



OPPORTUNITY CORRIDOR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Greater Cleveland Partnership

100 Public Square – Suite 210

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Vickie Johnson, Executive Director, Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation

Johnson welcomed Steering Committee members and guests to the second meeting of the year. She provided a recap of recent planning activities involving area CDCs and shared examples of how the Fairfax community has been preparing for the Opportunity Corridor “OC”. Johnson then introduced Lt. Governor Lee Fisher and thanked him for his active support for the project.

- II. Remarks - Lt. Governor Fisher

Fisher commented on the importance of advancing the project and his involvement along with Mayor Jackson in establishing the Steering Committee. He spoke of the Governor’s and his commitment to the project as evidenced by the \$20 million award through the Ohio Department of Transportation for engineering studies. The primary focus of Fisher’s remarks stressed the importance of developing a strategic framework to guide future OC planning efforts.

- A. Creation of Task Force/ Steering Committee

1. Lt. Governor Fisher, State of Ohio
2. Mayor Frank Jackson, City of Cleveland
3. Joe Roman, Greater Cleveland Partnership
4. Deb Janik, Greater Cleveland Partnership
5. Ann Hill, State of Ohio
6. Chris Warren, City of Cleveland
7. Jennifer Ruggles, State of Ohio
8. Ken Silliman, City of Cleveland

- B. Transportation / Economic Development Strategy

1. Model: Fisher defined the project as a “transformational project” that could serve as a model throughout the state of Ohio for strategic transportation and economic development planning efforts of scale.
2. Connectivity: Fisher stated improved connectivity is the key to being competitive. He identified regional and neighborhood connectivity as being equally important elements of the OC because the economic development potential is immense.
3. Economic Development: Fisher stated economic development is just as important as transportation and safety.
4. Long-Term Sustainability: Fisher stated steering committee planning efforts must be strategic and tactical to secure OC’s long-term sustainability.



III. Steering Committee Update – Terri Hamilton Brown

A. Steering Committee Structure:

1. John Hopkins, Executive Director, Buckeye Area Development Corporation, was introduced as a new member of the Steering Committee.
2. Resident and Stakeholder Representatives: The Steering Committee will include resident and stakeholder representatives from the surrounding neighborhoods of Fairfax, Buckeye, Kinsman, Slavic Village and University Circle. The representatives will be selected to serve by residents and stakeholders in the respective communities once the community engagement process is launched next month.
3. Stephanie Howse, City Planner, Cleveland Planning Commission, was introduced as a new staff member.

B. Project Websites: www.gcpartnership.com/OpportunityCorridor and www.dot.state.oh.us/projects/clevelandurban_coreprojects/OpportunityCorridor

C. Tour Overview

Hamilton Brown provided a brief overview of the July 23rd tour of the corridor area that highlighted route alternatives and neighborhood assets.

D. Community and Economic Development Vision Workshop #1 – Summary

Hamilton Brown provided a brief overview of the first community and economic development planning session convened on August 25. The workshop was well attended by development directors from the area CDCs, City and State. The agenda included a discussion of the project study area and the larger community benefit area, a report of existing development plans in the surrounding neighborhoods and recommendations for future land-uses for vacant and underutilized properties. The participants in the session also engaged in dialogue about how the OC should serve and benefit the greater region.

E. Discussion – Steering Committee and Guests

Meeting participants discussed the following:

1. Neighborhood Connections:
 - a) City of Cleveland Councilman Tony Brancatelli stated the OC should have friendly neighborhood connections.
 - b) Hamilton Brown stated the OC will be a comprehensive project that incorporates neighborhood expectations.
2. Land Use:
 - a) City Planning Director Bob Brown stated the initial land use concept for the OC was thought to be a single-use development, i.e. office and industrial but there was considerable discussion at the planning session about creating an urban mixed-use development or hybrid development.
 - b) There was general discussion about St. Paul's Phalen Corridor in which housing development was not a primary focus of the corridor. Hamilton Brown stated that while the OC is not precluding housing development from future plans it is not a primary focus. She envisioned housing development



and community service opportunities being an outgrowth of planning efforts in a similar way that was achieved in the Phalen Corridor project.

3. Utility and Transit Infrastructure
 - a) Ann Hill advised the committee that the OC area is currently underserved in power utilities.
 - b) Joe Calabrese, CEO of Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, stated RTA has 4-5 stations located with the OC area and maps should indicate the locations of the stations.
4. Technological Connectivity
 - a) City of Cleveland Councilwoman Mamie Mitchell inquired if the OC will have broadband connection.
 - b) Hamilton Brown stated the committee will add broadband connectivity to the list of objectives the OC should achieve.
5. Business Inventory / Concerns
 - a) Chris Warren inquired if the committee has taken inventory of business concerns within the corridor area.
 - b) Mike May, Executive Director, Maingate Business Development Corporation, stated Maingate has surveyed 300-400 businesses in the area. The survey response showed that a large number of businesses are in need of clean, available land for expansion. In addition, a majority of the businesses expressed having problems with obtaining expansion funding, capital and infrastructure.

IV. HNTB Presentation - Matt Wahl, Project Manager, HNTB

V. General Discussion

A. Public Meetings – Tuesday, September 22, 2009

1. 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Cleveland Playhouse, 8500 Euclid Avenue.
(Noon presentation)
2. 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, 7510 Woodland Avenue.
(6:30 presentation)
3. Both presentations will provide information about the OC and project representatives will be available to answer questions.

B. Furthering Economic Development Investments in University Circle

Ohio Hub: Fisher referenced the State's strategic plan and the Ohio Hubs of Innovations and Opportunity Program. He stated his belief that the OC could be designated as an Ohio Hub because of the potential to build off of the synergy of the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, and Case Western Reserve University. If designated as a hub, the OC would be eligible for additional funding.

VI. Next OC Steering Committee Meetings (Tentative)

- A. November 12, 2009
- B. February 9, 2010