

Livable Streets Task Force Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2015
Whittier Alliance
7-8:35pm

Attendees: Paul Shanafelt, Kathy DeKrey, Mary Gazca, Hosu Klessig, Greg Schmidt

Mission statement will be fine-tuned, but the message is essentially: “Create Whittier streets that are safe & friendly for all users (i.e. pedestrians, bicyclist, riders, & drivers).” It was suggested that the mission statement remains a bit ambiguous so that there is flexibility to adjust our mission based on community input.

Task Force Name: “Livable Streets Task Force” was chosen unanimously.

Board Sponsor: Neither Brett Vandebussche nor Jesse Oyervides were in attendance. Paul will recruit one or both to be the task force’s board sponsor.

Defining Unsafe Streets/Intersections:

- lack of visibility
- vehicles traveling at high rates of speed
- vehicles/bikes not stopping at stop signs
- intersections with high crash rates
- lack of amenities (crosswalks, speed bumps, roundabouts, mini boulevards, planters, painted intersections, etc.)
- One-way streets that act more as a thoroughfare as opposed to a residential street; cars tend to drive faster on these streets.

Survey Questions: *Kathy & Mary will compile a formal list of survey questions for next meeting*

- how do you commute/how did you get here?
- what are your concerns?
- most unsafe intersections
- what’s the amount of traffic brought in by Mia, MCAD, restaurants, Waldorf School, Whittier International School, etc.?
- demographic data (age, gender)

- can you think of an example of a safe street? What makes it safe?
- what solutions would you like to see?
- how long have you lived here?
- would you be interested in helping in the n'hood/Task Force? how?
- name/email

Methods of Data Collection

- online survey
- block clubs
- street survey
- building surveys (door knocking)
- check with schools
- social media
- host events

Develop a List of Anticipated Changes in Whittier - *Paul will compile this list for next meeting*

The Task Force felt it was necessary to investigate impending/potential changes to the neighborhood's infrastructure. Many of these changes could be detrimental to the flow/amount of traffic in the area. Some of these changes include: additional bike lanes, K-Mart site development, 26th & Stevens development, influx of residents, changes to transit, street cars, amenities, etc. What else is changing in our n'hood that pertains to road safety?

General Comments/Thoughts:

- Transient, renter population - how do we get them involved?
- When it comes to flyers, design is important; try to get the message across succinctly. Flyers could include website link people can access to provide input via survey.
- How do we get Somali and Latino population involved? (note: Mary speaks Spanish)
- Use Paul as point of contact
- Put Task Force + survey on Whittier Alliance website.
- How do we advocate for better infrastructure at the City level?
- Kathy is a strong proponent of 20 mph in the neighborhoods

Tasks:

-Everyone - research comparable neighborhoods throughout city/state/country/world to see what strategies are being implemented to resolve similar traffic safety issues. Also, try and recruit others to help with community outreach.

-Kathy & Mary – compile survey questions

-Kathy & Hosu – fine-tune our mission statement

-Paul – contact Board members re: sponsorship. Develop a list of anticipated changes to Whittier's infrastructure.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 7-8pm. Whittier Alliance office (10 E. 25th St)

Draft Agenda for upcoming meeting:

- review survey questions + mission statement
- prioritize data
- mapping
- timeline
- short-term goals

Minutes respectfully submitted by Paul Shanafelt