

TSPLOST 2018 Program
Prince Avenue Corridor Improvements: Project 16

User Group Meeting – Draft Minutes
February 10, 2021 10:00 A.M. - <https://youtu.be/VRqilSXWKcs>

User Group Members Present: Jennifer Rice, Jeanne Connell, Ellen Walker, Bruce Lonnee, Mark Ebell, Stephen Bailey, Clint McCrory, Emily Tatum, Ilka McConnell

Members Absent: Peter Norris

Other Staff Present: Keith Sanders, Derek Doster

Guests: Jonathan Dechko & Heidi Schneider (GDOT), Ernie Boughman, John Walker, Erik Hammarlund

General Business

Keith Sanders, called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M., welcomed the members in attendance and thanked them for being present.

Quorum: Established quorum was present.

User Group Actions

No items were added to the agenda.

No User Group votes were taken at this meeting.

The below is a brief summary of the key discussions items, not a transcript. The full video is available at the above noted YouTube link. The below notes are only to identify the items discussed and the general order of those discussion to make finding the information on the video easier.

Review of the Approved GDOT Project Concept for PI 0013954 – SR 15/Prince Ave – by Jonathan Dechko & Heidi Schneider from GDOT:

- The current approved GDOT Project Concept includes improvements at 8 intersections and 3 mid-block crossings
- **Predominately the Scope** of GDOT Project Concept is safety improvements. This is a safety improvement project, including items such as: signalized improvements, ADA ramps, raised medians, pedestrian crossings, etc.
- The project does not include repaving the entire corridor, aesthetic improvements, pedestrian lighting, or other work outside curb lines.

Questions and Responses that were also brought up with GDOT:

The signals are being replaced at the intersections, not just modifying the timing of the signals.

Poles would be replaced with the standard galvanized or could be black if desired. More decorative fluted styles post would require ACCGov to pay the upcharge cost difference for the more decorative posts.

GDOT is currently on schedule to release the project for bidding in September 2023

GDOT stated that they did not have any plans to change any of the on street/onsite parking; particularly in the Normal Town area.

If ACCGov wants to get any of the potential changes being discussed currently accepted through GDOT, ACCGov would need to go through the district office. As it currently stands the PI 0013954 is in Preliminary Design phase as such any revisions or changes to this design would greatly affect the time frame of the schedule. It would be more time efficient to do some of these changes through our own ACCGov. If we had improvements that we wanted to make in advance of this project letting then those improvements could be incorporated into the design to reflect new existing conditions, easier than the design could be changed at this date.

GDOT projects are held to a strict benefits/cost ratio that can be somewhat limiting to adding additional changes.

Review Potential Revisions being discussed internally

Discussion regarding which side of Georgia Ave the mid-block crossing should be contemplated. Adding a sign on Georgia Avenue advising of the upcoming crosswalk across Prince Ave to increase awareness; particularly on right turns out of Georgia Ave after the median is installed. A strong focus on educating the pedestrians and drivers of the changes to crosswalks etc could help pedestrians/drivers adapt.

Egress for the Parking Deck – is right in and right out

Removing the angled parking spots in Normal Town from 18 angled spots to 9 parallel spots to accommodate additional pedestrian/bike space was discussed.

RFB flashing lights across the entire crosswalk would be the ideal approach as similar crosswalks in the immediate area are already using these and are being effective.

Mid-block Crossings – Revisions from Previous Meeting reviewed:

Crossing near the Social Security office has been shifted between Kenny & Sylvia Streets

Talmadge & Park Intersection Improvements:

Talmadge & Park: we would probably want a separate project from GDOT altogether
Adjustments could be made on Park Avenue – however that will directly impact restaurant on the west corner as they already have limited parking. Project as shown would probably impact three parking spots

It was discussed that consulting local businesses would be a vital piece of public engagement

Question asked if there was any data/studies that showed median provide traffic slowing measures at all? Design Team will have to look into that to see if there are any studies that make that correlation.

Review Parking Deck Drawings:

Benesch updated the egress: right in/ right out

Public Engagement:

The current public engagement sites created for Lexington Hwy and Atlanta Hwy Corridor's Public Input/engagement was reviewed. The idea being that something very similar would be done for Prince Ave.

User Group was requested to participate in the two (Lexington & Atlanta Hwy) public engagement websites and to encourage others within their circles to also participate in the opportunity for input.

General sentiment was expressed that Public Engagement for the list of projects to be done was not needed. All of the numerous previous other studies have documented what types of projects are wanted.

Ellen Walker volunteered to be a neighborhood liaison to hand out post cards to the local businesses and residents.

Stephen Bailey challenged the group with coming up with additional public engagement opportunities and how to execute them

Ernie Boughman said he would be happy to help facilitate different ideas & concepts.

It was noted that no one on the User Group had been involved in the Public Engagement for the GDOT portion of their project. It was unclear if local business owners or residents were aware of the pending raised medians.

Assignment for future meetings

- Next meeting is February 24, 2021
- Get images and costs on fluted poles for the prince corridor in order to compare the costs against what GDOT has committed to providing.
- Participate in the Public Engagement sites set up for Lexington Hwy & Atlanta Hwy

These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting but instead is a general summary of the key points, ideas, or considerations from the discussion.