

Route 9 Monitoring Committee Meeting Notes

12/7/2017

Attendees

- Carrie Casey, New Castle County
- Ken Dryden, DCR4EJ, NAACP, DCBAC Inc.
- Penny Dryden, DCR4EJ
- Elisha Gresham, Foundations of Literacy
- Mike Hahn, DeIDOT Planning
- Hazel Hall, DeIDOT
- Lee Jarmon, OVGGP Civic Association
- Regina Marini, New Castle County
- Patti Miller, Nemours
- James Parker, Civic Leader
- Kyron Robinson, ProRank Business Solutions
- Sandra Smithers, New Castle Prevention Coalition
- Tim Snow, DeIDOT Planning
- Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
- Jake Thompson, WILMAPCO

Notes

- The committee reviewed the previous meeting notes.
 - Ken Dryden asked if someone from the county could take notes in addition to WILMAPCO.
 - Carrie Casey said that she will ask County Executive Matt Myers if someone from the County will be able to take notes at the next meeting.
- Patti Miller shared an update on support for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs from Nemours.
 - Nemours is hoping to support the SRTS program at Eisenberg Elementary School with \$10,000. The contract with DeIDOT is under legal review. Nemours is also working on a wellness center in the school.
 - Ken Dryden asked whether the walking audit at Eisenberg Elementary School or the walking audit at McCullough Middle School happened first.
 - Patti Miller said that the Eisenberg Elementary School happened first, in the summer.
 - Bill Swiatek said that SRTS programs do not receive a lot of funding – about \$125,000 per school – so an extra \$10,000 will be a big help.
 - The committee was appreciative of Nemours' effort.
- The committee discussed the draft Mission and Vision statements. Bill Swiatek said that the word "community" was added to the mission statement, after the committee's discussion at the last meeting. The idea is to have an established mission and vision statement for this committee, and to see if agencies and participants on this committee could write a letter of support for the

mission and vision statements as they are written. This would fulfill the goal of having a written commitment to having a collaborative dialogue between the agencies in implementing the plan.

- Kyron Robinson said that his suggestion to add the word "community" was to make sure that the committee is speaking to the greater community at large and that they are represented.
- The committee collaborated on changes to the mission statement on paper. See photo:

^{mission of}
the
The "Route 9 Corridor
Trans. and L.U. MP Monitoring
Committee" ^{is to help guide} ~~aims to support and~~
^{re commendations} ~~guide the implementation~~ of the
^{shared vision of} ~~goals for the~~ L.U. & trans. ^{devel. of the Route}
~~Route 9 Corridor Trans. L.U. MP~~ ^{9 Corridor}
~~that are established by Route 9 Corridor Trans. L.U. MP.~~

This will be accomplished
through a collaborative dialogue
between its membership, which
includes implementing agencies,
local civic and community ldrs ~~and~~ other
Key Stakeholders, ^{and the} ~~comm. they represent.~~

- Bill Swiatek said that he would try to smooth out the discussed changes to the mission statement and e-mail it to the group. We will shoot to finalize it at the next meeting. He encouraged committee members to share feedback via email.
- Bill Swiatek asked if anyone had any concerns about the vision statement. There were no concerns.
- Bill Swiatek asked if anyone had any concerns about including the mission and vision statements, once finalized, into a letter of support from the committee. There were no concerns.
- Carrie Casey shared an update on the Eden Park/Hamilton Park Survey. University of Delaware is having challenges with developing the survey. With winter coming, the idea is to work through some of the challenges and wait until the spring for the survey to be developed.
 - Hazel Hall asked if contractors are involved with the community in both the survey and the development of the plan.
 - Kyron Robinson said that the same way we are surveying communities, we should also be surveying businesses.
 - Bill Swiatek said that Ms. Hall is here to talk about DelDOT's on-the-job training program. The survey is not related to that specifically, but local community members from Eden Park and Hamilton Park will be conducting the survey.
 - Hazel Hall asked what the survey will be asking.
 - Carrie Casey explained that the survey is intended to see how the community feels about the long-term potential of being relocated. She said that the survey is intended to be fully transparent and that all stakeholders will be involved.
 - Hazel Hall asked if environmental justice at DNREC is involved.
 - Carrie Casey said that they have been involved throughout the planning process.
 - Sandra Smithers asked what is the next step after the survey is done.
 - Kyron Robinson said that the next step is in the Master Plan. The survey is intended to determine whether the relocation recommended in the plan will be carried out.
 - Sandra Smithers asked if there is the possibility of offering homeowners fair market value for buyouts.
 - Bill Swiatek said that fair market value may not be enough for homeowners to afford to relocate. The County will have to see what it can afford.
 - James Parker asked if there is a bigger motive for redeveloping the area beyond mitigating environmental and health concerns.
 - Bill Swiatek said that environmental and health concerns are the primary motive for redeveloping the area, and historically, health impacts were not considered in planning because they were not as appreciated.
 - Sandra Smithers asked what would happen if the community decides to relocate, if the County cannot afford a full buyout.
 - Kyron Robinson said that the County is likely able to afford a full buyout. He said that the more important question is if there is a plan B in the event that the community does not want to be relocated.
 - Sandra Smithers said that community members are concerned about the lack of a plan to address environmental concerns if residents choose to stay.
 - Elisha Gresham asked if there is research about what happened when Southbridge residents were bought out. That information could be used to help predict the impacts if Hamilton Park/Eden Park are bought out.
 - Carrie Casey said she would see if there is research available.

- Elisha Gresham mentioned that former Governor Minner had a plan to expand the Wilmington Riverfront. She asked if zip codes along the Route 9 Corridor will be incorporated into Wilmington, and what kind of development would occur in the Route 9 area.
 - Ken Dryden said that the plan explains what kind of development is intended for the area.
- Ken Dryden said that there was no mention at the September 7th MC meeting that there will be a Council on Transportation meeting on September 30th. That meeting would have been a good opportunity for the committee to share their thoughts on the master plan. He said that the committee will have to make sure that the mission and vision statements are finalized before the March 1st Council on Transportation meeting.
 - Mike Hahn said that in the presentation he gave at the previous meeting, he mentioned that the Route 9 Corridor Master Plan is in DelDOT's capital transportation program for fiscal year 2018. The plan was ranked 15th and is programmed for fiscal year 2023.
 - Bill Swiatek suggested that moving forward, the committee will have to communicate with the Council on Transportation if determined necessary.
 - Mike Hahn said that the Council on Transportation is likely not relevant to the Route 9 Corridor Master Plan.
- Sandra Smithers asked if it is possible to see the big picture of the planning process.
 - Bill Swiatek said that the Master Plan fully reflects the planning process.
 - Kyron Robinson suggested that moving forward, the committee should focus more tightly on the plan. He said that the answers to many of the questions asked during this meeting are answered in the plan.
- Sandra Smithers said that the meetings she has attended have not been fully representative of the community. She said that seniors are not fully represented, and that she was in opposition to the proposed senior housing.
 - Carrie Casey said that a market analysis was done that showed the need for market-rate senior housing. The analysis also showed that the large population of seniors in the area may want to stay but may prefer to live in apartments.
 - Bill Swiatek said that the senior housing was a recommendation from the market study and part of the master plan. The seniors who would be targeted by the senior housing could come from the area, but also from outside the corridor. He suggested having a review of the plan itself at a future meeting since it appears there is confusion.
 - Sandra Smithers explained that her concern was that there does not seem to be anything to draw in younger residents. She said that seniors do not have money and therefore would not be of benefit to the area.
 - Bill Swiatek said that the plan also includes recommendations for rental and for-sale housing. There will be a review of the plan at the next meeting. The market analysis said that the demand for new housing will occur even without government intervention.
- Ken Dryden reiterated that the committee will have to make comment before the March 1st Council on Transportation meeting.
- Hazel Hall said that community concerns stem from a long history of mistrust of government. Now, there are environmental justice laws to prevent infrastructure projects that would have negative impacts on underserved communities, but historically

these projects would have gone through these communities without providing benefit to the residents.

- Bill Swiatek said that the planning process has been fully transparent and is intended to reflect the needs of the community.
- Lee Jarmon said that this planning process has been occurring for over three years, and there have been several public meetings where community members of all ages have shared their comments.
- Elisha Gresham suggested sharing historical records of projects that have been completed in the area in order to analyze the outcome, which could make people more comfortable with the planning process and the recommendations in the plan.
- Hazel Hall shared DeIDOT's On the Job Training (OJT) Program.
 - She said that each classification has a number of hours that is supposed to be completed on a project for a trainee. She suggested for short-term projects, OJT programs should offer internships, because contracts would require continuing to employ interns after the project is complete. Contracts should outline whether OJT programs will hire interns or trainees.
 - The OJT program is focused on minorities, women, and disadvantaged populations.
 - She handed out a packet containing an example training outline and a list of applicable job classifications. She also handed out a list of frequently asked questions and an introduction and background for the program.
 - Sandra Smithers asked what kind of background a person would need to have to take advantage of the program.
 - Hazel Hall said that the program is intended to provide opportunities to people who do not have any background. The training program offers the opportunity for trainees to develop skills that they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to develop. The program will also help trainees learn how to apply and interview for jobs. Many of the trainees are motivated to support their families, but do not have the necessary skills to do so.
 - Mike Hahn asked if it is possible to provide a series of recommendations for the committee to follow up on or be aware of. DeIDOT's training falls under federal regulation with restrictions on time and funding.
 - Hazel Hall asked if there are any ideas on how to motivate DBE businesses to bid on OJT contracts. She explained that these businesses need to learn how to do that.
 - Kyron Robinson said that DeIDOT's challenge in implementing OJT programs is that they have time and monetary restrictions for implementation. He suggested that scaling down the program may help alleviate these challenges.
 - Hazel Hall said that other states have funded OJT programs without federal funding, and that it is possible for DeIDOT to do the same.
- Bill Swiatek said that discussion of the Draft Route 9 Transportation Project Prioritization will be moved to the next meeting, as well as further discussion regarding OJT training.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23rd at 4:30 pm at the new Route 9 Library (tentative). Bill will also send out the mission and vision statements, and encouraged everyone to share their thoughts via email.