

Bicycle Master Plan Implementation Summer 2016 Routes Community Workshop August 3, 2016 Meeting Notes

Introduction

On August 3, 2016, City staff hosted a workshop to solicit feedback on options for implementing a set of bicycle routes during the summer of 2016. The meeting was advertised through multiple channels, including the City website and other electronic means, the Falls Church News Press, and fliers posted in the Community Center and City Hall.

Approximately 7 people attended the meeting, including one member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT).

During the workshop, the conversation of the meeting participants covered numerous topics, including concern about speeding motorists on Hillwood and the budget for other related biking infrastructure projects.

Meeting participants also inquired about the progress of biking infrastructure projects along S Cherry St from Hillwood to Columbia and expressed a desire for their realization when the budget is made available.

The following summarizes topics which staff and meeting participants raised throughout the workshop and the results of a survey on public outreach and meeting advertisement conducted at the workshop's end.

Route Concerns and Suggestions

Overall, the workshop attendees expressed enthusiasm for the Summer 2016 Bike Routes initiative and configurations, but raised some questions about the future of these routes' efficacy:

What will the city do if these efforts fail to decrease speeding on Hillwood and Roosevelt? Some residents expressed concern for the proposed configurations' ability to protect cyclists and discourage speeding, and asked if the resulting infrastructure would be irreversible after implementation.

Crosswalk at Smallwood and Hillwood: one resident brought up that school children living in Whittier Circle must cross Hillwood Ave to their school bus stop and proposed adding an addition crosswalk to the one at Hillwood and Grace Ln.

Public Consensus

Staff outlined proposed route configurations for both Hillwood corridors (Annandale Rd to Douglass Ave & Douglass Ave to S Cherry St) and Roosevelt Blvd to the meeting participants. The meeting participants agreed that bike lanes seemed the safest option for bicyclists over sharrow markings, where applicable. The following is a summative list of the markings meeting participants supported:

- Buffered bike lanes, Annandale Rd to Douglass Ave (Hillwood)
- Bike lanes, Douglass Ave to Cherry St (Hillwood)
- Bike lanes, Roosevelt Blvd

Staff supports these options and recommends that the City move forward with installation.

Survey Results

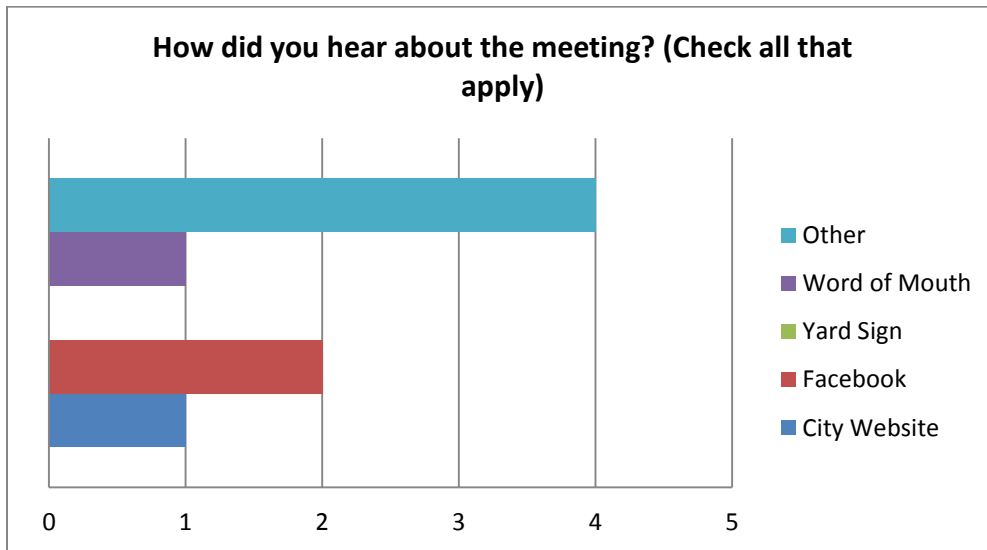
To better inform the planning process for the summer 2016 bike routes and future planning efforts, City staff administered a paper survey during the workshop. A total of 6 surveys were returned.

The survey asked how each participant learned of the meeting, opportunities for participation during the workshop, and whether workshop participants felt that their participation would meaningfully impact what gets implemented in the City.

Question 1: Advertising Methods

How did you hear about the meeting? (Check all that apply)

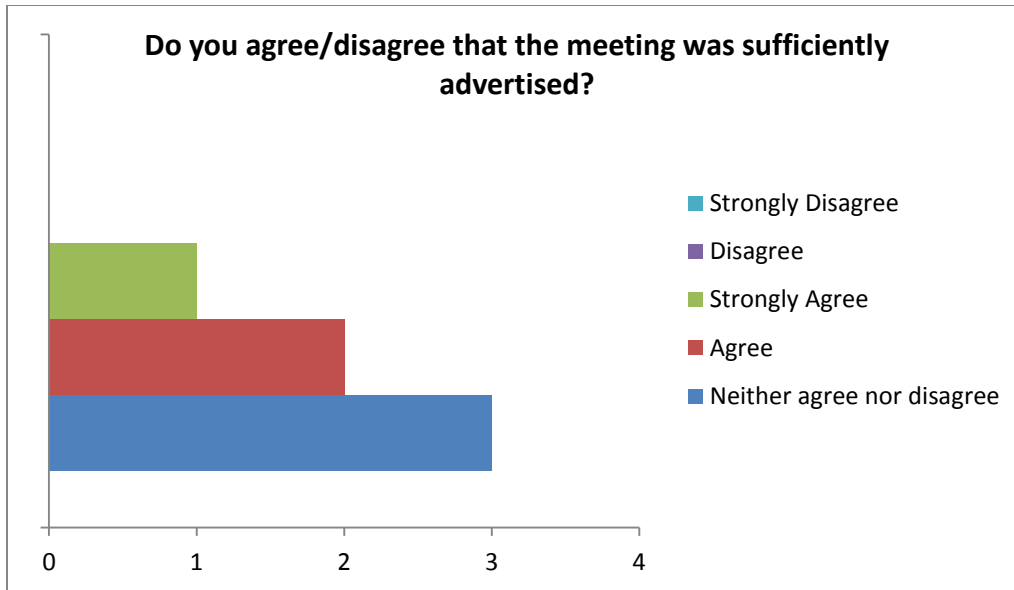
Meeting attendees that marked 'other' said they heard about the meeting through Twitter, City Hall fliers and emails sent to them from staff or another person. One participant asked if bicycle master plan public meetings could be marked on the city calendar on the City's website in the future.



Question 2: Advertising Methods

Do you agree/disagree that the meeting was sufficiently advertised?

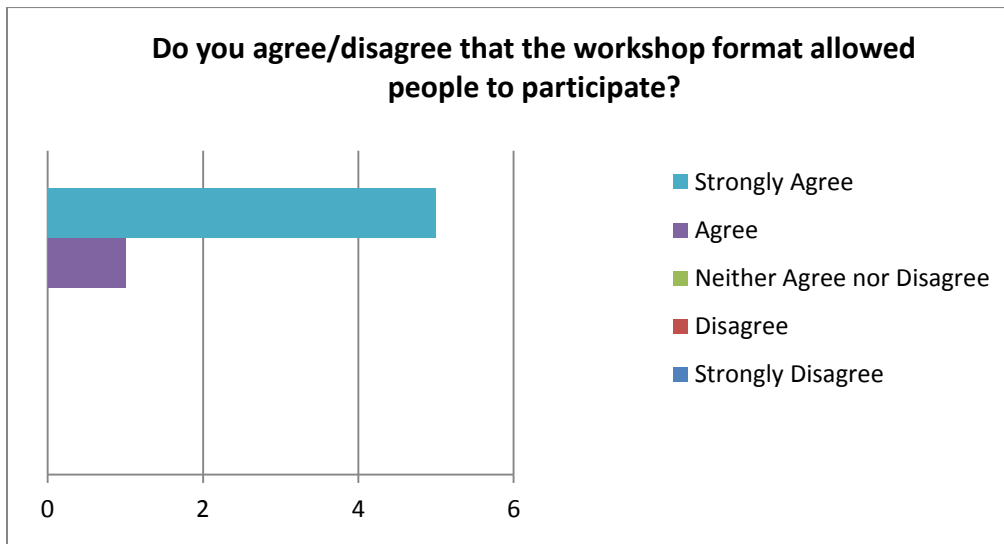
The summer 2016 bike routes meeting drew considerably fewer participants than the spring meeting by a count of about 20. Though summer 2016 route meeting participants generally did not feel the meeting was not sufficiently advertised, yard signs, which were the most common response to this question in the spring, were not put up prior to the summer 2016 meeting. Staff might consider doing so for future meetings, given the time and budget.



Question 3: Workshop Format

Do you agree/disagree that the workshop format allowed people to participate?

Similar to the spring 2016 responses to this question, meeting participants all agreed that the workshop format allowed their voices to be heard. No attending resident felt neutral or disagreed that the workshop stymied their ability to participate, encouraging this meeting format to continue in the future.



Question 4: Workshop Impact

Do you agree/disagree that the public feedback provided will meaningfully impact what gets implemented?

This question gauges residents' trust of City staff to make decisions in their best interest. Of the six submitted surveys, five respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their feedback will have meaningful impact in the City's

decision making process and one respondent neither agreed nor disagreed. These answers express that the City has a good rapport with its residential base and the public engagement process.

