

Appendix C: Corridor Advisory Group Meeting #3
Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 14, 2019

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Harvey Public Library

The third Corridor Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting for the South Halsted Bus Corridor Enhancement Project took place on Thursday, February 14, 2019, at 1 PM at Harvey Public Library, 15441 Turlington Avenue, Harvey, IL 60426. Eleven CAG members, including representatives from four municipalities, were in attendance. All CAG members and project team members in attendance can be found on page 5. CAG members were provided a copy of the PowerPoint presentation upon entering the meeting.

The meeting began with introductions of all CAG and project team members. Sukmeke Watkins, CTA Government and Community Relations, then provided an overview of the project and reviewed the meeting agenda. Jeff Sangillo, CDM Smith, continued with a recap of CAG Meeting #2, project status, and goals for this CAG meeting. Mr. Sangillo presented revisions to the Purpose and Need Statement and measures of effectiveness since last meeting.

Next, Mr. Sangillo provided a detailed review of the following narrowed corridor improvement alternatives:

- Alternative 1: Queue Jumps
- Alternative 2: Queue Jumps (79th Street, 95th Street and Halsted between 79th and 129th Streets), Bus Lanes (129th to 154th)
- Alternative 3: Queue Jumps (79th Street, 95th Street, and Halsted between 79th and 98th Streets), Bus Lanes (98th to 154th)

Mr. Sangillo also discussed peak vs. off-peak travel times to inform the discussion regarding bus lane operations in the peak hour or all day (24-hour bus lanes).

Following the review of improvement alternatives, Mr. Sangillo discussed station location concepts, describing proposed station improvements and typical station placements.

Mr. Sangillo then introduced the small group discussion activity, in which feedback was requested on the alternatives and the station locations. CAG members divided into two groups, focusing on the northern half of the corridor or the southern half. Each CAG member received an alternatives handout, conceptual station location plans, and two comment forms to aid in providing feedback on the alternatives and the station location concepts.

Small group discussion occurred for approximately 25 minutes, prior to reconvening and reporting out to the larger group. Mr. Sangillo then provided a brief summary of next steps, which included reviewing CAG comments and confirming the preferred alternative(s). The recommended improvements will be shared with the CAG via email in spring 2019.

A comments summary and action items are included below.

Summary

Discussion occurred throughout the meeting. A few themes arose, including the following:

Alternative Preferences

- Overall support for Alternative #3.
- Agreement that from an economic development standpoint, Alternative #3 is preferred.
- Support for 24-hour bus lanes, as there are a significant amount of off-peak riders who may utilize the bus routes.

Specific Station Locations

- Request to add/move a Pulse stop to 134th Street, where two trail heads for the Major Taylor Trail are located. There is a gap between proposed stops in this location.
- Identification of bus stops where a significant number of riders board and consideration for larger stations to accommodate all riders as necessary. For example, at 147th Street, where those waiting for the bus form a line which wraps around the block. A typical Pulse platform may not accommodate this.
- Identification of current bus shelters where there are safety issues. For example, the shelter at the 144th Street intersection has been hit multiple times by northbound motor vehicles when making the right turn from westbound 144th Street to northbound Halsted Street.

Roadway Configuration

- Suggestion to incorporate bus bulbs instead of bus lanes, as bus lanes are typically created when there is high congestion.
- Some concern over 10' lanes, and if they are wide enough to accommodate motor vehicles.
- Some support for reducing the median, as there are safety concerns for individuals standing on the median (specifically in Riverdale).

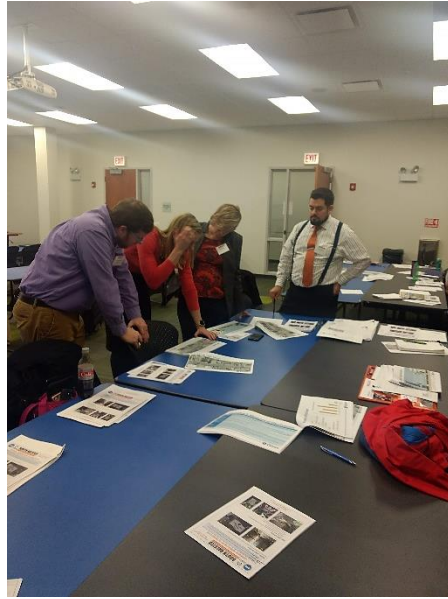
- Concern about ways to deter drivers from driving in bus only lanes

Other

- Interest in improving the pedestrian environment in addition to the transit improvements, such as the incorporation of median refuge islands. Pedestrian improvements may also increase transit ridership.
- Emphasis on incorporating community and business owners' input in the next phase of the project, specifically related to station locations and parking impacts.
- Questions regarding the operations of local and express service; whether the buses would bunch or conflict with one another.
- General questions regarding IDOT's plans at 149th Street.
- Recognition that additional analysis is required, including the traffic and safety impacts of adding bus lanes.

Action Items

- Review proposed station at 147th Street to ensure it will accommodate the high number of riders.
- Review/move the proposed station at the 144th Street intersection, as the current location is a safety concern.
- Review potential pedestrian accommodations/improvements which could be incorporated in the design.
- Conduct additional traffic and safety analysis to ensure that bus lanes can be appropriately accommodated.



CAG Member in Attendance	Organization
Ernest Roberts	Consultant to: City of Harvey, Village of Dixmoor, Village of Calumet Park
Nick Haddad	IDOT
Tomo Music	Cook County Dept. of Transportation and Highways
Peter Kersten	RTA
Allison Buchwach	Metra
Leslie Phemister	South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association
Dorian Johnson	Far South CDC
Jerome Russell	Village of Riverdale
Martin Menninger	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Audrey Wennick	Metropolitan Planning Council
Julia Gerasimenko	Active Transportation Alliance

Project Team Member in Attendance	Organization
Emily Drexler	CTA
Jennifer Henry	CTA
Sukmeke Watkins	CTA
Paris Tyler	CTA
Charlotte O'Donnell Obodzinski	Pace
Jessica Rybarczyk	Pace
Martin Sandoval	Pace
Ryan Ruehle	Pace
Ezekiel Guza	Pace
Steve Goodreau	CDM Smith
Jeff Sangillo	CDM Smith
Lissa Domoracki	Metro Strategies
Other: Sara Hage	HNTB/ Pace PMO
Other: Steve Brown	HNTB/Pace PMO