

Village of Ballston Spa

Study Advisory Committee Meeting #1

February 19, 2021 @ 1:30 PM

Attendees: Jacob Beeman (CDTC), Jordan Solano-Reed (CDTC), Trustee Liz Kormos (Village of Ballston Spa), Trustee Christine Fitzpatrick (Village of Ballston Spa), Board Member Scott Burlingame (Village of Ballston Spa), Bernadette VanDeinse (Village of Ballston Spa), Nathan Ward (Village of Ballston Spa), John Balet (BSC School District), Ray Otten (Village of Ballston Spa), Ben Jordan (Village of Ballston Spa), Rich Bashant (Friends of Kayderosseras), Mike Valentine (Saratoga County), Todd Fabozzi (CDRPC), Brent Irving (CDTA), Audrey Burneson (NYSDOT), Alanna Moran (VHB), John Donnan (VHB), Eamon McCandless (VHB), Katherine Ember (Planning4Places), James Levy (Planning4Places)

- Introductions – Jacob Beeman opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves. Alanna Moran will be serving as the Consultant Team Project Manager. Trustee Kormos noted that the Village has historically been very walkable (referencing historic pictures) but the infrastructure is aging, current excessively wide roads, increased traffic levels, and some intersection existing conditions have created pedestrian safety concerns. Trustee Kormos also noted that connecting to the Zim Smith Trail is a high priority and planning for improved walkability within the Village in the future is important for a number of reasons, including the renewed focus on economic development.
- Review of Agenda – Alanna Moran reviewed the agenda for the meeting.
- Review of Roles & Responsibilities - Alanna Moran presented the roles and responsibilities for the Village, CDTC, the Consultant Team, and the Study Advisory Committee (SAC). Jacob Beeman added that in addition to technical and project management, the CDTC role includes confirming that the final plan is consistent with region-wide planning goals.
- Purpose & Need Statement – Alanna Moran discussed the draft Purpose and Need Statement.
 - Jacob Beeman briefly mentioned the CDTC New Visions 2050 long-range transportation plan and noted that he had a few proposed revisions to the Purpose & Need Statement that he would send by email.
 - Trustee Fitzpatrick noted that “signing” should be revised to “signage.”
 - Ray Otten asked if the boundaries of the study area could be revised to primarily follow Route 50 as the primary focus with extensions east and west into the neighborhoods as needed. The Town of Milton has a significant

Route 50 reconstruction project underway that this project should tie into and this project should cover more of Route 50 than what is currently proposed. Jacob Beeman noted that this is not a corridor study but rather an area study and that the Town of Milton has a representative on the Committee.

- Previous & Current Studies: Highlights – Alanna Moran highlighted work already undertaken that will be incorporated into this planning effort.
- Scope & Schedule – Alanna Moran reviewed the proposed scope of work and project schedule.
- Community Participation Plan – Kathy Ember reviewed the draft community participation plan outline.
 - There was significant discussion regarding outreach efforts and stakeholders. Trustee Kormos noted that reaching out to renters needs to be a focus. Surveys and information can be distributed through food drives, at Churches and through coordination with the Economic Opportunity Council (EOC), Ballston Spa National Bank food drive, and the Ballston Spa Business Association. Bernadette VanDeinse agreed that reaching out to the disadvantaged communities was a priority as many of these individuals do not have a vehicle.
 - Contacting seniors was also noted as a priority. Efforts should be undertaken to reach-out to individuals at Doubleday Woods and Mohican Hill. For the Police Reform Task Force, a focus group with seniors was held at Doubleday Woods and it was very successful. Assessing senior access to the bus is important. Consideration of reaching-out to areas within the study area that are renter-heavy (like the Route 50 corridor) should be a priority.
 - Trustee Fitzpatrick noted that the Route 50/Milton Avenue bus stop is heavily used. Maybe it is possible to leave material at the stop? Spa Cleaners/Laundry may be amenable to posting information as well. Brent Irving noted that we could place rack cards on buses, even with different buses running on the route, as long as we can get the drivers to bring them on-board when they head out from the bus garage.
 - A hard copy survey will be needed to provide at key locations.
 - We should reach-out to Church leaders to gauge their ability to help engage stakeholders.
 - Bernadette VanDeinse recommended distributing printed material to businesses within the study area.

- Jacob Beeman asked if printed material will be used to promote meetings, project information, and/or surveys. Kathy Ember's response was a mix of meeting information, project information, and surveys as necessary, to be determined once printing budget is finalized.
- Social media and the website will be useful to not only post information but get the word about the project out to the community. Jacob Beeman noted that CDTC will also post on their social media accounts and their website.
- Alanna Moran provided an overview of the website. It is currently under development but will be online soon.
- Existing Conditions Information – Alanna Moran reviewed the existing conditions information to be included in the plan and responsibilities for data compilation.
- Sidewalk Conditions – Kathy Ember provided a quick summary of sidewalk conditions and post- snow storm conditions from a recent site visit undertaken a day after a measurable storm (about 6” of snow). While much of the Village was in good shape having been plowed and sidewalks shoveled, there were areas where there were sections not shoveled or were cleared but then covered again (such as on Route 50) following plowing.
- Sidewalk Inventory Survey – Jacob Beeman discussed the sidewalk condition assessment that is to be undertaken by volunteers as part of this planning study. CDTC has identified approximately 15 miles of sidewalk in the Village and to make data collection more manageable, divided the study area into 5 sectors. Maps and matrices along with a condition rating scale and associated images have been created. The SAC should begin working to identify volunteers even though this assessment is still a month or two out as it needs to be conducted once the snow has melted.
 - Brent Irving noted that the City of Troy did a digital survey in 2019 and used an app instead of paper. Jacob Beeman noted that he has coordinated with Carrie Ward (project manager for the Troy project) for this study, but given other efforts underway to develop an app-based scoring system, this project will likely need to use paper surveys due to time and technology constraints. Attendees on the call noted that paper versions are likely to be easier for volunteers to use.
 - A recommendation was made that the number of segments should be reduced. Audrey Burneson noted that NYSDOT does not assign segments until after the data is collected. Segments are then created based on where conditions change. Discussion was held to determine how segments will be identified (ex. Street address, tax parcel lines, etc).
 - A question was asked about whether or not to score impassible as zero (0). Audrey Burneson noted that NYSDOT considers a score of one (1) as

impassible. Jacob Beeman responded that the rating system was adopted from the ADA standards.

- Next Steps – Alanna Moran summarized the next steps which include finalizing the project website, completing the sidewalk inventory, completing the existing conditions assessment, and finalizing the public involvement plan.

