

West 30th Street Corridor Plan Summary of May 14, 2009 Meeting

Approximately 22 persons attended the meeting. Dennis Slaughter introduced Alice Gatewood and himself as the planning team for the corridor plan. Mr. Slaughter introduced Andy Lutz PE with the City of Indianapolis Department of Public Works. Mr. Lutz explained that a plan has been prepared for bicycle lanes and paths for the Marion County. He noted that Lafayette Road is on the plan for adding bicycle lanes. Mr. Lutz explained the benefits of additional east-west connections from the Lafayette Road corridor the existing greenways and recreation destinations. Mr. Lutz also discussed potential improvements in the public sidewalk network.

Dennis Slaughter indicated that Mr. Lutz would receive input gathered at that evening's meeting and he will be consulted as the corridor plan is developed. Mr. Slaughter announced several upcoming bicycle related events and he asked Phyllis Hackett to give an update on the Cold Spring Road Community Engagement Process. Ms. Hackett explained that a neighborhood survey had been completed and will be compiled and analyzed by Marian University. She indicated that one objective of the engagement process is to establish an active neighborhood organization for the Cold Spring Road corridor.

Mr. Slaughter began the staff's presentation with a review of second corridor meeting, which was held on April 16. He explained that the meeting was helpful to identify image problems and potentials. He noted that meeting results were available in handout form and on the project website.

Mr. Slaughter explained the essential role that 30th Street must serve for connectivity in an east-west direction. He noted that no alternative corridors were provided when the neighborhood was developed in the early 1950s. He showed a comparison aerial photograph from 1937 and 1956 to indicate that critical period in shaping the neighborhood's street network. Mr. Slaughter listed the infrastructure strengths that were received in earlier public meetings. These included easy access to I-65, convenient location to downtown, IUPUI-Medical Center, parks, shopping and employment. Other strengths include nearby greenways and the neighborhood being served by sanitary sewer.

Mr. Slaughter reviewed infrastructure and connectivity concerns. He asked participants to help clarify comments received earlier. He asked if street lighting was actually deficient on 30th Street. Several participants explained that side streets were often dark and some lights on poles are blocked by trees. Carlos May, Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison, explained the process for citizens to request additional lights on IPL poles. Regarding street conditions, participants did not identify additional locations of concern. Traffic speed and traffic volume were discussed. Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Office Matt Grimes explained how traffic enforcement requests should be directed to his department's traffic section.

Mr. Slaughter noted two locations on 30th Street that have experienced drainage problems. One location is the area of Tyrone Drive. He stated that roadside ditches appear to hold water long after a rain storm. A second area with drainage concerns is west of the 30th Street bridge. No additional drainage concerns were suggested by participants within the 30th Street corridor. Mr. Slaughter briefly described the Crooked Creek Sewer Project and recommended that persons interested in the project contact the Department of Public Works for information on the construction schedule.

The meeting concluded with a review of sidewalks needs and potential solutions. Mr. Slaughter reviewed the varied benefits of sidewalks and a list of pedestrian destinations in and near the corridor. He noted the importance of education and infrastructure as they both contribute to pedestrian safety. He explained that the "Flackville" section of 30th Street has a high amount of pedestrian and transit use but is very deficient in supportive infrastructure. Pointing to a map titled Project Area Issues Map; Mr. Slaughter noted three intersections on 30th Street appeared to need attention as pedestrian crossings. These locations were at Tibbs Avenue, Kessler Boulevard and Cold Spring Road. He noted that the neighborhood expressed concern for the condition of the 30th Street bridge over White River. Mr. Slaughter asked participants to fill out a survey form of their current walking destinations and to also note where they would like to walk.

Staff stated that the next meeting will be June 18, 7 PM at Cardinal Ritter High School. The meeting will focus on land use problems and potentials. The meeting concluded at 9:20 PM