

## Re-Imagining Main Street Advisory Committee Meeting #1

**Date/Time:** March 06, 2020 10:00 am

**Place:** Green Room City Hall

**Attendees:**), See list attached

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### 1. Advisory Committee

- 25 People in attendance including consultants)
- Meeting began with around the room introductions

### 2. **Questions were asked of various Committee Member**

- General Question asked of the group- What do you see as the challenges of Main Street?
  - Key Responses -
    - Improving transit operations
    - Improving safety
    - Important to balance ALL modes of transportation bike, ped transit, etc.
    - Make Main Street a place you want to walk
    - Safety at crosswalks – crosswalk signal timers too fast
    - Improvements and amenities that will support attracting the best talent
    - Aesthetics
    - Many employees who work in the area rely on the transit system
    - Suggestions that the connections of the NE and SE neighborhoods were through this corridor and are important to consider
    - Support Small businesses
    - Support residents who live on the street –
    - Make the front entrances off of Main and not side doors
    - Direct connections
    - Balance user needs, transit, pedestrian, bike
    - Promote alternatives to cars
    - Discourage single use occupancy vehicles
    - Dedicated bus lanes
    - Charge for parking
    - 1 in 5 residents in this area do not have access to a car (confirm stat?)
    - 47% do not own a car (confirm stat?)
    - There is structural inequity to car centric roadway design
    - Bus hub looks like a 'bombed-out' facility. Add signage, placemaking to better define.
    - Improve crosswalk timing – difficult to cross Main Street
    - Generally, people stressed striking a balance of all uses along Main Street
    - Mentions of the volume of buses along Main Street that there are 2,453 buses on Main Street – need to confirm number.
    - Discussed looking to the DONO development so that there is cohesion to the city
    - Suggested that while transit, ped, bike, economics parking was all important, need to honestly evaluate 'tradeoffs' between the elements
    - Main Street by the Gold building is an important Pulse Point for CT Transit as a whole and important to Downtown Hartford
    - Over 4,000 daily passengers make use of transit in this area

- CT Transit is always looking to improve safety and drivers have the records to prove it.
- CT Transit has seen a small uptick in ridership in recent years
- Streetscape improvements and light timing are important considerations
- Design and planning needs to account for maintenance and operations
- There needs to be the means and capacity for maintenance
- The corridor ROW varies so much
- Will be a challenge to create an impact with ped/bike improvements

### **3. Breakout Sessions – Mapping Exercise (3 groups) – See Annotated Plans**

- Highlights
  - One group proposed an “Isle of Safety” area between Pearl and Gold – This would be bus/bike/ped only
  - Bi-directional bike lanes
  - Fix desolate area in front of sculpture museum
  - Walk signals with Green Light across narrow one-way streets
  - Real time signage for transit
  - Signal priority for buses
  - Pedestrian signal too short at Buckingham, and Gold
  - Activate Pulaski Way
  - Activate Calder Sculpture plaza
  - Activate South Green and provide traffic calming
  - Improve Park St intersection
  - Make one-way traffic around South Green
  - Poor sidewalk maintenance in front of sculpture plaza
  - People cross midblock at Linden Place in front of the Federal Building
  - Long Crosswalk Spacing between Charter Oak Ave and Park St.
  - Provide benches and flowers in front of First Church of Christ
  - Poor bus stop facilities in front near Park St
  - Fix fences at South Green to discourage cut throughs

### **4. Schedule**

- The Overall schedule was reviewed with the group and the community outreach meetings were highlighted.
- Need to confirm Symposium date (first or second week of April)
- Next AC meeting to be on the same day as Symposium and will be the walking audit

### **5. General Discussion**

- Attendee mentioned that the survey should be sent to Hartford Next