

The South Burlington Chamberlin/Airport Study Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, 28 April 2016, at 7:00 p.m., in the Gymnasium of Chamberlin School, White Street.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Sargent, Chair; K. Robinson, G. Maille, L. LaRock, J. Simson, P. Nowak, K. Schluter, W. Rjooney, G. Severence

ALSO PRESENT: P. Conner, Director of Planning & Zoning; L. Krohn, C. Forde, CCRPC; B. Chamberlin, S. Smallridge, C. Schlessinger, Consultants; E. Allen, N. Anderson, M. Ashton, T. Barritt, W. & C. Boardmen, E. & B. Bouvier, L. Boyajian, R. Brice, T. Chittenden, E. Clark, N. Corron, E. Diner, S. Dooley, L. Edson, M. Emery, D. Finnegan, M. Goyet, T. Gravelin, A. Hanaway-Corrente, R. Hubbard, M. John, M. Jonswold, R. Joy, E. Malone, L. & S. Marriott, K. Mercure, A. Morton, J. Nolin, R. Nowak, C. Orfe, B. Paquette, R. Plumley, S. & D. Quennelle, J. Rasewski, S. Reid, G. Shepard, C. Sheppard, C. Sicard, M. Sunderland, C. Thompson, M. Townsend

1. Welcome:

Mr. Conner welcomed members of the public and reviewed the history of funding for a committee to focus on ideas for the future of the Chamberlin-Airport neighborhood. He then introduced the committee Chair, Carmen Sargent.

2. Chamberlin Neighborhood Airport Planning Committee Remarks:

Ms. Sargent asked members of the Committee to introduce themselves. She then explained that the Committee was created by the City Council a year ago because of quality of life issues in the neighborhood. The Committee meets once a month with consultants. A number of residents also attend meetings. Ms. Sargent cited help from City Planner, Paul Conner, and from Lee Krohn of the Regional Planning Commission.

The Committee has three main goals: strengthening the neighborhood, creating walkable streets, and addressing noise mitigation. To address noise issues, a noise sub-committee was formed. Their report will be presented at the next community meeting in June. Tonight's meeting will focus on transportation.

Ms. Sargent noted that it is the Committee's hope that the City Council will create a "standing committee" to continue to address issues in this neighborhood.

3. Consultants' Presentation:

Mr. Chamberlin of RSG cited the work of the Committee to come up with improvements for the community. These improvements fall into 3 categories: transportation improvements and civic improvements, and institutional arrangements. Mr. Chamberlin drew attention to posters around the room based on ideas from people in the neighborhood.

The project has three main objectives:

- a. To establish an on-going process for a dialog with the Airport
- b. To develop a neighborhood land use transportation plan
- c. To submit recommendations to the City Council

The next meeting of the Committee will be on 11 May. The next community meeting will be on 7 June at which the final plan will be presented.

Mr. Maille noted that the Committee is discussing a "noise committee" which would survive the present committee. He also stressed that land acquired by the Airport has limited use.

Mr. Chamberlin then asked members of the audience to view the displays and to provide feedback.

4. Community Feedback:

Members of the audience provided feedback as follows:

An audience member questioned the Airport Drive display and did not understand the configuration of the second diagram, whether it was a possibility for the present or for the future. Mr. Conner explained that this is the Airport's plan, not the city's plan. The vision is for 2030 and beyond. The Airport is considering an Interchange directly into the Airport. There is another version of this that is less complex. Both are long-term visions. Mr. Conner added that the city does have a vision of connecting Airport Parkway and Airport Drive. This is also a long-range plan. The cost for such a project would range from \$12,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

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Mr. Chamberlin noted that the top graphic indicates suggested street closures, which is a short-term vision. There is some agreement on the CNAP Committee regarding those closures.

An audience member expressed an interest in seeing the study for connecting Airport Parkway and Airport Drive. Mr. Conner said there will be 2 additional community meetings in the next few weeks. An Airport meeting in June will have that study as will the next CNAP community meeting.

Ms. Nowak asked Mr. Conner to explain the ownership of roads.

Mr. Conner said all roads in the neighborhood are owned by the City of South Burlington except the drive into the Airport for dropping off passengers. Anything to do with those roads is a city decision made through the City Council. A connector road would involve the Airport as an adjacent property owner. Ms. Sargent noted that because Airport Drive accesses the Airport, federal money can be obtained for a project that involves that road. Mr. Conner said this would depend on the type of project as there are different "pots" of money.

A community member asked about the road closures going into Elizabeth and Patrick Streets on Plan B.

Ms. Sargent said the Airport wants to close both streets, but they are still on the Airport Master Plan and probably won't happen soon. Mr. Conner said there are options to try something and see how it works. Ms. Sargent said one aim is to get "cut-through" traffic out of the neighborhood. She noted that most of that traffic is going to the Airport. Mr. Chamberlin added that there is also a goal of having fewer curb cuts, which would reduce potential accident points. There are several driveways being closed down.

Mr. Conner stressed the need to always consider "unintended consequences" of an action and whether traffic would affect a different street if a street were to be closed. He also stressed that the aim is to have safer neighborhood streets with cars going slowly when they should be going slowly.

A resident felt that Williston Road traffic could be kept moving by making it back to 4 lanes instead of having drivers going through the Chamberlin neighborhood to avoid Williston Road.

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Another community said Williston Road is very scary where it goes into one lane, with big cars cutting off smaller cars. She asked why Williston Road was changed to allow this to happen. Mr. Conner said there was a transportation study done to improve safety, and this was considered. There were pros and cons, and the City Council decided that a center turn lane and slow lanes with bike lanes was safer.

A resident wanted to see more bike lanes through the neighborhood and neighborhood greenways.

Another community member noted that since Williston Rd. was changed, traffic backs up from Gracey's to Lacy's, and there are over 320 cars an hour on White Street, some of them going in excess of 50 or 60 miles an hour. Crossing guards have almost been hit many times by people who refuse to stop.

Mr. Conner said they are trying to think creatively about bringing neighborhood streets back to being neighborhood streets and to make streets feel like a place to go slowly. Mr. Chamberlin noted that White Street is a very straight street. He thought bike lanes might make it seem to be a street to go slower on.

Ms. Sargent noted there is a plan to change how White Street goes onto Williston Road by making it a 4-way intersection at Midas Drive. Mr. Conner said the city is in the design phase of that plan.

A resident asked for more enforcement of speeders. He noted a "nifty" STOP sign on Tilley Drive and suggested one for this area.

Ms. Nowak said the City Council is very concerned with traffic on White Street, but trying to control traffic is an issue. The city is getting new units to monitor car speeds, and this may be helpful.

Mr. Paquette spoke in favor of a bike lane instead of a second sidewalk on the north side of White Street. He also suggested benches at viewpoints and a boardwalk along Centennial Brook Ravine.

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Ms. Dooley asked how successful the amenities could be. Mr. Simson cited a “library” established in the Southeast Quadrant that is very successful. He cited it as something a community can do without government help. Mr. Conner added it is also a great way for neighbors to meet neighbors.

Mr. Conner thanked members of the public for attending and reminded them of the next community meeting in June.

Mr. Conner also reminded the community of Green Up Day on 7 May. Bags on picked up trash can be brought to City Hall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

As there were no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
