

Complete Streets Working Group

February 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The New Orleans Complete Streets Working Group held a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, starting at 9:30am via Zoom. Dan Jatres, Policy and Program Manager with the Mayor’s Office of Transportation, chaired the meeting on behalf 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: Laura Bryan (Chair), Dan Jatres
- City Planning Commission: Larry Massey
- Office of Economic Development: Courtney Stuckwisch Wong
- Health Department: Dr. Jennifer Avegno, Django Szilagi
- Office of Human Rights & Equity: Eliza Kauffman
- Mayor’s Neighborhood Engagement Office: Justyn Hawkins
- 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
- University of New Orleans Transportation Institute: Tara Tolford
- Staff Support: Cailan O’Leary

II. Approval of the November 17, 2021 Minutes

Dan Jatres updated Working Group members that the draft minutes from the November 17, 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.

Django Szilagi made a motion to approve the November 17, 2021 minutes. Eliza Kauffman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

III. Equity and Complete Streets

Dan Jatres shared the draft matrix of potential metrics, updated to incorporate the discussions of the work sessions in January 2022. The current list of metrics has been divided into implementation tiers based on the availability of datasets and/or resources: Year 1, 50 metrics; Year 3, 32 metrics; and Year 5, 3 metrics. The next steps will be engaging with the identified point person for each metric to identify the baseline and the goal for each metric. The discussion addressed several issues:

- Land Use, Future and current. The future land use map could inform planning efforts for corridor rights-of-way.
- Policy Goals: The CAO Policy establishes 9 goals; ensure that as baseline and goals are established for the metrics, that consistency with the policy goals are seamless and ensure that metrics are focused on advancing the policy goals.
- Process-Oriented Metrics: while not necessarily an ongoing numerical metric, there remains values in identifying and tracking these items.
- Reporting: the Policy requires an annual report to the CAO's Office. Other reporting beyond that baseline annual report will likely vary by dataset parameters but could include reporting via a dashboard at more frequent and/or current datasets.
- Updating Metrics: the annual report timeframe provides an opportunity to review the list of metrics for potential updates and changes.

Next Steps: engage with identified point person for individual metrics to establish the baseline, goal, and collecting the metric for annual reporting.

IV. 2022 Working Group Initiatives

Dan Jatres shared the list of ideas submitted by Working Group members. The group then discussed each and identified next steps for advancing the initiative in 2022.

Community Engagement

- Suggested Initiative: Review current community engagement processes and recommend enhancements.
- Discussion: this task is simple and straight forward and can formally document the current process. This will familiarize Working Group members and the general public of the process and allow the solicitation of input.
- **Action Item: David Lee Simmons will outline the process and present at the May 2022 Working Group meeting.**

Design Guidelines

- Suggested Initiative: Review current internal design policies and guides and recommend revision/adoption of new guidelines.
- Discussion: Review existing policies to identify needed updates and discuss a community engagement process; review with the various complete streets element perspectives, including transit, stormwater, accessibility, etc; include streetscape and trees in the design guidance; consider DOTD's approach as a model; compile a list of policies, plans, guidelines, standards.

- **Action Item:** Contact each Working Group member asking them to identify policies, guides, etc within their department to be reviewed and possibly updated consistent with the Complete Streets Policy.

Land Use

- Suggested Initiative: Identify and recommend opportunities to encourage private development projects to follow a complete streets approach.
- Discussion: 2015 CZO includes a variety of design standards (setbacks, transparency, etc), particularly in the CBD, but reviewing for smaller commercial corridors could be beneficial; coordinate with Transit Oriented Communities effort; public land uses have impacts and are often on larger tracts of land; goal should be to tighten the process and better define complete streets expectations to help with scoping and budgeting; review St. Bernard Parish' development ordinance modifications and the success or not they have experienced.
- **Action Item:** Follow up with City Planning Commission.

Project List Review

- Suggested Initiative: Review upcoming proposed projects (1-3 years out) and include state/RPC projects to screen for high-priority complete streets links.
- Discussion: a definite date/project development stage for policy application moving forward would learn from DOTD's struggle; this could be done in parallel to the update of design guidelines; a procedure/checklist for reviewing projects that links the review to the policy goals; taking a lead on this in relation to DOTD projects could serve as a model for spurring statewide action.
- **Action Item:** Development of a checklist and procedure for project review. DPW could adopt this moving forward.

Sidewalks

- Suggested Initiative: Sidewalk maintenance – current law, funding opportunities, ADA compliance tie-ins.
- Discussion: No time like the present to investigate; view from the perspective of a resident trying to repair sidewalks or install permeable pavement for example; linked to the public health implications and risks of poor sidewalks; law on ownership/responsibility (a bigger policy conversation that would need to be informed by topics of resources and needs); completing inventory of sidewalks will have a big role in this conversation and be useful for various agencies; equity needs and goals would be directly linked; utility impacts on sidewalks and the needs to better permit, monitor and enforce.
- **Action Item:** Review existing City Code; Review right-of-way management/data collection options underway.

Streetscape and Trees

- Suggested Initiative: Inclusion of street trees or locations for street trees in road projects; Exploration of alternative ways to address heat island effect.
- Discussion: Include as part of the design guidelines initiative.

Vision Zero Process

- Suggested Initiative: How will Complete Streets and Vision Zero interact and complement each other.
- Discussion: Work this out in the Vision Zero outline.
- Action Item: **Finalize Vision Zero Action Plan outline and next steps.**

Public Comments

No public comments were submitted.