

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 31, 2021
To: Citizens Advisory Committee
From: Benjamin H. Pingree, PLACE Director
Subject: Summary Minutes for February 4, 2021 CAC Meeting

Committee Members present:

Jim McShane, Chair	Elva Peppers
Peter Okonkwo, Vice-Chair	Allen Stucks
Chris Daniels	Robert Volpe*
Mary Glowacki	Mandi Bianchi*
Claudette Cromartie	Sean McGlynn

**virtual participant*

Committee Members absent:

Kathy Bell	Daniel Petronio
Linda Vaughn	Hugh Tomlinson

I. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no agenda modifications.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency offered three alternatives for citizen comment, by email, through virtual participation, or in person. There were no comments received by email, no speakers in person or registered via Zoom.

III. CONSENT

ACTION TAKEN: Allen Stucks moved, seconded by Mary Glowacki, the modified consent agenda. The motion passed 8-0.

1. Approval of the November 19, 2020, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Option #1: Approve the November 19, 2020, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

2. Recommendation of Acceptance of the Status Update on Blueprint Infrastructure Projects

Option #1: Recommend that the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors accept the February 2021 update on Blueprint Infrastructure projects.

3. Recommendation of Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Leon County Research and Development Authority on the \$2.5 million Matching Funds for the North Florida Innovation Labs which leveraged \$10.7 Million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration

Option #1: Recommend the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors' Approval to Execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the Leon County Research and Development Authority for the North Florida Incubator Matching Funds.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Approval of the Adjusted 2021 Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Megan Doherty provided a brief overview of the proposed revised 2021, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting schedule agenda item including the cost saving benefits of aligning the Blueprint Infrastructure and Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) committee meetings to maximize the services of Mega Ace Media for audio/visual support. The remaining meetings would shift to the identified Wednesdays, 5:00-7:00 pm.

Allen Stucks moved, seconded by Peter Okonkwo, to recommend approval of the adjusted 2021 Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule.

The motion passed 8-0.

5. Recommendation of Acceptance of a Status Update on the Bike Route System Implementation Process and Authorization to Procure Downtown-University Protected Bike Lane Project Design and Construction Services.

Mike Alfano provided a brief overview of the Bike Route System implementation process including procedural history, economic impacts of outdoor recreation for local communities, proposed annual work program for IA Board approval, and a facilities gap analysis between existing and planned facilities plus opportunities for additional connections. Blueprint would seek authorization from the Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors at the February 18, 2021, meeting to procure design and construction services for the Downtown-University Protected Bike Lane project. This project would provide permanent protected bike lane structures, increase safety along Pensacola and St. Augustine Streets, and provide additional connectivity with the recently constructed residential and retail development in College Town. Construction would coordinate with City of Tallahassee roadwork, planned for late 2021 or early 2022.

Jim McShane questioned the equity and inclusivity for the project. Mike Alfano stated the prioritization of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP) was set by the Capital

Regional Transportation Planning Agency, not Blueprint. However, equity was a distinct evaluation criteria for Blueprint funded projects. Staff would ensure that those who most rely on alternative transportation would receive the public investments.

Allen Stucks questioned if there were existing sidewalks in the project area. Mike Alfano stated that it was possible that sidewalks existed in areas where the BPMP called for additional connectivity. It would be another criterion in the in the prioritization process by the IA Board.

Sean McGlynn acknowledged the connection for university students and questioned if the plan included options for improved connectivity to K-12 schools. Mike Alfano noted that Leon County implemented the Safe Routes to Schools program to address that. He stated that the facilities gap analysis would also address further connectivity needs.

Allen Stucks questioned if motorized vehicles would use the protected bike lanes. Mike Alfano stated that local ordinance and state law allowed motorized scooters to use bike lanes.

Mary Glowacki moved, seconded by Claudette Cromartie, to recommend that the IA Board accept the status report on the Bike Route System implementation process.

The motion passed 8-0.

6. Recommendation of Approval of the Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 Skateable Art Design Plan

Autumn Calder provided a brief overview of the Skateable Art Design Plan for the newest amenity to Capital Cascades Trail, including clarifying the location (west of Railroad Square at the intersection of FAMU Way and Pinellas Streets), the original concept, approved by the IA Board in 2016, project challenges, and highlighted the work of the selected design-build firm, Team Pain Enterprises. Community outreach, which began in 2018, included direct outreach to neighbors and businesses, community survey and two virtual meetings. Which produced some of the highest attended public meeting with approximately 150-regional participants.

Regarding the design plan, Autumn Calder stated that the world-class skate park would enhance local skating opportunities, compliment the surrounding landscape, and serve as a landmark representing recreation, creativity, and innovation in Tallahassee-Leon County. The park design was inspired by FAMU and the history and innovation of the area. The 500-foot linear park would include the longest "Rattler" snake-run in Florida, stretching 225-feet, create a local recreation asset and attract global competition level users. Blueprint anticipated breaking ground late spring 2021, with construction completed in the fall.

Allen Stucks questioned security at the restroom facility. Autumn Calder stated that the restroom facility, located near the FAMU Way playground, was operated and maintained by City Parks and Recreation. They requested that the doors include automatic locking mechanisms which would be locked at night. Mr. Stucks asked

about safety signage. Ms. Calder stated that it would include a blue-light call station and signs at the stormwater facility. The park would be designed in a way that skaters exiting the park would not conflict with trail users. Mr. Stucks questioned if cyclists and motor scooters could access the park. Ms. Calder state that it was a possibility. Mr. Stucks suggested that additional safety signs be included to address that and mitigate potential problems.

Mary Glowacki asked about liability issues and how it was considered. Autumn Calder stated that the City of Tallahassee operated Blankenship Park, also a skate park at the Messer Field area and would likewise operate Capital Cascades Trail Skate Park. There was additional discussion however, it was unintelligible on the recording because the speakers turned to face each other, not the microphones.

Claudette Cromartie suggested the development of a skating class through Parks and Recreation to enhance the safety for local children and a deterrent to juvenile crime. She strongly encouraged including the educational component and that the opportunity to learn was given to everyone.

Allen Stucks questioned staffing and lighting at the skate park. Autumn Calder stated it would be owned and operated by City Parks and Recreation and like Cascades Park, the skate park would be lit at night for public use. It would be managed and maintained but not staffed.

Sean McGlynn stated that it was a unique use for an odd space and would be an incredible asset to Tallahassee parks.

Allen Stucks moved, seconded by Sean McGlynn, to recommend IA Board approval of the Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 Skateable Art design plan.

The motion passed 8-0.

V. PRESENTATION / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Office of Economic Vitality Project Updates

Drew Dietrich provided a brief overview of the business development activities for OEV including the five-year strategic plan review by VisionFirst Consultants, five-year accomplishments including the generation of over \$300 million in economic impact to the local economy, ten active recruitment and four capital projects, and the continued collaborate with the ecosystem partners of diverse stakeholders in Tallahassee-Leon County.

Richard Fetchick provided a brief overview of the data and analytics for OEV including awards received for the Quarterly Economic Driver and Data Driver publications, year over year employment and sales tax data, small business loans, and new utility business starts all of which indicated green sprouts of a growth in the pandemic economy. A copy of the presentation is on file at Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency.

Allen Stucks noted that in the November 19, 2020, request for information on pandemic related business closures and data for new business startups. Jim McShane stated that he recalled the request and knew the challenges in finding that data. Richard Fetchick stated that local business were not required to register or pay a registration tax, therefore, the numbers available were for business assisted not closures. In that regard, 561 businesses received a COVID-19 Economic Disaster Relief Grant (CEDR) and 932 businesses received a LeonCARES Grant for a total greater than \$19 million; \$4 million of which went to minority and women owned businesses.

Jim McShane stated that Tallahassee-Leon County lost approximately 12,000 people from the job market through 2020, most of whom were women; a trending statistic nationwide. He further stated that many businesses did not notify local or state government when closing. Without local registration or licensure that information was often discovered months or years later when the business no longer renews state registrations.

Richard Fetchick stated that a further resource available to OEV staff was the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Business Transfer Protocol, however, that information typically lagged by two to four quarters. Given that, he anticipated the data would be available late 2021 or early 2022. Mr. Fetchick spoke to the business impacts of the pandemic and stated that it was OEV's experience that local business relief helped keep businesses open.

- **Blueprint Project Updates**

Dan Scheer provided a brief overview on the Blueprint Infrastructure program updates including eight projects moving into construction in 2021 including Magnolia Phases 1 and 4, Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 ponds and amenities, Capital Circle Southwest, and Debbie Lightsey Nature Trail. He further stated that the Bannerman Road draft typical sections incorporated micro-mobility lanes (golf carts, electric bikes, etc.) as requested by residents.

Autumn Calder proved a brief overview of upcoming Blueprint's Community Engagement activities for February and March 2021 on Orange/Meridian Park, Welaunee Boulevard, Market District, Bannerman Road, and Lake Jackson Greenways. Events would run for one week and were either outdoors for in-person events or virtual.

Autumn Calder stated that at the December 10, 2020, IA Board meeting, the IA Board directed staff to bring back an agenda item with options for advance funding the Northeast Park, currently scheduled for 2035. Additionally, the IA Board suggested relocating the Northeast Park to Centerville Road, near Montford Middle and Roberts Elementary Schools. This change would require a substantial amendment to the Blueprint project description, approved by the voters in 2014. There was no requested action from the CAC at that time, however, if the substantial amendment were to be initiated at the February 18, 2021, IA Board meeting, the first of two public hearings could be at the March 31, 2021, CAC meeting.

Allen Stucks requested that a hardcopy of the presentation be provided at the table for CAC members. He also acknowledged the improvements to sound quality due to the efforts of Mega Ace Media.

VI. ADJOURN

Allen Stucks moved, seconded by Claudette Cromartie, to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.

DRAFT