Active Living Hennepin County - Brooklyn Center Initiative
August 27, 2014 - Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

10:30 am to noon, Brooklyn Center City Hall

(Next steps / questions shown in blue throughout the document.)

Introductions and Desired Outcomes

- Andrew Hogg - Brooklyn Center Engineering. Point person. Wants to see project through to completion, wants to reach project goals
- Diane Sannes - Friends of the Brookdale Library. Thrilled project is happening in Brooklyn Center
- Laura Fredrick Wang and DJ Forbes - Hennepin County Active Living. Want project to be successful for all parties
- Jason Tanzman - Cycles for Changes. Earn-a-Bike program. Wants the process to authentically engage those we are trying to reach
- Susan Blood - Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council. Wants to reach people of all ages and abilities
- Steve Lillehaug - Brooklyn Center City Engineer. We have many facilities, we want to reach more people
- Monique Drier - Brooklyn Center Police Community Liaison / Multicultural Advisory Committee member. Wants to reach out to new Americans (immigrants and refugees), Brooklyn Center’s population is 52% non white.
- Gary Eitel - Brooklyn Center Director of Business and Development.
- Patrick Toohey - Brooklyn Center Police Department. Wants to expand existing PAL. Teach people police are not just for enforcement, positive interactions with the community.
- Tim Benetti - Brooklyn Center Planner - Business and Development. Wants doable policies and long term planning
- Jim Glasoe - Brooklyn Center - Community Activities, Recreation and Services. Wants to increase access
• Danny McCullough - 3 Rivers Park District - currently a Three Rivers law enforcement officer, soon Regional Trails director. Wants to do more outreach, especially to youth, can offer ideas to expand work with the police department
• Jill Dalton - resident and business owner. Excited about promoting initiatives
• Juana Sandoval, Theresa Nelson, Colin Harris - Community Design Group staff
• Antonio Rosell - Community Design Group. Looking forward to creating a vision for walking and biking that gets people excited about this being part of their lives. Want to introduce people to new ideas, building on existing foundation. Demonstration projects can be a good tool.

**Overview - Hennepin County**

DJ Forbes:

• This is the third round of funding through SHIP grant, currently working with two cities (Brooklyn Center and Hopkins). This project can be a model for working with other cities in the future.
• Hennepin County’s role: provide support and be a sounding board - this is Brooklyn Center’s project.

Laura Fredrick Wang:

• Brooklyn Center was chosen because of City’s desire to explore how to take their efforts to the next level.

**Community Engagement Plan (CEP) - Community Design Group**

Antonio Rosell:

• Community engagement is foundation for this project - we can maximize the impact of our work by connecting with people and organizations working with low-income populations and other focus populations. Steering Committee members are a key local resource and experts on connecting to Brooklyn Center populations. The success of this project is in each of our hands.
• Project is two-fold:
  ○ Community Engagement - making connections to diversity of populations in the community.
  ○ Technical Planning Assistance - how do we activate people’s imagination about walking and biking in Brooklyn Center?
• Four criteria: safe, comfortable, convenient, inviting
• We want to meet people in the community, go where the people are. Engage people in a fun way that also gathers helpful information.
• Focus populations: immigrant and refugee, low income, diverse ethnic/cultural communities, transit-dependent populations, populations experiencing health disparities
• CDG has developed an initial draft of Community Engagement Plan - is awaiting comments from city and county, and will then share with Steering Committee for members’ review and guidance

Discussion about Project Steering Committee (PSC) Roster
• Antonio Rosell: The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will help guide the project, help expand participation. PSC members know Brooklyn Center better than any consultant. PSC members are key in helping us connect with the community.
• Steve Lillehaug: most of us who are here [at the meeting] work for the city, if you know others who are interested, invite them to join us, challenge every one of us to expand this group, would like to see more residents
• Andrew Hogg: we mostly invited those who sent letters of support and to names / organizations provided by CDG. Haven’t heard back from everyone we invited. It’s an on-going process.
• DJ Forbes: Cathy Rude is a SRTS coordinator, she is aware of this. yes, we want to tap into that prior SHIP SRTS work.
• Antonio Rosell: Brooklyn Center already has a bike and ped plan in place - we have access to some of your planning and policy documents and resources but if you think of other documents that may be helpful please tell us
• Monique Drier: if our hope is to have representation with our community, we need to have meetings outside of business hours. We also need to consider volunteers, farmers markets, not traditional meeting places. Seek out advice - those relationships are not always easy to make, but let’s make the ask, they may receive it well
• Diane Sannes: is Metro Transit involved? 7K people a day board a bus in Brooklyn Center
• DJ Forbes: Metro Transit is not a part of this conversation right now though they may be consulted on occasion, we don’t foresee them having a permanent role on the steering committee
• Jill Dalton: how do we add people to the steering committee? [Anyone can give the name to Andrew]

Tactical Urbanism
Antonio Rosell:
• Tactical Urbanism - pilot demonstration projects, PARK(ing) day, Open Streets, chalk art, St. Paul better block project. Can do a 1 week long temporary intervention, temporary is lower cost. Can evaluate using traffic counts and monitoring behavior. Examples: paint the
street, bike lanes, cycle tracks (bike lane with a barrier), intersections, traffic circles, bump-outs, greenways.

- St. Paul Charles Avenue - Neighborhood Slow Streets / Bike Blvd example. Saint Paul Friendly Streets Initiative used block parties to explain possibilities to the residents.
- Tactical Urbanism interventions can help residents understand other ways to use public space, and help them pilot the idea of walking or bicycling daily.

**Earn-A-Bike Program - Cycles for Change**

Jason Tanzman:
- Primarily have worked in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Currently have a bike shop in the Frogtown/Rondo neighborhood of St. Paul. Offer hands-on mechanical education, earn-a-bike programs, and learn-to-ride classes (for people who have never been on a bike).
- Plan to offer 5 different classes, partnering with nonprofits or schools. (Brooklyn Center has 6 elementary schools.) Each class would have 4-5 sessions held over a few weeks. Each session would be several hours. After each class there would be a group ride. Want to meet people where they already go, such as schools or community centers
- Want to start classes in February / March 2015 - so people are done by April and ready for spring. Provide helmets and locks with all bikes.
- Need help from rest of Project Steering Committee to identify organizational partners in the next few months - which groups do we want to target, adults / elementary / high school?
- Need space, ideally a classroom with secure storage for tools, bikes, and stands. Andrew has the details on the request for the space/logistics.

Gary Eitel:
- interested in getting a bike shop and a bike manufacturing company in Brooklyn Center

(discussion by many):
- many in Brooklyn Center already walk for transportation, including immigrant/refugee populations.
- the grant is about active transportation, not just walking and biking for fun
- overcoming the barriers is key

Danny McCullough:
- can provide data of user counts on the 2 regional trails in Brooklyn Center, including whether users are walking, biking or rollerblading.
Education and Enforcement - Brooklyn Center Police Department

Pat Toohey:
- Police Activities League (PAL)- modeled after Mpls Police Athletic League (PAL). Youth are typically elementary to middle school. Try to develop positive relationships with youth through activities. Can coordinate with earn-a-bike. Also working with parks and rec centers.
- Want to teach that police are not just there for the enforcement action. Low-income and refugee communities may have had negative experiences in the past.
- Enforcement is at a good level right now related to bike and ped laws, not planning to increase it. Want to help educate bicyclists - they need to follow the traffic laws.

Opportunity Site - Brooklyn Center Planning - update

Gary Eitel:
- City is working on 46 acre site for redevelopment (city owns 36 acres of that site).
- Modeled after Excelsior and Grand project, mixed use development of apartments and commercial. Re-imagine the open space and provide an urban env in a suburban location.
- New projects are incorporating bike facilities (shop and storage)
- Goal for his dept in 2015 is to complete this project and successfully implement it.
- We have an economic challenge in this community, average income is $48K (Brooklyn Center) vs $84K (Metro)
- We have more 1 car families with new Americans here. Can change the parking standards.
- Would like to learn [best practices] from this process, create incentives.
- We are remodelling 3,000 residential apt units in this community.
- Highway 100 to the Mississippi River Corridor trail project North Mississippi Park - 2015/2016 project, coincides with roadway project

Complete Streets policy - Brooklyn Center Engineering

Andrew Hogg:
- Policy approved in 2013. Numerous challenges: overcoming resistance to change, resident perception of ownership of the right-of-way.
- Complete Streets is balancing act between different modes safely and efficiently. Not an “all modes on all roads” policy. Applies to new construction, reconstruction, and (sometimes) rehabilitation.
- Steve Lillehaug: we follow the checklist. We have some good projects to come, such as the Brooklyn Blvd corridor, 57th Ave going out to the river.
- DJ Forbes: Hennepin County uses the Brooklyn Center Complete Streets policy as a model
Traffic Management Plan - Brooklyn Center Engineering

Andrew Hogg:
- Would like a guide of strategies we can hand to developers, with many different options. Can be ordinances for developers so they better manage traffic demand to their site. Including parking policies and incentives. Engineering will be working on this.

Future Meeting Schedule
- Fourth Wednesday of every other month 10:30 am to 12 noon. As needed, may setup meeting somewhere else or at different time to broaden participation.
- Next meeting: Oct. 22nd. 10:30 am - 12 noon.

CDG Action Items
- Share summary CDG mtg notes with PSC members
- Set up internal website for Steering Committee
- Update CEP (Community Engagement Plan) after comments are received from City and Hennepin County - CEP will be revised and sent to PSC within next 30 days.
- CDG will set up an emailing list for communication

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