

Transportation and Infrastructure: Meeting #2

August 11, 2021, 6:00PM | 1:50 hours

Documented by: Izzy Stroobandt

MEETING MATERIALS

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

ATTENDEES

- Alexandra Dumitriu
- Ashley Gratz
- Benjamin Cosgrove
- Billy Davis
- Derek Eder
- Devon Braunstein
- Elizabeth Scot
- Jamie Osborne
- Jared Policicchio
- John Paige
- Yaritza Gullien
- Jordan Evangelista
- Jose M. Estrada
- Joshua Woods
- Katherine McCarter
- Kimeco Roberson
- Laurie Dittman
- Leah Dawson Mooney
- Lou Turner
- Malika Hainer
- Maulik Vaishnav
- Michael Jansen
- Monica Ramona Newsome
- Sandra Blakemore
- Shadan Tofighi
- Sophie Manley
- Tim Gustafson
- Tsehaye Geralyn Hebert
- Vig Krishnamurthy
- William Garcia

Recording

Speaker View Exit Full Screen

1/2

1/2

Lilliane Webb - Facilitator (s...)

CITY BUREAU DOCUMENTER...

Liz Schuh | SBF (she/her)

Veronica Cruz - Blue Daring...

Ashley Gratz

John Paige

Laurie Dittman (MOPD)

Tim Gustafson (he/him)

Ben Cosgrove, he/him

Melvin Thompson (Endeleo I...

Shadan Tofighi

Jared Policicchio, City of Chi...

Derek Eder - Civic Exchange...

Joshua Woods (He/Him)

Jamie Simone, Chicago DOT,...

T. G. Hebert

Leah Mooney, CTA, she/her

Monica Newsome (she/her)

Lou Turner

Sophie Manley, Chicago Water

Jordan Evangelista (Honey P...

Alex Dumitriu (she/her)

Elizabeth Scott (she/her) - C...

Daniel Comeaux, CMAP (he/...

Bill Garcia

Unmute Start Video

Participants 34 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions

Leave

MEETING GOAL

We Will endeavors to ensure the city's infrastructure assets are equitably planned, maintained, and upgraded to meet 21st century needs. This meeting focused on group building activities, establishing the pillar focus areas and preparing for future meetings.

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 TAKEAWAYS

- 1** | Participants were more eager to make plans than participate in “team building” exercises. We Will Chicago facilitators acknowledged the feedback but noted that team building exercises were critical for future meetings.
- 2** | Transportation and infrastructure covers far more than just roads and public transportation, it requires feedback and input from disabled communities, broadband experts and other impacted groups.
- 3** | Though broadband is not a topic area of focus for the pillar, multiple participants brought up their focus or interest in ensuring that there is equitable access to broadband (an issue that has gained more attention due to the COVID-19 pandemic and reliance on remote work).

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

"What I've learned working in transportation is just how critical it is to everything that we do... Anytime you want to get around the city, it's a transportation question. If you want Amazon to deliver something to your home, it's a transportation question. So, I think this is a really important pillar and I'm excited to be a part of the group."

Jamie Simone | Chicago Department of Transportation, Deputy Commissioner

"We are in the process of figuring out how to work together. This is the first [citywide] plan in 60 years and we want to make it as inclusive as possible. We are open to feedback about these processes, we want you to feel valued in coming to these meetings."

Lilliane Webb | We Will Chicago, Facilitator

"I think spaces that are playful are usually the most productive, so I usually try to bring that into any space that I'm curating,"

Jordan Evangelista | Honey Pot

"We're actually a community of eight organizations and we have the ability to convene funding and bring other groups together for subsequent meetings about potential topics that come out of this pillar. We also have a lot of our member organizations in the journalism space and the technology space so we can draw from their experiences."

Derek Eder | Civic Exchange

"It has to mean something for the people. Not for me personally, but for the communities that I work in [on the far South Side] and that I represent. Toward that end, I sent a video that I helped make with CMAP, CTA and the community organization I used to work for, Developing Communities Project — a very powerful one — on the Red Line extension that I worked on for 20 years that features people from the far South Side communities and what the Red Line extension would mean for them. [...] I sent the video that we made to Rudd Resources.net., I think a week or so ago, and I heard nothing back about whether they received it or anything like that. One of the things that would be very helpful in terms

of reckoning, is that things and resources like this get sent to you, that you at least acknowledge that you received them, that's the way I work, and we begin to talk about what this plan means for the communities that everybody here is from. What does the plan mean for those communities? That is what I'm here for."

Lou Turner | Volunteer

NOTES

Kickoff and Introductions

- First reflective prompt: "Think about the neighborhood you grew up in. In what ways did you and your fellow community members experience joy?"
 - Bruce Eric Montgomery: "We enjoyed our community everyday in every way, indoors and out!"
 - Joshua Woods: "Grew up in Kansas City, MO. I really enjoyed riding bikes and scooters up and down the sidewalk between their house and the church parking lot"
 - Monica Newsome: "We played games with the kids in our neighborhood, we had school events that invited the community to participate. Baseball games, festivals, riding our bikes, etc. So much fun."
 - Melvin Thompson: "Summer Sidewalk Sale on 87th Street in Calumet Heights that was always jam packed! No cars allowed!"
- As the process goes on, the team will summarize the work of the group and send it to the advisory committee. These summaries will serve as drafts of the plan going forward.
- Suggested group norms:
 - "We will come to each meeting as prepared as possible."
 - Jamie Simone, Chicago DOT "I'm going to make it a goal for myself to make sure to take the time to be ready before these meetings"
 - Shadan Tofighi: "The idea that is presented is no one's in particular. [Not] even the person who gives it. It belongs to the group and the group can decide on its merits"

Overview

- Imagine Boston 2030: Example of a program in Boston, similar to WE WILL, it tracks a number of different elements (like walking time to public transportation) to identify issues that need to be addressed. The plan includes a lot of information that could be useful to the general public—the group is hoping to embody that in the We Will Chicago plan. One NYC 2050: Both NYC and Chicago are facing decreases in ridership and increases in mobility challenges, so the plans are geared towards tackling some of the the same issues. Website description is a bit lengthy but still helpful for the public to understand the plan.
- Discussion topics:
 - Representation
 - Laurie Dittman: "FYI, the disability community does not use the term "abilities". The term "disability" is always used and embraced."
 - LaTanya Lane, Civic Exchange: "We tend to bring folks who are coming at issues from very different perspectives together in a single place to try to get as many angles as possible to find a solution... Complex problems want complex solutions."
 - T. G. Hebert: "We're now 35 years now after the A.D.A. and it really flummoxed me and troubles me that a city that wants to be the most accessible city has so far to go. Users, people who must use the accessible and inclusive systems, have to be at the table. Unless you've been in that chair or had that experience you have no idea what it means to have to travel in those spaces... Cultural and economic development is inextricable from the overall concept of making transportation accessible. When you make transportation accessible for one person, you're really making it accessible to everybody."
 - Broadband internet access:

- Shadan Tofighi: “The ability to get on the internet was the ability to be employed or be educated. I’m not trying to equate or make one bigger than the other but I think we should pay attention to who has broadband internet.”
- Bill Garcia: “In the e-learning and remote work world, I view broadband access as transportation.”
- Daniel Comeaux: “On the broadband point, I also appreciate the focus on disparities in broadband access for low-income and minority communities. The focus in national conversations is often on rural access, which is also important, but we can’t ignore the gaps that are present on a block-by-block basis here in the city.”
- Accessibility:
 - “DCP conducted a study in 2005 on transit-oriented development in Greater Roseland and one of the things we found that surprised many in the community was that Greater Roseland area has one of the largest disability communities in Chicago, and there were no accessible entrances to the EI below 35th Street.” -TK
- Structural racism:
 - Melvin Thompson: “The gravity of what took place in our community was devastating to say the least. It’s quite difficult to reckon with this structurally racist history played out through transit and infrastructure.”
 - Jamie Osborne: “Active discrimination is one thing. I am more concerned with the harm of disregard and the banality of white supremacy and structural racism. Infrastructure is where municipalities show communities the money. Reckoning means developing inclusive infrastructure with/for people who are not at the table. Who are we disregarding with our infrastructure choices?”
 - Lou Turner: “Phase 1 pillar should add that the plan will address the “transportation deserts” of communities of color that are one of the consequences of Chicago’s past planning history that the plan reckons with.”
- Lead pipes:
 - Ben Cosgrove: “We all have led in our pipes, and a lot of people don’t realize it. Not just in one neighborhood, everywhere and that was planned by the city.”
- Equity
 - Jamie Simone: “Rather than equity being something we sprinkled in, it’s really infused throughout the benchmarks.”

Agenda

- Recording Consent + Reflective Prompt
- Meet the Co-chairs + Agenda Review + Examples of End Product
- Group Norms Activity
- Strengths and Working Styles Activity
- Historical Reckoning Framework Discussion
- Planning Process and Context Presentation
- Introduction to Phase 1 Priority Topic Areas
- Close-out and Homework

RESOURCES

Imagine Boston 2030

<https://www.boston.gov/civic-engagement/imagine-boston-2030>

ONE NYC 2050

<http://onenyc.cityofnewyork.us/>

2011 Chicago broadband use report

Report on access across community areas in the city from 2011

<http://www.broadbandillinois.org/Research/Internal-Research/Chicago-Broadband-Use.html>

CDOT Strategic Plan

https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdot/supp_info/cdotstrategicplan.html

Spatial data on digital equity in COVID-19

<https://kidsfirstchicago.org/digital-equity-coronavirus#digital-equity-explore-data>

NEXT STEPS

- Participants will receive a follow-up email with links to the plans, the pre-meeting packet, a review of past plans and other details.
- The specific tasks given were: (1) review the list (in the email) and let the WE WILL Chicago team know if any plans are missing from their Pillar and (2) let us know if another plan belongs in the “most critical” list and why. This feedback will be used to shape their overall research and the past plan review in meeting 4.
- Priority topic area tasks: Think about what your priority topic area pillars would be and think about what definition of the pillar should be