

Name of Group: Transportation Policy Working Group

Meeting Date: February 23, 2022

Meeting Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Meeting Location: Zoom

Members Present: Erik Landfried, Debra Haynes, Bill Judge, Constance Wright, Katie Sukalski, Dan Jewell, Ed Rizzuto, David Bradway, Austin Amandolia, George Long Sr., Brooke Roper (Members Absent: Dayanara Mejia, Ellen Beckmann, Kyle Taylor)

1. Icebreaker and Group Agreements Refresher

2. Update from Staff
 - As a reminder, in our meetings today and in March our goal is to have a draft list of policy ideas and recommendations that we can engage residents around during the next phase of engagement (from the end of April through the end of June).
 - After working through revisions suggested by the group this evening and over the next few days, the Planning staff team is then going to be trying to pull together all of the policies in one format that all of the working groups can see in our March meeting. We know a lot of things that we've talked about in discussion have been around how these different topics are linked. So this will give all groups a chance to understand how other groups are tackling different policy areas. That'll also give us a chance to see where we have overlapping policy ideas across topics that can be combined into one.
 - After our March meetings we will do another round of revisions from Policy Working Group input and then share these drafts out with City and County staff to take a look at before publicizing at the end of April for community input.
 - Community input will be focused on hearing how we can revise policies to better reflect the needs and perspectives of residents and to determine if there are policies missing from our list.
 - Staff is working on determining timing for future working group meetings beyond spring engagement and we will share that soon. The intention is to have one or two more meetings after spring engagement to share the community feedback we've received with the working groups and allow groups to contribute additional feedback and editing of the draft objectives. This will likely be around July and August.

4. Policy Brainstorming

- Small groups reported out what they worked on and discussed.
- Full group reviewed each of the policy statements for each objective keeping the following questions in mind.
 - Are there any edits or suggestions to improve the current policy statements each small group created?
 - Are there any additional thoughts about gaps, themes, overlaps with other objectives/goals/working groups, or equity considerations that should be taken into account?
- Notes on Policy Statements by Transportation Objective:

Connectivity

- Overlap is occurring across the themes
- Something should be included related to equity in each policy
- There is some implicit and explicit relations to equity throughout these policy statements
- It seems like some of these can be broken down into descriptions
 - Should we be breaking these down or focusing on making them as clear as possible?
 - We should be focused on ensuring they clearly express what direction we have been hearing from the community
- First policy seems separated from the others and prioritizing in underinvested in communities seems like a larger policy across all policy topics
- It is highly unlikely the commuter rail (if it went forward) would be fare-free.
 - It may be better to say fare-free in Durham with subsidized regional transit options
- The first three policy statements need to be more distinguishable. How are these different?
 - New vs. retrofit existing transportation infrastructure
- The second and sixth policy statements could be combined
- Appreciate seeing that paratransit is specifically stated in these policies

Intentional and Coordinated Transportation and Land Use

- These policies are about making sure the community has connections to where they want to go
- The statements seem a bit heavy on the land use side and should maybe focus on the transportation side more
- Some communities do not have a way to connect with other places in a safe way
- Focus should be on ensuring existing communities are getting coordinated transportation and land use opportunities
- We need to figure out a way to ensure that there are no loopholes in these policies and ensure there are no gaps in transportation infrastructure so residents have the amenities they need to get places

- Statements should consider amenities on public land that kids can walk to as well
- We need to construct policy statements that explicitly address specific places in Durham - like Bragtown, Holloway Corridor, East Durham
- One thing I would consider adding to these policies is the idea of "mixed income communities"
- Ways to improve connectivity to existing areas to get to places relates to last connectivity goal
- Wonder about how future small area plans would coincide with that work of being specific about the neighborhoods we want to target for reinvestment (like Bragtown) and how that's being discussed in the plan

Accessible Transportation: Designing for Everyone

- DATA board was disbanded awhile back. There were GoDurham boards meeting, but these did not seem to include much paratransit feedback. Durham County also had an advisory commission. This policy statement could possibly be an expanded role for BPAC or something else.
- For the policy around providing accessible materials and feedback, the planning department staff should bring this to all of the other working groups since it applies not only to transportation.
- For the first bullet, are we talking about ADA? It may help to call out specific improvements here. Examples like design of the lines at intersections, crosswalks, placements of sidewalks, poles, cafe tables, obstacles, mail boxes. Eliminating barriers and enhancing safety for areas in Durham through design like safe systems design. Humans will make mistakes and we need to design places for non-fatal mistakes. For instance, the timing of lights should have enough time gap allowing pedestrians to safely cross without oncoming traffic still coming through. There also should be ample amounts of safe crossings mid-block.
- Consider the inclusion of students in this design as well.

Healthy, Safe, and Dignified

- Policy statement need to specifically mention people with disabilities
- There needs to be a zero tolerance policy about harassment on the busses
- Comments about prioritizing where our investments should and will go first
- We should expand more upon the healthy part of these policies. For instance, talking about connections to parks and trails for exercise, noise pollution, and air pollution.
 - This has been brought up in the environmental policies which staff will work on combining
- Consider the public health aspect of walking
- The Transportation Department has also applied to a grant for electric busses. There will be two coming this year and more coming after that. There could be a policy here about where those busses get assigned within the community.

Intentional and Equitable Transportation Investment

- For the second bullet, we want to be intentional in reducing investment in vehicles and invest in other modes.
- These policies need to address how we make sure transportation investment is not causing displacement. How can we invest in a way that does not cause gentrification and displacement?

5. Finishing Up

- What do folks want to focus on for our next meeting? What can we work on individually before then? Anything you'd like to see planning staff work on?
 - PWG members:
 - Continue to revise policy statements within shared document or email planning staff any suggestions.
 - Brainstorm action item ideas for each policy by adding to the shared document or email planning staff any suggestions.
 - Review the full list of policies across working groups.
 - Planning Staff:
 1. Pull together a full list of action items by policy across all topics and share with the team for review and discussion at our next meeting.
 2. Share policies from other groups with working group to review.
- Please share any thoughts or suggestions for how we can improve future meetings with our team after this meeting if you'd like to share.
- Thank you!

