



Place: New Britain City Hall
Room 504
27 West Main Street
New Britain, CT 06051

Meeting Notes

Date: January 31, 2019

Notes Taken by: Geoffrey Morrison-Logan / Mark Jewell

Project #: 42201.00

Re: New Britain & Plainville Planning Public Meeting Summary
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Gap Closure Study and CT**fastrak**
Connection Study (Gap Closure Trail Study)

The public meeting took place on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 from 6:00-8:00pm. The meeting consisted of an Open House format that included three breakout table locations which were set up for participants to engage with the consultant team, CRCOG and City Officials in a dialog about issues and opportunities related to the Alignment "E" Trail in both New Britain and Plainville. For the east/west study, the Downtown Plainville segment, Central segment and New Britain segment of Alignment "E" were set up at stations to allow conversations about each of those sections of the trail. There was a station set up for background / facility typology information on the Gap Closure Project as well.

At 7pm, a presentation was given that provided an introduction, brief project overview and a description of how the draft final report is organized. The presentation provided a summary of Alignment E through New Britain and Plainville and featured a discussion of the prototypical trail facilities that were recommended for various sections of the trail. The presentation was followed by a general question and answer period. The PowerPoint presentation and meeting notice will be made available on the project website.

The focus of the meeting was to present Alignment E as the preferred trail alignment connecting the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT) in Plainville with the CT**fastrak** station in New Britain. This alignment had been presented at the last community meeting which was held in May 2017. Alignment E is largely the same as presented in May.

A total of 29 individuals signed in at the meeting, and 11 comment forms were submitted along with a few comments written directly on large maps that were provided.

1. **Open House 6pm-7pm:** Participants were welcomed at the sign in table and at the three table stations. Participants were provided with an agenda and a map of the room layout and were directed to engage in conversations with the facilitators at the breakout stations. The three stations include:
 - a. **a Project Background Station**, included information on the overall study, goals, and the process for narrowing the Alternatives down to the Preferred Alignments.
 - b. **a Downtown Plainville Station**, (table 1) where the downtown section of the trail alignment was discussed, and had maps and renderings indicating the proposed alignment.
 - c. **a Central Station**, (table 2) where the middle portion of the trail alignment was discussed, and had maps and renderings indicating the proposed alignment.
 - d. **a New Britain Station**, (table 3) where the New Britain section of the trail alignment was discussed, and had maps and renderings indicating the proposed alignment.

Participants were encouraged to identify their concerns and issues for the alignments, by placing their written comments on post-it notes, or on large flip chart paper.

2. Presentation Overview 7pm-7:30pm:

- a. Mr. Malone (CRCOG) opened the meeting, welcomed the participants, and provided a brief project overview including an explanation on how the report is organized. In addition, Mr. Malone provided a brief summary of the planning goals, vision and objectives.
- b. Mark Jewell (VHB) provided a detailed summary of Alignment E and presented maps that indicated the general location of the various sections of the alignment. Mr. Jewell presented several before and after images that depicted the general characteristics of the proposed trail facilities. In addition, a summary of typical facility types were presented to demonstrate what other communities have done.

3. Public Comment 7:30pm-7:50pm:

The following questions and comments were raised by members of the public during this portion of the meeting:

- A comment was made that this is a waste of taxpayer money.
- A comment was made that if the railroad property was not available then there should be no trail. (No rail, no trail).
- A comment was made requesting the presentation be posted to the website.
- A comment was made stating "consider a road diet on Woodford Ave, keep trail off-road".
- A question was asked about noise/dust control near Tilcon Industries. The team responded that the alignment attempts to stay as far away as physically possible from the dust/noise generated by Tilcon by staying along the Route 72 retaining walls.
- A question was asked about the funding sources for the project. The team responded that there are several options for funding the construction of the trail project, but that no one specific source had been identified beyond the planning phase.
- A question was asked about the maintenance of the trail facilities and who would be required to maintain the trails. The team responded that this is a topic that would be addressed in the (future) design phase, and that the maintenance responsibilities vary from trail to trail. Furthermore, maintenance responsibilities may vary depending on trail type and location. Most common is that the municipalities would maintain the trail. Some regions have volunteers who are responsible for trail maintenance.
- A question was asked about when the trail would be opened. The team responded that until funding for design/construction can be identified no schedule has been developed.

4. Following the general Question and Answer period, the meeting concluded.

Statement of Accuracy:

- We believe these minutes accurately describe the discussion and determinations of this meeting. Unless notified to the contrary within 5 business days, we will assume all in attendance concur with the accuracy of these notes.

Distribution: website – interested parties list

Project File 42201.00