

Bike Path Connector Task Force Meeting Minutes August 9, 2021

- [Inquiry Form](#)
- [Agenda for this meeting](#)
- [Evaluation Criteria document \(PDF\)](#)
- [Link to Inquiry folder](#)

Task Force Members Present:

Gary Temple, Eva Patrone, Nick Suzich, Oscar Ramos, Andrew Hotaling, Mary Blake

Town Residents attending:

Jay Everhart
Mimi Styles
Leigh Partington
AJ Styles
Dave Cosson
Meredith Horan
Paula Puglisi
Tami Williams
Jan Davis
Audrey Maskery

Discussion Items

Minutes from August 2 approved.

Walks scheduled for bike paths:

- Nick will organize them. Eva has been helping via the Doodle scheduler. Are we able to post the calendar to the residents so they can see when the walk is?
- Nick will choose the dates and times that work for him, and then we can post the dates for the residents when we post the agenda each week on the Town website. Maybe a Grove alert? Spread the word after Nick selects the dates.
- Nick: We have an email that lists the dates near the end of the month. Then we can make it available to people before the first open task force meeting.
- **Walk: Gary will lead a walk on August 14th at 8:30 am**
- **Dates on walks with Nick (allow for 60-90 minutes)**
 - **August 22nd at 8:30am**
 - **August 28th at 8:30am**
 - **August 29th at 8:30am**
 - **August 30th at 8:30am**

- Information will be posted for residents soon. Eva, Nick, and Gary will confer.
- Town residents are welcome to attend and can make comments via the Inquiry Form.

There is a Google Calendar on the Town website. We will explore putting the walking dates onto that calendar.

Accessibility

- Links to the shared drive are posted in the Government section of the Town site and on a separate line on the webpage. We will explore how to make those links more visible.
 - Contact Christine Dibble

Criteria Evaluation updates- what kinds of evidence will be relevant to our town?

- Overall safety- Eva has added a lot of information to the criteria
 - Mary- We also need to wheelchair access/use. There will be accessibility/safety questions.
 - If we have questions for DOT, we will forward them to Nick, our liaison to DOT.
 - Eva- There are also other MoCo bike-oriented groups. If we reach out to them, they might have some expertise/knowledge that we don't have. Do we need to forward Nick to all of them, or can we reach out to them on our own?
 - TF members should feel free to contact other groups and copy Nick and people in the same criteria subgroup.
 - Important to look beyond just cyclists. It is a shared use path, and there will be pedestrians and other people in Town. Or large running groups.
 - Eva- the safety for the actual paths has been studied by the County and they will comply with ADA. What people in Town are concerned with is the safety impact on the Town roads. For example, are they going to be safe taking a walk in the neighborhood with increased usage?
- Impacts on specific areas of town
 - We have a sense of which parts of town will be impacted by the various connectors.
 - When we present to the Town, each bike connector should have a slide that displays where the likely access points to Town would be, and how people would potentially travel through Town to access the connector. Those maps can inform other discussions around safety, equity, etc.
 - We will need to learn from DOT about the County's other bike paths around East Gaithersburg- how will our bike path connector fit into the wider County bike network?
- Environmental and historic impact
 - In progress. Native American history in the meadow will figure into the historic impact of the bike path options.
 - Eva: added more documents from various County presentations, Town website, local parks. HPC suggested Meadow 2B option. They thought that would be a good path and they are preparing something for us to let us know. Contacted the sustainability group as far as impact for reducing WG carbon footprint.

- Ease of access to Metro by Town and surrounding communities
 - Overlaps partly with equity question
 - Plans for reaching out to member of the East Gaithersburg association.
 - There will be a data-driven portion of the equity question (how many people from surrounding communities will access the bike path), but there will be a deeper question, which is how will this connector shape the relationship between the Town and its surrounding areas going forward?
 - Eva: it would be interesting to survey people in surrounding communities about the options. Can we map how people from various surrounding areas could access the metro given various connectors for equity purposes?

Can we survey the Town to measure how many Town residents would use the shared use path? How would they use it? Walking? Biking? Etc.

- Mary will work on a survey.
- Can we work it into the open meetings?
 - We can turn it into a Google Form and put the link in the chat.
 - Or canvas door to door

Open Town Meeting

- Limited Inquiry Form use
- We have already put links to the form on the town website, and the shared drive, and should put a link on the listserv.
- Each criteria group can present a set of FAQs, based on Inquiry Form submissions.
- If we get two or more of the same questions, that criteria group can summarize the same questions and provide answers.

Next meeting: August 16th, 7:30