



Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
220 West Kensing Drive, Suite 100
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
724.779.4777
www.hrg-inc.com

MEETING NOTES

BELLEVUE BOROUGH ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Open House Meeting

November 20, 2024

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

The public open house for the Bellevue Borough Active Transportation Plan was held on November 20, 2024. This meeting was advertised to the public and intended to allow Bellevue residents, business and property owners, residents from neighboring municipalities, and any other relevant stakeholders to comment on active transportation needs and desires in the Borough. The meeting was also intended to inform the public about the Plan's purpose and progress made to date on the various plan elements. The meeting followed the following agenda:

1. Introductory Presentation
2. Comment Period
3. Engagement Exercises

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION

Lori Morgan from HRG, the planning and consulting firm working with the Borough and Bona Fide Bellevue on the Plan, began the meeting by reviewing a presentation, including the topics listed below. The complete presentation can be found on Bona Fide Bellevue's website, via the following link: <https://www.bonafidebellevue.org/activetransportation/>.

- What is active transportation?
- Purpose of the Active Transportation Plan
- Project Scope
- Work Completed to Date
- Tasks Completed to date
- Introduction to Engagement Exercises

COMMENT PERIOD

Once the presentation was completed, Ms. Morgan explained that the purpose of the meeting was to gather input from the public on their thoughts, desires, and goals for active transportation in Bellevue Borough. She noted that participants should feel free to dream big and share any comments they might have. She then opened up the conversation for general comments and questions from attendees.

One member of the public asked about the current status of the online survey and web mapping tool. Ms. Morgan shared that the main survey had received 69 responses, and the shortened version administered to 5th and 6th grade students received 104 responses. The web map, however, has not received any responses to date. Ms. Morgan noted that the survey and web map will be open for the public to complete until December 31, 2024. She also noted that paper copies of the survey are available at the Library and Prime Trime Senior Center.

Another attendee asked whether speed bumps could be recommended as part of this plan. Ms. Morgan responded that speed bump locations could be considered as part of this plan, and that may or may not be the best solution or a viable option for a specific location. Ms. Morgan noted that attendees should feel free to provide any comments, but they should also not feel like they need to suggest a solution for an issue they are experiencing- they may highlight the problem, and this planning process will help to figure out the best possible solution.

One member of the public also shared relevant information regarding the possible Three Rivers Heritage Trail extension that would involve an additional portion of trail connecting the old jail to where Jacks Run meets the Ohio River, near Farragut Avenue. Ideas to improve bicycle and pedestrian access should consider these future additions.

ENGAGEMENT EXERCISES- RESULTS

The activities that attendees could participate in included the Information Boards, Mapping, the Dream Box, and the Online Exercises (Survey and Web Map Tool).

Information Boards

HRG provided four maps that share relevant data related to active transportation including existing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) routes, reported crashes, and the study area and relevant local destinations. Participants were invited to review the data for errors and provide feedback on these maps with sticky notes.

One comment left on the PRT routes map shared that the bus stop at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and N. Fremont Avenue lacks cover and the benches are too close to the roadway to feel comfortable.

For the location destinations map, one participant marked the location of Kuhn's grocery store, as it is a frequently accessed location for Bellevue residents seeking groceries.

The existing infrastructure map received one comment sharing that the public stairs connecting Summit Avenue to Forest Avenue are broken and the handrails were damaged.

Mapping

This activity provided participants with two views of the Active Transportation Plan's study area at the southern side of the Borough, one with a smaller extent focused on the study area and one showing a larger regional extent and including neighboring municipalities and destinations.

The local-scale map included the following recommendations and comments:

- The telephone pole on S. Starr Avenue is blocking the sidewalk on the west side of the street.
- Lincoln Avenue and N/S Starr Avenue is a dangerous crossing for pedestrians
- A sidewalk gap connecting Florence Avenue to Shade Avenue
- Hawley Avenue and Lincoln Avenue intersection has visibility issues caused by tall grasses
- Bayne Park's western entrance is only accessible by stairs and could benefit from a ramp for improved access
- Unsafe pedestrian crossings at Lincoln Avenue and N/S Bryant Avenue as well as at Lincoln Avenue and Kendall Avenue
- Speeding concerns around the B.H. Bridge
- Lack of sidewalks for pedestrian travel to Gillott Park and Giant Eagle on the eastern end of the Borough
- Lack of sidewalks on Bellevue Road for pedestrians looking to access Bellevue Memorial Park
 - Additional multi-mile walking trails within Bellevue Memorial Park
- Union Avenue pedestrian safety concerns, especially for students looking to access Northgate School District.

The regional-scale map included the following recommendations and comments:

- New infrastructure for rollerblading trails, nature walking trails, and water features along Lincoln/California Avenue
- Beautification to the B.H. Bridge entrance to serve as a gateway to the Bellevue community
- Create color-coded designated walking routes in the Borough
- Improved bicycle access and safer intersections across the community
- A proposal for a bike route connection from Lincoln Avenue to Brighton Road to Farragut Avenue to connect to the future Heritage Trailhead at the riverfront.

Dream Box

Much like a comment box, the Dream Box activity allowed participants to share any hopes, dreams, or other comments they had about active transportation in the Borough. The provided note cards could be used to write down comments, which were then placed in the Dream Box provided. This activity is intended to be an open-ended visioning exercise, allowing respondents to dream big. Thirty-six comments were received and are listed below.

- Would love a trail to connect from town to Memorial Park! Kids have to walk on the narrow shoulder of the road to get to the pool/park over the summer...
- A street car line would be awesome!!
- I wish our sidewalks- especially on Lincoln Ave. were smooth.
- I wish people wouldn't drive so crazy fast down our street- N. Harrison
- I wish our sidewalks, parking lots and commercial roofs were energy collectors.
- I would like to have better access to Giant Eagle on the east side of Bellevue.
- I would like more clear signage or lights that would give walkers the right of way on Lincoln Ave.
- Connection to Heritage Trail/ Three Rivers...not really a biker but maybe I would be!
- All red light- no turn on red at Starr and Lincoln *Major concern*
- Landscaping between street and sidewalk. Strongtowns social medias has great examples. Brighton Heights implemented great traffic calming measures- maybe inspiration. Landscaping between sidewalk and strip mall (across from Kuhns).
- Also by the Cogo's people drive in and out at all angles, hard to cross/walk anywhere there because it is the whole corner.
- MORE TREES
- I wish I could bike comfortably down Rte 65 or the Ohio River into town.
- I wish our sidewalks were better illuminated and has much less trash and weeds.
- I wish walking along Rte 65 felt less like walking on the interstate.
- I wish we had many more trees, but not invasive, trashy ones.
- Sidewalk infrastructure on Brighton Rd to the Giant Eagle in Brighton Heights
- Pedestrian call buttons that make the lights change sooner- specifically Fremont and Lincoln.
- A crosswalk from N Harrison to CVS across Lincoln.
- Fix all sidewalks.
- Riverview and 65 intersection- roundabout?
- Mini roundabouts throughout Boro.
- Continuous sidewalks at intersections similar to the Netherlands. There's on in Oakland on Bigelow.
- Traffic calming on Lincoln near Thai Tamarind.

- I wish I could walk to Memorial Park.
- Easier access to Three Rivers Trail
- Access to Bellevue Memorial Park.
- More defined bike route for Lincoln.
- Safe road/path to Memorial Park.
- Control speed on all of Lincoln- police presence?
- Make Family Dollar a movie theater again.
- Raised crosswalks at stop signs and stop lights.