

1

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8 DECEMBER 19, 2016

9 TASK FORCE MEETING

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 SPEAKER: We're under staffed at this
2 meeting, so, in that case, I'm going to call
3 the City County Task Force on Disabilities
4 Meeting to order. Let's start with
5 introductions. My name is Paul O'Hanlon.
6 I'm the cochair.

7 SPEAKER: Joe Wasserman, task force
8 member.

9 SPEAKER: Richards Meritzer, staff.

10 SPEAKER: Karen Warman, task force
11 member.

12 SPEAKER: My name is Rich McGann. I'm

13 a task force member.

14 SPEAKER: Hi my name is Sara Goldstein.

15 I'm a task force member.

16 SPEAKER: Jeff Parker, task force

17 member.

18 SPEAKER: John Park, task force

19 treasurer.

20 SPEAKER: We can go around the room.

21 SPEAKER: Georgeann Licenfelter.

22 SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Kim Mckey,

23 and I'm the SSP coordinator.

24 SPEAKER: Hello everyone. My name is

25 Ben Lewis and I am the representative for

1 the state's office of deaf and hard of
2 hearing.

3 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Latika Carter
4 and I'm here with Jeff.

5 SPEAKER: Hi. Sara with the city of
6 Pittsburgh on human relations.

7 SPEAKER: Dan Miller, ADA coordinator
8 for Allegheny County.

9 SPEAKER: Hi my name is Maria and I'm
10 here from the physical therapy housing
11 partnership of greater Pittsburgh.

12 SPEAKER: My name is Ali. I'm here
13 from the housing authority city of
14 Pittsburgh. I'm the disability compliance
15 administrator.

16 SPEAKER: I'm Karen Richards.

17 SPEAKER: Welcome everybody.

18 Okay, so the first hour is a discussion
19 on the role of the task force in the
20 completed streets program.

21 And do we have that person here?

22 SPEAKER: Shelly will be in
23 momentarily. Let me get a little background
24 into why we're here. Okay, when the
25 complete street's program was started to be

1 developed almost a year ago now, there were
2 several parts to it. The first part is the
3 legislation approving the whole concept and
4 then we actually have to get down to the
5 actual regulations and then we have to get
6 down to the actual activities. So it's a
7 many-step process.

8 During the initial drafting of the
9 legislation of Shelly and Kristen were here
10 to explain it to the task force, and get
11 feedback, and most of the feedback was

12 incorporated. And so in presenting the
13 actual legislation, they included the task
14 force as a partner, and they were members of
15 the task force that says wait a minute.
16 Partnerships means more than someone coming
17 to a meeting. Partnership means an ongoing
18 engagement. So we decided to establish what
19 that ongoing engagement would be. And so
20 Shelly has been invited to this meeting to
21 discuss with the task force members how they
22 proceed this on going engagement to be most
23 fruitful for the disability community and
24 for the program.
25 And like I said, she was in they're

1 2 months ago and said she had to use the
2 rest room and said she'd be right back and,
3 so I'm sure she's on her way down right now.

4 SPEAKER: Question. And I don't know
5 whether to wait to get her here to ask it or
6 direct this to you.

7 MR. MERITZER: You can ask it as many
8 times as you want Paul.

9 SPEAKER: To what extent does the whole
10 issue of bike lanes and sort of related
11 street features to bike lanes in terms of

12 bump outs, kind of mid-block handicapped
13 parking, the whole range of things
14 represented to bike lanes on the street, to
15 what extent is that relevant to the complete
16 streets discussion or to what extent is that
17 relevant to the bike lane discussion?

18 MR. MERITZER: The answer to that is
19 that it's relevant to the complete streets
20 discussion was the whole complete streets
21 philosophy is building edge to building
22 edge. So it will cover everything in the
23 cart way which would include bike lanes. It
24 covers everything on the sidewalk. So all
25 these discussions we've had about sandwich

1 ports on the sidewalk are something that
2 might be and in my estimation should be
3 addressed in complete streets. So this
4 is --

5 MR. MERITZER: It's the whole thing
6 which is why it's so important that we fully
7 engage because it has the possibility to
8 make mobility for people with disabilities
9 much better, if it's done correctly. And
10 Shelly is here and I will introduce her and
11 she has been doing an incredible job and yes

12 why don't you sit there and Joe can she use

13 your microphone?

14 SPEAKER: Hi my name is Shelly, and I

15 am a transportation coordinator with the

16 department of -- I'm a transportation

17 planner the City of Pittsburgh's department

18 of city planning, where Richard works as

19 well. And I'm here to talk to you today

20 about the city's complete streets policy

21 which was recently adopted by city council

22 in -- well a couple of weeks ago in

23 November. And -- so the -- I'm sure that

24 not many of you have heard about the policy

25 before, so we -- that has been adopted and

1 the next step that we're looking to do is
2 form an advisory group -- a stakeholder
3 advisory group which has a lot of different
4 representation on it including members of
5 Port Authority from the streets or PennDot.
6 The different transportation state and
7 advocacy groups and help groups in
8 Pittsburgh and in the Allegheny County
9 region from AARP and then also we really
10 want representation from the task force as
11 well. So that is the biggest thing I want

12 to talk to you about today but I'm also --

13 I'm also available here if you have any

14 questions about the policy and what it means

15 and next steps going forward.

16 SPEAKER: Question. To what extent

17 would you like questions as we go along or

18 at the end or how do you want to --

19 SPEAKER: We can do questions as we go

20 along.

21 SPEAKER: Question. When you said the

22 list of entities in the advisory committee

23 Port Authority, how many representatives

24 will they have?

25 SPEAKER: 2.

1 SPEAKER: Oh, and who are they?

2 SPEAKER: It's (inaudible) was the

3 community planner or department manager and

4 then Amy Silverman who is the service 1.

5 SPEAKER: What about somebody from

6 access?

7 SPEAKER: Karen Leech from Access is

8 also up. The list is really long. I just

9 need to out some keepers. There was a

10 question over there in the back.

11 SPEAKER: And do you have an e-mail or

12 like a contact information?

13 SPEAKER: Sure. I brought my cards

14 along so I can pass those out at the end,

15 too.

16 SPEAKER: So basically what I wanted to

17 get is however the task force would like to

18 nominate someone to serve on the panel on

19 the advisory group. I don't want to have

20 this group be a burden on anyone. So we're

21 probably going to meet about twice a year

22 and review some forthcoming documents coming

23 out. The next -- so next year we will be

24 working on complete streets designed line

25 which is a manual for how to do different

1 types of street improvements so the advisory
2 group would be helping like review that
3 document and give feedback and mentoring and
4 advice as it's developed. So that would be
5 the majority of what the advisory group
6 would do in the next year and then the
7 following year since it'll have a -- it
8 would be the 2-year anniversary of the
9 policy we'd be working on a bench marking
10 report so looking at safety measures across
11 the city before and after storm water things

12 like that and how to evaluate.

13 SPEAKER: Where do you meet?

14 SPEAKER: We haven't met yet, probably

15 year we're also trying to get 4 resident

16 spots -- well, we have 4 resident spots

17 available on the committee and we have an

18 application ready but we haven't put it out

19 yet. But ideally we would like to have 1

20 from every quadrant, north, south, east,

21 west.

22 SPEAKER: So when will the schedule go

23 out?

24 SPEAKER: For?

25 SPEAKER: When is the meeting?

1 SPEAKER: It hasn't been decided yet.

2 We're still trying to form a group first.

3 So once this group decides a point person to

4 serve on the committee as well as once we

5 get the 4 spots confirmed from the residents

6 but likely sometime next spring, maybe

7 March. I'm not really sure.

8 SPEAKER: I have a question -- and I

9 don't know whether -- I should -- I should

10 save this for later but 1 of the things I

11 think you see the City and the sidewalks and

12 the streets is that it seems that there was

13 not a uniform authority up there and right

14 now in Lawrenceville. There's this

15 controversy in the middle of the sidewalk

16 that I guess PennDot put there. Is the

17 complete streets policy going to control

18 PennDot?

19 SPEAKER: So technically no. It won't

20 but they are aware that we have this policy

21 and we work -- we've been working a lot more

22 closely with them. The question -- sorry

23 for everyone who didn't here -- the question

24 was will this policy apply to PennDot or

25 county roads as well or projects as well and

1 legally we cannot require PennDot for or the
2 county to adopt this policy, but we are
3 working very closely with them they know
4 that we've documented this they know that
5 this is the direction we're headed in and we
6 work a lot more with them now than we did
7 even 2 years ago. I know about the whole
8 which is unfortunate. I'm not really sure
9 where that stands right now if they're going
10 to change that.

11 SPEAKER: Can I speak to that because

12 we had a meeting with county last week?

13 MR. MERITZER: And several people were

14 there including some representatives from

15 Lawrenceville. The situation is that they

16 are going to relook at where they can put

17 that pole. The issue was that because of

18 the underground infrastructure when they

19 placed the poles out was the only location

20 they could find at the time but they're

21 going to re-examine that now. In addition,

22 I'm set you go up a tour next month of some

23 people from the community to up in Butler

24 street, and we're going to take notes for

25 council members. And she's going to

1 feedback to PennDot our concerns. They're
2 actually going ton a tour, I believe, right
3 now but I'm just sort of otherwise engaged.
4 So they set it up without asking when I was
5 available but we're going our own tour in
6 early January and several people have
7 volunteer to come with us, and so it should
8 be an interesting evaluation. I wanted to
9 get people from both the mobility impaired
10 and the visually impaired community there
11 because they both have issues and we're

12 going to start all walk down and walk back

13 and just take notes on everything they see

14 that they're concerned about.

15 SPEAKER: I'll get to you Joe.

16 SPEAKER: With respect to the fact that

17 some of the streets are state maintained and

18 some are county, does that extend to the

19 sidewalk?

20 SPEAKER: So it depends on --

21 SPEAKER: Who own it is sidewalks?

22 SPEAKER: The sidewalks are, I believe,

23 owned by whoever owns the -- that is a

24 little complicated because what PennDot does

25 projects on a roadway they're resurfacing

1 they don't replace the sidewalks.

2 SPEAKER: My understanding is that the

3 property of those and that there's a right

4 of way and the question is, who own it is

5 right of way and I thought the city did.

6 SPEAKER: So the city or whoever -- so

7 it could be PennDot. It could be the city

8 or the county owns the property owner

9 adjacent to the sidewalks is responsible for

10 maintaining it. The right of way is still

11 public though.

12 SPEAKER: Yes, I don't want to sound
13 silly but isn't there a difference between
14 the property owner perhaps and the sidewalk
15 as opposed to the curb?

16 SPEAKER: Yes.

17 SPEAKER: Who own it is curb?

18 SPEAKER: I'm not sure who owns the
19 curb but when we do projects we will -- we
20 will replace the curb sometimes but not the
21 --

22 MR. MERITZER: My understanding is that
23 the curb is technically the edge of the
24 street as opposed to part of the sidewalk
25 and so the city's responsible or the state's

1 responsible for the curb but then the
2 sidewalk is technically the responsibility
3 of the owner; however, there have been
4 projects where the state has taken
5 responsibility or the state has taken
6 responsibility while they've been doing
7 other subterranean improvements in
8 relationship to roadway construction because
9 if they're tearing up a sidewalk for part of
10 their job, then they're responsible for
11 replacing it.

12 SPEAKER: And the same goes for utility

13 replacements as well when utilities tear up

14 the sidewalk.

15 SPEAKER: Thank you for remembering the

16 city is here we are a little old fashioned

17 and it can be very hard for change to be

18 enacted and for everything to actually take

19 place. It can be hard but please understand

20 the situation. People need to be prepared

21 and things need to change if we want change

22 to happen then we need to start and really

23 prepare ourselves. It's a pain, but when

24 you think of what people who are visually

25 impaired or definite that cannot heard and

1 they're coming to our city, it can be very
2 difficult for them. So I just want to thank
3 you that you're taking the work to make it
4 more accessible for us, and I applaud your
5 efforts and work when it comes to
6 wheelchairs and access that they now have,
7 and it's also easier for guide dogs and
8 guide dogs will trained to look for curbs;
9 however, it's caused a little bit of a
10 conflict because as their used to looking
11 for curbs but my friend is an engineer and

12 electrician and he makes maps for those who
13 are visually impaired so that hi goes out
14 and he examines the street and is makes maps
15 for those who are visually impaired to be
16 able to use so they know how to navigate
17 city and is so they can see the bumps a
18 little bit more easier. I know that they're
19 there. So they're able to have their own
20 maps so Joe you should take a look at that
21 but again I applaud your efforts.

22 SPEAKER: That's a really great
23 initiative. I applaud whoever is making
24 those maps. I also wanted to point out that
25 our standard is that anymore a new signal is

1 warranted by a new development or anymore we

2 do want to put a new signal in, we ask

3 developers or if it's the city to make sure

4 that there are the latest type of

5 significant which means that they would have

6 audible count downs and push buttons as

7 well.

8 SPEAKER: The app is called pass view

9 and they're making real matches what he's

10 talking about if anybody is interested in

11 terms of navigation for the there's another

12 app called access map, and it leads to input

13 working accessible or not so much true so

14 that's what kind of work we're going to --

15 SPEAKER: Right. Before you came in we

16 were talking about something and I think

17 this might help with figuring out who would

18 be the best point person to mail this to.

19 You know the completed streets is a policy

20 and then there's plans for things going on

21 in Pittsburgh like there's a -- just an

22 example, the Forbes and fifth court are

23 planned. So we're trying to get an idea

24 like how does how would the advisory group

25 kind of interact with the plans.

1 SPEAKER: So individual project?

2 SPEAKER: Yeah.

3 SPEAKER: The question was how would

4 the advisory group as opposed to the policy.

5 So because it's such a large group and

6 because a lot of people don't have a ton of

7 time to devote beyond this group. We decide

8 that individual projects won't go to the

9 advisory group; however, what we do is every

10 time we meet like a report out of what

11 projects are going on and if there are any

12 concerns raised about any project in
13 general, but we decided not to do individual
14 like -- individual projects to the committee
15 however every single project has a public
16 meeting every single project -- will have a
17 Web site like a project page dedicated to
18 it. You could e-mail the project manager.
19 So there's lots of chances for input, it's
20 just that we can't have every single project
21 go with the advisory group because
22 especially like it won't be like a
23 commission so it won't be like planning
24 commission which would review and approve
25 projects.

1 SPEAKER: I think that's a good
2 clarification. So the advisory group is
3 really going to continue to help sure up the
4 policy right the.

5 SPEAKER: Yeah. The policy's done but
6 the implementation. So in the policy, there
7 are a few next steps in terms of planning
8 and policy work the biggest 1 is the design
9 manual that we'll be creating next year as
10 well as in the future some other like
11 expression. We would like to do a

12 pedestrian plan for the city. Right now
13 we're going to a bike plan so in the future
14 we would like to do a pedestrian plan so
15 thing like that any sort of larger scale
16 long-term planning projects is what we've
17 been like the advisory's been advising.

18 SPEAKER: And then the groups that are
19 doing plans is really supposed to be
20 following the policy or the guidelines that
21 you publish or put out.

22 SPEAKER: Yes.

23 SPEAKER: I'm going to squeeze in 1
24 more question, and this might have been in
25 the draft or maybe the final complete

1 street's policy. I think the advisory group
2 is going to have representation from
3 different disability areas, too. So the
4 task force representative is different than
5 those other four members. It says something
6 about someone with a visual impairment,
7 hearing impairment, mobility and cognitive
8 is that still in the final --
9 SPEAKER: I'll have to check. So we
10 are doing 4 residents and that could be
11 anyone and then 1 person from the task force

12 and in there are other groups I should reach

13 out to, I'd be happy to do that as well.

14 SPEAKER: Because I might not have seen

15 the very, very last final pass --

16 SPEAKER: I think it's and/or so

17 visually impaired, mobility impaired, and/or

18 what was the first one -- cognitive.

19 SPEAKER: Yeah, and/or cognitive

20 impaired.

21 SPEAKER: But if there's another group

22 that you know of besides the task force, I'd

23 be happy to do that.

24 SPEAKER: Some of us with a physical

25 disability wouldn't know all the ins and

1 outs of another type of sensory disability
2 too. So it might be good to have something
3 like that.

4 SPEAKER: Yeah, you're right. We did
5 reach out to someone on the disability meet
6 up -- from the disability meet up group.

7 And he's visually impaired. So he was
8 involved in the early stages of this policy,
9 but not so much in the later. So I'm not
10 sure if he will be continuing or if another
11 person.

12 SPEAKER: Because he's actually on the
13 task force, too. But he's 1 of the task
14 force members. I'll give up Mitch time now
15 so...

16 SPEAKER: There was a question over
17 here.

18 SPEAKER: Are you talking about the
19 bike lanes? What kind of bikes are
20 acceptable on that line those bike lanes is
21 it single bikes or cuff a tandem person
22 bike? I do know that some bikers for tandem
23 and they're actually side by side tandems,
24 so what kind of bikes are acceptable on the
25 bike lane.

1 SPEAKER: Any bike as long as it's not
2 a motorcycle so a tandem is fine. If you're
3 going down a 2-way protective falsity like
4 for example Penn Avenue or Schenley drive
5 bike lanes. I mean, just be cognizant if
6 you're taking up both lanes, then you
7 know -- I mean, working it out with the
8 person coming in front of you but anybody
9 will help you out.

10 SPEAKER: I also ride in the bike
11 lanes, too. I use the bike lanes because

12 sometimes the sidewalks are worse than what

13 the bike lanes are.

14 SPEAKER: Yeah. Hearing 1 way streets

15 brings up an interesting question. Do

16 bicycle people have to obey 1-way streets.

17 SPEAKER: Technically yes. Anyone

18 who's using the road does, yeah. How much

19 of is that is enforced is kind of a

20 question, but yes.

21 SPEAKER: I think that's a big issue

22 that the bike people need to grapple with

23 because I'm walking around knowing there's a

24 1-way street. I don't want a bicycle coming

25 from the opposite direction it will ram into

1 me.

2 SPEAKER: Yeah. That's also the person

3 riding the bike to be worry aware that there

4 were pedestrians crossing.

5 SPEAKER: That's why bicyclists are

6 going to have to be licensed 1 day. I don't

7 know what legislative is going to have the

8 back loan to do that but they're going to

9 have to be licensed 1 day.

10 SPEAKER: My question is, who's

11 responsible for the maintenance of the bike

12 lanes like we've seen downtown examples like

13 I'm give 1 Forbes Avenue just you know for

14 the snow removal and things, bike lanes?

15 SPEAKER: Oh the question was who is

16 responsible for the maintenance of bike

17 lanes and that would be public works. Well

18 as long as it's on a city street. If it's a

19 PennDot project for example PennDot's newest

20 bike lane project is on east Ohio street on

21 the north side then that would be PennDot

22 but otherwise if it's a city street then the

23 city public works department yes.

24 SPEAKER: Okay. When you have like --

25 if you're in the bike lane what if you see

1 somebody working in there in the bike lane

2 and those bikes coming how are they going

3 to -- I mean -- how are they going to

4 like -- are they supposed to be in a bike

5 lane if they're working or do they have to

6 stay out of the bike lane.

7 SPEAKER: Like -- the question was

8 about people working in a bike lane, but do

9 you mean a construction worker or...

10 SPEAKER: Yeah, construction once the

11 bike lanes supposed to be for the bikes

12 and --

13 SPEAKER: Oh, I see what you mean. So

14 there are 2 types of people working

15 construction there's people who might be

16 employed by the city by public works or

17 doing and then there are people that maybe a

18 developer is building a building next door

19 and so their permits go in the bike lane or

20 something like that. So in the first case

21 in they would be allowed to work in the bike

22 lane in the second case, it depends on

23 usually developers have to submit a

24 construction management plan in order to get

25 their approvals and in that if it was

1 approved that the -- that a sidewalk can be
2 blocked off or a bike lane can be blocked
3 off for a certain amount of time then it's
4 loud to be closed and people are loud to be
5 working in there. If it wasn't then it
6 would not be allowed.

7 SPEAKER: The 1 case I saw that there
8 was some people who were working in the bike
9 lane on Penn Avenue in downtown.

10 SPEAKER: That was a couple months ago
11 right? That was during the cultural trust

12 festival I believe I know that that --

13 SPEAKER: No, I think it was the -- no,

14 it was across the street from -- I seen some

15 people working like -- I don't know if they

16 were on the sidewalk or they were doing

17 something in the lane. Something was going

18 on over there.

19 SPEAKER: Yeah, I know that it was

20 closed a little bit during the cultural

21 trust in Penn Avenue on the cultural trust

22 had a festival that they were loading there

23 and stuff. That was temporary, but usually,

24 no, you shouldn't be in the bike lane. But,

25 however, we are working on -- the next

1 policy we're working on is construction
2 access -- I'm sorry, pedestrian and
3 bicyclist access during construction policy
4 which is something we heard a lot of concern
5 about, and so we recognize that it's
6 important to you to work out that policy.
7 Next we're researching other cities right
8 now in how they're doing that.
9 SPEAKER: Again, thank you. Do you
10 have a question for you in your experience
11 do you know about the tour? We're thinking

12 of having a tour here in Pittsburgh a
13 bicycle tour. Do you know how that would
14 work in Pittsburgh, what the route would
15 look like, is that correct? Is that
16 something that you would be --

17 SPEAKER: Well, for that you can talk
18 to Kristen Sanders who is the bicycle and
19 pedestrian coordinator, but, yeah, we'd be
20 happy -- it just depends on would you be
21 interested in downtown or...

22 SPEAKER: No, no, sorry. Sorry. I'm
23 talking about a tour.

24 SPEAKER: It would be a special project
25 where people would not need to tour our

1 city. We have our ducky tours here. They'd
2 be able to do a tour of the city except be
3 on a bicycle.

4 SPEAKER: Okay, okay. So something
5 like the ducky tour. So golden triangle and
6 a couple of other companies do offer tours
7 on bike some are historic tours, some are
8 more themed like a Halloween tour or like a
9 Pittsburgh and film tour, where different
10 places were filmed and a golden triangle
11 bicycle the rental company I think does

12 tours or different packages where you can
13 register the bike and hear some suggestive
14 routes. We don't do any towers as a city
15 but there are a number of places that do
16 tours or you could organize 1 yourself and
17 we can give you some advice about where to
18 go, but we don't operate any tours.

19 SPEAKER: I have a question. Maybe
20 there are 2 different questions. So the
21 complete streets is now the law I mean it
22 passed legislation.

23 SPEAKER: Yes.

24 SPEAKER: And how do you reveal over --
25 so for example, a lot of us have been

1 involved in the Forbes fifth corridor
2 project but particularly the bus lane bike
3 lane kind of controversy with respect to
4 access for disability vehicles. And it's
5 now gosh, years into that project and I know
6 I've attempted is to be involved in the
7 question of going how are they going to
8 design access and ongoing I'm told it's too
9 early okay and you know from my experience
10 you know the right time often ends up being
11 never it's never the right time and then the

12 policy's done it's done and there was never

13 really an honest look at it so when is it

14 that -- and related to that is that

15 ongoingly, PennDot seems to act as if it's

16 only concerns are roads and cars and

17 ongoingly purports things in the middle of

18 sidewalks not just that but these sandbag

19 signs for detours and absolutely as if they

20 owned the sidewalk and saw what you were

21 purpose of cars and signage for cars and

22 that it's never really a pedestrian-focused

23 kind of thing for me.

24 When is it that the complete streets

25 actually prevails? Because it doesn't look

1 like there's any mechanism when there's

2 conflict for it to prevail I mean -- so I

3 don't know how you can answer that but

4 that's 1 of my on going frustrations is that

5 I like the philosophy to complete the

6 streets but the reality seems to be a lot of

7 entities to seem as if sidewalks are sort

8 of --

9 SPEAKER: So let's talk about the first

10 question first. So the first question was

11 about the fifth Forbes bus transit project

12 and so I know that that project started a
13 long time ago many years ago and then it
14 kind of paused for a long time so now it's
15 being -- it's being worked out again and the
16 project manager for that is just -- his name
17 is Justin Miller will and he is the
18 principle of transportation planner and the
19 department of city planning. I work with
20 him. And so I believe that they will be
21 doing out reach for that project next year.
22 So 2017 is the time to do it. You
23 specifically had a question about access as
24 in the van service or the pair transit
25 service or access generally speaking.

1 SPEAKER: Okay. Well, so here's the
2 federal law. The federal law says that you
3 can't do anything that reduces the
4 accessibility features already present in a
5 given building in a given facility in a
6 given -- so what it looks like is that
7 you're going to make huge stretches of that
8 Forbes fifth corridor inaccessible to access
9 advance okay so that the closest they can
10 put somebody is not at the curb but maybe a
11 blocks away maybe around a corner more than

12 a block and that looks the most reasonable

13 people as a reduced level of accessibility

14 so then I looked at the federal kind of like

15 meaning the national literature about how

16 they deal with that and there's all kinds of

17 things like mid-street handicapped parking

18 that kind of diverts the bike lane. There's

19 things about you know on disability

20 crosswalks. There's a whole range of thing,

21 but I don't see that any discussion or any

22 allowance for how it's going to be done in a

23 fairly -- part of Forbes and fifth are

24 pretty narrow and you know, geography is

25 poorly you know, kind of like limited. And

1 so it seems to me that this needs to be an
2 early discussion rather than an after
3 thought.

4 SPEAKER: So right now we do have an
5 access vehicle in bike lanes policy so
6 access is allowed in to drop off in bike
7 lanes or pick up in bike lanes because we
8 don't have any bus lanes right now we
9 haven't developed a policy for that,
10 maybe -- I mean, I don't know what the
11 results will be, but maybe we could amend

12 the bike lane policy to be bike or bus lane
13 I'm not sure what that would look like but I
14 could talk to Justin and maybe he could
15 next time come to a task force meeting in the
16 future in maybe spring sometime and talk
17 about the project and maybe that will be
18 useful.

19 SPEAKER: I honestly think that you
20 might be forced to consider things like mid
21 law handicapped parking as well because
22 again often on the option to that park a
23 vehicle for somebody with their limited
24 ability to lot ending up being a hike if
25 there's not mid block parking and --

1 SPEAKER: The other thing we can also
2 is do is ask whether cities what they do for
3 in bus lanes like for para transit, so
4 that's something I can look into.

5 SPEAKER: But I'm just concerned that
6 if this is the prevailing policy in the
7 city, then there has to be some mechanism
8 for it to prove it. Because obviously
9 there's all kinds of counter vans forces
10 and.

11 SPEAKER: Yeah, so this policy is about

12 how we design future projects so when do
13 future projects future improvement projects
14 this policy says we have to keep all the in
15 mind, what to consider. So yeah trying to
16 do it 1 project at a time I guess there was
17 a question in the back.

18 SPEAKER: Yes, thank you. Sara with
19 the Pittsburgh mission on human relations.

20 Okay so the city has a sidewalks
21 obstructions and a policy regarding sidewalk
22 cafes we have received complaints regarding
23 obstructions and just general sidewalk
24 obstructions. So does the complete streets
25 policy interface interact or otherwise

1 supercedes some of these policies that

2 already exist; are they being like

3 considered in any way.

4 SPEAKER: So this is for -- the

5 complete -- the question was about sidewalks

6 on structures and sidewalk -- this policy is

7 more for can he sign and less for

8 operations. So no not really. It doesn't

9 really interact with operations of such but

10 we are looking into as I mentioned before, a

11 construction -- or bicyclist and pedestrian

12 access during construction policy so that's

13 1 step into the right direction. We

14 haven't -- and we have also researched

15 sidewalk policies as to who owns and

16 maintains and who pays for it. But in terms

17 of like sidewalk cafes and things like that,

18 we haven't yet gotten there. This doesn't

19 really talk about that. Is there anyone

20 else that hasn't asked a question yet that

21 would like to speak maybe from the audience

22 or on the table?

23 SPEAKER: I mean, since we're getting

24 close to time is there anything that you

25 haven't had a chance to say about this that

1 you know because it might be useful to see

2 what other question.

3 SPEAKER: So mainly my reason for

4 coming here today was mainly to give you

5 sort of an update about the policy and also

6 to really push for the task force to

7 nominate someone to be on the complete

8 streets advisory group so that we can get

9 going next spring for getting the next

10 meeting for the group together. I am open

11 as to however you guys wanted to decide to

12 nominate someone. I mean it's up to you. I

13 don't want to be a thorn in that process or

14 anything so that's up to you as to how --

15 SPEAKER: I do have a question for you.

16 SPEAKER: And when did you guess the

17 first meeting will be?

18 SPEAKER: Spring. So we do -- it's

19 going to take a month probably between the

20 posting of the application of the residents

21 to be a member -- and then choosing a person

22 so probably March or April, I'm not sure

23 yet.

24 SPEAKER: And how many task force

25 members are allowed to participate in that

1 meeting?

2 SPEAKER: 1.

3 SPEAKER: Just 1?

4 SPEAKER: Yeah. Again, the group is

5 already 40 plus people, so yeah.

6 SPEAKER: But that doesn't mean that

7 the 1 or administrator of the residents

8 wants to be from the task force as well.

9 SPEAKER: Yeah, true.

10 SPEAKER: Joy.

11 SPEAKER: I have somebody participated

12 and you need accommodations in terms of sign

13 language or thing like that is that

14 something you could include.

15 SPEAKER: Yeah. Richard can take care

16 of that.

17 SPEAKER: This is a city function so my

18 definition will make accommodations on that.

19 SPEAKER: Are there any other

20 questions? I'm going to leave some cards.

21 I'm going to leave my card in the back table

22 and then also some handouts if you didn't

23 get to read them previously. Just

24 explaining some overview points about the

25 policy. Okay, thank you for having me.

1 SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

2 SPEAKER: And if you have questions

3 about the RT project fifth Forbes, you can

4 reach out to Richard e-mail Richard and then

5 I assume you can pass it onto Justin or you

6 could reach under the out to me and I could

7 do the same thing or if you have questions

8 about bike lanes Kristen is the 1 to contact

9 so thank you.

10 SPEAKER: All right. Let's move on

11 with the rest of our meeting. So I guess

12 the first issue is, we're doing a

13 treasurer's.

14 SPEAKER: There's no treasurer's

15 report. We will have a treasury report next

16 month.

17 SPEAKER: Okay, all right, so let's do

18 this then let's have a short discussion

19 about captioning and interpreting, and then

20 why don't we switch the nominating report

21 with the priority discussion then.

22 So Richard, do you want to start this 1

23 off about the captioning?

24 MR. MERITZER: Sure. Last meeting was

25 a combination of several issues with

1 captioning. We went to remote captioning at
2 the beginning of this year at the request of
3 our captioning firm because they feel it
4 increased their pool of people who could
5 caption. We said we would try it. We tried
6 it and at first we weren't particularly
7 thrilled but it seemed to work but
8 increasingly the captioners were late or
9 there were problems, and last meeting they
10 never showed up at all. Although they said
11 they were there. We had it on the screen

12 and no 1 was there. So we decided to relook
13 at the captioning. And since the captioning
14 firm was sort of attached to our
15 interpreting firm we decide why not look at
16 our interpreting firm as well. So
17 immediately after the meeting went to the
18 web page of all the captioners and
19 interpreting firms I could find and
20 basically sent out a request for
21 qualifications through the web page and got
22 a number of interesting responses.

23 And then I started to get them
24 information and questions they were asking
25 everyone got a copy of all the questions

1 although I scrubbed it so that no 1 knew who
2 was asking and sent it out to all of the
3 companies with a deadline of last Thursday
4 so that we could discuss that at this
5 meeting. The only response I got, the only
6 response I got was from the center of
7 hearing and definite services. Turns out
8 that 1 of the captioning firms do live
9 captioning or even CART with the exception
10 of the firm we already have it seems. And
11 so they all sort of backed out saying, oh,

12 no, no, no. If you film the meeting, we can
13 caption the film. That's not going to help
14 us out. So at this point, we did get live
15 captioning and it turns out there was
16 another snag but we did live captioning
17 through our existing caption firm because no
18 decision was made, and I believe that we can
19 keep that going now. However, we the task
20 force is in the position now to make a
21 decision about that. If there are firms I
22 couldn't find and I did a really wide search
23 if there are firms I couldn't find, please
24 let me know because you know I don't know of
25 any other captioning firms except the 1 we

1 have.

2 SPEAKER: Okay. So my question and my
3 suggestion is that we form a subcommittee of
4 kind of interested and knowledgeable people
5 on this issue to work on this issue and make
6 a decision partly because I'm not a consumer
7 of captioning and I don't feel like I should
8 be voting on that. And that the people who
9 are interested and depend on captioning
10 should be the deciders. So I guess, what do
11 people think about that suggestion and

12 then -- you know, because perhaps already
13 other entities that could be approached that
14 they know of that I know, et cetera, et
15 cetera. Okay, so I see Richard and Joy.

16 SPEAKER: I would agree with that.

17 SPEAKER: Okay, so Richard how about we
18 take Richard first and then Joy.

19 SPEAKER: First of all, we have Ben
20 Moon, he's from the office of deaf and hard
21 of hearing. He can also evaluate the
22 interpreters and how that's set up along
23 with the captioning and then you know he's
24 able to then give his opinion as to just you
25 know that we get a committee together as

1 well because some of the definite people
2 have their own view and opinion of the
3 interpreters that we have and the situation
4 that we currently have set up some of the
5 comments are positive and negative that I've
6 heard and I believe Ben is able to help with
7 that to help verify some of those things and
8 I think that we can follow you can talk
9 about act 57 and how that plies as well. I
10 understand for those that are hard of
11 hearing they prefer to have captioning and

12 again I think Ben can assist with that the

13 office of definite can lied you to a couple

14 of different options.

15 SPEAKER: Joy.

16 JOY: Should I wait for a microphone

17 and then I'll talk? Thank you. I know I'm

18 not a member of your committee but I am a

19 user to my own cell phone of closed

20 captioning, so I'm wondering if you

21 considered the input of an some ideas that

22 there's Vitac out of Canonsburg. There's

23 deaf CART, and there's also I'm going to

24 suggest that you use the input of -- well,

25 some of the resources here in this because

1 you have the gentleman here from the office

2 of death and heard of hearing. If you

3 consider the input of formal members of your

4 committee that know about that service

5 because they really have that disability

6 there so...

7 SPEAKER: Oh, I would absolutely feel

8 that given that the people whosoever consume

9 or who depend on the captions include people

10 in the audience that would be perfectly

11 appropriate to include those people in this

12 community, the subcommittee. So I would
13 encourage pretty much everyone who thinks
14 that they've got a stake in this to
15 volunteer if you're interested.

16 SPEAKER: Well, I mean, maybe what we
17 could do right now is to ask for a show of
18 hands for who would like to be on this
19 subcommittee, and then we could put it out
20 there so that if there's anybody else either
21 wasn't here today or sort of wasn't sure
22 they could and decided they would like to,
23 could step into it. So how about we do
24 that? How about a show of hands of who
25 would like to be on this subcommittee to

1 help us decide on a new contract for
2 captioning and interpreting services? So I
3 think I see Richard and Joy. Okay. Anyone
4 else?

5 SPEAKER: And I believe Chris would
6 want ton on it, too. All right, I don't
7 know we should call Ben out and ask him if
8 he would like to be or put him on this spot.

9 SPEAKER: My only concern I have is I
10 cannot make any decisions. I have to remain
11 mutual in all discussions. I am more than

12 willing to be involved as a person who
13 supplies resources, but I myself cannot make
14 decisions as a committee member so I don't
15 know if you want me to actually be a
16 committee member or just someone you call
17 onto provide resources.

18 SPEAKER: And let me clarify that. I'm
19 sorry can I clarify? Can I clarify
20 something? Let me clarify. I'm sorry, you
21 know, maybe we should let Ben explain his
22 role a little bit more as to what he does
23 and his role within the office of deaf and
24 hard of hearing. And then maybe we should
25 just let the DOH explain their role if

1 they'd like to do that.

2 SPEAKER: But I would welcome that. I

3 do think that even if your limited in your

4 ability to voice an opinion, it sounds like

5 you got a lot to contribute to the

6 discussion. So I'll leave it up to the

7 other people. It sounds like you would be a

8 valuable resource.

9 MR. MERITZER: Well, maybe Ben we can

10 ask you to sort of co-staff the committee

11 with me in which case you'll be involved in

12 all meeting and is be able to give your
13 input but would not actually part of the
14 committee and not voting and then we could
15 utilize your great talents while not in a
16 position --

17 SPEAKER: I would be fine with that.

18 That sounds like a very good idea.

19 SPEAKER: Okay, so then what we got
20 sounds like Chris, rich, joy and then Ben
21 will be co-staffing and Karen.

22 MR. MERITZER: And then Ben and I will
23 co-staff.

24 SPEAKER: My question goes to what
25 we're doing now. In other words, we're

1 going to continue these the same
2 interpreting service as well as CART are we
3 going to do requests in person?
4 MR. MERITZER: Since the firm we got
5 was through center of hearing deaf services
6 initially, I had a long talk with Amy
7 separate from this process just to inform
8 her that how upset we were and she had
9 assured me that from now on we will have an
10 in-person captioner until we make another
11 decision.

12 SPEAKER: All right. Any other
13 discussion on this then? Then we'll form
14 this you be committee and Richard how
15 will -- what would be the next step?

16 MR. MERITZER: Well, the next step
17 would be to distribute the 1 proposal we got
18 to the committee and then to solicit any
19 other feedback and then set up a meeting.

20 SPEAKER: 1 thing I would suggest is
21 that perhaps the members, some of whom you
22 know are new to this discussion or at least
23 haven't been involved in that initial round
24 of soliciting goods maybe they have other
25 suggestions.

1 MR. MERITZER: That's what I was
2 saying. We should get their feedback first
3 as to what --

4 SPEAKER: All right. And I guess what
5 I really meant was on who's going to convene
6 that meeting and -- yeah, so you'll set it
7 up.

8 MR. MERITZER: I will continue with the
9 staff role which means I will set up all the
10 meeting and is get feedback from all the as
11 to any accommodations that we need.

12 SPEAKER: I have a question for you

13 about who is the person from the agency that

14 showed up here, the 1 that submitted a

15 proposal but Diane Gallagher used to be here

16 on a monthly basis which was wonderful to

17 have. She's retired but who has replaced

18 here and who has showed up? No 1. As I

19 look around, no 1's here to observe the

20 captioning to make sure the process is

21 running smoothly. That's very important and

22 I would like to see JJ Blasco here. There's

23 no more excuses for him not to show up. We

24 need to see his face. He needs to represent

25 the agency and he should be here to monitor.

1 There's Steel City. There's hearing and
2 deaf services. There's also Slip but if we
3 want to improve we need though
4 representations and that it he needs to be
5 here.

6 SPEAKER: Okay. Joy. Joy.

7 JOY: Just briefly, and her name popped
8 into my head was sitting in the audience
9 here, there used to be Christina. She's an
10 amazing resource. So closed captioning
11 interpreting agencies and she has gone to

12 class and she has relocated to Swissvale.

13 So 1 of my suggestions would be to consult

14 with her in terms of resources to see if she

15 wants to participate. She might be

16 interested in that because you know what I'm

17 talking about easy now disability resources.

18 They have a deaf section. Also, 1 thing

19 that might be helpful is to consider people

20 that are definite a relationship in

21 examining the interpreting that they've had

22 with Richard and HDS interpreting that

23 they'd done an amazing job and at the

24 university of deaf, people communicate the

25 same and some people are going to have --

1 they have an existing relationship with --
2 and they're working with different
3 interpreting services. And there are more
4 than just that Richard mentioned there's a
5 list of them. I can't remember which in
6 interprets of interpreting and captioning.

7 SPEAKER: Okay. So can you move onto
8 Christina?

9 MR. MERITZER: I will definitely do
10 that. I'll see if I can find it. If not
11 I'll let you know.

12 SPEAKER: Okay. Then -- okay so we've
13 formed this subcommittee and placed the
14 decision in their hands to make and I
15 assume -- why don't we just I made that
16 motion. Joe second. Maybe we should have a
17 voted in favor of making it, so...

18 (Chorus of ayes.)

19 SPEAKER: So moved.

20 MR. MERITZER: Yes, captain.

21 SPEAKER: Thank you. All right. Next

22 we're going to go to the --

23 SPEAKER: I'm sorry, I missed the

24 report.

25 SPEAKER: Oh, we're going to have you,

1 Chris --

2 SPEAKER: All right, I'm in.

3 SPEAKER: Cool. Does he have a

4 question?

5 SPEAKER: No.

6 SPEAKER: Okay, great. Thank you all

7 for volunteering. All right so next is the

8 nominating committee report Jeff.

9 JEFF: So our period of asking for

10 nominations closes there Wednesday and we've

11 had a very, very good response. Initially

12 our first period seeking nominations was
13 from an October to November and we had 2
14 nominees names come in. So we reopened --
15 they're good nominees but we reopened the
16 period to go again from November to December
17 and actually as of today in total we have 11
18 nominations to review. And as I see them
19 name wise, it looks like we're pretty well
20 represented between men and women on the
21 list, so we still have -- we have 11 -- and
22 it's likely we could see 1 or 2 more before
23 Wednesday anyway. So we have a good group
24 to look at.

25 Now the nominations complete, they

1 would consist of John and Karen and Amelia
2 and me, are planned at this time to review
3 that have come in and select probably up to
4 5 out of the is 1 to actually interview.
5 And the interviews would be set up. We can
6 pull it off in 1 day in January preferably a
7 day that isn't below 0 and -- 2 feet of
8 snow. And from that, come up with our
9 nominee to present to the task force to
10 approve and of course just so everyone
11 understands the process, even after the task

12 force approves a nominee ultimately what
13 we're doing is we're recommending a
14 nomination to the county to agree to it. So
15 we hope you have a good field to select
16 from, and the work on this now is for us to
17 read the nominations that have come in and
18 to interview some.

19 SPEAKER: I think that -- I mean is
20 there any discussion? Sounds like that's a
21 good plan.

22 SPEAKER: This is a county appointee.

23 SPEAKER: It's a county appointee.

24 It's ultimately you know the 1 opening.

25 SPEAKER: Actually this needs to be 2

1 vacancies because this is a -- which he was
2 also the county cochair. So while this
3 position would come to the task force --

4 SPEAKER: She wasn't the chair for the
5 county, no, that's not the -- her chairs
6 always existed right now.

7 SPEAKER: Well, we've had the cochair
8 system off and on but it was nothing really
9 designated for the city and county.

10 SPEAKER: I wanted to ask a quick
11 question.

12 SPEAKER: And I don't think that's the

13 case. I mean, the other thing --

14 SPEAKER: Just to clarify something

15 here.

16 We're all county residents, every 1 of

17 us is a county resident. So you know

18 somehow there's this motion that has gone on

19 that a county representative is a suburban

20 and that's just not the case. We all pay

21 county taxes. We're all county residents.

22 SPEAKER: Do you all want to nominate a

23 new cochair anyway?

24 SPEAKER: Well, we've had periods of

25 having a cochair and not. So I mean I think

1 that that's a decision that we would make.

2 SPEAKER: I mean if you've had 1 in the

3 past wouldn't you keep it or eliminate it?

4 SPEAKER: Well I can't predict it's not

5 my decision I'm just sort of saying that we

6 haven't always had a co chair and.

7 SPEAKER: When you introduce yourself

8 though you mentioned that too.

9 SPEAKER: Well I'm in this curious

10 position here and my co chair is out a co

11 chair.

12 SPEAKER: And I think that would be a
13 good agenda item meet too so we could work
14 through that.

15 SPEAKER: All right. That we really
16 need a vote, but so you believe like a good
17 plan and --

18 SPEAKER: I do have a clarification on
19 it. Is it the pleasure of the task force
20 that we are our intention is to bring 1
21 candidate forward for -- to fill a vacancy
22 is there some different view of that from
23 the task force? Should we present a couple
24 members and vote on it or is the full task
25 force going to rely on that judgment?

1 SPEAKER: Well, I mean the truth is
2 that that's a good question. I don't know
3 if we could have --
4 SPEAKER: What have we done with the
5 report?
6 SPEAKER: You know I think the last
7 cycle we needed several nominations so that
8 the nominating committee brought forward to
9 at least not select between the 2 to improve
10 both of them. So I think typically a
11 nominations committee makes a recommendation

12 to their port and then I guess the board
13 task force has an opportunity to approve it
14 or reject it and you go back to the drawing
15 board so I would just say as a member of the
16 nominating committee, I would ask that we be
17 allowed to make the decision to bring the
18 recommendation.

19 SPEAKER: I mean, that sounds like a
20 decent plan to me. Okay any other questions
21 comments on this before we go to the next
22 agenda item? Okay. So the next thing that
23 we're going to discuss -- so this is the
24 last meeting in to 16 and we thought that it
25 would be a good time to spend I guess we

1 have almost a half an hour, on priorities
2 for next year. So 1 of the things the task
3 force is in the process of doing is
4 compiling a document of accomplishments from
5 this year issues that we worked on, things
6 that we made progress on, you know, things
7 that we can show up as an accomplishments
8 and that kind of spurred a question of well
9 what are -- what would be our focus next
10 year? And I think that the task force has
11 always been a mixture of kind of reactive

12 and proactive to some extent, you know,
13 we're ongoingly forced to be reactive to
14 certain things because you know everything
15 doesn't just stop and a lot of times
16 training are moving and we suddenly do have
17 that the train's left the station and we
18 need to make sure that we're either on board
19 or it's headed in the right direction but at
20 the same time there's certain things that
21 depend on us to kind of do the heavy lifting
22 without our efforts nobody would really be
23 doing much about it. So I think that what
24 I'd like to focus on now is, you know, what
25 priorities. We want to bring to next year

1 and I kind of see this as being a really
2 community wide discussion so I would like to
3 at least start with people around the table
4 that I want to invite everybody to kind of
5 chime in if you have thoughts. So -- and
6 you know, obviously this is roughly a kind
7 of discussion that you know, for the first
8 minute nobody can think of what to say and
9 the last minute there's 15 hands and -- so I
10 don't know if anybody at the table has any
11 immediate thoughts.

12 JOE: 1 of the accomplishments this
13 year was a decision to form 4 committees to
14 work on some specific issues that we
15 presented to the mayor and the county
16 executive last January. We certainly need
17 to continue those 4 thrusts 2 or 3 of those
18 committees have been a little more active in
19 those past 6 months and we need to get all 4
20 of the committees more active in 17, but
21 that was a good beginning that we can't let
22 slide.

23 SPEAKER: Which where you know do you
24 see as --

25 SPEAKER: Unfortunately the airport

1 committee but perhaps the airport committee,
2 the airport difficulties might be the most
3 complicated to address simply because of so
4 many governmental agencies being involved in
5 that entity.

6 SPEAKER: I will just say from my
7 perspective the relationship with the
8 airport has improved from the meeting that
9 we had the last time there. So in a sense
10 there's a really good domestic and then
11 there's an I know that Chris has partly

12 because travels.

13 SPEAKER: Yes, he travels a lot. He's

14 a good representative.

15 SPEAKER: Right, right. And I think

16 he's on going working on that issue with

17 them but -- and I do know that kind of

18 definite and hard of hearing issues that

19 fronted that concerns at the airport but

20 again okay I appreciate that.

21 JOE: And now that the involvement of a

22 task force member with complete streets at

23 the beginning we're getting on the train at

24 the beginning.

25 SPEAKER: Okay. And then.

1 SARA: I was going to bring up the 4
2 committees also if you could say what the 4
3 committees are for everyone to just remind
4 them. I know there's a police and safety
5 committee, an airport committee, and design
6 committee.

7 JOE: Not too busy 1 this fall you may
8 have to --

9 SPEAKER: What's the fourth 1?

10 SPEAKER: Transportation.

11 SPEAKER: It was the attempt to get

12 overnight transportation.

13 SPEAKER: Oh, for the people working

14 second shift? The graveyard shift.

15 SPEAKER: I think that 1 is we don't

16 have to think of the airport as that's the 1

17 that has the --

18 JOY: To piggyback on the 4 committee

19 type of thing 1 of the things you've done is

20 ADA is advocacy and it's something you

21 mentioned to me privately but a lot of

22 people in this room don't know that they're

23 trying to reform to county independently may

24 be continuing to work and advocacy and

25 collaboration with error types of agencies

1 might be a consideration or.

2 JOE: That's a good question.

3 SPEAKER: Well I think there's

4 discussion that's going to initiate it so.

5 MR. MERITZER: They're meeting every

6 Monday even at 6 o'clock at the in services

7 building Smithfield Street, 1 Smith Field

8 Street every Monday weather permitting;

9 there's a meeting tonight.

10 SPEAKER: Their process that developing

11 the 501 C 3 and now they're looking for

12 potential board members and folks to help
13 them in that process there's going to be a
14 satellite office in Monroeville initially.
15 It's really sponsored by -- that's kind of
16 where the process is because I attended the
17 last meeting at the human services building
18 which is on Smithfield Street. They're a
19 working progress. Right now they're using
20 the name and the greater Pittsburgh --

21 MR. MERITZER: Greater Pittsburgh of
22 independent living. But that's a working
23 name.

24 SPEAKER: Right. And once the
25 information is formed and the resource they

1 was is \$160,000 to begin this process. So
2 they formed the steering committee, and this
3 is what the steering committee's doing.
4 They're running things now but they intend
5 to hand it off to a 501 C 3. So if anyone's
6 interested --

7 SPEAKER: How long do those meetings
8 run?

9 SPEAKER: 2 hours, hour and a half.

10 SPEAKER: They wanted the input the
11 people with DLS, which is why I bring it up

12 because it's timely you know what I mean.

13 Like I said before, the train leaves the

14 station so people know about it.

15 SPEAKER: And on what floor?

16 SPEAKER: It's in the basement level

17 but there's an elevator that's accessible

18 through the of 1 Smith Field Street.

19 SPEAKER: Which conference room?

20 SPEAKER: They said it's in the

21 Homestead region.

22 SPEAKER: I'm sorry if this is a silly

23 question but what's the difference between

24 CIL and class?

25 SPEAKER: Well, the center for

1 independent living is a federally funded
2 entity that has -- there's a national
3 network of centers for independent living.
4 Class is a human services agency formally
5 united cerebral palsy of Pittsburgh and they
6 now go by the name community living support
7 services class. They're not technically a
8 center for independent living.

9 MR. MERITZER: Also if I may Paul also
10 the center for independent living is a
11 system. It's a safety net and there's a

12 start committee of center for independent
13 livings. And for example, I'm going in this
14 because my mother lived in Florida with my
15 father of course and when we lost her
16 hearing. I directed her to the CIL to get
17 assisted living equipment for where she
18 lived. So the nice thing about the CILs is
19 that they're everywhere. So that you can
20 from Pittsburgh direct a friend of yours
21 from Denver or in port hand to their CIL and
22 they'll get the service.

23 SPEAKER: Oh I see.

24 SPEAKER: Is there an advocacy for
25 people with disabilities too? I know Milton

1 is not here but he was always here

2 advocating for people with disability

3 rights. Also they have things like access

4 to him probably what he said.

5 SPEAKER: Now 1 of the things that I

6 would say just this is my personal opinion I

7 think that historically the centers for

8 independent living talk about being crossed

9 disability and really tended mostly to be

10 physical disability and I think that that's

11 more by default than design and that it's

12 important I feel that with the formation of
13 a new center for independent living that we
14 really make sure that it's across disability
15 that it serves not just with physical
16 disabilities but people with sensory
17 disabilities, et cetera, and it would be
18 truly crossed disability as it sort of
19 strives to be but -- and that's why I think
20 it's important that people from all those
21 different disability communities be involved
22 in this formation process because I think
23 that will ensure that it really truly is
24 cross disability.

25 SPEAKER: So then a question I have who

1 is responsible then for -- who could I
2 contact to set up the interpreters if I
3 decided to attend those meetings? Who is
4 the person that I would be able to get ahold
5 of?

6 SPEAKER: Tripo is running the
7 meetings.

8 SPEAKER: You can let me know later.

9 SPEAKER: He can e-mail me.

10 SPEAKER: 1 priority I'd like to go
11 down the table you know in our last meeting

12 with the mayor and the chief executor, I
13 think it was on an important meeting for a
14 lot of reasons 1 of which is that
15 historically we haven't always been the
16 reasonable with respect to the mayor and the
17 chief with respect to policy issues. In a
18 similar vain, I think that we haven't been
19 very visible with council and particularly
20 I'm talking about city council for the
21 purpose of issues represented to sidewalks.
22 And I know that about 2 years ago there was
23 a discussion in Pittsburgh city council with
24 respect to the increasing proliferation of
25 sandwich boards and other kind of

1 advertising that was taking upside walk
2 space and looking at a city ordinance that
3 controlled the use of sandwich boards and
4 other things on sidewalks. And I think that
5 represented to that are the whole issue of
6 these PennDot detour signs. I think
7 represented to that is the issue of the
8 PennDot design of curb cuts which apparently
9 may be a violation of the ADA. That have
10 these gratuitous curbs in the middle of the
11 corner that nobody can see or knows and is a

12 huge tripping hazard but I think that
13 there's a whole range you know everything
14 from you know switch boxes blocking the --
15 you know the path of travel, et cetera, et
16 cetera. So I think that it would be a good
17 issue for us to work on. It would also give
18 us reason to reach under the to and
19 collaborate more with city council which we
20 haven't really done much of so I'd have to
21 suggest that for next year.

22 SPEAKER: Is that like a big meeting

23 with city council?

24 SPEAKER: Right.

25 SPEAKER: That would be great.

1 SPEAKER: Well, I mean you mean

2 PennDot?

3 SPEAKER: We could certainly write

4 public works but they're not really

5 responsible for some of those offenses. I

6 don't know if public works is responsible

7 for --

8 SPEAKER: That's a very interesting

9 discussion.

10 MR. MERITZER: The director of public

11 works insists that there is an ordinance on

12 it, which I question and when I've asked him

13 to send me the information, I never got it.

14 At this point sandwich boards are

15 technically super legal kind of legal not

16 really legal. There's no allowance for us

17 nor the restriction for it. The position

18 city plan's taking is that they're

19 advertising they're illegal because we don't

20 allow advertise advertising in the sidewalks

21 public works has not taken the position yet.

22 So it needs to be clarified on some level

23 above public works and city planning.

24 SPEAKER: And related to the other

25 related issue I forgot to mention is

1 sidewalk dining. So I think that there's a

2 larger discussion.

3 MR. MERITZER: That's an enforcement

4 issue. The ordinance is fairly good --

5 SPEAKER: It's a design issue as well

6 because I would say that what you see is

7 that if you look at a sidewalk, there's the

8 path of travel and then there's the part of

9 the sidewalk that's occupied by tell phone

10 poles you know fire hydrants, things like

11 that, and their half of the sidewalk is the

12 clear path of travel would have and half of
13 the sidewalk left to the pedestrians is the
14 1 with all the obstruction. I think it was
15 something like grossly wrong where that and
16 not only is it like unfair but I think that
17 it's a design mismatch because a lot of
18 those things in fact provide natural
19 obstacles to pedestrians -- I mean, they're
20 not going to walk into a telephone pole. So
21 there's like a seating area guarded by a
22 telephone pole on 1 end and a fire hydrant
23 on the other than people aren't going to
24 walk into the table. On the other hand you
25 know I think that there's a whole range of

1 design issues that we really should look at,

2 but I think that it is an enforcement issue

3 and I think it's something else, too. Rich.

4 SPEAKER: I have a question. I was

5 cited before and I'm aware of where

6 somethings are on Forbes and fifth I do know

7 where some things are but now that I'm like

8 -- and I'm just wondering do they still have

9 that metal -- a grate that would open you

10 know whenever businesses have their outside

11 access to the basement so they can deliver

12 their flowers and stuff like that? Do they
13 still have that where they would open the
14 metal grades to the basement? Okay, because
15 that may need to be blocked as well. That's
16 also a consideration for deliveries.

17 SPEAKER: You know, I have seen --
18 there's a restaurant on South Braddock
19 avenue you know where this classes we were
20 talking about and they do have their tables
21 against the curb and so the path of travel
22 is still through the middle of the sidewalk
23 there and -- because it's kind of
24 interesting sometimes some tables will be up
25 against the store and the restaurant or are

1 actually at the curb but the parameter there

2 it's a large sidewalk but I'd like to see

3 thought going more towards putting the

4 tables throwing tables to the curb actually

5 too. Rich.

6 MR. MERITZER: Karen.

7 SPEAKER: Jonathan Robison. I'm

8 terribly sorry I'm late especially with the

9 complete streets discussion and but I live

10 now within the towers but the clear path

11 issue on the sidewalks I'm not sure what the

12 ordinance is or if there is 1 and who's

13 right but I may be wrong. I'm not sure we

14 really know what we want in the area of

15 sidewalks with respect to sidewalk dining

16 other sidewalk furniture. Sides in the

17 sidewalk other things I'm not sure if

18 somebody told you if the mayor told you

19 tomorrow morning I want you to write an

20 ordinance. I'm not sure we would know what

21 we -- I hate to say this, but I think we may

22 need committee to look at the design

23 problems of all the things that are in the

24 sidewalks and all the people who use it

25 including me. People in wheelchairs, people

1 in walkers, people with visual disabilities.

2 And everything else. And come up with what

3 the alternatives are and what we really want

4 for an ordinance when we fine 1. I think

5 that's not going to be a quick and easy

6 process. It's a complex issue.

7 SPEAKER: Joy.

8 JOY: Bob used to be my supervisor at

9 Harvest years ago but gentleman for public

10 transportation sidewalk accesses has been

11 recruiting professionally for many, many

12 decades, he's a really viable resource and
13 there's a proliferation that in front of us
14 are career center. And the work that wheel
15 chairpersons can't this is a lower down and
16 like a maintenance thing -- homes anymore.

17 (Inaudible)

18 SPEAKER: Any other thoughts about
19 priorities for next year?

20 SPEAKER: You know when we were talking
21 earlier about the bike lanes and the BRT
22 lane I know we have a committee for
23 successful transportation in Pittsburgh and
24 their connection is -- well the Richard too
25 but their connection is with port authority

1 but I don't think there would be an
2 additional could have been your form for
3 tracking that progress or that changes along
4 that too. I know for a fact that the tracks
5 it. Would be a reason for us not to track
6 that also the BRT and bike lanes and how
7 it's going to particularly affect the Forbes
8 and the fifth avenue in the quarter of the
9 town. I think the input from people that
10 attend this meeting you know audience wise
11 and task force wise could help that also.

12 SPEAKER: Yeah, I was going to say I
13 know so like a lot of streets that have like
14 broken cracks and little nicks out of it and
15 also along with the sidewalks and plus also
16 with the grades that are on some streets
17 they have little things out from underneath
18 them and someone could actually trip on them
19 or get stuck on them as well. I mean I know
20 that the sidewalks are part of the property
21 of whoever owns the spot where it's at but
22 still I think maybe you know it should be
23 looked at because some of those areas can
24 cause a danger to just anybody it doesn't
25 matter. Disability or not. It could with

1 be a danger to anybody.

2 SPEAKER: Richard.

3 MR. MERITZER: Just here recently on

4 Facebook they were talking about how the

5 blind user along with lift and that's been

6 very common for blind people to take

7 advantage of it and use it. I just saw a

8 discussion about transportation and maybe we

9 should add Uber along with that as a

10 resource for disability here and how we

11 could evaluate Uber and lift and we could

12 utilize them to help disability.

13 SPEAKER: We have a lot of resources

14 and Karen heard about some of them through

15 the pie owes committee Richard

16 transportation but land corporation and ACMU

17 use a lot of places in Pittsburgh to self

18 that may be a little bit more Uber than

19 picking yellow tab. I think accessibility

20 of all these repairs in general are so

21 appeal in wheel chairpersons maybe something

22 to look at especially since work we've

23 supposed to be help people with disabilities

24 but they don't so you can whole project to

25 save and --

1 SPEAKER: Any other thoughts about
2 priorities for next year? We'll just make
3 initiating our conversation with January a
4 lot of people think of something Richard.

5 MR. MERITZER: Can I just quickly go
6 through the list to make sure we didn't miss
7 anything?

8 SPEAKER: Sure.

9 MR. MERITZER: Continue all the
10 committee work complete streets advocacy
11 with the very city council and sidewalk

12 issues BRT and bike lanes street maintenance

13 and grades Uber and lift is that everything?

14 SPEAKER: Everything I have mentioned

15 so far. Thank you.

16 SPEAKER: All right. What we have left

17 on the agenda then is a little bit over

18 10 minutes left for vox pop so this is the

19 opportunity for anybody in the audience that

20 has an issue that they would like to bring

21 to the bring up to the task force maybe it

22 is a more lenient issue than a priority for

23 this year and you didn't think it was

24 appropriate to discuss in this last

25 conversation but if there's anything that

1 the audience would like to bring forth, this

2 is your opportunity.

3 SPEAKER; Jonathan Robson. I'm not sure

4 this is the place for it yes it happen

5 walnut plaza shopping center right near me

6 has no decent -- has no handicapped

7 accessibility to get from the sidewalk

8 there. I've fallen to lhop and the shopping

9 center go up the sidewalk and then take the

10 sidewalk and the sidewalk ends and you have

11 to drive on offer ramp and is sidewalk for a

12 few hundred feet.

13 SPEAKER: You mean the thing that's on

14 Brownsville road?

15 SPEAKER: Yeah.

16 SPEAKER: Going up the hill James

17 right.

18 SPEAKER: There's some functions that

19 have fun --

20 SPEAKER: There's no safe way to get

21 from the or I haven't found it, to get from

22 view towers where I live and from the

23 sidewalk to the shopping center. It will

24 have been so easy the shopping center goes

25 right up against the sidewalk there's no

1 elevation distance but there's a berm I
2 think that simply separates the shopping
3 center apartment from the sidewalk. You
4 can't get from 1 to the other without going
5 around the long way and using an off ramp.

6 SPEAKER: I know where he's talking
7 about but I know where he's talking about.

8 MR. MERITZER: I know he's talking
9 about -- technically that's private
10 property. So...

11 SPEAKER: Even the sign?

12 SPEAKER: I know we're talking about

13 green field Squirrel Hill.

14 MR. MERITZER: I can take another look

15 at it.

16 SPEAKER: It's from the highland

17 bridge, high land bridge.

18 SPEAKER: Is Somerset on some of that?

19 MR. MERITZER: I don't know who owns

20 what I'll have to check that. But even you

21 know even if it's sidewalk area the city

22 doesn't install sidewalks so you know the

23 question S what role could the city play?

24 SPEAKER: The city installs curb cuts.

25 MR. MERITZER: You don't install curb

1 --

2 SPEAKER: I remember trying to get to

3 -- and it was really as I remember kind of

4 funky. I had a way out of my way to --

5 yeah.

6 SPEAKER: Yeah, it's all from the good

7 will it's bad and the curbs going through

8 that area through the snow traffic so while

9 you're trying.

10 MR. MERITZER: We'll take another look

11 at it.

12 SPEAKER: All right. Anything else?

13 Rich. There's some places -- some stores

14 and restaurants that will have steps going

15 to the downstairs and that's not accessible

16 either looking at that.

17 SPEAKER: All right any other issues

18 that people want to bring up? If not, shall

19 I call for a motion to adjourn and I wish

20 everybody a happy holidays and happy new

21 year and get that shopping done and all

22 right so all in favor of adjourn say ayes.

23 (Chorus of ayes.)

24 SPEAKER: Thanks all.

25 (Meeting concluded.)