



**Penn Avenue Corridor
Phasing Plan Committee (PACPPC)
Thursday, February 5, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m.
BGC Activity Center**

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance:

Aggie Brose (AgB)/BGC; Deadra Keener (DK)/BGC; Patrick Roberts (PR)/PennDOT; John Barrett (JB)/FDA; Amanda Broadwater (AmB)/City of Pittsburgh, DPW; Lindsay Myers (LM)/City of Pgh., DPW; Maureen Ford (MF)/LC; Patrick Hassett (PH)/City of Pittsburgh, DPW; Katherine Camp (KC)/ELDI; Jonathan Cox (JC)/EEP; Matt Galluzzo (MG)/PAAI & FDA; Henry Pyatt (HP)/FDA; Grady Roberts Jr. (GR)/BGC Board; Sidney Kaikai (SK)/Kimball; Melissa Rubin (MR)/PWSA; Tony Ceoffe (TC)/LU; Shelly Martz (SM)/DCP; Sean Capperis (SC)/City Councilman Patrick Dowd's Office; Brian Krul (BK)/Kimball; Keith Halas (KH)/Kimball

I. AgB called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

II. Motion to Approve the January Meeting Minutes

- PH requested that committee hold off approval until the next meeting, as corrections were made to the minutes after it was sent to the committee.
- **ACTION:** PH & DK requested that BK send AB/DK/PH the current committee list in order for them to update their databases.

III. Website

- BK & KH did a PP presentation on the PACPPC website.
- BK: We started off with an FTP site, but has some issues with that, so went to the current Newforma site. Some folks were having difficulty accessing the site, so now no password is needed. The web address is: *www.kimballcorp.com/070661* (the project #). Any of us—anyone—can access the site by typing that address into their browser.
- BK pointed out where the meeting documents are located on the site and how to access them.
- BK: He or KH will send out an email before each meeting with a link to the site.
- PH: And then you can just bookmark it. Also, please pay attention to whether a document is titled “draft” or “final”.

IV. Updated Timeline & Monthly Status report

- PH: Before beginning, want to bring Melissa/PWSA up to speed before she leaves, as she needs to leave early. This is a street reconstruction/infrastructure project. We have concerns about making improvements to the corridor without addressing the needed improvements to the water and sewage infrastructure. We want to work with PWSA to make sure to coordinate work as needed.
- MR: Right, because you wouldn't want to do the work only to have PWSA have to take everything up to do their work. When would construction begin?
- BK: The construction start date would be approximately January/Spring 2011.

- PH: No sooner than that.
- BK then went through the monthly status report handout.

Street Tree Report & Plans

- Formerly “Streetscaping Plans”, but as PH noted, there is really no streetscape other than trees currently, so really it is a tree inventory.

Transit Technical Memorandum

- There is a meeting scheduled for February 10 with the transit folks and then will take back to the City for comments, then will finalize.

Bicycle Technical Memorandum

- BK & PH: Bike Pittsburgh recommended the alleyway, but it is so narrow that Kimball and the City cannot recommend.
- PH: The City recognizes that there will always be some cyclists on Penn Avenue. It is designated Class 3, which means no children, for advanced cyclists. So will need to place signs to watch out for cyclists and make sure that the pavement and lighting is appropriate and that bike racks are available.
- TC: Sees cyclists daily on Butler Street and it is also dangerous. Hopes that we would work to get alleys working for cyclists.
- BK: We are also looking at Coral Street as an alternative.
- ACTION: TC requests that PH also recommend looking at Butler Street to address the biking situation there, too.

Traffic/Pedestrian

- There is a traffic modeling issue with 34th & Penn. Need to do a 20 year projection with proposed PennDOT improvements in place.
- HP: How is that calculated? For example, do you just take the previous 10 years in order to project?
- BK: Takes into account future growth, not just past history.

Timeline

- TC: Asked for clarification on projected timeline, as it seems aggressive to him. Shouldn't the meeting results predict the prioritization?
- Discussion ensued with comments from PH, PR, TC and AgB, focusing on the history of the PACPP. PH requested to talk to TC after the meeting to discuss further.

Needs Analysis

- PH passed out and went through the handout.
- PH: There are two types of needs, quantifiable and qualitative. Currently trying to quantify: pavement condition, sidewalk/curb condition, lighting condition, street tree need, intersection conditions (which includes crash rate, signal equipment condition and levels of service).
- PH went through a table of the traffic analysis of intersections along Penn Avenue from 34th St. to Negley Ave.
- PH: This table is a draft, though the final will not look much different. A-D are acceptable levels of service in the city. E-F are unacceptable levels, so need to take measures to address.
- PH explained the building permit chart, which breaks out the number of building permits issued per block on Penn Avenue from 34th Street to Negley Ave. from 3/2007 to 1/2009.

- PH: This is important as we need to know where the private money is being invested along the corridor to try to make a solid case for infrastructure investment.
- MG: Are the townhouses at the corner of Penn & Gross included?
- PH: Not sure.
- MG: Why not use the permits for Children's Home and Children's Hospital?
- PH: The records don't show in the system that far back, before 2007. It's intuitive, though, we know they are there. Also, they've done their streetscaping.
- JC: On their side, but not the other side.
- PH: I can add them in there, but it may skew the results.
- JC: May need to be a mix of qualitative and intuitive.
- HP: Can't we expand the timeline?
- PH: it would be hard to get consistent data for the whole avenue. Also, we want to dovetail with *current* investments.
- JC: Children's Hospital would say that they are still currently building.
- PH: Agree it is still a gray area.
- DK: It could open up a can of worms, as would need to include all other permits from that time along the entire stretch of avenue, and PH indicated would be difficult to get accurate data.
- AgB: What isn't gray is including the new townhouses.
- PH: Yes, we can include those.
- JC: If too problematic, we could just drop this factor.
- PR: Regarding the pavement, it's going to be more pavement condition than current investment that decides whether work needed. Pavement condition holds more weight—safety first.
- AmB: We do need to look at whether current investment would make the street more dangerous due to increased traffic, both vehicle and pedestrian.
- PR: Yes. Would need to estimate/project increased traffic due to those needs, how the investment is changing the use of the avenue.
- PH explained the chart "Summary of Quantified Needs by Block/Intersection". It is an overall needs map of the corridor. The points indicate the importance assigned by the public at the last public meeting. The skipped lines are intersections, with the shading indicating the current crash rate. The longer the segment, the higher the cumulative need. The signal equipment rating still needs to be added.

Projects and Costs

- PH: Have a matrix with the total projected cost and then break out of cost per section. What need to do now is break out projected cost by block to come up with a generic improvement cost/project cost for each block and intersection. This will help with being able to prioritize and know how far the money will go.
- PR: Will have to figure out logical termini also. Right now we are using the "smoking gun" theory—if doing a section and all of the money runs out, would you *have* to continue? We will need to talk to Tony Minto from the Federal Highway Department.
- LC: You mentioned 4-5 million. Is that the total money for the project?
- PH: That is a target figure.
- PR: Currently there is money is for Phase 1 design and about \$1.5 million programmed for construction.

- PH: We now have 1.5 million in construction money for Phase 1, which comes from shifting TIP funds.
- PR: Will need all of the construction funds to move to final design.
- DK: Commented on why it is so important to have monthly representation at the table. We are now moving from planning to action phase and it is important for all groups involved to be informed and participate.
- PH/AgB: This is also why meeting minutes are so important.

V. **Public Meeting**

- Scheduled for April 16, 2009. Committee arrival 5:00 p.m. Food/beverage at 6:00 p.m. Meeting start at 6:30 p.m.
- AgB: How will Kimball advertise?
- BK: Same as the last meeting. An article and ad will be in The Bulletin and a flyer created. When should we get the invitation letter to public officials?
- PR: Should we have an additional meeting because there is so much to talk about and do beforehand?
- PH: Good idea.
- Committee agreed on April 9, the second Thursday in April, as the meeting date for the possible second meeting. Same time and location as the regular meetings (9:00 a.m., BGC Activity Center).
- Discussion regarding whether a raffle is needed for this meeting and what feedback we want from the public. **ACTION:** To be discussed further at March meeting.

VI. **Old/New Business**

Streetscape Design

- MG: Received a \$50,000 grant from PPNP for Penn Ave. Streetscape Design Plan. Convened a committee at FDA office on January 23 to put together an RFP, which was sent out to local firms. The due date is next week, on Wednesday. The committee will interview the two final firms the next week. Will have a final decision on February 26.
- AgB mentioned that new trash cans and bike racks will be placed on the Avenue soon as a result of the Mayor's October "Taking Care of Business" tour.
- PH requested the location of the new trash cans. **ACTION:** AgB will get info to PH regarding where the new trash receptacles, from the City, will go.
- PH: What type of bike racks are you getting?
- AgB: Not sure, but thinks the circle ones. **ACTION:** Will find out and let PH know.

VII. **Adjourn**

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 5 @ 9:00 a.m.