

Transportation – Walking and Biking

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 – Walking and Biking 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:

How can we improve safety and connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists on Staten Island? Write your ideas below and, if appropriate, use the map provided to indicate locations for specific suggestions

1. Front Street from Hannah to RR – sidewalks needed (would connect with plan for a ribbon around Island)
2. Build paths and trails with destinations in mind. Greenway next to Richmond Pkwy
3. Redo Hylan Blvd Bike access
4. Culture change – thought process – biking and walking just as valid as driving – urgent
5. Police and D.A. enforce law and rights of bicyclists and pedestrians
6. Master plan for recreational and transportational biking with support of mass media and people outside NYC
7. Biking and walking advocacy group – Staten Island specific
8. Install bike racks on buses
9. Need safe pedestrian access to Greenbelt
10. All public facilities bike and pedestrian friendly
11. Take existing reports and use them: NYC Greenway Masterplan
12. Transit-oriented, walkable town centers
13. Address driver behavior (safety issues)
14. Process – before DOT does something, they need to consult user community
15. Coalition of groups working on it
16. More visibility for SI bike riders. Start with off-road infrastructure
17. Incentive for youth riders
18. Strip along Hylan-Class I trail – Barclay to Page Ave. kids

Critical Question 1 SUMMARY:

1. Agreement on items 1-17
2. Area of disagreement: single use vs. multi-use trails

Critical Question 2:

How can we enforce / encourage private property owners and developers to incorporate sidewalks, trails, and bike facilities into their developments?

1. Problem not private property – it’s public realm, sidewalks
2. Legislation – Dept. of City Planning, Department of Buildings
3. Doesn’t matter, we’re built out
4. For the few sites left – plan sidewalks, trails
5. Should focus on Fresh Kills park, trails, recreation
6. Pockets of private property do matter – Great Kills – Mansion Ave, Tennyson Ave; Miller Field – Cedar Grove
7. Hylan – Amboy – Arthur Kills, etc – City put in sidewalks
8. Transit-oriented walkable town – along RR, Richmond Road BRT

Critical Question 2 SUMMARY:

1. Agree: numbers 5-8
2. Disagree on priority: numbers 1-4
3. Group dislikes the whole Question 2

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. Create a SI walking and biking coalition
2. We need to agree what our priorities are
3. Install bike rack on buses that cross bridges (S53, S89, S79)
4. Take existing reports and push
5. Bike lend system
6. Should consider shutting down the Verrazano Bridge via civil disobedience (to bring attention to lack of bicycle access).
7. There is no quick fix – need comprehensive approach endorsed by the leadership of this Island
8. Install bike lanes and signs along all planned routes now
9. Educate police, enforce laws and rights of bicyclists and pedestrians and stop blocking the bike path in front of the Station on Richmond Terrace across from SI Ferry. They themselves don’t “get it” so that’s why they don’t enforce
10. Enforcement of rights of bicyclists and pedestrians
11. Transit-oriented walkable towns along RR and major roads – joining of other borough organizations with Staten Island
12. Bike, running and walking government group as part of borough president’s office
13. All projects that have bike, running and walking ramifications must be cleared through this office
14. Create or revive use of a transportation master plan
15. Create the citizen group that will press this forward
16. Keep walking and biking trails separate in natural areas/parks
17. Better planning by city agencies when constructing bike lanes on arterial roads
18. Push the agenda as a whole, not individual efforts
19. Petitions, events, media coverage, runs, walks, rides

20. Create local group that includes all relevant organizations and interested parties. Develop master plan incorporating already existing plans – RUDAT/Greenway Plan/others. Sponsor public events to raise awareness and ideas. Use mass media to attract attention and invite non-local input and push the political process
21. Split SI into 4 N/S/E/W regions, develop plans for each region for shore/interior paths (planning connectivity across all regions) public events, media coverage as above

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