

Public Outreach Update

Prepared for the North Williams Traffic Operations Safety Project
Stakeholder Advisory Committee by Michelle Poyourow
August 1, 2011

Sam
Adams
Mayor

Tom
Miller
Director

Recent outreach efforts:

- a. **Community Meeting at Billy Webb Elks Lodge:** With the help of Debora Leopold Hutchins, the Project Team held a community meeting at the Billy Webb Elks Lodge on June 23rd and invited members of the African American communities around North Williams. Staff heard from people at this meeting that they wanted to be involved in planning for North Williams, and that the City's past planning efforts had excluded them and damaged their community. Staff also heard from attendees who felt disrespected by people bicycling on North Williams, and who were afraid that people bicycling or walking were going to be hurt due to their own reckless behaviors.
- b. **Community Meetings at Emanuel Hospital:** Safety discussions at Emanuel Hospital: Partly in response to concerns raised at the Elks Lodge meeting, the Project Team held meetings on July 20th and 27th to ask community members for guidance on a potential North Williams educational campaign to push for safer and more respectful behavior during August and September of this year. Meeting attendees preferred to use these meetings as an opportunity to have a discussion with one another and with the City about why planning efforts like this North Williams Project should include communities of color, and how traffic safety improvements relate to years of exclusion of people of color from planning decisions, economic injustice and gentrification. One result of these meetings will be a broader community forum in September, described below.
- c. **Good in the Neighborhood:** Ellen Vanderslice and Michelle Poyourow staffed a table at Good in the Neighborhood on June 26th. They distributed flyers and signed up attendees for the project email list, and talked in greater detail with people who were interested in the technical proposals or the planning process.
- d. **North/Northeast Business Alliance:** Michelle Poyourow spoke with the NNEBA on July 5th and asked for their assistance reaching North Williams business owners and soliciting their input on alternative treatments for the street, once the SAC develops them. The President of the NNEBA Board offered to promote input opportunities

1120 S.W. 5th Avenue, Suite 800 • Portland, Oregon, 97204-1914 • 503-823-5185
FAX 503-823-7576 or 503-823-7371 • TTY 503-823-6868 • www.portlandoregon.gov

using their email list, and also suggested that they co-host a special meeting with a few key North Williams business owners and community members.

- e. **Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area Committee Transportation Sub-Committee:** Michelle Poyourow gave a technical presentation to the ICURAC Transportation Subcommittee on June 9th. Committee members stressed the importance of good local freight delivery access to North Williams businesses, as blocks develop and on-street parking spaces are in higher demand. Some members were interested in a left-side bikeway concept.
- f. **Boise Neighborhood Association:** Michelle Poyourow presented at the Boise Neighborhood Association meeting to bring the group up to speed on the technical proposals then under consideration by the SAC.
- g. **Tubman Academy for Girls:** In May and June Michelle Poyourow had individual conversations with a handful of Tubman PTA members and students, hearing from them that North Flint, Vancouver and Williams Avenues all seem dangerous for students to cross, with auto speeds and danger apparently highest on North Williams. (Michelle met with the Tubman principal earlier in the year.)
- h. **PDC, ODOT and the Street Smart campaign:** The Project Team has met with staff people working on Urban Renewal in Portland (at PDC) and on the *Street Smart: Go Safe* safety campaign (at the Portland Bureau of Transportation), and attended an Open House for the N/NE Quadrant planning process (involving ODOT and the City).

Future outreach efforts:

- i. **August 20th African American Health Walk:** Ellen Vanderslice will be at a table together with the City's "Your Sustainable City" team to talk about this project with attendees.
- j. **August 23rd Crosswalk Enforcement Action:** As part of the *Street Smart: Go Safe* campaign, the Portland Bureau of Transportation and the Portland Police will be doing a crosswalk enforcement action from 5:30 – 7:00 pm at North Morris and Williams. This could also be an opportunity to give out information to travelers about this project.

- k. **August 31st Dawson Park Concert:** Michelle Poyourow will table at this evening concert to share information about this project with neighbors and community members.

- l. **September Community Forum on the North Williams planning process:** The City wants to continue the important discussion begun in June and July (at the community meetings described above) about how transportation planning and the condition of our street relates to history, racial and economic injustice and gentrification. We have an opportunity in the North Williams project to model inclusive planning that takes account of past planning mistakes. However, the Project Team has more to learn from community members about how this project could affect them and how they want to be involved; community members also have much to learn from one another about these effects.

- m. **Stakeholder Advisory Committee Walks:** The Project Team would like to organize walks around North Williams for members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. These have not been scheduled yet.