

May 30, 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

To: Distribution list, File

From: Manzur Elahi (Daniel Consultants, Inc.)
Project Manager, Mt. Pleasant Transportation Study

Subject: Mt. Pleasant Steering Committee Meeting – May 24, 2007

The first Steering Committee Meeting was held at the following location and time:

Rosemount Center Chapel
2000 Rosemount Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20010
May 24, 2007
6:30 – 8:30 pm

ATTENDEES

1. Fay Armstrong – Historic Mt. Pleasant
2. Sherrill Berger – Resident/Property Owner
3. Levenson Boodlal – KLS Engineering
4. Gregg Edwards – ANC 1D04
5. Manzur Elahi – Daniel Consultants, Inc.
6. Adam Hoey – Mt. Pleasant Main Street
7. Mike Jelen – District Department of Transportation
8. Jonathon Kass – Office of Councilmember Jim Graham
9. Tanya King – Daniel Consultants, Inc.
10. Jack McKay - ANC
11. Callistus Nwadike - District Department of Transportation
12. Mark Papa – lee + papa associates, inc.
13. Steve Pinkus – Mt. Pleasant Main Street
14. Jacques Rondeau – Rosemount Center
15. John Stevens - District Department of Transportation

MEETING MINUTES

Callistus Nwadike called the meeting to order. Mr. Nwadike noted that this meeting was to introduce the consultants that will be working on a comprehensive Transportation Study for Mount Pleasant. Mr. Nwadike informed the group that he intends to invite all organizations to participate in the meetings; however, he is still working on obtaining contact information for all organizations.

Mr. Nwadike introduced Manzur Elahi from Daniel Consultants as the Task Manager for the Transportation Study. Mr. Elahi noted that many people will be working on the task and include the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Mammen Daniel	Principal-in-charge
Dr. Manzur Elahi, PE, PTOE	Task Manager
Dr. Donna Nelson, PE	Transportation Planning/Engineering
Larry Green, PE	Transportation Planning/Engineering
Tanya King, PE	Transportation Engineering/Outreach
Dr. Qiang Li, PE	Transportation Engineering/Modeling
Abraham Mekonen	Traffic Engineering/Field Supervisor
Richard Sobott, PE, PLS	Highway Engineering/Streetscape
Leverson Boodlal	Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities
Mark Papa, AIA	Urban Design/Streetscape
Rosa Carrillo	Outreach/Meeting Facilitation
Zein El-Amine	Outreach/Meeting Facilitation
Ayo Bryant	Outreach/Meeting Facilitation

After team members were introduced the steering committee members made their own introductions.

The highlights of the presentation and meeting discussions are provided below:

- The study area boundary is:
 - North – Pine Branch Pkwy
 - East – 16th St
 - West – Adams Mill Rd
 - South – Harvard St
- Some of the project goals are:
 - Enhance efficiency of all modes of transportation
 - Promote safety of vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.
 - Enhance streetscape consistent with the area.
- The approach for the project will consist of collecting data, analyzing the data, identifying problems, finding solutions, evaluating the alternatives, making recommendations and providing a report. Throughout the study duration, a series of steering committee meetings and public meetings will be held to provide a status update and obtain community inputs. The final report and public meeting are scheduled for Early 2008.
- The data collection will consist of traffic counts that will be taken at major portal points so that we can capture overall traffic demand on the street network, which will be used to develop a traffic model. In addition machine counts will be taken to determine speed and vehicle types on streets where there are concerns with speeding and truck traffic. The counts help to:
 - Study the feasibility of any proposed traffic operational changes. For example, a conversion of a two-way street into a one-way system affects the surrounding roads as well. Therefore, one would need to know the current demand on the movement to be eliminated, how this displaced traffic will impact surrounding streets, and finally, whether the resultant traffic is within the roadway capacity.
 - Have a feel for the existing traffic demands and patterns on the study area road network.

- The committee expressed a need for having a count on Mt. Pleasant and Lamont to address pedestrian and traffic concerns at the intersection.
- A license plate state observation survey is planned for the area along major east west routes to determine the percentage of non DC residents using the local streets. The committee noted that many residents living in the neighborhood have MD and VA license plates.
- A parking study on selected streets and public facilities will be done in the area. The study proposes collecting occupancy data on streets that are close to the Metrorail station and Business Section of Mt. Pleasant. The committee noted that there are concerns with the duration of vehicles parked on Mt. Pleasant Street and that there is not enough turnover (it is suggested that the time limit be reduced from 2 hours to ½ hour). The committee also noted that many people will also park near bus stops, which they use to commute to work.
- Infrastructure data will be collected on the roadway, pedestrian facilities, transit facilities, bike facilities for the entire area.
- The goal is to have the data collected before the end of the school year, which is scheduled for June 14, 2007. It was noted that data has already been collected at 6 intersections. A committee member informed the group that the last day of public schools may not be the last day of classes for the many private schools in the area.
- A committee member also noted that there is severe traffic congestion on the street near the schools at the end of a school day.
- The project will produce short-term and long-term options. Short-term options are things that DDOT can do that require minimal cost, and can be done in a timely manner (i.e., relocate or improve bus stops, improve signing, markings, and signal timing, etc.). Long-term options are things that require significant funding and time to implement (i.e., traffic signalization, major traffic changes, modifications to the bus transit service, exclusive bicycle-pedestrian facilities, etc.).
- The Committee members provided comments on what they would like to see from the study:
 - Several committee members would like to see Lamont Park as a focal part of the study. The park is a social center of the community as well as being a focal point for businesses. Suggestions on some of the changes they would like to see are in a November 22, 2005, report "Mount Pleasant Public Space Design Mini-Charrette". The committee would like to see improved access to the park and increased green space incorporated. The Park is the home to a Farmers Market from May to November on Saturdays. It was suggested that the Park Service be included in the meetings because they oversee the park and need to approve all changes.
 - There is a diverse community in the area; it is important that the entire cross-section of the community participate in the public input process. The Study Team will receive assistance from MCS to reach out to this diverse group.
 - The committee would also like to see the section of Mt. Pleasant St, NW improved to provide better flow. Wider sidewalks and truck delivery area are desired. A candidate way to achieve this will be by with making it a one-way street.
 - The committee would like to see alternatives that look at changing the overall traffic flow in the neighborhood to provide better flow for all (i.e., pedestrians, cyclists, public transportation users, residents, business patrons, commuters, etc.). One Street that should be looked into is Park Rd, NW; it is one-way between 16th St and 17th St and two-way west of 17th St. Overall, major traffic changes are expected out of the study.

- It was noted that All-Ways Mount Pleasant Neighbors Association has compiled a list of DDOT related issues that should be reviewed and included in the study. It proposed collection of vehicle-tracking on some routes.
- The Committee suggested that the problem identifications precede traffic data collection.

CLOSURE

Mr. Nwadike closed up the meeting by encouraging people to fill out their feedback forms and turn them in at the end of the meeting or email their concerns or questions to melahi@danielconsultants, tking@danielconsultants, and/or Callistus.Nwadike@dc.gov. The next meeting will be a walk-through of the neighborhood in late June.

Minutes Prepared by: Tanya King (DCI)