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Transportation + Infrastructure Meeting #13

June 8, 2022, 06:00 PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Susan Carlotta Ellis

ATTENDEES

- Pericles Georgopoulos
- Cindy Fish
- Kathleen Dickhut
- Jamie Osborne
- Tim Gustafson
- Laurie Dittman
- Lou Turner
- Malika Hainer
- Benjamin Cosgrove
- Leah Mooney
- Tsehaye G. Hebert
- Jamie Simone
- Katherine Field McCarter
- Alex Dumitriu
- Melvin Thompson
- William Garcia
- Elizabeth Scott
- Shadan Tofighi
- William Davis
- Kimberley Rudd



MEETING GOAL

This was a wrap up meeting that outlined the 2021-22 Draft Implementation Plan for We Will Chicago, and the process moving forward.

WHERE WE ARE



Step 1

We Are*Setting the Stage*

Step 2

We Have and Need*Develop A Policy Toolkit*

Step 3

We Will*Set Policy Framework*

KEY TAKEAWAY

1

After 13 meetings of Transportation and Infrastructure, the pillar created 82 Policies, 23 Objectives, overarching five Goals. There were a total of 609 Policies created across all We Will Chicago Pillars. The final policy is still being drafted and refined. A full Framework Plan will be made available in late June.

2

Each pillar section of the Framework Plan will follow the same formats of Introduction, Goals with supporting text, Objectives and supporting Data & Metrics with infographics. Though all Data is not up to date.

3

The Transportation & Infrastructure had many carry over goals across pillars and some were moved to other Pillars. The overarching priority was to make sure there are investments in communities that have been historically harmed by inequities in past transportation and infrastructure decision making. It is about reconnecting communities.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

"It's been great hearing how passionate folks are about infrastructure in our city. And all the amazing ideas people have for positive change."

Benjamin Cosgrove | Volunteer

"I know we talked a lot about Health and Racial Equity Impact Analysis, which is something that we all saw early on. But, basically, that particular process, it takes a lot of time. What we learned is that we're moving towards the language of an equity analysis. And there are different ways of doing that."

Kathleen Dickhut | Deputy Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development

"Who else needs to be more deeply engaged?"

Kathleen Dickhut | Deputy Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development

NOTES

- Cindy Fish walks through a summary of outcomes from the pillar's meetings.

- The Transportation and Infrastructure team created 5 goals, 23 objectives and 82 refined policy recommendations throughout pillar meetings.
- Fish then presents the format of the final Framework Plan Draft, which will summarize findings from all eight pillars.
 - Each pillar will have a report in the overall plan document that details goals, objectives, metrics.
 - The Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) goal was not available for this meeting, so the pillar looked at Economic Development's report draft for reference.
 - Fish shows a list of metrics and credits other city agencies and departments for contributing to updating the data.
 - Fish shares a high level overview of refinements to T&I policies
 - For example, Goal 4: Prioritize investments in communities that have been historically harmed by inequities in past transportation and infrastructure decision-making.
 - Objective 4.1 was introduced: "Reconnect communities that have been divided by transportation infrastructure."
 - Kimberley Rudd plugs a proposed ordinance, Connected Communities, which some of T&I pillar members have been on a working group for the past two years.
 - Other objectives were removed and added to other pillars. For example, original objective 4.1 was moved to Economic Development since it focuses on job training and small businesses.
 - Fish also walks through policy topic areas, for example, improving parks is a common theme across pillars.
- Kathleen Dickhut shares an Equity Analysis Update, since there have been changes.
 - Equity, as the plan defines it, is an outcome and a process.
 - Original plans to use a process called Health and Racial Equity Impact Analysis (HREIA) did not happen. Instead of conducting this process, the research team for WWC is shifting their language to "equity analysis."
 - Dickhut points to civic and community engagement as a place where the outcome of doing an equity analysis has moved
 - Dickhut says that each project and department will have to do an equity analysis later
 - This summer, people will be invited to go over a few policies and apply an equity analysis to learn how to use the tools on different types of policies. Dickhut directs interested people to put their name in the chat.
 - Questions and interest can be directed to lauren.burdette@cityofchicago.org or kate.mcmahon@cityofchicago.org

- The Framework Plan should be available publicly by July 14th, 2022
- This is the “Summer of We Will Engagement.” July-November 2022 people will table across the city at public events to ask people about the goals and objectives through survey. They will also conduct focus groups. David King (david.king@cityofchicago.org) is the engagement contact.
 - Feedback will be incorporated Nov-Dec 2022
 - The final plan will go to the Plan Commission in Jan 2023
- Metropolitan Planning Council and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs are hosting seven panels with “international and local experts” to provide feedback on plan draft policies. The civic and community engagement pillar will not be included.
- Dickhut then presents what's going to happen with the plan next for WWC.
 - WWC plans to present the plan document to the Chicago Plan Commission for adoption of the framework. What they'd be adapting is the goals and objectives. This means:
 - All plan developments would need to be consistent with the goals and objectives in the plan.
 - It's also possible to push for a resolution that would direct the Plan Commission to enforce things like, DPD will report on the progress of We Will.
 - Another potential tool is a Mayor's Office Executive Order
 - This could direct departments and sister agencies to develop actions like implementation structure.
 - Dickhut also lists budgeting tools like annual budget processes, Departmental Racial Equity Action Plans and Area Plans. These are tools since funding can be allocated towards WWC goals and objectives.
 - There are 609 policies in total across the WWC plan.
 - Some may require ordinance adoption and others departmental policy adoption.
- Dickhut provides a discussion prompt, “What does accountability and transparency look like as we move into the next phases of public engagement and implementation?”
 - Comments in the chat are asking about private sector engagement, Chicago Public Schools, students, and institutions that serve young people (like museums)
- When asked who has already been deeply engaged, Dickhut says that there's a gap of engaging Latinx communities and philanthropy. Dickhut also says research teams have been deeply engaged.

We Will Chicago's Website: [WE WILL CHICAGO](#)

NEXT STEPS

Participants are invited to continue with input on the WWC Draft Plan.

- Pillar members are encouraged to invite organizations to host Pop Up Survey Events throughout the summer in communities/neighborhoods across the city.
- Pillar members encourage all City of Chicago residents to participate in the WWC Draft Plan.
- For further information on these matters, people may reach out to david.king@cityofchicago.org for calendar events.
- The City is planning a close event July 14th.