

CAMPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE

February 9, 2010

1:30 – 3:00PM

Room 121 Weill Hall

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mina Amundsen, Lois Chaplin, David Cutter, Ken Downey, Steve Erber, John Gutenberger, Tanya Husick, Jeffrey Katz, Marianne Krasny (Co-Chair), Jason Moore, Sue Powell, Don Rakow, Deni Ruggeri, Pete Salino, Stephan Schmidt (Co-Chair), Randy Wayne.

Stephan Schmidt opened the meeting followed by introductions of those present.

Update on Action Items – Mina Amundsen

Mina Amundsen provided an update on the following items which came before the committee in the Fall.

Hydraulics Lab:

Waiting for the Engineering report, should have an update ready for March/April 2010.

Transportation Initiatives:

Park and Ride – Moving ahead with a design for a lot at West Hill, which is part of a larger mixed use site development by a private developer.

Pine Tree Road – They are in the planning stages for this improvement project, it will be a couple years for construction.

These projects are a mix of Federal, Local and Cornell funding. There is flexibility in priorities to allow those projects with funding from partners to start earlier.

Complete Streets Initiative – Lois Chaplin and Sue Powell

Lois and Sue presented their initial ideas on a Complete Streets Initiative for the Cornell campus. The CPC's input was sought to refine and further develop this initiative.

What has been happening so far:

- National campaign and Bill pending New York State – Communities e.g. Saratoga Springs
- Cornell University Local Roads Program – workshop offered across State
 - Electronic program manual available
- What are we doing at Cornell?
 - Campus Master Plan, t-GEIS, TIMS – “the talk” and the walk, early directions towards better streets on and off-campus and implementation to date.

Some Issues related to Cornell Streets:

- Pedestrian – work zone hazards
 - Crosswalks – Thurston Ave Bridge and Hoy Road
 - But no sidewalk alternatives when in construction
- ADA – “not flush” curb ramps – even new
- Bikes - road surfaces; materials in road (brick), grates; Parking – vision for more covered and lockers
- Transit
- Service, Emergency Access
- Work Zones – need better signage, detours, safety protection

- East Avenue by Physical Science – heavy use of both sides, inadequate capacity

Moving forward and process:

- Vision statement
- Clearly defined standards
- Project Development Process
- Street Character Guidelines – e.g. Tower Road from Campus Master Plan; Don't forget making it WORK

Discussion:

Are there identified/quantified gaps in bike and pedestrian system?

- Bike and Pedestrian committee is mapping. How to get greater community input? Suggestions via the website. e.g. MVR North – cut off 1^o bike route F.H. Drive → Ag Quad
- Jamie Vanucchi studio – student gap map (±3 years ago)

Snow Removal – Maintenance Concerns

- e.g. bike lanes not cleaned as rapidly as “vehicle” lanes
- use backhoe and not plow

Importance of context for attracting pedestrians

- Promoting walkability
- e.g. south side of Tower Road from Stocking Hall to Weill
- Mapping of conflicts
- Walking audit

Campus Standards Update – Mina Amundsen

Planning and Design Standards – Mina and Dave went over the evolution of needs and requirements that need to be included in a comprehensive update of planning and design standards, especially those related to the public realm on campus.

- Update would look at Systems rather than just details
- Wayfinding and signage need to include buildings and landscape not just signs but materials, plantings, to aid and identify wayfinding.
- Landscape and Streetscape elements – benches, lighting, site furniture and the need for coherence. Ensuring enough variety without visual chaos.
- Signage – both directional and informational signage need updating. Standard from the 80s – campus and municipal needs have changed since. Also there are compliance issues to deal with.

Discussion

- Will there be standards for building materials. There are no set standards for materials on the campus, Cornell has committed to buildings that are “of their time”, therefore, site and landscape are unifier of campus. Site development guidelines require that the use of building materials consider the campus context but do not dictate any specific requirements.
- What will the community engagement process be? Mina explained that the process would engage a wide range of campus stakeholders, including the visitor perspective.
- Landscape should be included in wayfinding as an indicator of place.
- Are views and orientation of spaces included? They could be in the planning standards.
- Good examples to refer to are UCLA and NC State for public realm design.
- Tie standards to University procurement process
- Tie standards to experience of users – landscape, streetscapes, site furniture

- Phone applications for detours, mapping, transit
- Refer to Gary Evans studies from Human Ecology of environmental perceptions
- Utilize interns – there would be interest from students in Landscape Architecture
- Map in “calories” instead of miles

Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Presentation and Meeting Minutes will be posted on the University Assembly CPC website.