



OPEN HOUSE WORKSHOP Meeting Notes

SUBJECT: U-Med Transit & Pedestrian Improvements

PROJECT NO.: MOA PM&E 04-42

GROUP: Public

DATE: December 4, 2006

TIME: 4: 00 – 6:30 pm

LOCATION: UAA/APU Consortium Library, Room 307

MEETING OUTREACH: Email notice to University Area, Rogers Park, and Tudor Area Community Council presidents (11/16/06)
Email notice to addresses on the above 3 Community Council lists (11/27/06)
Emails to project mailing list, flyers mailed to those without email addresses (11/27/06)
Newspaper ads: *Anchorage Daily News* (11/27/06 & 12/4/06), *UAA Northern Light* (11/28/06)
Flyers posted in UAA and APU buildings, corridor bus stops (week of 11/27/06)
PSA submitted to KRUA, KSKA, KNBA

MEETING ATTENDANCE: 22 (from sign in sheets)

MEETING MATERIALS: 1) Handouts: Agenda and comment sheet;
2) Graphics – aerial photo of corridor showing proposed design elements, “What We Have Heard from the Public” poster, current design drawings, renderings of design elements

STAFF PRESENT: MOA PM&E: Brooke Blessing
MOA People Mover: Jody Karcz, Randy Bergt
CRW Engineering Group: Bill Johnson
Land Design North: Terry Schoenthal, Jill Kovalsky
Brooks & Associates: Anne Brooks, Kathy Burgess

MEETING INFORMATION:

Participants were greeted at the door, asked to sign in, and given handouts. The aerial photo of the corridor was posted on a wall, and drawings and renderings were spread out on long tables for viewing. Pens were available for drawing or writing comments on the drawings. Project team members were present all around the room and available to answer questions or listen to comments.

Comments heard and received at the meeting:

Written on Drawings

- Bus Stop at 37th & Lake Otis shows break in back wall to give access to nearby businesses directly from the bus stop
- McLaughlin midblock crosswalk (north side)
 - Old UAA sign will be replaced
 - Suggest routing trail behind shelter to minimize bike/bus rider collisions. If trail cannot be located outside shelter suggest obvious delineation of bike path through shelter area
 - Avoid people waiting being allowed to stand in way of through traffic
- McLaughlin midblock crosswalk (street)
 - Snow covers lights?
 - Great plan (written on median)
- McLaughlin midblock crosswalk (south side)
 - Connect east end of bus stop to cut in McLaughlin wall used by pedestrians
- Spirit Way/Providence intersection
 - North side shows route of pedestrians who cross Spirit Way at an angle from the east and walk west along the edge of the parking lot. Question mark beside curb ramp that does not line up with this travel route.
 - South side shows pedestrian trail that cuts the corner on the west
- Bus stop on south side of Alumni Drive & Providence
 - Concrete planters, something green drawn in at west end of paved pad.
 - Bike rack and more benches in shelter area
 - Shelter design responding to air quality concerns. Design area free of auto fumes, air flow to disperse fumes
 - At east end extend sidewalks down to 40th
 - South side corner marked “very narrow sidewalk curb in winter” and extend sidewalk curve
 - 2 curb ramps on north corner perhaps combined into one continuous ramp?
- Alumni Drive/Providence intersection
 - Northwest corner make trail cut to library parking lot
 - Southwest corner add a little more sidewalk
- Alumni to Bragaw sidewalk
 - Nice addition along this stretch. It needs a lighted path
- Site Amenities and Furnishings
 - Bike rack—shelters for winter riders. In winter, snow isn’t removed from these and they’re difficult to use.
 - Bus shelter—Shiny silver frame with glass panels, themed with southside Providence & Alumni? Holes in walls, need something accustomed for winter weather

Approval of Design Features

- Decreased angle of pathway from the dorms
- Larger sidewalks
- Plans for better snow removal

- Putting in more trees
- Sidewalks separated from road by trees (less splashing from cars, no snow storage on walkway) especially Spirit to Seawolf and UAA to Spirit
- Design theme along the whole corridor, concrete texture contrast, UAA logo in crosswalk, embedded lights in midblock crossing, wave design in Providence bus stop wall.

Suggested Improvements

- Keeping vehicles from crossing stop bars at traffic lights
- Better visibility of pedestrians & bikes crossing intersection, especially for drivers turning right on red
- Better bus stop shelters. The new ones look nice and are larger, but don't provide any more protection from weather
- Shelters for bike racks
- A system at bus stops to tell how long until next bus arrives
- Run buses later on Sundays and every other hour on weekends
- Make the NE corner of Lake Otis & Providence/36th wider so there is room to turn on a bike (traffic light and hydrant now impede movement)
- Better windbreak in bus shelters (solid rather than perforated walls)
- Improve Alumni Drive to Bragaw walkway—less straight, benches, trash cans, trees.
- Safer crosswalks needed at Spirit Way because of heavy pedestrian traffic and Providence expansion.

Other comments – area mobility concerns

Commenters expressed interest in creating better walking paths on the University and Providence Hospital campuses. A couple of meeting attendees' thought the meeting was about these pathways. Specific comments include:

- UAA – no pathways are along major roads between Wendler Middle School and the Campus Center. This route is taken by residents in the nearby neighborhoods to get from their homes to Providence Hospital
- A pathway is needed between Providence Drive and the day care center behind the parking garage. The street access is narrow and does not contain a pathway.

Related documents on file:

Sign in Sheets
 Handouts : Agenda, Comment Sheet
 Comment Sheets received at meeting
 “What We Have Heard” Poster
 Mailing List
 Flyer
 PSA
 Newspaper ads