
 - b. Preliminary Discussion of alternatives. CM noted that alternatives will be developed in the next phase of the study after the 1st public meeting. A road diet will be considered.
 - i. Ken Kovalchik noted that we need to consider the partial road diet alternative more to see if it’s really worth it if we only consider east of Delaware plaza.
 - ii. Dave Jukins provided that the goal for the roadway is not a road diet, the goal is to create a complete street. Further under a full road diet, there are several alternatives for lane configurations.
 - iii. Alternatives will be the subject of the next SAC meeting after considering Public input as well.
4. Public Participation Plan (PPP) – CM provided an overview of what the PPP includes with a more in depth discussion on the following topics:
 - a. Overview
 - b. Web site – CM noted the website will go live once all comments on the existing conditions report are finalized and the report is ready to be provided to the public.
 - c. Public Meeting – The meeting date is scheduled for February 16th. The meeting will include two activity sessions; “Sticky-dot” exercise to identify priorities for meeting attendees and an issues and ideas session that will break attendees into four groups to discuss issues and brainstorm ideas to improve the corridor.

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- d. Discussion
 - a. The group confirmed the best way to provide notice to the public is to send out mailers to the property owners. However, owners are encouraged to reach out to the tenants.
 - b. The DPW might have thoughts on putting notices in the mailboxes.
 - c. Supervisor noted getting the people notified is critical
 - d. CDTC reach out to CDTA to see if flyers could be released by CDTA to help spread the word.
 - e. Jennifer Kilcoyne offered that the Chamber of Commerce would disburse notice to the chamber members.
 - f. SAC members will help get the word out as well.
- 5. Other / Close
 - e. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be held to confirm logistics for the public meeting, and to address CDTC's comments about the Performance Measures.

Summary of Actions:

Creighton Manning

1. Prepare Draft "Sticky-Dot" list of priorities
2. Schedule TAC meeting (Done. TAC meeting scheduled for 1/25/17)

Study Advisory Committee

1. Send any comments regarding the Existing Conditions report to Rob Leslie.
2. Rob Leslie to send an email link to the agenda, plans, pdfs, and views of the Albany Med building

The meeting concluded at 5:30 p.m.

Kristie Di Cocco, PE
Project Engineer / Planner

cc: Attendees
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Delaware Avenue Complete Streets
Feasibility Study

Study Advisory Committee Meeting

Bethlehem Town Hall, Albany, NY
Thursday, January 12th, 2016
4:00 p.m.

| Name | Representing | Email |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Kristie DiCocco | Creighton Manning (Design Consultant) | kdicocco@cszcellp.com |
| Audrey Burneson | NYS DOT - R1 | audrey.burneson@dot.ny.gov |
| Anne Benware | CDTC | abenware@cdtcmpo.org |
| Ken Kovalchik | TOB | KKovalchik@townofbethlehem.org |
| Robert J. Cherry Scott Lewendon | NYS DOT - R1 | rob.cherry@dot.ny.gov |
| Julie Sass | set City Ped Committee | JSLEWENDON@VERIZON.NET |
| Wilma Delurco | TOB / Delaware Biz Assoc | jsass@townofbethlehem.org |
| Jennifer Kuczyne | Delmar Program Club | wilmed228@AOL.COM |
| Viviana Arguini | BETHLEHEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | JKuczyne@bethlehemchamber.com |
| Jim Giaccone | Neighborhood | Pratula@caal.com |
| John Clarkson | Myriad + Community | jim@myriadcommunity.com |
| Julie Sass | TOB | |
| Ellie Pralhen | TOB | |
| Debbie Nolan Murray | Beth Garden Club | |
| | Delaware Plaza | debbie@thedelawareplaza.com |



**Delaware Avenue Complete Streets
Feasibility Study**

Study Advisory Committee Meeting

**Bethlehem Town Hall, Albany, NY
Thursday, January 12th, 2016
4:00 p.m.**

| Name | Representing | Email |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Ros Leslie | Bethlehem | rleslie@townofbethlehem.org |
| Jeremy Martell | RESIDENT | JEREMY@MARTELL.US |
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