

FOCUS GROUP

Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

The topic of discussion at this meeting was Transportation & Infrastructure. Long-range transportation planning is a vision of the transportation system's future conditions, needs and opportunities, which guides decision making today. These long-range plans project the transportation system needs and requirements into the future and help shape local, regional, and state strategies for addressing economic growth, safety, congestion, air quality, and public mobility.

This meeting used Mentimeter to gather input on various transportation & infrastructure questions. The questions can be accessed and answered [here](#).

The conversation consisted of the statements/questions and responses listed below:

- **MAPPING ACTIVITY – ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES MAPPING**
 - **Vehicular Traffic**
 - Awkward lane shift crossing 1st Street at Grand Ave
 - Pave the remaining sections of 88th Street
 - Congestion at the Mall along Mills Civic Parkway
 - **Bike and Pedestrian Traffic**
 - Better crosswalks going into Raccoon River Park
 - Ashworth Road should go on a road diet to add on street bike lanes
 - 8th Street crossing needed
 - Sidewalks out at Jordan Creek should be more interconnected
- **HOW WELL IS WDM DOING AT ACCOMMODATING...? (1 = VERY POORLY, 10 = VERY WELL)**
 - **Vehicles** (average = 8)
 - Good, big roadways to get cars in and out and through the city quickly
 - Good planning to have roads wider than they may need to be now, but for the future with increased population will be needed
 - Good future planning for upcoming / key areas
 - **Pedestrians** (average = 4.9)
 - New areas: some good sidewalks, some areas have none
 - Newer developments have less connectivity to other neighborhoods and key areas of the city. Internal neighborhood connectivity seems to be good.
 - Lack of maintenance of sidewalks in some areas, especially in the winter time with snow removal at the intersections for crosswalks.
 - There is good bike and pedestrian availability from the recreation side, but lack of accessibility on large street (too wide for slower walkers or special needs)
 - Good code compliance inspectors out looking for issues.
 - Concern for crossing at Fuller & 35th Street.
 - **Bicycles** (average = 5)
 - Good as a recreation amenity but not good for those that are looking for use as alternative transportation option.
 - Good in some areas (internal neighborhood), but connections to key areas of the city and key trail connections is limited from the neighborhoods.
 - Good to go north to Clive greenbelt but no connection cross the Interstate.
 - **Motorized scooters or bikes** (average 3.2)
 - Good because not restrictive rules yet to limit use and opportunities vs. some cities that have already regulated them out.

- To prepare for them we need to have routes with slower traffic, and smaller roadway options with more interconnection of routes.
 - Concern for speeds of these on traditional bike trails.
- **Transit buses** (average = 4.5)
 - Low because of what happens when you get off the bus. Need the pedestrian connections to make them user friendly.
 - Lack of location to get on in WDM, and most location you have to drive to, unless you live in the very immediate neighborhood.
 - There is an interest in increasing bikes on the bus routes, limited number right now per bus.
 - Lack of service times for off shift workers (3rd shift).
 - Information from DART:
 - We have heard the need for more shelter which we want to work with WDM on in the future.
 - We have good connection from Jordan Creek to Valley West to Downtown, but there is a lack of internal WDM routes which is due to the way the overall system is set up as a spoke and hub system.
 - We have also heard the desire for suburb to suburb connections.
- **TO WHAT DEGREE DO YOU BELIEVE THE CITY SHOULD FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING TRANSPORTATION TYPES AS WE MOVE INTO THE FUTURE? (1 = STRONGLY DISAGREE, 5 = STRONGLY AGREE)**
 - **Planning infrastructure for fully autonomous vehicles** (average = 3.7)
 - Good option to reduce congestion, reduce accidents and increase safety on the roadways.
 - Costs could be an issue for infrastructure
 - The city would need more fiber connections and connectivity to become fully autonomous.
 - Concern for weather related issues and autonomous vehicles being fully autonomous.
 - As a user or an autonomous vehicle, there is actually less connectivity need now due to the vehicles that may change in the future. They are an issue with snow as the cameras don't read as well, and land markings can be a problem as they need to be very clear. Other issues are they don't adjust to potholes and have issues in light glare during certain times of the day. I like it though as it could reduce pavement needs, increase safety on the roads and it causes me less stress when driving.
 - **Cooperating on a regional rail system** (average = 2.8)
 - Lack of density to make it happen, may not need to be the vision for WDM right now. Maybe at some point if we get a large increase in population, but density would need to increase significantly.
 - May work in the future as just a commuter rail line from WDM to DSM
 - Cost to density will never hit the mark to make it happen.
 - **Promoting ride share (Uber / Lyft)** (average = 3.1)
 - Low because there are a lack of concentration centers to make it work
 - Need park and ride locations for this to work. People would still need to drive to the park and ride. Will the ease of getting to Des Moines may never really increase the time needed to get where you are going.
 - **Developing bus rapid transit routes** (average = 4)
 - Wave of the future items, and it may have its niche, but may not be a promote item for the city.
 - May be more harmful to transit services.
 - This is seen as a more evening use service vs. transit which is a typical daytime service function.
 - Don't think it's the city's role to be involved in this.

- **HOW CAN THE CITY PLAN FOR AND ADAPT TO CHANGING TECHNOLOGIES THAT IMPACT UTILITIES, SUCH AS THE EVOLUTION OF WI-FI AND FIBER OPTIC?**
 - Be open to new ideas / technologies by not legislating them out of existence.
 - Process permits for placement of such utilities in a timely manner.
 - Mediacom has issues with getting permits and WDM is a key community with the most issues relating to time of reviews and revision requirements for getting permits, so those projects get pushed down the road for other projects that are ready to go.
 - I don't know "how" to make this happen but know that people expect connectivity for personal and business needs so it needs to be prioritized and thought about in an equitable way.
 - May be an option for public utility
 - Look at larger more progressive cities for trends. Work with youth to learn how they need to be served. Ongoing city task force to identify needs.
 - Need an ongoing city taskforce to identify issues and needs to work continuously on them, not just every 5 years or so with these types of updates.
 - Focus on flexible infrastructure, communications, and data collection.
 - Concern for jumping the gun on technology due to the highly changing environment.

- **WHAT OTHER IDEAS DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE THAT THE CITY SHOULD CONSIDER IN ITS LONG-RANGE VISIONING?**
 - Complete all the projects that are part of Five Waters
 - Pave 88th street! Change City policy so similar issues don't arise in the future?
 - Car share near the transit hubs (to help alleviate the fact DART can't provide deep coverage). Could be electric cars or other new technologies, but more flexible than public transit and Uber / Lyft.
 - City clears the sidewalks
 - Connecting the neighborhoods of WDM as soon as possible
 - City facilitate car pool connection site/locations etc.
 - Storm water problems are worsening and more pavement will amplify the dangers
 - The financial liabilities of new / wider roads will overwhelm WDM as soon as growth slows
 - Congestion has never been solved by more lanes
 - Non-motorized transportation taken as seriously as we plan for and build infrastructure into the future.
 - Facilitate ride sharing on city website?