



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**

Thursday, May 7th at 1:30 p.m. at Development Services Conference Room

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Maurizia Chapman – lead, Kimberly Maxey, Mickey Miller, David Herndon, Gerald Mackle, Dee Meadows, Linda Godette, Rosemary Stark, Vana Prewitt

**Guests:** Brad Sceviour – City of New Bern Planning  
Kelly Walker – Craven County CARTS  
Gayle Epp – EJP Consultant  
Nina Liou – EJP Consultant  
Philip Schaeffing – Goody Clancy  
Jim McLaughlin – Marlene Connor Associates

**Handouts:** April 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes  
CNI Transportation Matrix

**Welcome and Purpose of Meeting:** Introductions were made.

- a. **Update on status of matrix development:** Ms. Gayle Epp provided an update on the meetings the consultants have been having with each CNI group and is happy with the progress to this point. She advised the immediate needs for each group are to continue to finalize strategies and matrix. She relayed that on June 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a CNI Community information funfest event being held, that will roll out each of what the working groups strategies are. This will provide interaction with community members for them to see the work being done as well as provide feedback and input. Once priorities are determined based on groups and community input, the consultants will take each matrix and combine into a big vision strategy and goal document. Then a draft plan will be created based on this information. This will take place in July, with a draft document for group review completed by early August, with a preliminary draft to be presented to HUD by August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Between August 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 2016, refine the draft, adding more implementation details.

**Review and discussion of draft Matrix:** Ms. Nina Liou provided an updated on additional surveys that were received, giving a current survey total of 296 received. The additional surveys showed no real change in priorities and needs. Ms. Liou was able to do a comparison between Homeowners and Families based on the results. This information was provided to the group. Improving the housing in the neighborhood and safety issues were consistent within both groups. The top priority for families was to improve public transportation and youth programs. The top priority for homeowners was to improve streets and sidewalks and youth programs.

Facebook is a top way for families to learn information about neighborhood happenings. CARTS does not currently have a Facebook page, but Kelly Walker will explore the idea of creating one with her IT department.

**Finalizing the Matrix:** Ms. Chapman presented the draft version of the transportation matrix.

Main Goal: Improve access to resources for all users within the City of New Bern

Outcomes: A. Increase visibility/availability of the CARTS system

B. Provide safe multi-modal transportation options to residents

Ms. Chapman advised the strategies viable to achieve attainability of the goal.

The group discussed items and came up with the following suggestions to add to the Matrix:

- a. Add bus signs to all stops (also suggested bus signs denoted on pavement)
- b. Evaluate current stops; Trent Court stop presents safety concerns as it's on a curve
- c. Review crosswalks and pedestrian markings for safe streets
- d. Studies for high visibility crosswalks / suggestions to city
- e. Lighting concerns
- f. Public awareness campaign for bicycle safety/education of public

Mr. McLaughlin pointed out that when considering change for bus stop signage, we need to consider requirements for height and ADA requirements. Ms. Walker advised some stops that currently are marked require the buses to stop in the middle of the road, which impedes traffic, so the drivers have adjusted their stops to safer areas, which means they are not stopping precisely at the point marked as a stop. The group encouraged coordination with the City of New Bern Public Works Department as well as with Economic Development Coordinator Cindy Blot.

Ms. Epp continued encouragement of interaction with Public Works when discussing lighting, sidewalks and street improvements in the target area. Ms. Chapman noted at the last meeting a map was handed out of current improvement projects being planned for the area.

Mr. McLaughlin pointed out that in discussion pertaining to bus stop shelters, consideration needs to be taken for accessibility to all, including ADA requirements. There are vague statewide requirements. Ms. Walker relayed that this has been an issue in their discussions as some bus stops do not have sidewalks at the stop, therefore safety is an issue as well as space for the shelter.

Ms. Miller suggested the group take the draft matrix home and work on it between now and the next meeting, and any suggestions they feel are pertinent, email to the group.

Dr. Prewett will compile the information for the updated matrix and try to remove all technical terms.

**CNI Choice Community Day on June 4th:** Ms. Chapman advised the group that the MPO staff is unavailable to attend this event, and therefore the group members will need to represent the booth.

Ms. Miller relayed this is their opportunity to present the draft plan to the residents of the community in a way that hopefully gives them the ability to absorb and understand this plan is theirs as well. This will be a fun event with food and entertainment, and all working groups are

being asked to tend a booth and interact with residents. The event will be held June 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 pm.

Ms. Walker requested Ms. Miller officially request CARTS representation at this event and she will coordinate so a bus can be there and have material available to residents as well as representation to talk with the community about CARTS. She also noted this event can be included as part of their public involvement process.

Ms. Stark relayed that she is able to represent the group from 4-5 pm during this event. Mr. Sceviour noted he is willing to be there as well. Ms. Walker stated she is willing to attend the entire event as well.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 19  
3:30 p.m.  
City of New Bern Development Services, 303 First Street