

Western Community Leader Group Meeting, 4/25

City Staff presented ideas for community engagement through one-on-one meetings, including Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ). The CLG members expressed support for a meeting with PEJ.

Staff presented ideas for community engagement through presentations to community organizations. Vance Miller suggested the West Morgan neighborhood association.

Staff presented ideas for Pop-Up Events in the community. The Community Leader Group offered the following feedback on Pop-Ups Events:

- Regarding an event at Mission Valley Shopping Center – NCSU students are finishing up exams and heading home soon. A pop-up event in this area may not be able to engage students before they leave campus for summer break.
- Staff should begin talking to State Fair staff about ways to engage through the State Fair or through other events on the fairgrounds.
- Staff could connect with homelessness prevention groups.
- Staff could attend soup kitchen events. An example is the church on Hillsborough Street that provides lunches.
- Staff could connect with:
 - Oak City Cares
 - Raleigh Mission
 - Dorcas (Thrift Shop)
 - Raleigh Mutual Aid Hub (RMAH): space off of Hillsborough that coordinates mutual aid for the community. One Community Connector speaks with RMAH already and could help share information about the project.
 - Family Promise of the Triangle on Western Blvd
 - Women's shelter on Cox Avenue, if it is still located there.
 - Disability advocacy groups
 - Governor Moorhead School
- Staff could organize a pop-up at the Raleigh Community Kickstand - bike repair events on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 1:00 PM in partnership with Oak City Cares.
<https://raleighcommunitykickstand.org/>

Staff asked for ideas for how to engage with Raleigh youth about the project. The CLG suggested the following ideas:

- City staff could reach out to schools directly for after end of grade testing programming.
- Summer swim events at Pullen Park pool and TAC pool are well attended by youth and parents.

Staff asked for any more ideas regarding Community-wide Events for engagement. The CLG suggested the following ideas:

- Try to choose a new neighborhood/community center than ones we have utilized in the past.
- Try to have the BRT model bus present at the meeting.

The CLG shared that they have seen BRT related social media ads recently, so that effort seems to be working.

CLG Feedback: A member met one person who was very upset about neighborhood change. It would be helpful to have a constructive way to respond that also diffuses tension.

- City Staff responded that at meetings and open houses, we can employ a sticky note “parking lot” for people to place project adjacent concerns, ideas, and questions for staff to follow up on later.

CLG Feedback: Staff is doing a great job of engaging with people. A lot of people care about the environment here, once we get the word out, CLG feels that more people will be really excited about Bus Rapid Transit.

CLG Feedback: People living near the Buck Jones Rd / Cary connection may not be in any of the groups or organizations previously discussed - there is a lot of community there, a lot of renters, students and transient residents that may be more difficult to connect with.

- City Staff discussed that Cary is managing community engagement differently in their jurisdiction. The Raleigh Station Area Plan will end in Raleigh's jurisdiction. Cary will have a separate plan for the BRT stations in their jurisdictions.

CLG Feedback: The Western BRT should plan to improve connectivity with Cary Crossroads.

CLG Feedback: Naming the BRT stations should have a community engagement process.

Adjournment.