

Eastern Edge Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
September 14, 2007 – 1:00 p.m.

Members Present

Paul Debuty, Rick Delany, Matt Parrill, Scott Schmid, and Herb Greer

Others Present

Jeff Briner, Shane Farnsworth, Thea Walsh, Heather Whitmore, and Zachary Balassone

Meeting called into order at 1:10 p.m.

I. Introductions

II. Review Agenda

Heather Whitmore reviewed the plan for the meeting to the members present.

III. Discuss Last Meeting

The PAC discussed the goals that were presented from the last meeting. The proposed questionnaire, legal ad, and press release were all accomplished. Matt Parrill made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 31, 2007 Steering Committee Meeting, seconded by Rick Delany. Motion Carried.

IV. Press Release, Website, Media Update

The *Springfield News-Sun* posted an article in the September 13, 2007 paper. The title of the article is "Plan Looking at Eastern Edge" by Samantha Sommer. The article can be found on their website at www.springfieldnewssun.com by searching the title. Shane Farnsworth also reported that the website for the Eastern Edge Planning Project is up and running at www.easternedgeplanning.com. This will serve as an information source for all of the members and residents to gain the latest information on the progress. The PAC members discussed that they have already been contacted by some interested residents that would like to gain more information about the project. This makes it essential to provide them through e-mail as well as the website with accurate, up-to-date information.

V. Review Questionnaire

There have already been some surveys returned from the September 13, 2007 Stakeholder Meeting. Heather Whitmore proposed doing the survey at the meeting in order to gain more feedback, as opposed to having the interested party mail it in. The purpose of the questionnaire is to be able to translate the residents' and business owners' responses into measurable quantitative values to see what their vision of the corridor is. The group went through each question making minor changes to the proposed questionnaire. A motion was made by Rick Delany to approve the questionnaire for distribution and study, seconded by Matt Parrill. Motion Carried.

VI. Discuss September 13, 2007 Stakeholder Meeting

Jeff Briner expressed that the residents have the desire to preserve the neighborhoods from deterioration and also to improve the residential area where possible. Briner also expressed that business owners in the area are seeking to retain their rights and to have the capacity to expand if necessary. The group acknowledged that both of these statements are important due to the goal of building consensus and giving people what they want in relation to the best outcome of the corridor.

The group also held a discussion over vacant properties and potential further uses for them. Heather Whitmore showed the differences in sections 1 and 2 of the corridor displaying the lack of consistency from property to property. In addition to discussing future land uses, the group also looked at the traffic issues on the corridor. Matt Parrill also brought up the idea of branding each segment of the corridor with a specific name to help display the culture of the area.

The group reviewed the maps from segments 1 and 2. Shane Farnsworth passed on the information from his group study at the Stakeholders Meeting saying that the citizens were happy with the development, but that added green space should be incorporated in the developments design. Also, there were concerns from about the access to businesses on the corridor because of the traffic. The group discussed possibly adding a rear cross access Street to connect the businesses. Leaving the businesses and entering the corridor also presented an issue. There needs to be more emphasis on providing a clear sight onto the corridor that is currently blocked in several locations due to signs, poles, trees, and bushes. The problem with accessing the corridor also presents safety concerns. Scott Schmid presented that hundreds of wrecks in this segment of the corridor happen each year. He also added that alleviating this obvious security issue could increase business due to the improved traffic flow. This could help with the future state sponsored study of Route 40.

Other issues that were brought up by the map sessions with the stakeholders were to regulate new development to insure that it matches the character of the area, and also to enhance the current development. The group felt that it was equally important to enhance the structures that are in place, because this would help to attract new business. Herb Greer brought up the problem that often times the ownership will be different than the occupier of the property.

VII. Review Schedule and Locations

The next public involvement meeting will be held at the Springview Government Center in the conference room on the first floor at 6:00 p.m. It is also posted in the newspaper article and the website. The segments discussed will be from Burnett Road to Tuttle Road, Tuttle Road to Bird Road, and from Bird Road to Titus Road.

VIII. Final Comments and Questions

At the previous night's stakeholders meeting, the question was presented for why ODOT still has responsibility on the Route 40 corridor. Matt Parrill presented a document stating that the Ohio Revised Code 5511.02, Limited Access Highways and Freeways supports that ODOT has control of part of the corridor. In an interpretation from the Ohio Attorney General in 1958, it was stated that, "When an area including a portion of a limited access state highway is annexed to a municipality, the director retains jurisdiction as to the limited access feature of the state highway so annexed". This presents a need to follow ODOT policies on certain parts of the corridor. Matt Parrill also provided the group with access to "Context Sensitive Designs Handbook" which gives shows different designs and solutions for roadside projects. It outlines a way to get the community involved in the design process.

IX. Adjournment

Matt Parrill made a motion for adjournment at 2:40 p.m., seconded by Scott Schmid. Motion Carried.