

City of Takoma Park
Takoma Junction Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2011

The City of Takoma Park Takoma Junction Task Force met on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in the Lilac Room of the Takoma Park Community Center, Takoma Park.

Members Present: Billy Coulter, Kay Daniels-Cohen, Steve Dubb, Megan Gallagher, Andy Kelemen, Howard Kohn, Barbara Muhlbacher, Lorraine Pearsall, Susan Robb, Roger Schlegel, Jeffrey Trunzo.

Members Absent: Hailu Aichehi, Lorig Charkoudian, James DiLuigi, Seth Grimes, Linette Lander, Katrina Oprisko, Jennifer Sisane, and Ellen Zavian.

Staff Present: none

Others Present: Joe Huebner, 7405 Carroll Avenue resident

1. Call to Order and Agenda Review

A quorum was not present at 7:30 p.m., due to difficulties with parking near the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. when quorum was reached (TF membership is 19, therefore quorum is 10).

Meeting minutes for February 23rd and March 23rd were distributed.

Traffic scenario inventory produced by Subcommittee "C" was distributed.

Outreach Meetings - Interim Summary of Findings produced by Subcommittee "B" was distributed.

Draft Resolution, revised April 13, 2011, Takoma Junction Improvements, was distributed.

2. Meeting Minutes

Action: The meeting minutes of February 23, 2011 were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the meeting minutes of February 23, 2011 as modified. The meeting minutes were accepted.

Vote Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstain-1. The motion passed.

Action: The meeting minutes of March 23, 2011 were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the meeting minutes of March 23, 2011 as modified. The meeting minutes were accepted.

Vote Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstain-1. The motion passed.

3. Report from Subcommittee C – Traffic Options

Subcommittee “C” distributed and discussed their draft inventory of traffic option scenarios. The inventory includes every possible option that can be envisioned for the trio of light controlled intersections at the Junction. The subcommittee is proposing to also collect information about impacts on the nearest major feeder intersections to the Junction.

The scenarios are inclusive of concepts which will fit into the existing roadway, specifically a mini-roundabout(s). The subcommittee continues to discuss these scenarios to determine which seem feasible enough to warrant further studying and modeling. The engagement of SHA to perform the modeling has been affirmed as the most practical given time and budgetary constraints, since SHA is responsible for the intersections of interest and have the modeling capabilities.

The TF is particularly interested in determining the expected lifespan of the current vehicle and pedestrian signal arrangement, any issues related to obsolescence, phasing of the signals, timing of the signals, any coordination with other signals in the area, traffic count data, and the process to follow when requesting evaluation or alterations to the signals.

Cedric Ward, Assistant Deputy Engineer, Montgomery County District 3, SHA, has been contacted to provide information about the status and the purview of the traffic control signals. Mr. Ward has expressed willingness to meet with TF members to listen to concerns, and provide background information about the signals, their functional capabilities, as well as the process for requesting alterations.

The TF decided to invite Mr. Ward to a “meeting-of-the-whole” on Wednesday, April 20, at 5:00 p.m., at Historic Takoma. The members discussed including a tour of the area with observation of traffic and pedestrian patterns and issues, and a period for a background discussion.

4. Report from Subcommittee B - Community Outreach

The Interim Summary of Findings from the 7 community meetings conducted thus far by subcommittee “B” members was distributed and reviewed. Planned meetings for the future include: outreach to apartment/condo residents, pedestrian intercept, business outreach, and a final citywide outreach. Subcommittee “B” is striving to complete all meetings by mid-May.

Summary of issues by topic included 8 categories of topics. The topics are: Historic Issues/Aesthetics, Livability, Transportation, Parking, Business/Commerce, Environmental Issues, Property (City Lot), Neighborhood Residential Issues.

After reviewing the list, members discussed incorporating the topics, as well as the detail under each topic, into the draft report recommendations. It was also noted that ideas and concepts on how to fund recommendations would be appropriate content for the report.

5. Report from Subcommittee A – City Lot Vision

Subcommittee “A” reported that the efforts to create a vision for the city lot are continuing. A theme of “parking” is a continuous thread throughout the exploration of all proposed uses. Specifically, how much parking is needed, how the parking should be configured, from where will the parking be accessed, and how development of the lot and parking have both convergent and divergent issues that need to be addressed in order to formulate successful recommendations.

6. Council Resolution

Howard reported that Seth has revised the draft resolution to Council. Given the progress of the subcommittees and the overall direction of the TF, the resolution may not be necessary. Members are invited to comment online about the content of the revised draft resolution.

Next Topics

The next TF meeting is Tuesday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m., in the Auditorium of the Community Center. May’s meetings are Wednesday, May 11th in the Lilac Room, and Thursday, May 26th in the Hydrangea Room.

The TF website is www.takomajunction.org

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Trunzo, Secretary

Roger Schlegel, Secretary