

## Meeting Notes

Community Connector and Community Leader Group Orientation

Date and time: 9/27/23, 5:30-7pm

Location: John Chavis Park

On September 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 staff from City of Raleigh's Department of Planning and Development hosted an initial orientation for the Community Leaders and Community Connectors Program. This program is was in support of the Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) initiative, particularly the Western BRT and Southern BRT projects.

The event was conducted in two sections, the first being a large group presentation to introduce all parties to each other (consultants, city staff, community members, and partner organizations). The second section of the event was a breakout from the larger group into one group for Western BRT and one for Southern BRT, so more corridor specific conversation could take place.

Listed is a synopsis of what was discussed during the event.

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

*Sarah Shaughnessy and Hannah Reckhow, Raleigh Planning and Development*

#### A. Questions and comments:

- Request for clarification of how staff and consultant teams will work together.
- Request to define terms and not use acronyms.

### **II. What Is BRT?**

*Het Patel, Raleigh Transit*

#### A. Questions and comments:

- Will E-bike/larger bikes be able to be brought aboard the new system?
- How malleable is BRT's design as new and larger projects come online during the planning process?
- Given the recently updated NCSU Physical Master Plan, are staff coordinating with NCSU?

### **III. What is Station Area Planning?**

*Chris Hall, Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill*

#### A. General questions and comments:

- How accessible will the system be? How will individuals with disabilities be accommodated?

### **IV. Breakout Sessions – Western Station Area Plan**

*Jannat Nain, Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill, and Bert Fox, Catalyst*

#### A. General questions and comments:

- What is transit oriented development?
- Does the transit overlay district prohibit all vehicle-oriented uses?
- Will the stations have a "template" design, and what will be the end user experience? will they have to cross multi-lanes of traffic?

- Are there opportunities to work with NCSU for resources related to universal design?
- Request to compile a resource library.

#### B. Discussion items

- What outcomes would you like to see as part of the Station Area Planning process?
  - Targeted outreach
  - Consideration for ADA accessibility and training opportunities for users with disabilities
  - Understanding of how BRT routes will connect with other transit lines, including Wolfline and GoRaleigh fixed routes.
- What can we learn from previous community processes?
  - Understanding what kind of impacts this project could have.
  - Using an asset-mapping, strengths-based approach.
- What aspirations and issues are community members likely to raise?
  - How will larger events like Dreamville and large conferences effect the system?
  - Will there be Park-and-Ride options?
  - How many sites along the corridor are owned by the city? Is the city in contact with property owners?
  - Western Boulevard is dangerous from a pedestrian and cyclist perspective.
  - How could property owners be affected?