

AGENDA

GOAL 3 ALLIANCE



Board Members:

Kristen Bennett • Jim Botts • Trey Conner • Meegan Joyce • Hank Kelly • Ryan Kilpatrick •
SuLin Kotowicz • Nikos Monoyios • Jonathan Oeverman • Kara Peltier • Andrew Queenan •
Dave Riley • Daniela Rojas • Breese Stam

October 30, 2018

1:00 – 2:30 PM

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes- July 23, 2018
3. FY19 Budget
4. Streetspace Guidelines (Final Draft Review) / Downtown Enhancement Grant
5. Alliance Member Discussion
6. Public Comment
7. Adjournment





DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

Goal 3 Alliance

July 23, 2018

1. Call to order: Nick called the meeting to order at 3:32pm
2. Members Present: Meegan Joyce, Nick Monoyios, Breese Stam, SuLin Kotowicz, Kristin Bennett, Andrew Queenan

Members Absent: Kara Peltier, David Riley, Andrew Queenan, Jim Botts, Trey Conner, Ryan Kilpatrick, Jonathan Oeverman, Hailey Patrone, Daniela Rojas

Others Present: Mark Miller, Tim Kelly, Rachel George (DGRI Staff) Al Pennington, Hank Kelley, Jesús Trujillo, Anthony Meal, Jesús Mateo, Josh Naramore, Kevin Wisselink

3. Approval of Minutes- January 22, 2018
Motion: Nick Monoyios, supported by Meegan Joyce, moved approval of the minutes from the April 23, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. FY19 Budget
Mr. Monoyios gave a brief introduction to the budget and introduced Tim Kelly. Mr. Kelly stated that he included the project matrix for FY2019 along with the budget. Tim reminded the group that after the last meeting in April, they went to the DDA to present the initial draft of the budget, which was approved. Tim said that everything on the list made it into the budget. Tim explained the layout of the spreadsheet and some of the acronyms. Tim asked if there were any questions. Mr. Monoyios asked if the new Downtown circulator infrastructure was the same line item to tie into the Downtown bus shelter implementation. Mr. Kelly replied that it is the same line item. Kristin Bennett asked what the MNTIFA bike improvements for 2018 were for. Mr. Kelly said that it is pretty broad, and they want to use of for bike racks or general bike parking. Ms. Bennett said that she is working with Stephanie Wong on bike

parking, and was just wondering if there was a place for it. Mr. Kelly said that things are relatively flexible. Mr. Monoyios asked if there were any other questions and then thanked Mr. Kelly.

5. Street Project, Division from Wealthy to Cherry

Breese Stam introduced the project. Al Pennington explained the street reconstruction, new streetscape elements, and new proposed street. Mr. Stam added that the preferred bike route is on Division Ave. until Lyon Street. Kristin Bennett said that the existing bike lanes come down almost to Fulton, and with the draft bike lane it is hard to get to different points. Ms. Bennett said Division is more like a main street at least south of Fulton, and that Ionia has more opportunity. Ms. Bennett added that the north side is looking at other options to create north-south bike routes along Division that do not conflict with bus lines. Mr. Stam said that looking at Streetscape guidelines, serving the north-south corridor is something that they were aware of and thought about. Mr. Stam stated that parking is also a challenge. Mr. Pennington showed a satellite photo of the proposed layout of Division and Goodrich, and explained the plans for this intersection. Mr. Pennington explained the medians at Division and Bartlett, and said that people want pedestrian crossings at every block. Mr. Pennington said that they are still reviewing this with traffic safety. Mark Miller asked how long of a distance this was, as there is a danger for pedestrians if there are not enough crosswalks. Meegan Joyce agreed that it is safer for pedestrians to have these crossings. Ms. Bennett added that they should take a look closer internally at handling an accessible crossing and extending the median. Ms. Bennett said that they can improve the pedestrian experience by using medians to improve and beautify the area, and to increase tree canopy, in order to soften the streets and get more depth to the pedestrian area. Mr. Pennington reminded everyone that they are not done looking at pedestrian crossings.

Mr. Pennington said that the lighting in the plan is similar to the plan for north of Cherry. Mr. Pennington explained the project costs and funding. Mr. Monoyios asked if the widening of the sidewalk included soil for trees. Mr. Pennington responded that yes, they are creating a soil trench behind the sidewalk. Mr. Miller asked if the design and cost included the soil trench. Mr. Pennington replied that this is preliminary, and the numbers are estimates that will be updated. Mr. Monoyios said looking at bus stops, there should be a conversation about potentially making significant improvements in solar capabilities. Mr. Monoyios added that they should also look at including electrifying the bus stop locations to tie in some electrical fiber optics, in order to have items such as real time arrival and other robust capabilities. Hank Kelley responded that these were great ideas, and that they are looking to move in a solar direction. SuLin Kotowicz asked what the timeline was for the project. Mr. Pennington said that it needs to be built in 2019, about six months after turning the plans in. Mr. Stam said that they want to do this right around February and might set up a separate meeting to discuss bus

stop locations. Mr. Monoyios added that they need to explore everything to make sure we are doing the right thing. Mr. Pennington asked if there were any more questions and concluded the presentation.

Street Lighting, Division from Cherry to Fulton

Mr. Stam gave a presentation and overview on the street lighting project. Mr. Breese stated that there is some concern regarding funding currently, but there should be resolution for this in August and so far has not slowed the project down. Mr. Kelly reminded the group that this was presented in April, as an outcome from correspondence that started 18 months ago from neighbors and business owners along Division Avenue due to quality of life and safety issues. Mr. Kelly said there has been a lot of analysis done on the lights, and that the goal is to get Division back to standard lighting. SuLin Kotowicz asked about the height of the lights. Mr. Stam responded that the lights selected were the standard light elevation, which is 23 feet. Mr. Stam said that these lights will have shields and some adjustability for the amount of light as well.

6. Downtown Bus Shelter Implementation

Mr. Kelly said that they have been working with Mobile GR and the Rapid over the past year and is excited to have progress as there have been a lot of great things happening. Hank Kelley gave an update of where they were currently at in the project. Meegan Joyce asked if the separate stops were going to have different signs with different heights. Ms. Kelley said they are looking into installing a unique pole, but may leave temporary bus stops with the concrete pyramid signs. Ms. Joyce asked if there were anything for people with visual impairments. Ms. Kelley replied that this is a good suggestion and something they will consider when selecting the pole type. Mr. Kelly asked if they could talk about Michigan Street Route 19. Ms. Kelley explained the new route and hours for this bus route. Ms. Kelley said that this bus route is not currently branded as the DASH, but is a joint project. Andrew Queenan asked how one of the lots fit with the current DASH route, and how the North and South lots go together. Josh Naramore responded that right now there is a lot of bus bunching and long waits, so they are trying to maximize ridership on the North route as there is more growth opportunity in the Northern portion as the riverfront restoration happens. Mr. Naramore said that one of the goals is to maximize the West to connect to employment parking, entertainment, and work. Mr. Monoyios asked if there had been any conversation about dedicating vehicles to Route 19 with the Rapid. Mr. Naramore said that there are not enough vehicles to work across the system. Ms. Kelley said that anything that streamlines telling the public that there is one brand that is free and is good is the direction that they are trying to move in. Mr. Queenan stated that he likes the new bus for the DASH, as well as the new DASH street signs, to bring awareness and start conversation again. Mr. Monoyios asked if there were any other questions and thanked Ms. Kelley.

7. Draft Bike Action Plan / Bike Share Feasibility

Kristin Bennett gave a presentation on the bike action plan and bike share feasibility. Ms. Bennett stated that there was a request by the city commission to create a plan due to the growing use of bicycles for urban transportation and public demand for travel options. Ms. Bennett explained the benefits of bicycling as convenient, efficient, affordable, and an improvement to health and quality of life. Mr. Bennett said that there was an engagement with the public when creating the plan. The feedback that they received shaped the plan and its recommendations. Ms. Bennet took the time to further describe the vision and values, goals and objectives, and the recommendation areas within the plan. Ms. Bennett reviewed the action timeline for the plan, and then asked if there were any questions. Mr. Monoyios asked if there was a section in the plan with best practices with bike shares across the country. Ms. Bennet responded that there is information on this in the Bike Feasibility Study more. Mr. Stam asked about the funding for the plan. Ms. Bennet said there is no funding, and that this is done in house.

8. Next Meeting – TBD

9. Public Comment

Jesús Trujillo, intern at Mobile GR, commented that he appreciated the work that this group is doing and is glad to see people actually care. He also expressed some concern for the homeless on Division Ave.

10. Adjournment

Nick adjourned the meeting at 5:10pm.

Minutes taken by:

Rachel George

Administrative Assistant

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.