

# Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Project Tour Minutes

**Date:** April 25, 2019  
**To:** Citizens Advisory Committee  
**From:** Benjamin H. Pingree, PLACE Director  
**Subject:** Summary Minutes for April 25, 2019 CAC Project Tour

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## Committee Members present:

JR Harding	Daniel Petronio
Elva Peppers	Hugh Tomlinson
Bill Berlow	Sean McGlynn
Claudette Cromartie	Neil Fleckenstein
Allen Stucks	Linda Vaughn
Kathy Bell	

## Committee Members absent:

Keith Dantin	Peter Okonkwo
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## I. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

## II. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

Kirsten Mood reminded committee members and guests of Sunshine laws and that for the purpose of the windshield tour, conversations would be addressed as questions of the presenters as the tour was intended only as a fact-finding experience.

Autumn Calder gave brief history and updates of the projects along the windshield tour. She spoke on the Orange Avenue and Meridian Placemaking project including information on the improvements to the future StarMetro Super Stop site that would be completed mid-summer 2019. Ben Pingree stated that the new Proof facility was an example of economic development success of business expansion and activation following public investment in infrastructure. It was the second incentive project for OEV, thorough the advanced manufacturing component of the canning process in the brewery.

Neil Fleckenstein asked about funding of park maintenance of Blueprint projects. Ms. Calder noted that Blueprint was not a maintenance agency and that the addition of amenities increased maintenance costs to the City and County. The 2020 program however, included a 50/50 split of operational costs for Blueprint constructed parks.

- Preliminary findings of the Southwest Area Transportation Plan recommended the following improvements:
  - Widen Orange Avenue from Wahnish to Capital Circle
  - Pedestrian crossings near Nims Middle School
  - Connectivity to the St. Marks Trail (possibly an at-grade crossing)

- Orange Avenue and Springhill Road intersection improvements

Claudette Cromartie asked about commercial or retail interest in the Southside. Ben Pingree stated that between public and private investments, there was currently \$1.6 billion on Orange Avenue specifically and the Southside in general. Furthermore, the federal Opportunity Zone program would stimulate property investment's which would in turn, stimulate business interests. Private dollars followed public investment as seen with Proof as well as along Gaines Street and near Cascades Park.

Ms. Calder continued with project information including:

- Updating the design concept for Capital Cascades Trail Segment 4 (originally approved in 2005 before the construction of Cascades Park or other upstream improvements) focusing on water quality and neighborhood connectivity.
- Improvements to Orange Avenue would most likely include the combination of sidewalks (6-8 foot wide) and multi-use trails (10-12 foot wide).
- The new roadway, to be constructed with the Airport Gateway project, would route traffic off Levy returning it to a neighborhood street. Traffic would be directed to Stuckey Ave, on the perimeter of the neighborhood, with subsequent improvements made to Stuckey Avenue.
- FSU would be donating land for the community garden as well as playground for the Providence neighborhood.

Ben Pingree stated that public outreach was a key component of Blueprint projects as well as the Southwest Area Transportation Plan. Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency would continue to engage the community throughout the project.

As the tour bus arrived at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (MagLab), Cristina Paredes spoke briefly on the benefits of the Applied Science and Magnetic Technologies Sector and the marketing campaign positioning Tallahassee-Leon County as the Magnetic Capital of the World.

Kristen Roberts, Public Affairs Director, provided a tour of the MagLab.

Following the MagLab tour, Ben Pingree spoke to the growing business cluster around the MagLab and Innovation Park through the collaborative efforts to "magnetize" business and the economy around the facility. Autumn Calder spoke to how the new road options through the Airport Gateway project could support auxiliary businesses and support services such as extended stay hotels and food options.

Autumn Calder spoke briefly on the Airport Gateway and Capital Cascades Trail Segments 3 and 4.

Bill Berlow asked about right-of-way acquisition and residential displacement. Autumn Calder stated that Blueprint would conduct a need and impact study to determine what was necessary for the project. Some homes could be impacted. However, until the technical analysis was complete it would be difficult to estimate the impact. Blueprint

policy provides for relocation packages and just compensation to the homeowners and tenants impacted by Blueprint projects.

Passing through the Sterns Mosely neighborhood, Ben Pingree noted the confluence of infrastructure improvements, economic development, and placemaking through investments into the historic homes, new student housing, as well as the revitalization and activation of properties near Railroad Square. Tallahassee was undergoing redevelopment in those neighborhoods as a direct response to the intentional public investments.

Cristina Paredes spoke briefly on the Arena District noting that OEV is working closely with FSU on a market and feasibility study on the area with the goal of connecting the College Town to the Civic Center along with a new convention center.

**III. CONSENT**

There were no consent items.

**IV. GENERAL BUSINESS**

There were no general business items.

**V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDAED ITEMS**

There were no speakers to be heard.

**VI. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no unagended items from the committee.

**VII. ADJOURN**

**JR Harding adjourned the meeting at 6:34 pm.**

