

Community Development Activities Meeting: Let's Talk Mobility
Meeting Notes
3/31/22, 6:30 PM, by Zoom and by Facebook Live

Approximately 20 people in attendance on Zoom.

Welcome & Introductions

Lauren Connelly from LC welcomed everyone, introduced Drew Saglimben from Rep. Innamorato's office and Rebekkah Ranallo from Mayor Gainey's Office.

- Rebekkah Rannallo: 3 team members in Neighborhood Affairs. Trying to attend as many community meetings as possible but can't promise to be at all of them, but will be responsive in between. Looking forward to working with Lawrenceville!
 - Contacts: rebekkah.ranallo@pittsburghpa.gov | 412.255.2505
 - Chrisarah Johnson | chrisarah.johnson@pittsburghpa.gov | 412.255.2741
 - Jessica Farrell | jessica.farrell@pittsburghpa.gov | 412.255.2626

Dave Breingan from LU reviewed accessibility, security, and ground rules.

Mobility in Lawrenceville - Presentations

1. **Pittsburghers for Public Transit** - Cheryl Stephens, Community Organizer
 - a. PPT is dedicated to improving public transit accessibility to all residents throughout Allegheny County.
 - b. Created a [100 Days Transit Platform](#) to address unique challenges experienced by riders. Many things that the City of Pittsburgh can do to support transit. Goals:
 - i. Prioritize accessible, equitable mobility over corporate profit and private modes of transportation
 - ii. Legislation and zoning to support transit use and affordable housing
 - iii. Comfortable, accessible, and safe public transit connections
 - iv. Increase bus lanes and routes
 - c. Specific recommendations of platform include:
 - i. ID a set of mobility goals that are clear and measurable
 - ii. Name a cabinet-level position to address Mobility Justice
 - iii. Fully fund and staff DOMI and City Planning to address needs
 - iv. Zoning for affordable housing, higher density, less parking near areas of strong transit
 - v. Compensating people with disabilities for planning infrastructure
 - vi. Create a sidewalk fund with dedicated staff
 - vii. Relocate bus shelters to priority stops
 - viii. Dedicated bus lanes and signal priority use to make buses more efficient
 - d. Read full platform at pittsburghersforpublictransit.org
 - e. Question from Paul Alessio: what's the thinking behind eliminating parking requirements?
 - i. Cheryl: parking is very expensive, savings can be passed on to lower cost of rent, create more housing, or go into sidewalk fund

2. **BikePGH** - Open Streets 2022 - Natalie Jellison, volunteer and events coordinator
 - a. 3 of the largest events in the City. Shut down several miles of road for traffic.
 - b. First one will go from Market Square to Lawrenceville: Sunday 5/29 from 10-2.
 - c. Natalie will be back next month for a more detailed presentation but can find more information on OpenStreets at <https://openstreetspgh.org>
3. **Healthy Ride / POGO update** - Ricardo Solis
 - a. HealthyRide is POGO now! Replacing the whole system. Means not only new bikes but getting new name, branding, and e-bikes for the first time. Will be removing stations but new system will help a lot, especially with folks navigating hills. Will continue to have pedal bikes as well. Hope to launch first week of May, still running Healthy Ride in the meantime. Phase 1 will have two stations at 42nd and Butler and 36th and Butler. Phase 2 will be in the fall and will add more bikes into Lawrenceville at Stanton & Butler, Main & Penn.
 - b. Question from John Duffy: will existing stations continue operations?
 - i. Ricardo: yes. Have been removing stations since December of last year. What's currently operating will stay until the switch. Everything on the app is accurate.
 - c. Learn more about POGO:
<https://healthyridepgh.com/blog/2022/03/16/announcing-pogoh/>
 - d. Learn more on the 3G network and their bikes:
<https://healthyridepgh.com/blog/2022/03/25/pogoh-is-coming-soon-whats-happening-now/>
4. **Introducing Automotus Smart Loading Zones** - Kelly Ferguson
 - a. Working in Pittsburgh a little over a year, working on a smart loading zone project. Looking at 20 loading zones throughout the City of Pittsburgh, mostly in downtown. None identified in Lawrenceville yet, but looking for 5 more spots.
 - b. Parking is hard and has only become more difficult in past 10 years. More and more competition at the curb for parking, more congestion, more emissions, more double parking and safety issues for pedestrians/cyclists. Our solution is to help address problems by increasing turnover and better using curb space.
 - c. Targeted towards commercial delivery so that city can better understand how curbs are being used and monetize curb use by the minute -- progressively increases to encourage turnover. Have seen good numbers in terms of reducing congestion, double parking, and increasing efficiency at the curb.
 - d. Will be launching next month until end of year.
 - e. Question from Claude LaVallee: what is a loading zone in this context?
 - i. Kelly: will be a painted and signed loading zone with opportunity to register and pay. Will be very obvious to average user.
 - f. Emily (LC): two spots proposed by Automotus and by City: both in Central Lawrenceville.
 - g. Contact: kelly@automotus.co
5. **Better Streets Lawrenceville** - Armin Samii
 - a. Group of residents focused on bike and pedestrian safety

- b. Recently went on Safe Routes to School survey around Arsenal schools / park and identified
 - c. Writing a capital budget letter - trying to get projects above \$50K funded
 - d. Meet on 2nd Tuesday of the month at noon by Zoom - flexible on timing
 - e. Sign up for email list [here](#) or reach out to Armin at armin.samii@gmail.com.
- 6. Green Boulevard Update** - Emily Persico, Lawrenceville Corporation
- a. Bike and pedestrian path from Highland Park to Downtown along Allegheny Valley Rail Road. First construction will occur this fall between 40th and 43rd along the rail line.
 - b. Can provide comments at engage.pittsburghpa.gov/allegheny-river-green-boulevard
 - c. Read the full plan at lvpg.com/about/community-plan/
- 7. Amazon Update** - Emily Persico, Lawrenceville Corporation
- a. One key update is that much larger facility, distribution center at Churchill, fell through
 - b. Haven't heard back from Amazon on any updates for Lawrenceville

Open Discussion

Participants were polled about how they usually get around and greatest mobility concerns/priorities

- Most attendees travel by walking!
- Top priorities were: pedestrian safety (#1), sidewalk/stair maintenance, and multi-modal commuter path / Green Boulevard

Louisa Miller: Is there anything we can be doing to help remove/reduce parking minimums?

- Cheryl Stephens (PPT): Share with your City Council member and ride transit more.

Bill Carter: Does LU or LC have any information on the Arsenal Park Committee plans for 39th and 40th plans?

- Dave (LU): construction will start the first week of July after Independence Day Celebration. Construction design documents are being finalized and will be shared out with community, but work will get going this summer!
- Stay up to date at <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/arsenal>

John Duffy: can we get the link to the Public Works Green Boulevard presentation?

- LC will share this out!

Bill Carter: what about enforcement of parking violations? I see a lot of lost revenue on the LV streets.

- Armin: two main types of parking violations: cars parked on sidewalks, cars parked in bike lanes. It's now officially illegal to park in a bike lane. Parking Authority is under-resourced and having trouble ticketing. Not a lot of capacity or will to ticket for these issues however, and falls on police, which isn't always a good option.

- Armin's company is trying to support DOMI on enforcing these issues without personnel. More info at <https://dashcam.bike/> and <https://medium.com/department-of-innovation-performance/pgh-labs-7-0-cohort-5d9da73cdcf5>

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- 3/31 - today is the deadline to apply for Emergency Rental Assistance Program if you're behind on rent or utilities: <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/>
- 4/1 - deadline to submit vendor applications for the Lawrenceville Farmers Market
 - More info at: <http://www.lunited.org/programs/lawrenceville-farmers-market/>
 - LU also hiring a Market Assistant: <http://www.lunited.org/now-hiring-assistant-farmers-market-manager/>
- 4/2, 12-4 PM - Lawrenceville Artists Pop Up Markets
 - www.radianthall.org/lawrenceville-popup-market
- 4/2, 9-12 AM - Tree planting at Stephen Foster Community Center - volunteers needed
 - Register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f48aaac2ca1f49-tree14>
- 4/2, 12-3 PM - Tree adoption event - free trees for your yard
 - Register at <https://secure.givelively.org/event/friends-of-the-pittsburgh-urban-forest/tree-adoption-event-in-lawrenceville>
- 4/9, 9-12 AM - Lawrenceville Tree Tenders planting 15 street trees around Lawrenceville - volunteers needed
 - Register at bit.ly/April9TreePlanting
- 4/19, 6:30 PM - Thunderbird follow up meeting - register at bit.ly/AprilHappenings22
- 4/28, 6:30 PM - April Community Development Activities Meeting - register at bit.ly/April28CDAM