



MEETING MINUTES

- Date:** June 12, 2014 (6 pm, Brookhaven City Hall)
- Purpose:** City of Brookhaven Comprehensive Plan 2034, Joint Steering Committee Meeting with Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Attendees:**
- City of Brookhaven - Susan Canon, Ben Song, Richard Meehan
 - Comprehensive Plan 2034 - Amanda Hatton, Jonathan Webster, Chuck Button (Jacobs)
 - Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) - Jamie Cochran (Gresham Smith and Partners);
 - Members of Steering Committees and Public (Per Sign In Sheets; list provided at end of document)
- Prepared by:** Jacobs

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of this meeting was to inform steering committee members of both plans on the progress made by the other planning effort. This meeting was also designed to facilitate discussion between steering committees. Susan Canon, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development welcomed attendees, thanked them for attending, discussed the format for the meeting, and introduced the consultant teams:

Update of Consultants to Committees

Each team gave an overview of progress to date and opportunities for collaboration:

- Comprehensive Plan 2034
 - A handout provided details regarding schedule and completed activities to date. It also presented the draft community vision, draft community goals, and draft character areas.
 - 16 stakeholder interviews were conducted.
 - 230 people have completed the community survey. It will be closed at midnight 6/12/14.
 - There are currently 13 draft character areas, five of these are pedestrian-oriented, mixed use, community and commercial centers of varying intensities and eight are residential in nature.
 - Comments from gateway email address were provided.
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
 - A handout provided information on completed activities including data collection and analysis, CTP goals, existing conditions assessment, and the first public open house. Activities underway include coordination with other three



plans, future conditions analysis, on-line survey, public comment summary, and team meeting on plan development.

- A review of draft goals and existing conditions mapping was conducted.
- The results of the 'Brookhaven Bucks' exercise identified signal coordination, intersection improvements, active transportation, and traffic calming as top priorities. This indicates that managing the existing system is a priority.
- Key themes from the public outreach were also covered which include roadway issues, intersection/safety issues, public transit, active transportation, and other problems, such as cut-through traffic.

Question and Answer Session *(Answers in Italics)*

- Transparency is an odd goal to mention in a Comp Plan, could you elaborate on this? *This was identified numerous times through public input. This is primarily viewed as a communications issue/opportunity.*
- What is suggested by the term traffic calming? Speed is an issue in neighborhoods. *We have heard that cut-through traffic is a major issue in neighborhoods. Speed bumps and tables are not always the appropriate solution as they can present more problems than they address. There are design features like narrower lanes and bringing in the intersections tighter. The CTP may suggest areas where traffic calming is needed, but detailed studies that include neighborhood involvement are required to identify specific solutions.*
- Are the LOS transportation maps available? *Yes they have been completed as part of the existing conditions analysis and are available. The future conditions LOS will be available soon.*
- Schools should not front arterial roads.
- Have there been any surprises with the land use plan from the transportation perspective? *The plan has largely been in keeping with expectations and will be further reviewed for consistency. The Clairmont Road area has a good network of streets that can distribute traffic if additional commercial development is planned there. We need to listen to the community's vision for that area. Just because the roadway network has capacity there does not mean additional commercial development should be pursued.*
- What about the future charter school? Do we know where that is going to go? *The recent presentation to Council was more of a concern regarding having a charter school rather than a location. The consulting team is coordinating with the school board and will meet with them sometime in the next few weeks.*
- Narrow lanes put bicyclist at risk. Many bicycle lanes are dangerous to cyclists. Will the CTP engage with the League of American Bicyclists and work towards a designation of 'Bicycle Friendly Community'? *Yes, as planners we are required to engage with any groups who wish to engage with us. We are happy to work with you and will talk with you off-line.*



- How will the Comprehensive Plan address bicycle and pedestrian needs? *The plan will make recommended zoning changes, and the zoning code and development regulations can address things like bicycle parking and access to developments as well as Complete Streets requirements. Many local communities and state agencies have chosen to develop such policies to guide public investments.*
- Have you looked at conflicts between a proposed community circulator and lack of density increases in the Peachtree Corridor? Density is needed around the MARTA station to qualify for federal funding. *Increases in density are expected within the land use plan in five areas of the city.*
- There are safety issues in the Buford Highway corridor. There is a culture where mid-block crossings are not used. Education is key. Educating all modes of travelers is critical and should be an activity the city should consider. Stopping for pedestrians at crosswalks can have an influence on other driver's behavior.
- We have delayed the rezoning for the O-I parcel in Perimeter Center waiting for guidance from the Comp Plan. We will have to talk about road widening at some point as well. When does the rubber meet the road in these plans? *That is something we are working through now, how much specific guidance will the Comprehensive Plan give or will it lean on the existing zoning. The Comprehensive Plan may require amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for implementation purposes. The plan will identify and suggest more detailed studies to be conducted. The plans are for prioritization not implementation.*
- We need to ensure that the plan is a fluid and flexible document that can be changed at a later date to reflect city changes as they occur. *The planning process is cyclical in nature and these plans will be updated every five years.*
- Have you reached out to Emergency Services? Where is a new fire station going to go? Ensuring access for emergency services is important. *We've talked to the Police Chief, which has a solid relationship with DeKalb County. We do typically reach out to the Fire Department because they have information on congested streets, alternate routes, and connectivity and access issues.*

Review Comments from the Gateway Correspondence

Committee members were provided copies of the Gateway email correspondence from the Comprehensive Plan and advised to please review this input received from the public. Additional comments have been received through the Transportation Plan gateway correspondence and will be available to the committees at a later time. The gateway correspondence has indicated that preserving the tree canopy and infill development are major issues. Many comments received were related to transportation and have been forwarded to the CTP team.

Next Meeting



The schedule for upcoming meetings was reviewed. The Comprehensive Transportation Plan committee will meet on June 25, and the Comprehensive Plan committee will meet on June 26. The joint Open House will take place on July 21. Public hearings will occur after the Open House in July and August.

Adjourn

Susan Canon encouraged Committee members and the public in attendance to consider attending the Public Open Houses occurring at Oglethorpe from 7-8pm for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Buford Highway Plan. The meeting adjourned just after 7pm.

Meeting Attendees (Members of Steering Committees and Public)

- Joe Palladi
- Denise Sterling
- Shannon Cameron
- Stan Segal
- Wendy Butler
- Blair Belton
- Christian Cherniak
- Susan Hrott
- H. Disold
- Clayton Conarro
- Terrell Carstens
- Grady Thrasher
- Jennifer Harper
- Charles Gerrick
- Adrian Schmidt
- Rebecca Williams