

Acres Homes Complete Communities Mobility Community Workshop

6-14-18, Thursday, 6:00-7:30pm

Mount Ararat Baptist Church

Opening Remarks: Sharon Moses-Burnside, Transportation Division Manager, Planning and Development
Planner Lead: Melissa Beeler
Presentation: Alonzo Mims, President, King's Bike & Hike Community & Melissa Beeler

Attendees

Rosie McCutcheon, TOP	Natalie Grothers, Harvey Narratives Project at Rice
Alonzo Mims, Kings Bike & Hike Comm.	Norma Thomas
Ruth Randle, Resident	Annie Harris, Resident
Anita Ivery, MCAO	Deandre Lewis
Kimberly Hatter, Mayor's Office	Ashley Johnson, Link Houston
Vicki Pagki Garcia, Resident	Jarion Bennett, District B
Cedric Johnson, Precinct One Lincoln Park	Robert Bennett, COH
Rose Lopez, Animal Justice League	B.H Smith
Julie Marinucci, Inwood Forest CIA	Vincent Owens, Mt. Ararat Baptist Church
Jessica Wiggins, Bike Houston	Lorita Morgan, Lion Lamb Development
Wu Ying, COH/PDD	Yvonne Green
Cynthia Sidney, COH	Maya Ford, Bicycle Advisory Committee
Lisa Graiff, Houston Parks Board	Alán Alán Apurim, Alpha Aces Velo, Inc.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Presentation of funding opportunity, Acres Home Action Plan, benefits of biking and project timeline.
3. Facilitated small group activity
4. Group report out
5. Next steps and Closing Remarks

Summary

Five tables discussed the following questions:

- ♦ “What are the major destinations the community needs to reach by foot or by bike?”
- ♦ “Do you think this route network will get you to where you want to go on foot or by bike? Are there any other routes that should be considered?”
- ♦ “If we had to focus our resources to design and construct just a few of these routes this year, what would be your top three routes to do first?”
- ♦ “Which of the bikeway options do you like best for each prioritized route and why?”

Table 1

Destinations- The residents at this table immediately identified Lincoln Park and the Harris Health Clinic as major destinations for the community. Other destinations of interest included the North Shepherd Transit Center, Burns BBQ, The Acres Homes Multi-Service Center and Joe V's grocery store. Most of the primary destinations are in the Northeast area of Acres Homes.

Routes- The top three routes that the table came to a consensus on were:

1. Esther (Instead of Ferguson)
2. Carver
3. DeSoto

There were many concerns for the De Priest and Knox proposed routes. Residents stated that De Priest is so narrow that two cars can barely get by. They also mentioned that they were concerned about the De Priest route because of the on-street parking for Burns BBQ, the ditches, the high speed and the volume of traffic. The residents' concern for Knox is crime-related. They stated that Knox is known for prostitution and drugs.

Other suggestions for route alternatives that provide access to Lincoln Park included:

- **Wheatley St.**- Residents stated that there was a school nearby, two unused travel lanes that are in good condition and sidewalks.
- **Trail near graveyard on Ferguson**- Residents said that the trail is not heavily used and is a good option. They also mentioned that in addition to Ferguson, Randolph St. also connects to Lincoln Park.

Other Comments- Clinic has existing walking trails

Table 2

Destinations - in addition to the destinations mapped out, residents also pointed out several key places like neighborhood grocery stores (Wilburforce @ Knox, Antoine @ Victory, Little York @ Shepherd) and transit center. Top priority identified – Lincoln Park Community Center, Acres

Home Transit Center, Turner Park, White Oak Bayou Trail, Highland Park and Highland Community Center

Routes – the rationale is to connect to the priority destinations identified. Priority routes – Dolly Wright from White Oak Trail to De Priest, De Soto, Knox from Tidwell to Ferguson + Ferguson from Knox to De Priest + Ringold from De Priest to Drainage Ditch

Design – Residents mentioned many narrow streets don't really have options so as long as the routes are designed to be safe and comfortable for people to walk and bike on, they are good.

Concerns/Issues - lighting, intersection safety, ditch crossing (mentioned Culvert for pedestrian crossing), maintenance of pavement marking, flood plain, bridge connection on White Oak Bayou for accessing to trails. Ensure design considers people on bikes, skateboards, etc. Need lights on streets for all modes.

Other – no participant is actually living in Acres Home but two of them have family in the community.

Table 3

Destinations – Participants prioritized all parks (which include the community centers), transit center, library, schools, and Lone Star College. One participant thought it would be nice if routes went through historical neighborhoods, such as Shepherd Park Terrace and Inwood Oaks. Destinations that were not on the map that should be taken into consideration were local businesses Pee Wee's and Log Cabin.

Routes – Carver was ranked as a key route to do first in the network by nearly all participants at the table because it connects a lot of schools and parks. Dolly Wright was ranked next, followed by De Priest and Ringold. These connect schools, parks and the Park and Ride.

Participants identified De Soto and Holder Forest as key Phase 2 projects when funding is available.

Design – Participants liked advisory bike lanes for many of these routes because it offered clear separation between space for bicyclists/pedestrians and vehicle traffic. Participants mentioned that vehicles move over for pedestrians or bicyclists already, so it would be an easy transition for the community.

Other- Mansfield was considered a nice street to bike through due to its more residential nature. De Soto was considered a good direct route, but there was concern about truck traffic. Ferguson was also mentioned as a good route to get to Lincoln Park.

Table 4

Destinations-

- Lone Star College
- Post Office off W. Little York
- Library
- Little grocery store on W. Little York
- Store across from fire station

- Tropical Express (W. Montgomery and Esther)
- Foodarama
- Joe V's
- Coffee Shop on W. Montgomery close to police station

Routes- Participants discussed Dolly Wright as access to the bayou and needing access from Lincoln Park for horses

Priorities were:

1. Dolly Wright
2. Knox (rather than De Priest), De Priest has a key destination (Burns BBQ) but fast traffic and vehicles often park on the road for the restaurant.
3. De Soto or Mansfield or Garapan would be useful connection but the possible industrial plant is concerning

Design- Participants liked the use of the median refuge island to cross intersections and advisory bike lanes. Speed bumps would be useful. Combination bike lanes and speed bumps were preferred.

Other- Where is planned retail/commercial development? Possible concrete plant on De Soto.

Table 5

Destinations- Participants wanted to reach downtown and south of downtown. Parks including Turner Park and White Oak Bayou were priorities. Also, the autoparts store and supermarket were listed.

Routes- Victory, Tidwell and Ella were listed as routes to be added. Priority routes were:

1. Carver
2. De Soto
3. Victory

Dolly Wright and Knox were also ranked as high priorities. Linking to existing bikeways and the opportunity for separated bike facilities were the rationale for the route additions and priorities.

Design- Advisory lanes were recommended for Carver and De Soto. Separated or neighborhood bikeway design was requested for Knox. Generally, participants wanted separated bike lanes on major thoroughfares such as Tidwell, Victory and Ella/Wheatley.