

Understanding the Area: Meeting Input Summary

This document includes a summary of feedback from the round of in-person public meetings held on Saturday, Dec. 1, Monday, Dec. 3, and Wednesday, Dec. 5. The meetings on Dec. 1 and 5 were held at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church; the meeting on Dec. 3 took place at the Five Points Center for Active Adults.

The intent of the meetings was to share information about current transportation and other conditions in the area and to receive feedback from area stakeholders about specific issues and top priorities. The feedback is divided into two main sections – input from topic-specific activity stations and input provided through feedback cards.

This document is intended as an informal compilation of input, similar to the “reporting out” that is often done as part of group work at meetings. A more formal issues and opportunities report that includes online survey input as well as a detailed analysis of current transportation, market, land use, and other conditions will be published in late winter 2019.



Dec. 1 meeting at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church



Dec. 3 meeting at Five Points Center

General Themes

The issues and opportunities report will include an analysis of all input received during the in-person meetings and online survey. It will contain a listing of major themes, issues, and goals. However, a preliminary list of some of the frequent comments and issues from the in-person meetings includes the following:

- Identification of specific locations where traffic delay occurs or where making turns is difficult during peak hours.
- Speeding and traffic volume on neighborhood streets is a concern.
- Pedestrian safety and comfort in the area is generally lacking.
- The impact of new development on transportation and other infrastructure is an important issue to address.

- Questions exist about the scale of new development and about transitions from commercial or mixed-use areas to lower-scale residential areas.
- Flooding and stormwater are particular issues in some portions of the area.
- Housing affordability is a concern.

Again, the above is not a complete listing of all significant issues, but a brief summary aimed at capturing at least many of the major themes of input at the meetings.

Activity Station Discussion

This section summarizes responses from the activity stations at the meetings. Attendees were asked to visit each of the stations and comment on the topics and themes presented. Stations were: 1) Transportation – cars; 2) Transportation other than cars (transit, walking, biking); 3) Development and land uses; and 4) Natural systems and open space. A fifth table included a summary of feedback from visioning sessions that took place earlier in 2018 and allowed participants to add to that input.

Questions posed included: Which issues/topics resonate the most? Are the patterns as you expected? Is anything surprising? Is anything missing, in your opinion?

(1) Transportation – Cars

- Speeding on Millbrook Road near Ivy Lane/Quail Hollow Drive **x2**
- Hardimont Road & St. Albans Drive traffic, speed, lights an issue – plan for this going into new development
- Lanes on Wake Forest Road are terrifyingly narrow between I-440 and Millbrook Road **x5**
- Pedestrians need better walk cycle at crossings
- Cars block intersections constantly
- Tax incentives for TDM measures
- Six Forks Road and Wake Forest Road cannot handle the existing traffic – no way it can handle more
- Sidewalks and lighting on Navaho Drive from Wake Forest Road to Bush Street ---- students/pedestrian traffic to nearby bus stop
- Wolfpack Lane bridge over railroad tracks
- How will widening I-440 impact traffic in the area?
- Six Forks Road missing sidewalk from I-440 to Anderson Drive
- Carroll Middle School on street parking on both sides narrows roadway, especially during events – find new options getting into the school/other issues at that side **x2**

Issues as expected?

- Lassiter Mill Road at Six Forks Road – Congestion
 - Cars backing up on Lassiter mill trying to get onto Six Forks, bike lanes blocked by vehicles, seems dangerous for bikers
 - Speeding on Dartmouth Road

- Need to improve pedestrian safety

Surprises?

- St. Albans Drive at Six Forks Road has a lot of traffic backing up. How will St. Albans Drive handle additional development?
 - Will more people cut through neighborhood?
- Southbound traffic on Falls of Neuse Road to Millbrook Road can avoid stoplights by going through neighborhoods
- Turning from Quail Hollow Drive onto Millbrook Road is dangerous
- People cut through using Quail Hollow Drive to Compton Road
- Northbound Wake Forest Road - difficulty turning left onto St. Albans Drive because of cars in intersection backed up from signal
- Need traffic calming in neighborhood, better flow on thoroughfares
- Make sure trip growth projections are accurate – what are realistic internal capture rates? (mixed-use)
- Can ride sharing help congestion? Can parking requirements be shifted to ride share drop off?
- Concentration of shopping centers at SE quadrant of I-440/Wake Forest Road causes congestion
- Difficult for pedestrians to cross Wake Forest Road at Wake Towne Drive
- Can Hodges Street be expanded?
- Too far to walk to bus routes, connections take a long time, park and ride could encourage bus use
- Industrial area of E Six Forks Road is too congested, needs turn lanes
- People cutting through Rucker Street to get westbound on Six Forks Road from Creekside Drive
- Big Branch has localized flooding north of Crabtree Creek (Anderson Drive)
- Hard to make a left turn from Navaho Drive to Southbound Wake Forest Road - need turn lane
- New Hope Church Rd/St. Albans Drive
 - Low visibility making left turn from St. Albans Drive to westbound New Hope Church Road
 - Illegal left turns frequent from New Hope Church Road to St. Albans Drive
- Street parking on Industrial impedes traffic
- Need more signals on Lassiter Mill Road (specifically at Camelot Drive)

(2) Transportation – Non-cars

- Transit
 - Future transit routes – bring to areas of employment/connect nodes **x3**
 - Midtown “R” line
 - Better connections/access to transit
 - Current transit layover and frequency is potential challenge if/when your bus is missed – inconvenient
 - Buses causing congestion? ---- address traffic
- Pedestrian safety and improved crossing of Six Forks Road
- Timing of pedestrian phase at Dartmouth Road and Lassiter Mill Road to cross Six Forks Road (too short)
- Rules for scooters

- Encourage carpooling
- Ending sidewalks with no crosswalks an issue, other sidewalk connectivity issues **x7**
 - Poor pedestrian access to from Wake Tech campus to Wake Forest Road
 - Consider tunnel beneath I-440 to connect St. Albans Drive to Navaho Drive **x2**
 - Add sidewalks to all neighborhood streets
- Don't put in bike lanes if you can't extend all the way to the next destination **x2**
- Separated bike lanes preferred to on-road
- New development, % of local capture ---- address traffic
- Last mile challenge ---- more sidewalks? Better bus routes?
- Fitting bike/ped/auto in infrastructure ---- balanced infrastructure
- High speed traffic an issue for pedestrians/traffic calming measures **x2**
- Cut through traffic – restrict access for pedestrian safety
- Congestion and parking issues effect choices of when to travel ---- alternative modes – ride share?
- Parking garages on perimeter of North Hills/other commercial areas

(3) Development and Land Uses

- Wake Forest Road not the same characteristics as Six Forks Road ---- improve? (between St. Albans Drive and Bland Road)
- Navajo Drive and Wake Forest Road intersection needs a green “right of way”? light
- Eastbound St. Albans Drive to Wake Forest Road - no right turn lane
- Affordable housing options – more density or redevelopment to allow this **x8**
- Show crash data for Six Forks Road and Wake Forest Road in next presentation
- We need a main thoroughfare
- Extending Six Forks Road to Capital Blvd.
- Circulation around Wegmans? Are there improvements planned?
- Traffic congestion in general
- Do we have additional tools to address speeding in neighborhoods? (beyond speed bumps) -- create comprehensive traffic plan for neighborhoods
- Impacts on the schools – do we anticipate a larger number of children entering the school system? How will they get to school?
- Don't sacrifice bike/pedestrian infrastructure to make room for developments or road expansion
- Implement non-car crossing as close to Wake Forest Road over beltline as possible
- Urban form transitions at North Hills (height) **x2**

(4) Natural Systems and Open Space

- Greenway access without needing street parking
- Preservation of tree canopy/wildlife **x7**
- Maintenance of culverts/storm water sewers **x2**
 - Too much storm water runoff along north side of St. Albans Drive
 - Too much storm water runoff on Quail Hollow Drive and Hardimont Road **x2**
 - Flooding happening more frequently – affecting greenways **x3**
 - Increased runoff from impervious surfaces (general) Anderson Drive forest storm water and sewer pinch point/issue

- Larger pedestrian crossing/Barnes Dance ---- location not specified
- Bike lanes along cut through and busy streets not good
- Locate greenways to less vulnerable locations AND maintain existing greenways
- Add park facilities to keep pace with growth (general) **x4**
 - East side of study area (Bush Street, Atlantic Ave., Wolfpack Ln.)
 - Upgrade Eastgate Park (add pool, public performance venue? Improve restrooms) **x5**
 - Community Centers need upgrades
- Greenway route near parallel to Quail Hollow Drive **x3**
- Trouble crossing Wake Forest Road to access parks
- Support for greenway connectivity **x2**
 - Connection to North Hills
 - Crossing I-440
- Status of greenway behind Lady of Lourdes?
- Difficulty parking to access parks/greenways
- Keep greenways off roads (example: west of Lassiter Mill Road)
- Make sure all greenway trails are paved

Visioning – Refresh of outreach from June 2018

- Infrastructure
 - Roadway infrastructure integrated into the rezoned St. Albans Drive re-development
 - Stormwater control -- through district *impact of new development*
- New development along Six Forks Road - put drainage into neighbor's lot (3 lots south of Dunkin Donuts)
- 12-story zoning on Six Forks Road? This was pulled out of Six Forks Road plan – building this and rezoning moved into St. Albans Drive plan *neighbors need to be aware and input on specific recommendations before report is finalized! NO SURPRISES
- Deterioration of infrastructure in neighborhoods
 - Above ground electric – vulnerable in storms
 - Underground – water/sewer is 50-60 years old
- Level of Service/Road Performance
 - Impacted by schools (Carroll Middle, St. Timothy's, Green Elementary, Brooks Elementary)
 - Rowan Street/Camelot Drive intersection – should be converted to 3-way stop
- North/South Greenway connection to Crabtree Creek
- Lassiter Mill/Camelot needs to be 3-way stop
 - Cannot make a left turn onto Camelot from Lassiter Mill because of backup/through traffic on St Albans Drive
- Rowan Street at Six Forks Road – needs turn lane – look at this intersection
- Verify Six Forks Road corridor study - project boundary
 - Rowan Street to Lynn Road? OR I-440 to Lynn Road?
- Six Forks Road, Wake Forest Road, Falls of Neuse Road are state secondary roads – what is the process for improvements? Is state involved?

Feedback Forms Table

This section summarizes responses from the feedback forms provided at the meetings. Attendees were asked four questions:

- (1) Are the traffic/land use/development issues described during the meeting the same issues that you experience? (Describe why or why not);*
- (2) Which issues resonate the most with you? (List your top three)*
- (3) Was anything surprising to you?*
- (4) What issues are missing?*

Development

- The area is popular with lots of visitors and residents competing for space
- The issues of development, traffic, transportation, drainage, and redevelopment resonate
 - Development plans along St. Albans Drive and North Hills are resonate with me
 - Require TIA for all development approvals
- Land use issues resonate with me
- Overcrowding issues resonate with me
- Zoning and building heights are a resonating issue
 - Transition between high density and single-family homes was missing from the event
 - There is too much high-density development
- Wants to see more information on development coming to St. Albans Drive (x3)
- Address heat island effects and noise from planned development
- Concerned about additional traffic from Wegman's
 - Preference for creating a pedestrian-friendly environment (x2)
- Neighborhood quality is a concern (teardowns/"McMansions") (x3)
- Affordable housing issues are missing, including maintaining the affordability of existing neighborhoods (x3)
 - The affordability of housing resonates with me
 - "Missing middle" and affordable housing issues with redevelopment are missing

Natural Systems

- Flooding is a major concern
- Flooding around Crabtree Creek resonates with me
- Greenways are a priority (x2)
 - Encourage greenway access
 - Greenway linkages are missing
 - Pedestrian access and green space resonate with me
- Loss of trees, heat, stormwater, and decreasing greenspace are not getting the appropriate connection to development and traffic problems (x4)
- Is there surveying or polling of what residents really want, or are we investing in greenway asphalts for the sake of clearing more space?

- Wake County and the City of Raleigh need to come up with an agreement where park-like facilities are made available after hours for the citizens that paid for them
- Not one park has been added in the study area since I moved to the area in 1966
 - Add a dog park in the southern portion of Eastgate Park
- Missing focus on the beauty of the area
 - Save the trees
 - Overdevelopment of greenspace is missing from the plan
 - Overdevelopment of greenspace resonates with me (x2)
- More focus is needed on the impacts of stormwater runoff and development on wildlife/trees
- Sewage backflows onto Anderson Drive/Six Forks Road

Transportation

- When traffic engineering projects are implemented, there needs to be more public and neighborhood information and discussion, such as with the Midtown CAC. Additional signage and pedestrian flashing beacons with all-way stop signs are needed.
- The intersection of Six Forks Road and Wake Forest Road is not pedestrian friendly
- Increased traffic is a concern (x5)
 - Traffic congestion at North Hills
 - Don't add bike lanes if it results in the loss of vehicular travel lanes
 - Provide for traffic flow
 - Personal observations on traffic congestion was validated by the presented data (x2)
 - The issues of traffic and lane widths on Wake Forest Road north of I-440 resonate with me
 - Traffic issues resonate with me (x4)
- The lack of willingness to alleviate traffic around North Hills is missing from the plan
- Transportation issues and the associated impacts resonate with me
- Analysis should account of transportation network companies (TNCs, i.e. Uber, Lyft), and less parking is required due to TNCs
- High vehicle speeds in area
 - Safety issues resonate with me
 - Feels dangerous driving on Wake Forest Road (x2)
- We want to make sure that no cut-through is designed or planned from Westridge Drive to Six Forks Road. We have many children in the area, and no sidewalks on these side streets
- Would like to see more information on traffic accidents in the slide deck
 - There are more crashes at Wake Forest Road and I-440
- The plan for a diverging diamond interchange at Wake Forest Road and the beltline is a major concern and am requesting consideration of options
- Pay more attention to the backups at Lassiter Mill Road from North Hills Mall area
- Prioritize actions to keep traffic on main arterials and promote a neighborhood-wide traffic calming plan (x2)
- Traffic volume and speed on Quail Hollow Drive resonate with me, and I would suggest traffic circles, speed bumps, bike lanes, and lower speed limits
- Personal experience with cut through traffic was confirmed from the meeting

- Turning movements and access into neighborhoods is getting challenging
- Too much parking on neighborhood streets
- Cut through traffic is a concern (x2)
- Increasing traffic on Quail Hollow Drive (x2)
- Lack of safe crossings at major intersections
 - Surprised by lack of discussion on elevated pedestrian walkway over Six Forks Road to connect North Hills east-west
 - The issue of pedestrian traffic crossing Six Forks Road at Dartmouth Road described at the meeting matched my experience
- Non-car options should be assessed given pending development (i.e. transit, TNCs, bike/ped) (x3)
- Pedestrian and bike safety are a number one priority, as there are lots of kids and elderly people in the area
 - Walkability issues resonate with me
 - Make cycling safer
 - Would like focus on how to change behavior to get people out of cars and using mass transit or carpooling
 - Create a bike lane on Quail Hollow Drive versus lay an asphalt bicycle way beside Converse Rd
 - The plans provided too much for bicycles
- Bikeway designers in Raleigh have been pathetic; disjointed lanes, changing and varying types of markings. Total lack of advance warning, public discourse, and input. Loss of roadway capacity. Sharrows in most places would be better and more understandable than some of the complex markings that have been installed.
- There is a need for more small shuttles within the neighborhood (microtransit)

Other

- Establish library in North Hills area
- Expand the study area to Hodges Street in the south; or extend Six Forks to improve east-west traffic flow
- Learn from mistakes of Atlanta
- Surprised by the amount of data collected
- Surprised by how open [workshop staff] was to everyone's ideas