

Alexander Street and University Place Transit Task Force
June 19, 2013
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Appelget; Bottigheimer, Liverman, Simon, Wilkes

Staff: L. Solow; J. West; R. Kiser; K. Philip

Also in attendance: B. Altman; C. Crider; M. Danson; R. Fisk; M. Reed; S. Sturges

Consultants Gary Davies and Mayuresh Khare (AECOM); Jacquemart (BRJ)

Minutes:

March 27, 2013 - postponed

April 10, 2013 - postponed

AECOM presentation:

Study Area Developments/Redevelopments identified:

- 1) Expansion of Graduate Student Housing
- 2) Princeton University Arts and Transit Project
- 3) Hulfish North
- 4) Redevelopment of YM/YWCA
- 5) Redevelopment of Merwick and Stanworth
- 6) Redevelopment of University Medical Center

Overview of Modeling Scenarios

- Over 1000 zones in the model.
- 2027 Base Condition = 2006 Base Model plus available 2012 traffic count data, any roadway improvement projects completed since 2006 and the relocation of the University Medical Center
- 2027 No-Build Condition = 2012 Base Condition plus roadway improvements related to the University Arts and Transit project and all new developments/redevelopments identified in the RFP
- Modeling Scenario Improvement Packages:
 - 1) Improvement Package 1: Street Closures
 - 2) Improvement Package 2: One-way Loop in Clockwise Direction
 - 3) Improvement Package 3: One-way Loop in Counterclockwise Direction
 - 4) Stand-Alone Improvement Run: Either Improvement Package 2 or Improvement Package 3 except replace Witherspoon Street one-way conversion with current two-operation and fully functional traffic signal at Nassau and Witherspoon intersection

Basic Feasibility Survey for Scenarios

- Improvement Package #1: Street Closures
 - a) Mercer Street closed in both directions between Alexander and Nassau
 - b) Witherspoon Street closed in both directions between Nassau and Spring
 - c) Left turn from Nassau Street onto Bank Street prohibited
- Improvement Package #2: One-Way Loop in Clockwise Direction
 - a) Mercer Street one-way in eastbound direction from Alexander to Nassau
 - b) University one-way in southbound direction from Nassau to Alexander
 - c) Alexander one-way in northbound direction from University to Mercer
 - d) Left turns from Nassau on to Bank Street prohibited
 - e) Witherspoon one-way in northbound direction from Nassau to Spring
 - f) Signal at Nassau and Witherspoon converted to pedestrian signal only
- Improvement Package #3 - One-Way Loop in Counter-Clockwise Direction
 - a) Mercer Street one-way in westbound direction from Nassau to Alexander
 - b) University one-way in northbound direction from Alexander to Nassau

- c) Alexander one-way in southbound direction from Mercer to University
- d) Left turns from Nassau on to Bank Street prohibited
- e) Witherspoon one-way in northbound direction from Nassau to Spring
- f) Signal at Nassau and Witherspoon converted to pedestrian signal only

Preliminary Traffic Model Findings for Scenarios

- o Forecast peak hour traffic growth is likely to be concentrated along the Alexander Street corridor
- o Proposed improvement packages will redistribute future traffic from the Alexander Street corridor to other access corridors, thereby relieving pressure on the Alexander Street corridor
- o Witherspoon Street closure between Nassau St. and Spring St. will not have significant impact on traffic circulation
- o All improvement packages have more or less similar impacts on traffic volume redistribution
- o Selection of one-way direction of travel will have localized implications
 - Clockwise one-way loop will involve all right turn movements along the loop
 - Will significantly improve traffic operation along Nassau Street between Bayard Lane and University Place
 - Eliminating several left turns
 - Possibly eliminating the traffic signal at University Place
 - Counter-clockwise one-way loop may result in better operation of the proposed roundabout at University Place and Alexander Street intersection
- o One-way systems lack redundancy
 - Existing: Two streets, two lanes in each direction
 - Proposed: One street, one lane in each direction
 - Forces vehicle / pedestrian conflicts at McCarter Theatre

Additional opportunities discussed:

- o Opening Springdale as a connector roadway
- o One way traffic on Bank Street toward Nassau to be discussed with the State
- o Parking Garage in West Windsor and North Princeton with shuttle service
- o Alexander and University Place could remain a two-way road
- o Counter-clockwise movement on University Place
- o Witherspoon Street one way direction - suggested closing southbound lane for pedestrian space

Next Steps

- Task force members to determine what alternatives are warranted
- AECOM to identify the impacts on local and planning and zoning vs regional planning and zoning
- AECOM to review further impact pertaining to Bank Street left turn elimination