

## Alexander Street and University Place Transit Task Force

June 4, 2014

### Meeting Minutes

#### In Attendance:

Committee Members: Appelget; Simon; Wilkes

Staff: L. Solow; R. Kiser, J. West

Also in attendance: K. Cherry, C. Crider; H. Kisilywicz; R. Fisk; R. Widner

#### Discussion – Alignment Options Along University Place

URS presented the following scenarios for providing rail service on University Place up to Nassau Street.

- No Widening – 2 Way In-Street Track – No Parking (A)
- No Widening – One-Way Traffic – Single Track – Exclusive ROW (B)
- No Widening – One-Way Traffic – Single Track (C)
- No Widening – Single Track/One-Way Street With Parking (D)
- Widening – 2 Way In-Street Track With Parking (E)
- Widening – Exclusive ROW – No parking (F)

Members expressed that Option B has no impact on Alexander and very little impact on the neighborhood. For Option A trains may have to wait to discharge passengers which would result in backed up traffic. To determine the best option, a matrix is needed of all the options and degree of difficulty to provide these improvements. A neighborhood meeting is anticipated to take place in several weeks. Concerns were also expressed about the impact on trees and pedestrians and pedestrians if a rail line is place in University Place. URS also indicated that it would require three trains in order to meet every train if the line runs from Nassau to Princeton Junction. Members requested that URS contact AECOM and provide an analysis of the traffic impacts if a rail line is located in University Place.

#### Next Steps:

- A cost estimate on the preferred options should be provided.
- A mitigation strategy about parking options if parking is removed for this improvement should be determined.
- The various transit scenarios should be shared with emergency services to get their comments about vehicular access along University Place.
- Mayor Lempert to be advised that June 23<sup>rd</sup> is the anticipated date for Council presentation.

Since there are different traffic counts from the DVRPC and AECOM with different baselines, a statement explaining the count differentiation was recommended.

#### Miscellaneous

E-Cars – Crider stated that E-Cars are considered google cars because they use google maps as part of their technology. This is not the system that will succeed for automated vehicles because if you wish to access a private road that is not on a google map the vehicle will be inoperable. Fisk recommended an automated bus service which could be bi-directional and less expensive than carrying a line to Nassau Street.

NJDOT - Wilkes advised that NJDOT Commissioner Simpson is retiring this week. A portfolio of our work will be given to Joe Dee, NJDOT Chief of Staff.

#### Minutes:

- March 26, 2014 – postponed to next meeting
- April 9, 2014 – postponed to next meeting