

Complete Streets Working Group

November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The New Orleans Complete Streets Working Group held a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, starting at 9:30am via Zoom. Dan Jatres, Policy and Program Manager with the Mayor's Office of Transportation, chaired the meeting in the absence of Laura Bryan, Director of the Mayor's Office of Transportation, welcomed the Working Group membership, thanked them for their time and participation, and proceeded with the meeting agenda.

I. Roll Call

A roll call of Working Group members was conducted, with the following members in attendance:

- Office of Transportation: Dan Jatres (Chair)
- City Planning Commission: Rachael Berg
- Office of Economic Development: Jeff Schwartz, Courtney Stuckwisch Wong
- Health Department: Dr. Jennifer Avegno, Django Szilagi
- Office of Human Rights & Equity: Eliza Kauffman, Taylor Jackson, Shakira Gonzalez
- Department of Parks & Parkways: Mike Karam, Tica Hartman
- New Orleans Police Department: Lt. Anthony Monaco
- Department of Public Works: Jennifer Ruley
- Regional Transit Authority: Elisabeth Stancioff
- Roadwork NOLA: David Lee Simmons
- Office of Youth & Families: Jack Shaevitz
- AARP Louisiana: Daphne Young
- Complete Streets Coalition: Rica Trigs
- Lighthouse Louisiana: Anne Jayes, David Green
- University of New Orleans Transportation Institute: Tara Tolford
- Staff Support: Cailan O'Leary

II. Approval of the August 18, 2021 Minutes

Dan Jatres updated Working Group members that the draft minutes from the August 18, 2021 meeting were available online and had been shared with Working Group members in advance of today's meeting. No amendments or corrections were offered by members of the Working Group.

Eliza Kauffman made a motion to approve the August 18, 2021 minutes. Elisabeth Stancioff seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

III. Equity and Complete Streets

Dan Jatres reviewed the working draft equity definition previously shared at the August 2021 Working Group meeting and noted that no further edits have been incorporated. This definition is now serving as a template definition city-wide. Eliza Kauffman reported that feedback on the draft definition has been positive with departments and stakeholders feeling it fits their needs and is applicable to their efforts. If needed, some of the terms in the definition can be defined, similar to how the Complete Streets Policy includes definitions. Elisabeth Stancioff suggested that point four more expressly address using data to measure the impact of the policy and projects.

Complete Streets Working Group Definition

An equitable government acts with purpose to achieve just and fair inclusion, leveraging power and resources to dismantle institutional racism and all forms of discrimination wherever they exist. Equity is achieved when identity, status, and ability no longer predicts a person's quality of life in our City.

The City of New Orleans' Complete Streets Program commits to applying an equity lens to all aspects of project decisions. We aim for a process where community perspectives are included and evidence-based decisions can be measured for their impact. By understanding historical disinvestments or harms and focusing strategies to the needs of our most vulnerable residents, our environmental and social circumstances as a City will be improved.

Equity is both an outcome and a process; including equity throughout our Complete Streets initiatives requires:

- 1) Committing to operating with equity throughout decision-making;
- 2) Advocating for improvements that advance outcomes for vulnerable community-members;
- 3) Empowering and prioritizing public engagement, and;
- 4) Investigating and employing quality data to inform strategies, decisions, and measure impacts.

Django Szilagi made a motion to recommend the equity definition to the Department of Public Works for the Complete Streets Program. Jack Shaevitz seconded the motion. The Working Group then discussed amending the language to more directly address measuring the impacts with data, per the suggestion above.

Django Szilagi made a revised motion to recommend the equity definition with the amended text to the Department of Public Works for the Complete Streets Program. David Lee Simmons seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote

IV. Performance Metrics

Following the equity discussion, Dan Jatres shared the draft matrix of potential metrics, updated to incorporate the discussions of the Working Group at the August 2021 meeting. The Working Group further discussed the remaining gaps in the proposed metrics and their associated goals:

- Need to identify data sources for school transportation access. It was noted that current leadership changes at New Orleans Public Schools will present an opportunity to engage the incoming staff around this data need.

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- The drainage metrics (row 28-31) were suggested by SWB following the August meeting, additional discussion with them is necessary to identify baselines and goals.
- The Transportation Access metrics (rows 68-72) could be coordinated with the community services access metric being developed as part of the Youth Master Plan. The definition of community service needs to be defined. It could potentially include NORDC facilities, health centers, libraries, urgent care facilities, etc.
 - Transportation Access to essential businesses in addition or in place of community services could be the metric, building on efforts of the Office of Economic Development.
 - 211 has a youth resource list that is fairly extensive and could inform a list of community services.
- For job access, is 60 mins a best practice time period for measuring access?
 - It draws from the analysis done in the New Links Redesign.
 - RTA noted there are multiple ways to measure this, including simpler ways to define the metric to ease the analysis and tracking.
- The funding metrics need to be defined. This is not straight forward, since a successful complete streets program integrates all modes, the tracking of funds spent on each mode can can't always be disaggregated. Perhaps measure the number of competitive grant awards/proposals.
- Discussion of adding operations and maintenance metrics across the whole matrix.
 - Could this be accomplished by adding operations and maintenance goals? Or metrics could have a secondary metric for operations and maintenance. Ex. 1) total miles of bikeways; 2) total miles maintained
- Planning metrics that address planning and land use's role in complete streets, including parking regulations, access management and other transit supportive policies.
- Urban tree canopy vs tree inventory. Tie this to health and recreation...access to green space; urban heat island effect.
- City Health has ranked complete street policies of cities, currently ranking New Orleans as silver. City Health has reached out to the Health Department.
 - NOHD to follow up on what they reviewed: ordinance or CAO policy, and the availability of their report card for us to review.

The Working Group discussed next steps and decided to organize working sessions prior to the February 2022 meeting to focus on the outstanding items. The Mayor's Office of Transportation will plan and coordinate these working sessions, starting after Thanksgiving.

After identifying next steps, the discussion concluded with a note about the 2022 meeting dates: February 16, May 18, August 17, and November 16. Prior to the February meeting, a pair of surveys will be sent to Working Group members, the first to solicit topic ideas for the Working Group's 2022 agenda, and the second to select priorities from the list of topics.

Public Comments

No public comments were submitted.