

# Meeting Notes

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## Design Five Corners Implementation: Public Outreach

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

### Farmer's Market

3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

We asked people what would make them more likely to visit 5 Corners. Responses:

- Community kitchen
- Live music events
- Greater variety of restaurants and businesses
- Community learning garden
- More green space & community events

What we heard:

- Some people are excited about the D5C project and are already on board with the ideas
- Construction of the Crescent Connector is not common knowledge for people in EJ - perhaps because schedule has been confusing
- Several people mentioned discontent with the scale of the new buildings - they want new developments to fit in with the character of the village
- The Farmer's Market has shown people what a parking lot can be, and what a central green could be for EJ

### Presentation at Darkroom Gallery

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Community Members who signed in:

Jason Hoover

A Whyte

Frank Narf

Judy Narf

(others attended but did not sign in)

Project Team:

George Tyler, Village President

Julie Campoli, Terra Firma

Lucy Gibson, D&K

Chris Sargent, D&K

Julia Ursaki, D&K

### Introduction - George Tyler

- Overview
- This project is to add language to the Town plan to implement the strategic vision from Design 5 Corners

## Overview of past projects and developments since - Julie Campoli

**Main Question of the project:** How can we make this village more vibrant and walkable?

Defining values of the community: thoughtful growth

- what are the barriers to walking?
- what makes you more likely to walk to 5C? Noise, traffic, danger from cars, lack of destinations

Design considerations:

- the community wants places to gather, restaurants, cafes, destinations
- streetscape preferences: human scale, display windows, houses lining the streets
- favored design elements: central green & pocket park, buildings lining the street
- share and organize parking; add buildings; “road rescue”,

Since 2015:

- pocket park pavilion/pop up coffee shop
- Farmer’s Market
- cafe
- new housing
- new businesses/festivals

**Comment:** A commuter through 5 Corners - do people who drive through 5 corners every day actually want this? She doesn’t remember her group wanting a pedestrianized Main St when she was at the D5C workshop

**Response:** Conclusions were drawn from the entire D5C process - there were many outreach events

## Current Findings - Lucy Gibson

How will this work in terms of transportation?

- Growth trends - historic data shows 5 Corners traffic volume steady since 1980s; 40% more pedestrians since 2001
- Survey - why do people walk? Most people are walking for exercise, of live within walking distance
- Perception vs reality (of walking through 5 corners) - survey respondents estimated a 13-minute walk (reality is 7 minutes)
- Note - people’s perception of how long a walk takes depends on how pleasant the experience of walking is
- Survey - most people drive through 5 corners every day, most are frustrated by traffic congestion

**Comment:** Commuter- have you compared morning to afternoon peaks? It is much more difficult to get through in the morning (for her)

**Response:** Data shows that PM peak hour volumes are higher

- Crescent Connector - is being planned for 2019 construction

- Traffic models existing w CC: Park St to Main St is a major movement. The CC will improve this drastically.

**Comment:** roundabouts are the most efficient way to move traffic. Have you thought about this at Maple and Railroad St/Crescent Connector?

**Response:** Roundabouts were likely considered - they don't work well so close to a signalized intersection, and there are ROW restrictions, especially adjacent to the railroad.

**Comment:** Crescent Connector makes Main St a low (lower) volume "fifth leg" to the 5 corners intersection.

- Traffic model 4 corners: showing a true 4-way intersection

**Comment:** What happens to people turning from Main to Pearl? This is a very "rosey" scenario. How do you get from Main or Maple to Park Terrace? People will still want to be able to take a left from Maple to Park.

Other questions and comments:

- is the CC a two lane road with parking?
- left from School to Pearl is difficult
- More roads (CC), more traffic —> worse quality of life for villagers

**Response:** CC removes traffic from Park St near 5C - overall corridor is more efficient, traffic dispersed. It may be easier to turn out from Park St between CC and 5C intersections.

**Comment:** 4 corners scenario should allow left turns from Maple to Park, with pocket left turn lane. What about traffic diverting through side streets? A new road is being built near Pho Dong and people will "speed through" residential neighborhoods

**Comment/Clarification:** CC is already in motion; now we are talking about Main Street open/closed

- Data from traffic model: lost time is very high for 5 Corners, less waiting for cars and less waiting for pedestrians, capacity
- **Main Takeaway - 4 Corners is a viable option that will increase traffic capacity.**
- Parking: lose 19 spaces on Main St; gain 29 along CC
- Parking Utilization: low on Main St, as access to these spaces is difficult at times

### Timing & Next Steps

- Concepts (Design 5C) are planned to be incorporated into Village Comprehensive Plan by December

### Other Public Comments and Discussion

- Who makes the ultimate decision on closing Main St? Trustees + VTrans.
- Will this be a community vote? Not typical.

- Chris notes - closing Main St can be TESTED after CC is built - see if it works for the community
- CC is a big traffic change. To 'pile on' another big change (closing Main St) - confuses people
- Can't base decisions off of "community input" from a Saturday meeting - not everybody is available
- Chris notes - this will be added/integrated into Town Plan; will Village move forward with this? Community will make decision, there will be more opportunities for input and consideration along the way.
- A timeline for these projects wasn't presented during this meeting - we don't understand the process.
- The team asked for suggestions to get the word out for public meetings? (no response)
- Losing our identity as "5 Corners"
- Walkable and livable village - no chirps at the crosswalks