



Place: New Britain Public Library
Community Room
20 High Street
New Britain, CT 06051

Meeting Notes

Date: October 4, 2016

Notes Taken by: Andrea Drabicki

Project #: 42201.00

Re: New Britain Collaborative Planning Workshop
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Gap Closure Study and
CTfastrak Connection Study (Gap Closure Trail Study)

ATTENDEES

Consultant Team

Timothy Malone – Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

Dave Head, VHB

Andrea Drabicki, VHB

Geoffrey Morrison –Logan, VHB

Chris Faulkner, VHB

Dan Burden, Blue Zones

Samantha Thomas, Blue Zones

Mary Embry, Mobycon

Lennart Nout, Mobycon

The public planning workshop took place on Tuesday, October 4 and was scheduled from 5:30-8:30pm. The meeting consisted of a presentation and series of collaborative exercises with the public and consultant team.

Twelve (12) people from the public signed in and participated in the collaborative workshop.

- 1.** Call to Order: Mr. Tim Malone, CRCOG, called the meeting to order at 5:45pm and welcomed the public. Mr. Geoffrey Morrison-Logan, VHB, introduced the consultant team and informed the public what to expect for the evening.
- 2.** Public Comment: Mr. Mark Moriarty, New Britain Department of Public Works stated for the record that he has received feedback from the community that the lack of bike lockers at the CTfastrak stations are turning people off from using the rapid bus transit
- 3.** Project Updates: Mr. Dave Head explained the objectives of the study, study area, and what has been completed to date.

100 Great Meadow Road
Suite 200
Wethersfield, CT 06109-2377
P 860.807.4300

4. Community Values Exercise

- a. Ms. Samantha Thomas and Mr. Dan Burden, Blue Zones, then asked the public to participate in the Community Values Exercise. Due to the size of the group Blue Zones did not formally ask the public to write down their values but encouraged everyone to state one word which best represented their values.

Questions posed to the public were:

- Why did you move into the New Britain community?
- Why do you live or work here?

- b. Mr. Burden presented the principles that are involved in establishing healthy communities
- c. Blue Zones then reported back the answers received from the public based on the questions posed earlier in the meeting. These were:
- Work
 - University
 - Parks
 - Museum
 - History
 - Backroads
 - Accessibility
 - History
 - Urban
 - Diversity
 - Community

5. Star Analysis Mapping Exercise

- a. Mr. Lennart Nout, Mobycon, presented best practices as they are applied in the Netherlands
- b. Ms. Mary Embry, Mobycon, then explained the Star Analysis Mapping exercise and encouraged the public to break into groups. During this exercise the public was given a user type, based on trip types, to plan for. These user trip types consisted of, Shopping and Entertainment, Primary and Secondary Schools, Employment and Commercial and Commute Trips. The Public was asked to identify residential areas and plot routes to their user type (Schools, Recreation areas). Then they were to try and combine the individual routes into a single route connecting Downtown Plainville with the CTfastrak station in New Britain.

6. Group Report Out

- a. Each table or group was asked to report out their major findings from the Mapping Exercise. They were asked to answer several questions. Below is the questions and summary response:
 - i. What their user group was.
 - Each Table reported which user group they had.
 - ii. How well the trail alignment fit their user group network.
 - The Alignment fit, but there is a need for a loop in the City.
 - iii. Did you user group change your route?
 - The user group determined the route choices to some extent, most groups identified directness as the preferred characteristic for both the trail and the trip types. Even recreational trips could form a relatively direct east west route by going through Walnut Hill Park.
 - iv. What were your key challenges?
 - East west connector - there is a large catchment area that needs a north south route, or loop.
 - 2. Infrastructure an issue - especially at road and railroad crossings.
 - 3. Traffic.
 - 4. Road conditions, particularly around industrial areas.

7. Next Steps: Mr. Dave Head then proceeded to explain the next steps in the process for the consultant team:

- a. Take all the information received from the mapping exercises in both communities of Plainville and New Britain and place all the drawn alignments by the public and combine them all into one map.
- b. The consultant team will then spend an entire day reviewing all the alignments, values, and then report back to the public what they heard and saw on October 6 from 6-7pm at New Britain City Hall in Room 504 the findings from both the Plainville and New Britain workshops.

8. Conclusion of meeting: Meeting Adjourned at 8:00pm

Next Steps

- The consultant team will then spend an entire day reviewing all the alignments, values, and then report back to the public what they heard and saw on October 6 from 6-7pm at New Britain City Hall in Room 504 the findings from both the Plainville and New Britain workshops.

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.

Notes Submitted by:



David Head

Notes Approved by:



Tim Malone

Distribution: Attendees

Project File 42201.00