

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Mobility Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday June 23, 2017

Committee Members Present: Elianna Bootzin Colin Cronin (DTN) Angel Gonzalez
Rob Kennedy Mark Kidd (RJM) Todd Leinberger

Committee Members Absent: Brian Bremer Tom Bulten Abby Clayton (Coit)
Andy Guy Lisa Haynes (GVSU) Bill Hebert
Jason Vos (RJM) Pat Waring (GVSU)

1. Introductions – Those present introduced themselves.
2. Purpose – Angel noted that the City will be leading similar conversations in the fall; however, we have pressing issues around traffic and parking in Belknap especially as we’re adding residents in the new developments. We would like to get out in front to discuss possible solutions.
3. Previous plans – Angel referred to the MOBL NOBL effort, the ASP, and the Michigan Street Corridor Plan. Elianna will find copies to share.
4. Boundaries – It seems logical to focus on the southern part of the neighborhood, choosing natural mobility boundaries (as well as considering how to get across them): Belknap hill, the highway, and the railroad. Angel noted the dangers of the Leonard/Clancy intersection and mused about what impact closing Clancy off there would have. We should still do some general outreach to see if there are additional issues on the northeast side of the neighborhood. Traffic on College seems most likely to be raised there.
5. Specific areas of focus – We briefly reviewed each of the bullet points, with some specific options raised in several cases (not set in stone, more of a throwing spaghetti at the wall approach): adding lights/signs at Coit/Hastings, Coit/Trowbridge, Lafayette/Hastings; using traffic calming measures like parking on both sides of the street; considering night hours for the residential permit parking program; changing the parking side of the street on Livingston; making sure all corners have ramps/curb cuts; adding painted crosswalks; bike trail along railroad; making Hastings one way west; making Clancy one way south. Angel has already done some counts to see where extra parking is available. We should consider whether it is really to the neighborhood’s advantage to maximize parking. It would also be useful to know if some of the ideas we come up with are actually feasible; it would be nice to be able to get them vetted by an engineering firm, though that is out of the project’s price range. Perhaps we could secure a pro bono consultation, or set up a collaboration with appropriate GVSU classes. We’d like to get a bus map and think about bus routes as well. We also wonder if there is a specific Michigan Street hill group to connect with. We clarified that the “gateway” in this part of the agenda refers to the intersection of Coit and Hastings, not DTN’s development.
6. Meter parking at the Gateway – Actually referring to DTN now, with the coffee shop being fitted out, it is only a matter of time before retail parking will be needed at the Gateway. The spaces on the south side of the block, and a few along Coit and Clancy will no longer be part of the residential permit parking zone. The NOBL board is looking for a recommendation from this group on August 8th whether to support placing signage for a (digitally) metered parking zone. It’s certainly easy to message that without the metered zone that area will become the best parking spots for folks at Spectrum. Still, there is the question of how to navigate engagement and inclusivity with neighbors. We will continue this mini-conversation by email.

7. Goals - The overall goal of the group is to tackle problems by identifying viable solutions and making recommendations to the NOBL board for implementation. We should be thinking long term.
8. Vision Statement – We have not yet drafted a vision statement; please think about what it should be.
9. Overall Timeline – Elianna will check with Josh on the City’s timeline for their own engagement process. It would be nice to collect input from residents at National Night Out (Elianna borrowed Angel’s dry erase poster of the neighborhood for that purpose) and have some basic recommendations ready by the general membership meeting in November.
10. Next Steps - The committee will meet again the first week in August, and Elianna will actually check on everyone’s availability first! Alternative meeting locations include Angel’s office and various restaurants in Monroe North. Angel will bring data on various topics, including residential permit program usage.