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Willowbrook Corner Planning Services
Meeting Notes
December 7, 2021, 5:30-6:30 pm
On-line meeting
Advisory Group Meeting #2

Meeting Attendees

Brazzil, G. (WSP Consultant Team)
Guenov, D. (Pace Suburban Bus)
Gulbranson, J. (WSP Consultant Team)
Kenyon, S. (DuPage County)
Loper, J. (DuPage Co, Project Manager)
Lupa, M (WSP Consultant Team)
Renehan, J. (DuPage County Board)
Rose, Chris (Pace Suburban Bus)
Verthein, B. (Hinsdale Township HS District 86)
Williams, W. (Burr Ridge Middle School)

The 60 minute meeting presented the information needed to propose mobility options to the Willowbrook Corners neighborhood and to the Advisory Group. The Advisory Group discussed a PowerPoint presentation which delivered information on the October 2021 Community Outreach efforts, the Willowbrook Community Resident Mobility Survey, Replica “big data” graphics, and a first cut at mobility options. Discussion ensued during each part of the meeting.

John Loper opened the meeting and thanked Chris Rose at Pace for providing Pace guidelines for existing and emerging modes. He then moved into the project schedule and noted that we are in the options step, having collected survey and travel pattern data from the Willowbrook Community.

Community Outreach

Community outreach in October 2021 took two forms:

- **Posters:** Two outreach posters were used on October 26 (Anne M. Jeans Elementary School) and October 27 (Avanath Realty Office) to gather information on important trips made by residents and to attract and brief residents on mobility options. A Geographic Information System (GIS) plot, with Willowbrook Corners at the center, was prepared. It showed retail, medical, school, and related destinations within a 5-mile radius. The mobility options board put potential solutions in front of residents; these included vanpools, electric bike sharing and Pace services. This slide also provided images of potential infrastructure needs, such as covered bus stops to solicit information on these needs from residents.

- **Newsletter:** In October, Newsletter #1 was issued. The goal of this newsletter was to brief residents on the study and to ask residents for their participation in the survey. A QR Code was developed and attached.

Gabi Brazzil introduced the Willowbrook Corners Mobility Survey of October 2021.

Willowbrook Corners Resident Mobility Survey

The team then presented the resident survey conduct and results.

- **Conduct:** Solicitation included the outreach noted above, the posting of placards throughout the neighborhood, the newsletter and QR code for outreach. The team worked with Anne M. Jeans Elementary School and Avanath Realty for connections to potential respondents. The survey targeted and captured only people who resided in the Willowbrook Corners neighborhood. It was made available for responses both on-line and in person.
- **Major Findings – Survey Respondents Noted:**
 - Mobility options that are affordable and flexible.
 - Linked to employment within 2-5 miles of home.
 - If a transit stop is part of the solution, seating and shelter from the weather are highly desired
 - AM hours of service are needed most – but best if there is service throughout the day
 - Biking and walking are not safe in the neighborhood due to the infrastructure issues – mainly the lack of sidewalks and unsafe intersections.
 - Technology is part of everyone’s life, but smart phone penetration is not universal; may need assistance
 - Microtransit is not well understood; it would fit what people need – providing attractive cost, flexibility, and service to all household members, not just the worker(s).
 - Education about new modes is needed and would be welcomed.
- **Questions and Comments:**
 - Brad Verthein noted that the disability community would profit greatly from a microtransit mode.
 - Wendy Williams noted that she has lived in the Willowbrook community and sees the vanpool mode as workable for many travel needs.
 - The AG in general is concerned about cost, in particular the potential relative higher cost of microtransit as compared to other modes.
 - All agreed that we need to conduct outreach to employers to link workers from the Willowbrook neighborhood to jobs.

- Education about emerging modes such as microtransit was deemed useful by all. Pace will look into the protocol for bringing specific vehicles to the public for their inspection. The size and type of mobility vehicle (disabled-compliant, # of seats, space within the vehicle when full, etc.) will help people decide which mode is best for them.
- Michael Childress presented a key issue – bringing services and retail opportunities to Willowbrook instead of working to build transportation links outbound. He spoke of a success in attracting a grocery store to Bloomingdale and will talk with the mayor on how they made this happen. There are many benefits to near-by destinations :
 - Keeping revenue in the neighborhood.
 - Convenience in walking or making a short drive to work or shop.
 - Using vacant property.
 - Creating a more vibrant well-rounded community.

Wendy Williams added that she has seen successful “shop local” efforts in Bronzeville and Chicago’s West Side. She gave an overview of what vacant land is available in the Willowbrook area – some is wetlands, some has been purchased by the mosque, and some is forest preserve. The strip mall on IL Highway 83 does not have a good realty agent; there are vacant storefronts and a preponderance of adult type retail, such as the liquor store.

Replica “Big Data” Plots

It was understood by the project team that additional recent trip data was needed to understand trip patterns of Willowbrook Corners residents. The team utilized WSP’s free license for Replica travel data to prepare a set of plots. Replica is a next-generation urban planning tool that can help cities answer key transportation and land use questions. Specifically, we reviewed work/school trip purposes, all trip purposes, and land use data at the Census Block Group geographic level.

- Replica shows us that we can serve many work and school trips by linking Willowbrook Corners with points north and northwest – along Illinois Highway 83 although many challenges are present. Follow-on work with Replica data will help define mobility options.
- **Questions and Comments:** The Replica plots were well-received. The group believes that they accurately capture movements. Mary Lupa offered to show additional slide to anyone who had an interest in going deeper into the Replica pattern data. Julie Renehan noted that there may be an IL 83 Land Use Study launched in the coming year.

Mobility Options

A presentation of mobility options was next. The goal was to review the Pace Suburban bus offerings and transit options. Jared Gulbranson and Chris Rose gave details on Pace

feeder service (Route 664), the Pace Community Vehicle Program, van pools and microtransit options.

Equity/Race

The meeting concluded before final remarks on equity could be presented and discussed. The WSP Team looks forward to sharing these points, tied to the project goals and objectives, in the coming weeks. Equity will be a guiding principle of the next steps – developing and finalizing mobility options and funding them.

CONCLUDING NOTES ON WILLOWBROOK CORNERS ADVOCACY GROUP MEETING #2:

- **Our Resident Mobility Survey told us what is important to the residents of Willowbrook Corners**
- **An application of “big data” called Replica provided a snapshot of where people in the community travel.**
- **A first look at Mobility Options tells us what directions we will explore.**
- **Expect Options Roundtable and the start of costing work Spring 2022.**

ACTION ITEMS (This is from AG Meeting #1)

- **DuPage County to review similar neighborhoods in SE DuPage WORK IN PROGRESS**
- **Project Team to prepare a neighborhood survey for Advocacy Group to review. ACCOMPLISHED**
- **Project Team to research and recommend possible grant programs for transportation and safety solutions WORK IN PROGRESS**
- **Project Team to follow up with individual advocates on key discussion points ACCOMPLISHED**

The meeting concluded at 6:30 pm

Willowbrook Corners Advocacy Group
Meeting Notes
7/7/21
continued