

MEMORANDUM

TO: National Complete Streets Coalition, Roger Henderson, and Tom von Schrader

FROM: Alison Ball

cc: Glenn Coyne
Claire Kilbane

SUBJECT: Smart Growth America Technical Assistance Workshops Progress Report #1

DATE: June 28, 2013

Cuyahoga County Complete Streets

“Complete streets” are roadways that are designed and built for every one of all ages and abilities to access; including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users. Cuyahoga County is exploring a regional approach to implementing complete streets. In November 2012, Cuyahoga County was one of 22 communities selected by Smart Growth America (SGA) to participate in the free technical assistance program for the complete streets policy development. Cuyahoga County officials, regional stakeholders, community representatives and local residents met with representatives from SGA on May 1st and 2nd, 2013 as part of grant-funded workshops. The County embraced the SGA grant as an opportunity to learn the concepts of complete streets and to lay the foundation to create a desirable interconnected network of streets that will provide quality accessibility for everyone.

Representatives from the following organizations were at the Workshop:

Communities

City of Bedford	City of Fairview Park
City of Cleveland, Planning Commission	City of Parma Heights
City of Cleveland, Office of Sustainability	City of Shaker Heights
City of Cleveland Heights	City of South Euclid
City of Euclid	Olmsted Township

Governmental Agencies

Cleveland Metroparks	Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA)
Cuyahoga County Council	Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA)
Cuyahoga County Executive’s Office	Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS)
Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works	Ohio Department of Transportation, District 12

Non-profits

Bike Cleveland	First Ring Suburbs Consortium
Campus District	University Circle Incorporated
Gund Foundation	

Progress on Countywide Complete Streets:

Since the May 1st and 2nd workshop, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission has continued the momentum generated by this event to raise the awareness about the benefits of complete streets. Specific activities since the workshop include:

1. CCPC started a Complete Streets page on the CCPC website (<http://planning.co.cuyahoga.oh.us/complete/>)
2. Complete streets has been incorporated as a component of the following public outreach presentations:
 - a. Bike Shaker – a new organization formed in the City of Shaker Heights that educates residents and visitors about the benefits of riding bicycles and improving infrastructure.
 - b. Cuyahoga County Council- Operations and Intergovernmental Relations Committee - Presentation regarding potential collaboration initiatives by Glenn Coyne, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission.
 - c. North Royalton Master Plan Advisory Committee - As a result of community wide meeting as well as on-line survey, the City of North Royalton has prioritized providing adequate and safe vehicular and pedestrian access throughout the City, as well as alternatives such as increased public transportation and bike paths. CCPC staff provided information about studies and best practices on complete streets.
3. CCPC has begun to explore the potential for demonstration projects to provide the community with tangible, real world examples of implementation of complete streets concepts. Ideally, this would involve two separate applications; one, with the City of Cleveland and a First Ring Suburb on a thoroughfare shared by both communities and, two, a less urban application in an area of primarily vehicular dependence. CCPC staff has met to have preliminary discussions with officials from the Cities of Garfield Heights and Shaker Heights and Olmsted Township.
4. Another outcome from the May workshop includes identifying opportunities to widen the net for multiple sources of participation, support and funding. Specifically, the CCPC realized through both the formal presentations as well as the informal networking discussions not to rely solely on NOACA and ODOT to fund all aspects of complete streets. Rather, we may have the ability to coordinate investments from other organizations such as, NEORS for stormwater, GCRTA for links to bus routes, the Cleveland Metroparks for links to their trails and properties, nonprofit organizations such as Bike Cleveland, foundations and others to "spread out" the funding burden. These interagency discussions are active, ongoing and are leading to the opportunity for innovative partnerships.
5. Finally, CCPC staff is working to include Complete Streets policies in projects and programs in its Work Program. One example is proposing that infrastructure projects submitted by Cuyahoga County communities for funding from the State of Ohio's *State Capital Infrastructure Program*

that include a complete street component be given additional consideration. CCPC staff assists the local committee in developing its project evaluation and selection methodology and evaluates and recommends projects to be funded by the County's annual \$24 million allocation.

As these comparatively small steps have been taken, the idea of complete streets is becoming a more "user-friendly" term in the County. The County Executive's Office, the Department of Public Works and the Planning Commission have begun discussions to advance complete streets throughout the County. We look forward to reporting on the next steps to further advance this cultural shift, initiate work on the policies and identify strategic opportunities in November.