



New Bern Housing Authority and the City of New Bern

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT
Trent Court/Craven Terrace/Greater Five Points Neighborhood

Transportation Working Group

Tuesday, June 16th at 3:00 p.m. at Development Services Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Kimberly Maxey, Mickey Miller, David Herndon, Dee Meadows, Jamara Wallace, Linda Godette, Vana Prewitt, Brad Sceviour, Kelly Walker – Director, Craven County CARTS

Guests: Sgt. John Smith – Traffic Control, New Bern Police Department
Matt Montanye – Director Public Works, City of New Bern
Amanda Boone – Public Works Staff Engineer, City of New Bern
Jeff Ruggieri – Director Development Services, City of New Bern
Theresa Lee – CARTS Board

Handouts: May 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes
CNI Transportation Matrix

Welcome and Purpose of Meeting: Introductions were made.

Sgt. John Smith – Traffic Control: Sgt. Smith provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding pertinent traffic data pertaining to the study area. He provided information regarding average road width size and safety issues with moped drivers as well as wheelchair riders. The NBPD does offer flags for wheelchairs to provide visual aid for motorists.

Roadway dimensions for streets within Duffyfield were provided. The largest street noted was 29 feet. The smallest street was 11 ft. All of these roads are two-way streets, and none of them have pavement markings.

Safety at the intersection of Queen Street and Broad was discussed. There is no crosswalk across Broad Street from Queen, yet pedestrians will cross there, against traffic. Mr. Montanye noted this intersection falls under the NCDOT, therefore improvements would require a discussion with them.

Crashes within the study area are less than 5%. Sgt. Smith pointed out while vehicular accidents are minimal, there are pedestrian concerns, congestion on the small roads and confusion with the lack of street markings.

Sgt. Smith provided recommendations for improvements within Duffyfield that included:

- Widen roads when possible
- Better illumination
- Mark the roadways
- Maintain landscaping

- Improve signage
- Add crosswalks

These improvements will aid in safety, but will also give the community a sense of pride, and that their area does matter.

Sgt. Smith provided recommendations for improvements within Trent Court and Craven Terrace that included:

- Improve lighting
- Add service roads as city street by ordinance
- Evaluate parking lane near Cedar St.

Sgt. Smith pointed out that because these communities are privately owned, the roads within these them are not city streets, therefore the Police Department is unable to enforce laws due to this technicality.

Jamara Wallace explained that some people may be uncomfortable with or threatened by changes on streets in front of their property, especially as many houses sit very close to the street. Communication in advance is important if changes are going to be made, and the safety basis for changes needs to be explained in advance.

Taxi-cab services were also discussed. Suggestions are for those that fall under transport be regulated to ensure safe vehicles are utilized. Logistics of potential new developments as well as the possibility that Craven County Court may relocate to a site away from downtown, raise concerns about accessibility for citizens without vehicles and limited transit options.

Sgt. Smith summed up by relaying that some fixes are lower in cost; striping roads, delineating walking areas and lighting. These things alone would give the residents of this area a moral boost as well as improve safety issues within Duffyfield.

Matt Montanye / Amanda Boone – City of New Bern Public Works: Mr. Montanye questioned the input this group has received on traffic and pedestrians in the area. Ms. Miller utilized results received during Choice Community Day. Lighting concerns and areas of need were noted. Stop sign needs were indicated. Feedback included more connectivity for pedestrians, re-routing truck routes, speed bumps within Craven Terrace and more visibility from CARTS.

Mr. Montanye provided updates on plans for the target area, noting there is a Pedestrian Plan that is referred to. Right of Way issues prohibit some areas from being able to handle a sidewalk, especially keeping in mind ADA requirements of a 5' sidewalk to accommodate wheelchairs. He is aware of needs within the area and recognizes community involvement and input is vital for success in achieving the needs. The sidewalk around the school is planned to continue to Stanley White Rec Center, but funding issues have inhibited progress on this project.

Currently they are nearing completion on the River Walk behind the Housing Authority that runs along the river. The City will also conduct a massive cleanup around the new walkway before it opens. New sidewalks are being constructed on Bern, West and Cypress Streets that will aid in connectivity to George Street. This sidewalk will loop around by the Senior Center as well. City staff began in the downtown area and are improving and installing handicap ramps at each street corner and will continue into the target area. There are CDBG funds that have aided in creating a sidewalk/pedestrian plan for Norwood, Church, Bryan and Lawson Streets, creating a loop around

this entire area connecting Walt Bellamy to Pollock Street. This is a two-phase project and will begin in the near future.

Street re-surfacing will be taking place throughout the City, including Trent Road from Simmons Street to Pollock.

Mr. Montanye agreed striping will improve traffic and pedestrian movement, but unfortunately his department does not have the budget nor the manpower to do this. They try to keep major corridors striped right now, budget allowing.

CNI Choice Community Day – was considered a highly successful event from the perspective of sharing information and getting feedback. Huge thanks to everyone for helping out! Results of all surveys and dot charts are posted on website at <http://choicewbern.com/choice-community-day-june-4-2105/>.

Matrix – Update: the matrix was cleaned up and a few bullets reworded or organized for clarity. Final matrix will be posted on website at <http://choicewbern.com/transportation-work-group-neighborhood-tf/>.

Next Meeting: We will be turning the matrix over to consultants for consolidation into draft plan. No meeting will be scheduled for the mid-summer unless there are questions about the matrix.