



May 13, 2015

Hands on Engagement



The Central/Albemarle/Shamrock Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program (CNIP) Team recently held a public meeting at Midwood International and Cultural Center. During the meeting, 20 staff ambassadors led small groups of residents through an interactive series of boards and mapping exercises. The objectives were to confirm what CNIP staff has heard throughout their outreach efforts, identify projects important to the community, and provide an opportunity for residents to recommend specific projects.

Many of the 165 residents personally thanked staff for their time and effort and the exit survey revealed that the majority of attendees were happy with the format and felt questions were answered well. The CNIP team also provided residents the opportunity to record their comments for use in a video that will help staff tell the overall story of Charlotte's east side and the CNIP effort.

For those unable to attend, staff prepared an online survey to provide feedback, including an [interactive mapping component through MindMixer](#). The team made significant efforts to ensure all materials, including the online survey, were translated into Spanish. Staff will compile and summarize comments/recommendations from both the meeting and the online survey for discussion at a follow up workshop on June 4.

Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program Gathers Local Media Coverage

WSOCTV aired a special report on the CNIP efforts to improve infrastructure across the city and how the group intends to leverage input from the community to make decisions. The piece included an interview resident Aaron McKeithan and business owner Mike Griffin who both expressed their ideal improvements for specific areas in the community. Tom Warshauer of Neighborhood & Business Services also detailed the importance of the city's engagement efforts, and common improvements residents would like to see throughout Charlotte.

[Click here to view the full piece aired on WSOCTV.](#)

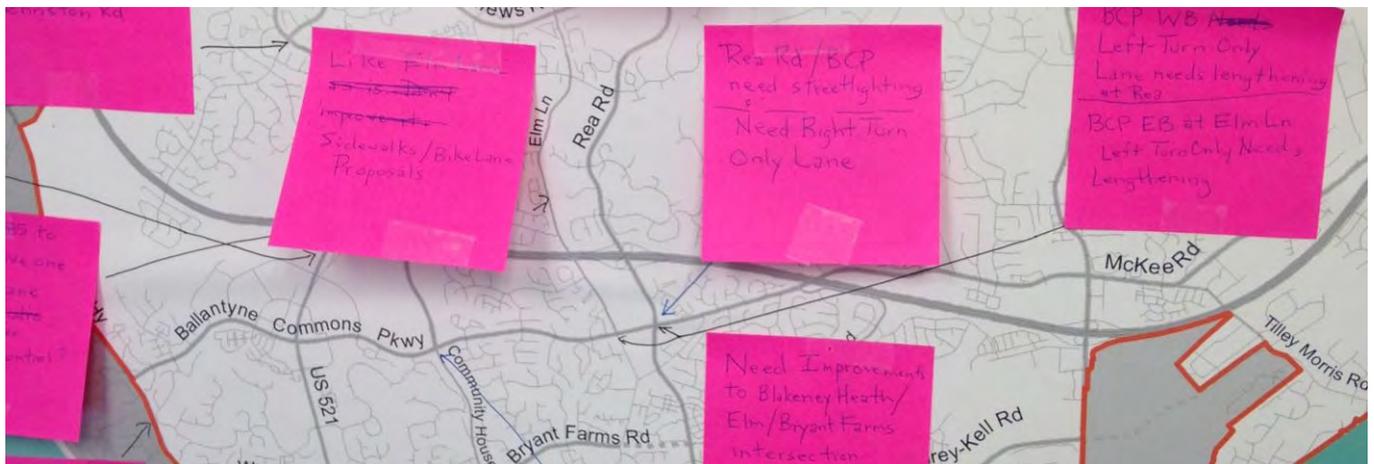
West Trade/Rozzelles Ferry Area Learning Workshop



Over the past six months, the West Trade/Rozzelles Ferry Area CNIP Team has met with developers, neighborhood leaders, community residents and other stakeholders to better understand feelings toward land development that could create large-scale transformational change for the entire community. To date, the team has completed 16 city/county agency coordination meetings, 23 stakeholder interviews and four neighborhood meetings to identify development currently impacting the community, and uncover additional investments to encourage collaboration between and within neighborhoods.

Most recently the team conducted a learning workshop which allowed attendees to place dots and write notes directly onto maps of the study area in order to pinpoint potential development areas and improvements that should occur to promote a more connected community.

Ballantyne Breakfast Club Meeting



City staff from the Planning Department and Charlotte Department of Transportation attended the Ballantyne Breakfast Club Annual Priorities Meeting to engage citizens on issues regarding the area's rapid growth and infrastructure needs. From the meeting, staff learned that residents are interested in ensuring that the city is keeping pace with the area's growth. The picture above represents some of the ideas residents suggested for ways the city can improve the transportation system in that area.

The Youth Perspective



The Land Acquisition and Street Connections project team met with East Mecklenburg High School students to gather feedback on where they might like to see street connections, roadway improvements, sidewalks, and bikeways.

The team presented the goals of the project and then divided students into groups to provide input on improvements they'd most like to see and the factors that most affect them. It was an exciting exchange of ideas and the students provided some valuable insight into the dynamics of neighborhoods and commercial properties. The project team seemed to enjoy it as much as the students.

Leveraging BIKE! Charlotte Success



Independence Boulevard Sidewalk & Bikeway Project team members attended the May 3 Plaza-Midwood Bike Fest as part of BIKE! Charlotte. This pop-up meeting served as a way to engage and inform area residents about the Independence Sidewalk and Bikeway project and the city's CIP initiatives. Project brochures were distributed and attendees completed project surveys to assist with data collection regarding sidewalk and bikeway connectivity. This pop-up meeting served as an addition to several focus group meetings held by various city and consultant staff over the last few months. City staff has asked event participants and area residents to keep their eye out for future collaborative Independence Boulevard Project community engagement activities and to utilize the [online survey](#) to provide their feedback.

For more project information and a list of upcoming CIP and CNIP meetings, click [here](#).