

Transportation – Roads and Traffic

Introduction

During the recent Reality Check Workshops, topical experts and members of the public worked together in small groups to examine a particular topic in-depth. During the two-hour workshops they worked with a trained facilitator to complete the following exercises:

- 1) Review of Ideas. Participants reviewed all of the ideas related to their topic that were collected during the community Idea Gathering Sessions.
- 2) Critical Questions. Participants engaged in a discussion of two Critical Questions, which had been identified by the *Vision for Staten Island* Steering Committee. The facilitator recorded the results of the discussion on flipchart paper, and then helped the group summarize major areas of agreement and disagreement.
- 3) Implementation Recommendations. At the end of the discussion period, each participant wrote down two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps to help Staten Island achieve its vision for their topic.

The results from the Transportation – Roads and Traffic group are provided below. Note that responses have been recorded verbatim, and some errors may remain due to handwriting legibility. Responses are numbered for reference purposes only; this does not indicate any sense of priority.

Critical Question 1:

Which areas of Staten Island have the most critical concerns in terms of road safety, maintenance, and traffic congestion? What should be done to address these areas? Write your ideas below and, if appropriate, use the map provided to indicate locations for specific suggestions.

1. North Shore roads need maintenance, repair and have most congestions, esp. Richmond Terrace traffic and pedestrian conflicts
2. Island-wide, many local roads that don't go through. Provide local connectivity with more small roads
3. Island-wide traffic flow improvements, i.e. right on red, etc.
4. Road system provides operational system for transit (bus etc.) and is in poor repair. How will Richmond Terrace be used – traffic/transit
5. Get people off road in cars – provide more shuttle service, bus, mass transit, and need roads in good condition to support it
6. Need highways that can handle capacity
7. Island-wide roads – physical condition is poor/maintenance required
8. Cross Island – North/South is poor, causes congestion, not easy to navigate by car or transit
9. Arthur Kill road also difficult
10. North Shore Rail will take people off roads
11. Build the highways that were planned and never built. Use transverses through the park and highways – should have dedicated lanes for mass transit
12. Use Richmond Ave/Richmond Parkway Corridor for bus Mass Transit
13. Need money for all of these projects by the 3 levels of government
14. Improve Hylan Blvd for pedestrian and bikes (Hylan has schools, parks)
15. Walkway/Bike path on Verazzano Bridge

Critical Question 1 SUMMARY:

1. Roads need to be better maintained and repaired
2. Local road connectivity
3. Flow improvements
4. How to manage the over capacity and congestion dealing with conflicts between modes
5. Manage roads to maintain bus performance
6. Flow – Competition between pedestrian, bike, auto

Critical Question 2:

What steps (if any) does Staten Island need to take to adjust the current toll structure? Be as specific as possible.

1. Revenue from tolls collected here should stay here and be invested on S.I.
2. Solution will come from NYS, Port Authority
3. Spread toll burden more evenly across the region
4. Blockade Verrazano Bridge on weekends
5. Revise tolls to reflect social equity and have good alternative transit routes
6. Provide improved frequent user discounts and extend amount of time of use
7. Operate toll system to avoid traffic delay and pollution
8. Lower tolls to reflect national average
9. Subsidy program for businesses

Critical Question 2 SUMMARY:

1. Needs to be fairness in system – it is sorely lacking
2. Need better transit
3. Bus/Transit services to NJ over Goethels and Outer bridge crossings
4. Better transit planning between NY and NJ

Implementation Recommendations:

Consider the draft vision statement, the ideas gathered from the public, and your group's discussion of critical questions. Please recommend two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps that you would recommend to help Staten Island achieve its vision for your topic.

1. Improve road system state of repair – pressure NYC DOT and NYS DOT to improve surface conditions
2. Sue City under Clean Air Act to prioritize transportation on air quality improvements and social equity
3. Maintain existing road network through rapid repair general upkeep which will support public transportation and pedestrian alternatives to vehicular traffic
4. Design a fair and equitable tolling system which secures a portion of the funding dedicated to Staten Island road maintenance
5. Look for opportunity to provide more local connectivity. Local roads should be small, i.e. use many small processors instead of one big processor. Provide capillary roads (another way to say the same thing)
6. Use SI generated tolls to expand/build highway system. Increase capacity (add lanes), provide more local crossovers
7. Improve traffic flow within Staten Island including improvements in road conditions
8. Implement improved mass transit connections on SI and to rest of NY City and NJ

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