



Michiana Area Council of Governments Active Transportation Steering Committee Meeting Notice

Friday, January 22, 2016
9:00 AM (EST)

Nappanee Chamber of Commerce
302 W Market St, Nappanee, IN 46550

Agenda

1. Formed Goals
2. Focus Group Summary
3. Defining Objectives
4. Small Group Discussion
5. Next Steps
6. Meeting Adjournment



Active Transportation Steering Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

Participants:

Amy Hill, Transpo
Barbara Fredman, Friends of Granger Paths
Chris Vanden Bossch, Bike Michiana
Craig Allebach, Town of Winona Lake
Jeff Kitson, Nappanee Chamber
Jessica Brookshire, Notre Dame OPA
Kyle Hannon, Elkhart Chamber of Commerce
Liz Gunden, Elkhart County Planning

Larry Magliozzi, SJC Area Plan Commission
Nicole Lawler, Visit South Bend Mishawaka
Ralph Booker, Marshall County
Robin Vida, St. Joseph County Health Dept.
Ron Robinson, Kosciusko County
Steve Peterson, Bike Elkhart
Therese Dorau, City of South Bend
Tim O'Donnell, South Bend Int'l. Airport

MACOG Staff:

Zach Dripps, Principal Planner
Caitlin Stevens, Regional Planner

Agenda & Summary

1. Formed Goals

Zach Dripps welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the 6 goals established by the steering committee

- **Connectivity:** Create a regional, interconnected active transportation network that allows for efficient transportation to places you want to go
- **Accessibility:** Integrate active transportation with other forms of transportation and provide equitable transportation options to all people of all abilities and backgrounds to places of employment, grocery stores, parks, schools and other key destinations.
- **Culture:** To foster in the region a change from a car-centric culture to an active transportation culture among residents, business owners and political leaders to create a greater awareness and support for active forms of transportation
- **Health:** Provide opportunities for residents to access active transportation to support a health and active lifestyle
- **Safety:** Improve conditions and awareness of all users of the transportation network, especially the most vulnerable users
- **Quality of Place:** Create economically and socially vibrant communities, through use of active transportation networks, that attract residents to live, work and play in our region.



2. Focus Group Summary

Caitlin Stevens provided a summary of the Focus Group meeting that took place in December and January in Goshen and South Bend respectively. Common themes mentioned throughout several of the goals included the need to promote our regional network and what we have to offer, connecting communities of all sizes, increasing the convenience of transit, walking and biking, and enhancing signage for many components including safety, directions, marketing, etc. For a more detailed summary of the Focus Group Meetings, please refer to the Active Transportation Focus Group Summary handout.

3. Defining Objectives

Caitlin Stevens spoke about how objectives should relate to our goals. Objectives are what need to be done to achieve goals. For a concrete plan, objectives should be “SMART”, meaning they should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time based. Objectives can address a variety of factors including hazards or threats, vulnerabilities, capacities, constraint, and expectations.

4. Small Group Discussion

The Steering Committee was asked to form small groups and discuss potential objectives and ideas for each goal for 15 minutes. The first three goals discussed were Connectivity, Accessibility, and Culture. The following is a summary of each group’s notes and their report out to the committee:

- **Connectivity:**
 - Accessing financial resources and funding
 - Regional Cities Grant
 - Identify major gaps and prioritize
 - Amount of time needs
 - Identifying available money
 - Encourage conversations between communities, and between private and public entities, to ensure a connected network
 - Identify major champions to push agenda in each community
- **Accessibility:**
 - Providing data for use of certain routes
 - Signage- making people aware of the best routes (time, distance, comfortability)
 - Promote responsibility of property owners for maintenance of sidewalks
 - Promote best practices for ensure sidewalks are clear and in good condition
 - Designing for plows, heated pavement
 - Enforcement
 - PSA’s
 - Provide commuting benefits or incentives
 - Tax incentives
 - Wellness programs
 - Shower facilities
 - Sunday public transit service
 - Educate property owners, business owners, student, and employers on way they can make active transportation more accessible



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

- **Culture:**
 - Develop awareness campaign about advantages of active transportation
 - Perceived distance, way to map/document time for walking/biking vs. driving to key destinations
 - Advantages of livable communities
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 - Work with law enforcement to create ordinances that provide for cycling/pedestrian facilities
 - Provide incentives for bike friendly businesses
 - Make alternatives year round
 - Good winter weather maintenance

The next three goals discussed were Health, Safety, and Quality of Place.

- **Health**
 - The health goal description needs to include components of sustainability and environmental health into the description (i.e. improved air quality)
 - Turn Biking/walking into entertainment
 - Events, destination
 - Encourages and Educate Employers about health incentives/awareness/and return of investment for people, their health, and utilizing active transportation
 - Provide health data associated with hard costs and health care #'s
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 - Create a education campaign of the social cost of unhealthy communities
 - In terms of health, it is better to promote every day trips rather than just recreation
- **Safety:**
 - Create a safety awareness campaign that is directed at all users of all ages
 - Develop educational programs for schools (3rd grade), instructors, and adults
 - Promote the use of equipment: Lights, helmets, vests
 - Provide for students
 - Provide training, enforcement, and education to law enforcement
 - Riding cops, warning, etc
 - Encourage laws and ordinances promoting Bicycling and walking
 - 3 foot rule
 - “Bike may us full lane”
 - Increase ridership in the area to encourage safety in masses philosophy
- **Quality of Place:**
 - Could include components of sustainability into this quality of place goal description
 - Encourage Economic development and growth by providing active transportation as a trigger for future growth
 - Make travel between locations part of the experience rather than just a destination
 - Public art , Multi-generational points of interest
 - Encourage utilization of active transportation as a way for community interaction and connection



- Granger Paths,ie
- Use active transportation as a way of keeping and bring in new business
- Use Regional Cities initiative to support market and development
- Form partnership to improve connectivity (ND, city, county, etc)

5. Next Steps

Zach Dripps described the next steps which included scheduling a Focus Group Meeting the last week in February to gather implementation and strategy ideas. MACOG staff will continue to gather data and provide analysis of the regions network including bicycle suitability of particular corridors. MACOG will also be working on a project website and public survey, to begin the public participation process early March.

6. Meeting Adjournment



Agenda & Summary