Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan Transportation Working Group
Meeting 1 Notes
8 March 2018
City Hall
7:15 pm – 8:30 pm

Topic: Introductions and Prioritization of Transportation Issues
Facilitator: Stephanie Richards
Easel/Note Pad: Sonja Meintsma
Computer notes: Logan Pfeiffer
Participants: Stephanie Richards, Logan Pfeiffer, Sonja Meinstma, Beth Rosenbarger, Jim Rosenbarger, Elaine Caldwell Emmi, Perry Maull, Martin Bentley, Lew May, Rutu Patel, Jane St. John, Alex Jorck

Summary of Interests discussed

- Brief introductions and outlined the process and role of the transportation group
- Thoughtful discussion about topics and recommendations that were derived from the recent open houses
- After discussion, dot-voting followed to prioritize issues of concern
    - Round 1: vote indicates a priority issues
    - Round 2: vote indicates affiliated organization could impact issue
    - Round 3: vote indicates voter could impact this issue in daily life
- Resulting primary issues to address:
    - Micro Communities: 14 (5 org votes, 2 me votes)
    - Transit Service: 11 (10 org votes, 8 me votes)
    - Multi-modal Infrastructure: 9 (5 org votes, 4 me votes)
    - Bike and Pedestrian Safety: 6 (6 org votes, 9 me votes)
- Next meeting Thursday, April 5 (6-8 p.m.)

Detailed Notes

Introduction
- Based on two prior open houses, ideas have been collected and organized into issues and subtopics with recommended actions
- Hosted mini-course on Sustainability Action Planning to help develop the plan and speak a common language within the working groups
- Assembled experts within the community into working groups to collaborate to best solve issues

Review of working group responsibilities and process
- First meeting's goal is to just go through issues discussed and the recommended actions, then vote on critical challenges

- Next meetings will do a deeper dive on these prioritized issues, this is a short meeting
- Between now and next meeting, SPEA students will delve into these issues, perform benchmarking, measure other cities and programs, and seek potential funding opportunities to give a practical plan within the city's budget
- SPEA students will give 15-minute presentation discussing the issues, then establish goals and actions for the community to achieve those goals
- Stephanie will be working with members of advisory board to discuss feasibility with existing resources in an iterative process to determine achievement of issues/actions
- Questions, feedback, recommendations always welcome to improve the process

Review Working Group List
- Confirmed participation is highlighted in green
- If any members know of others who should be included, email Stephanie to get them involved
- Kevin Whited's email will be sent to Stephanie
- Include INDOT? Because of state highways and funding potential
- Bike Project, possibly?
- Someone else from Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission
- Someone who works with those with disabilities that uses transit

Priority Issues
- All issues from open house divided into main topics
- Go through each topic and make additions/changes

Priority Issues and Ensuing Suggestions

1. Multi-modal infrastructure
- Streetlight synchronicity should be for vehicles (suggest using traffic signal), may not be great for pedestrians
- Along with beautified streets, integrate better stormwater infrastructure
- Salt Lake City used a bucket at either end of crosswalk with orange flags – walkers take flag and hold while crossing to make vehicles more aware of pedestrians and makes them visible → some similar measure to make pedestrians safer
- Add "shade" component to beautified streets

2. Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety
- Add enforcement for sidewalk clearing regarding snow – little awareness of ordinance
    o Enforcement may necessitate a change in legal code language
- Review design standards to enhance safety of infrastructure
- Road repair, especially for potholes
- Recognize that when there are more pedestrians on the streets, there is less traffic

3. Traffic Congestion (encouraging less traffic and disincentivizing car ownership)
- Interest in connecting "switchyard" area with downtown with something like a shuttle (maybe a trolley)
- Encourage walking/biking as a strategy
- Education around idea that congestion isn't all bad – "congestion tolerance"
- Quit building streets that induce and encourage more traffic (wider, more lanes)

- Vermont reaching out to businesses to provide sustainability incentives to employees – e.g., free ridership on local transit, benefits to employees for carpooling

4. <u>Micro Communities (all amenities within walking distance + mixed use neighborhood)</u>
- In Gavle, Sweden, they don't allow development without the "basic" services, then community must be connected by public transit to nearest city
- Micro-communities may be confusing, "polycentric" (i.e., more than one center), a city is a collection of villages
- Good connections to other areas

5. <u>Transit Service</u>
- Add comfort of service to subtopics – amenities such as wi-fi, also incentivize service and ridership with technology
    - IUPUI with GoExpress – alerts to increase ridership
- Potentially raise taxes so everyone can ride free
- Land use component – work with county, declare no development outside city limits because people don't have access (e.g., Ivy Tech) also requires more city funds to provide access

Statement of facts to rectify misconceptions/unawareness
- Suggested "Free-fare day" to reduce barriers like unawareness, fear, incentivize kids over summer (Summer Fun Pass does exist, as does free-fare days on Rosa Parks, Earth Day, others)
- Had "Night Owl Service" Fri and Saturday until 3am
- Evening service last leaves downtown at 11pm, but hourly at night (less frequent)
- BT doesn't go to Ivy Tech, but Rural Transit does, hourly from downtown, maybe more frequent at certain times of day – these and other don't need to be actions to take, but need to fix the disconnect and promote these
- More bus stops now than ever, past comments said there were less
- Maybe use BT metrics to compare to other cities

6. <u>Bicycling Culture</u>
- Protected bike parking should include covered parking, e.g., in Sweden
- Community rides to promote the culture
- "Concerned, yet interested" potential bicyclists would seek certain infrastructure, e.g., attracted to greenway, not fast streets like Walnut

Wrap up and next steps
Dot voting: Round 1 priority issues, round 2 indicate affiliated organization could impact issue, round 3 indicates voter could impact this issue in daily life

Final vote tally:

1. Micro Communities: 14 (5 org votes, 2 me votes)
2. Transit Service: 11 (10 org votes, 8 me votes)
3. Multi-modal Infrastructure: 9 (5 org votes, 4 me votes)
4. Bike and Pedestrian Safety: 6 (6 org votes, 9 me votes)
5. Bicycling Culture: 4 (5 org votes, 9 me votes)
6. Traffic Congestion: 4 (5 org votes, 5 me votes)

- Is this too much to tackle, or try to address all of these?
- One suggestion it's too much
- One mention of micro communities being a long-term vision and perhaps out of scope, 2 rebuttals
- Bike and pedestrian safety seen as subset of multi-modal infrastructure
- 8 votes to address top 4 priorities, leave last two for next cycle of planning

- Next meeting Thursday, April 5 (6-8 p.m.)
- Notes will be available on website soon
- Will draft definitions of municipal sustainability in Bloomington
- Ask for thoughts on Bloomington's vision statement
- Future topics will be released soon
- Email Stephanie with any suggestions

Priority Issues

1) Micro communities (14)
2) Transit service (11)
3) Multi-Modal Infrastructure (9)
4) Bike + Pedestrian Safety (6)

5) Bicycling Culture (4)

6) Traffic Congestion (4)

Issue:
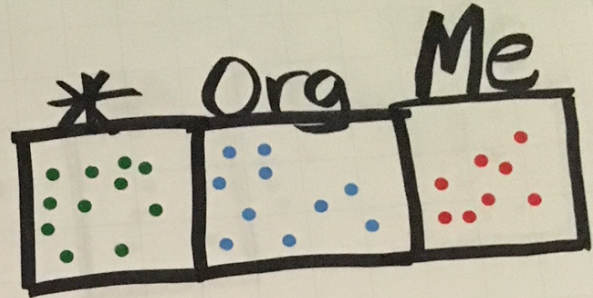## Micro-Communities
Poly-centric

(*) Org Me:

Recommended Actions:

- Increase access to amenities closer to neighborhoods

- Encourage mixed-use neighborhoods

- Limit developments w/o services
  & public transit (e.g. Gäble, Sweden)

- Create collection of villages

- Improve walkability

- Good connections to other areas

Issue:
Transit Service

- Weekend Service
- Evening Service
- Frequency of Service
- GHG emissions

* Org Me

- Comfort + Amenities
- Affordability

Recommended Actions:

- Tailor bus service to allow access to needed services/amenities   - Promote amenities
- Improve weekend service
- Prioritize bus travel
- More schedules @ bus stops   + better info.
- Educate people on how to ride bus
- Improve transit for visitors
- "Drunk bus" @ midnight
- Transit to Ivy Tech + Cook

- Convert to electr. buses
- Free fare day
- Summer bu for kids
- Shelters @ bus stops

Challenge:
- Land use changes to build nr. existing routes