

State Street Advisory Group Meeting Notes

Meeting held November 18, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

GPI Project #: MAX-2017041.05

DATE PREPARED: November 20, 2020

LOCATION: Videoconference via Google Hangouts

ATTENDEES: Suzanne Lavoie, Wharf District Council
Ed Reynolds, Custom House Resident
Nathaniel Sheidley, Revolutionary Spaces
Suzanne Taylor, Freedom Trail Foundation

STAFF: Ashley Biggins, Public Works Department
Zach Wassmouth, Public Works Department
Jim Fitzgerald, BPDA
Joe Johnson, GPI
Carolyn Radisch, GPI

PURPOSE: Advisory Group Meeting

This meeting was held via video-conference due to the social distancing guidelines set by the CDC in response to the Corona Virus -19 emergency. Ashley Biggins welcomed the group and provided introductions. Carolyn Radisch reviewed the Agenda for the meeting which included: (1) an update on the Phase 2 Pilot; (2) an update of the outdoor open house; and (3) input on the public meeting #2.

Discussion:

Suzanne Lavoie asked about the number of survey responses and if it was typical. Suzanne also indicated that she does not agree with having only one travel lane.

- Ashley noted that the number of responses is pretty good for a project like this and that we will continue to keep the survey active to solicit more feedback.

Suzanne Taylor also asked about the number of survey responses and if it is typical. She noted that the survey has been advertised by the typical media outlets for this area. She also asked about the forecasted means of transportation for the area given Covid.

- Ashley indicated that the number of responses is pretty good for this type of project and encouraged folks to continue to advertise the survey.
- Zach said that the City is looking at travel trends in the City as a whole regarding Covid and that the post-Covid conditions cannot be predicted. We do know, as a whole, that the issue of vehicle congestion cannot be solved in the City and that even a two-lane section on State St would be constrained on either end by limited capacity in the network, which the City is not looking to expand.

Nat Scheidly asked if we needed the tour buses along State St. He also indicated that a balanced approach to this project may result in not enough space for pedestrians. He urged that space be maximized for pedestrians.

- Carolyn indicated that we are considering the short term loading for tour buses along State St but that long term parking needs to be further discussed.

Suzanne Taylor indicated that Chatham Street should not be used by the tour buses as currently signed. She was also in favor of the option at the mid-section which widened the sidewalks on both sides of State St.

Suzanne Taylor offered to coordinate with Duck Tours and Old Town Trolley to discuss their needs along State St.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Action Items:

- Ashley to follow up with Suzanne Taylor regarding a meeting with Duck Tours and Old Town Trolley to discuss their needs along State St.