



Complete Streets Implementation Team Implementation Phase: Meeting #5

May 6, 2020





Agenda

- Introduction
- Review and approval of April meeting minutes
- Community Engagement Plan
 - Review of first rough draft
 - Discussion
- Sidewalk policy
- Next steps





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN



Community Engagement Plan (CEP)

Draft outline

- How to use this document
- Background/introduction
- Why is engagement important? (Values)
 - Vision, guiding principles, goals, objectives, performance measures
- How do we engage the community? (Process)
 - Defining community, communicating with the community, collecting public feedback
- What are we deciding? (Decisions)
 - Capital projects and developer projects
- Citizens Guide to Community Engagement





Community Engagement Plan (CEP)

**Why is engagement important?
(Values)**



CEP Vision

- Complete Streets Policy Vision:

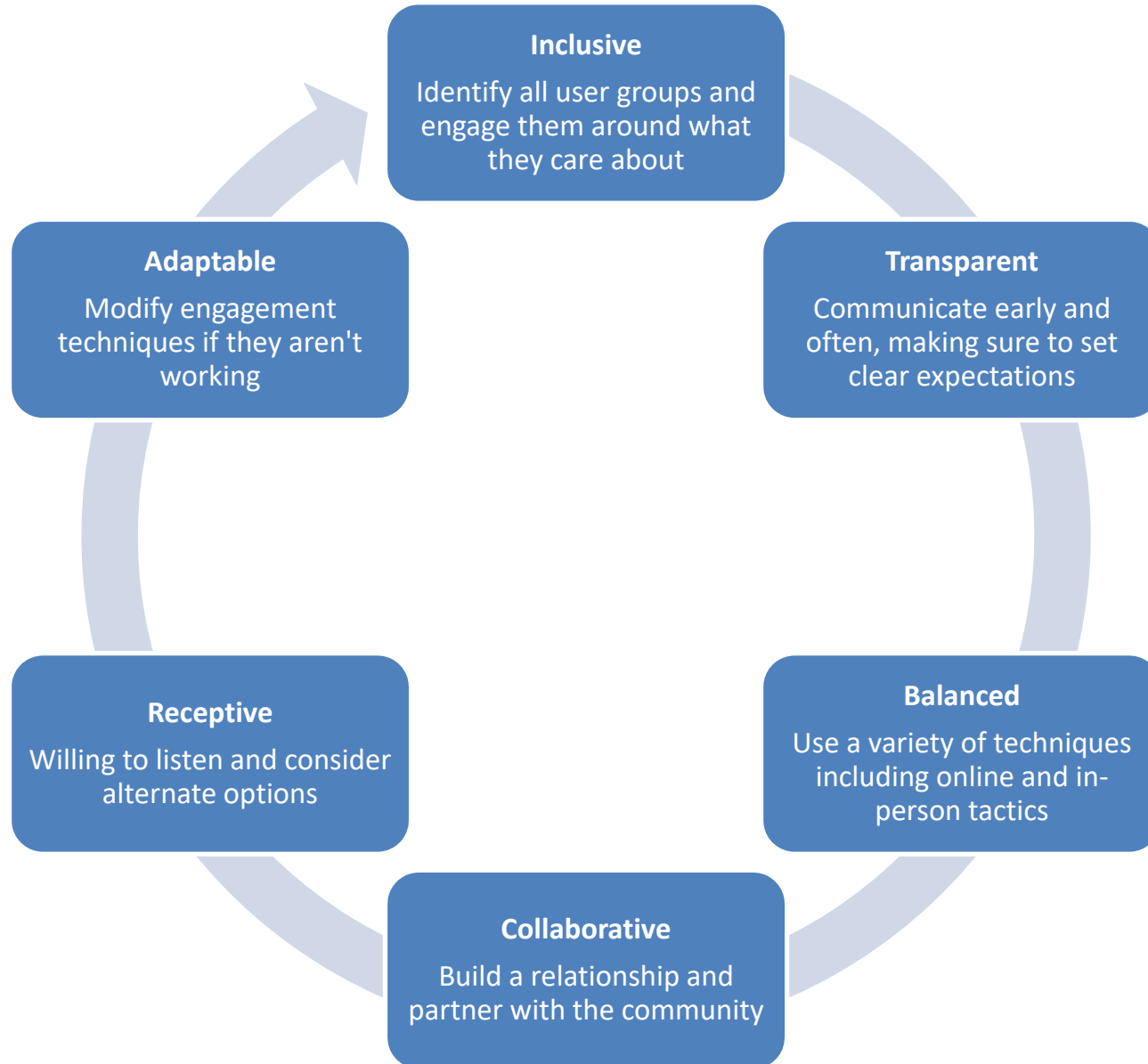
“To ensure that Howard County is a place for individuals of all backgrounds to live and travel freely, safely, and comfortably, public and private roadways in Howard County shall be safe and convenient for residents of all ages and abilities who travel by foot, bicycle, public transportation or automobile, ensuring sustainable communities Countywide.”

- Do you agree with this Community Engagement Plan Vision?

Robust community engagement during the planning and design phases of transportation projects is essential to the successful implementation of the Complete Streets policy in Howard County.



CEP Guiding Principles





CEP Goals, Objectives, & Performance Measures

Goals (desired results)	Objectives (measurable strategies, achievable and specific)	Performance Measures (mark progress toward objectives)
Build awareness in the affected communities (communications)		
Provide equitable access by ensuring multiple options for providing feedback	Objectives and Performance Measures will be determined once goals are finalized by the CSIT	
Create opportunities for meaningful interaction and collaboration (events)		
Develop strong community partnerships		
Improve the quality of the project outcomes		
Others?		



Community Engagement Plan (CEP)

**How do we engage the community?
(Process)**





CEP Process

- Defining community
- Communicating with the community
 - Method of communication
 - Communication format
- Collecting public feedback
 - Events
 - Tools



CEP Process Next Steps

- Create clear engagement steps for the County and citizens to follow during project development
- Add information about tailoring community engagement for historically disenfranchised populations
 - Use the VPI to develop baseline information about community
 - Identify a diverse group of community leaders
 - Partner with community based organizations
 - Develop outreach strategies in partnership with community
- Are we missing anything else?





Community Engagement Plan (CEP)

**What are we deciding?
(Decision/program)**



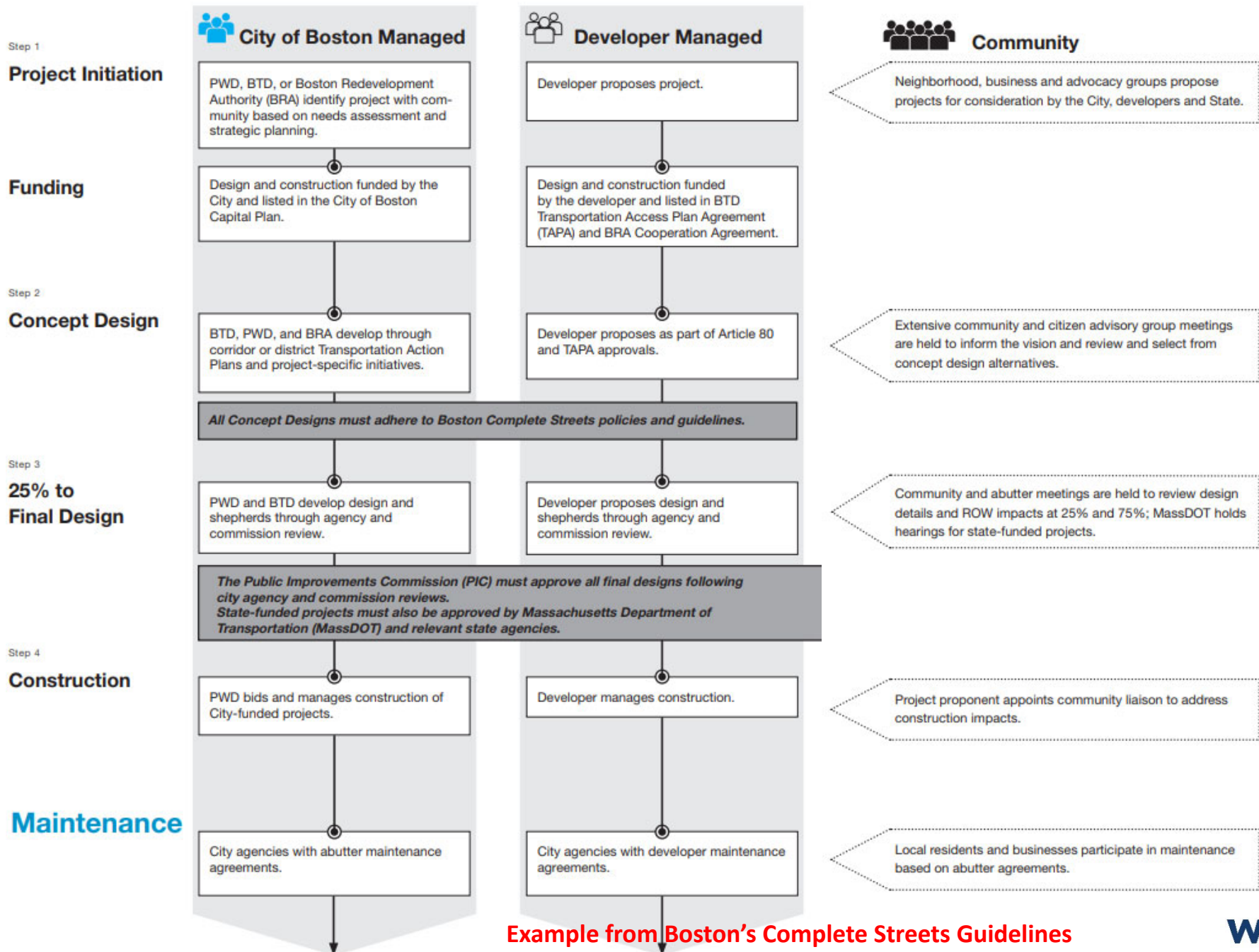
How specific should we be?

- The “What are we deciding?” section will
 - Identify opportunities for public engagement at each stage of the project development process
 - Clarify role of engagement during each step
 - Establish how existing outreach methods can be supplemented with best community engagement practices
 - Establish new methods where necessary
 - Identify which strategies could be used when
- However, engagement strategies may
 - Differ depending upon project size and scope
 - Differ between capital projects and developer projects
 - Be tailored to the community where the project is located
 - Evolve with nationwide best practice



Project Development and Review Process

Public Involvement





SIDEWALK POLICY





Sidewalk policy



Sidewalk policy

UPDATING HOWARD COUNTY POLICY FOR NEW SIDEWALK ON PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Issue: The current administrative policy is in conflict with the County Council adopted Complete Streets Policy and Pedestrian Master Plan and hinders the delivery of sidewalk projects.

1. Review the key policy details and identify issues with policy language and/or application
2. Review results from survey of adjacent counties
3. Discuss and brainstorm remedies



Sidewalk policy

Topic	Key Policy Detail	Key Issues with Policy/Application
Section 2- Policy Applicability Details where the policy should be applied	This section states: <i>This policy is applicable only to new sidewalks on existing County maintained roads in established residential neighborhoods .</i> <i>This policy is not applicable to the construction of new sidewalks when those sidewalks are included with other capital projects (i.e., road, park or building construction projects).</i>	The policy seems to be applied broadly to most proposed sidewalks, including those on collectors and arterials, sidewalks for school walk zones and developer projects. This is contrary to both the policy language and intent of the taskforce. In the topics of discussions in the report, the task force clearly stated “<i>It is anticipated that not all proposed sidewalk projects will fall within the scope of this Policy. Those projects will continue to go through the Capital Project process.</i>” PROPOSED NEXT STEP: Revise Policy and Practice to ensure compliance with Complete Streets Resolution.



Sidewalk policy

Topic	Key Policy Detail	Key Issues with Policy/Application
Section 3- Sidewalk Criteria	This section details the intensity of land use and road types matched to the need to provide a sidewalk in addition to specifying the criteria and requirements to move a sidewalk request to design and construction.	This section is superseded by the Design Manual Volume 3, which includes specific design guidance on sidewalk design based on the roadway classification. The Pedestrian Master Plans have prioritized projects. PROPOSED NEXT STEP: Update policy to reflect existence of Design Manual Vol 3 and Pedestrian Master Plan



Sidewalk policy

Topic	Key Policy Detail	Key Issues with Policy/Application
Section 4- Notification/ Approval Process Details the notification and approval process for sidewalks	The policy guides how the needs and interests of the homeowners abutting the proposed sidewalk must be weighed against the enhanced safety benefit of pedestrians in a neighborhood sidewalk project". Approval of 2/3 of abutting property owners is required, but no other community members are polled. This method only polls the residents that are more likely to be opposed to new sidewalk (the adjacent property owner) and provides no vote for the local residents that are more likely to support and use the new sidewalk.	This method is outdated and is superseded by adopted Complete Streets Policy, which states that safety is the highest priority on our streets, particularly safety for the most vulnerable street users (pedestrians, bicyclists, children, seniors, and people with additional accessibility needs). Neighboring jurisdictions do not provide adjacent property owners the right to refuse a sidewalk on public property. PROPOSED NEXT STEPS: Review survey of nearby county practices, develop new scope and property owner input process and communicate changes to public.



Sidewalk policy

Topic	Key Policy Detail	Key Issues with Policy/Application
Section 5-Prioritization	Details how sidewalk projects are prioritized by ranking projects based on four priorities, including direction to construct sidewalks that would serve the most people first.	This section is superseded by the Pedestrian Master Plan, which has developed connections based on a range of criteria to score connections, including equity.

Sidewalk policy

Topic	Key Policy Detail	Key Issues with Policy/Application
Section 6- Sidewalk Details	This section details the design specifications for sidewalks.	This section is superseded by the Design Manual Volume 3 and AASHTO and is duplicative.

Sidewalk policy

Topic	Key Policy Detail	Key Issues with Policy/Application
Section 7- Abutting Property Owner Responsibility	Details the maintenance obligations of adjacent property owners.	No key issues, descriptive statement.

Sidewalk policy

SURVEY OF COUNTIES IN BALTIMORE REGION ON SIDEWALK APPROVAL AND MAINTENANCE

Question 1	Who maintains the sidewalks in your jurisdiction?
Question 2	When adding new sidewalks in the public right of way (no private property impacts) through a CAPITAL PROJECT, what is your jurisdiction's policy for approval or communication with the property owners adjacent to the new sidewalk?
Question 3	When adding new sidewalks in the public right of way (no private property impacts) through a DEVELOPMENT PROJECT what is your jurisdiction's policy for approval or communication with the property owners adjacent to the new sidewalk?



Sidewalk policy

Question 1: Who maintains the sidewalks in your jurisdiction?

Howard County	Adjacent property owner
Harford County	County/City The Director of Public Works shall give 15 days notice to surrounding property owners before any changes are made
Baltimore County	Adjacent property owner. County/City, State if it's in their ROW
Anne Arundel	Adjacent property owner County/City



Sidewalk policy

Question 2: When adding new sidewalks in the public right of way (no private property impacts) through a CAPITAL PROJECT, what is your jurisdiction's policy for approval or communication with the property owners adjacent to the new sidewalk?

Howard County	Request approval from the adjacent property owner and provide them with the right to block the project. 2/3 majority approval required.
Harford County	When the sidewalk is going in the public right of way and there is no private property impact we really do not engage the adjacent property owners. However, with community input meetings we do communicate with the adjacent property owners and inform them of the new sidewalk. We do not involve them in the design process and We do not give them the information they need to block the project.
Baltimore County	Communicate with the adjacent property owner to inform them of the new sidewalk
Anne Arundel County	Communicate with the adjacent property owner to inform them of the new sidewalk



Sidewalk policy

Question 3: When adding new sidewalks in the public right of way (no private property impacts) through a DEVELOPMENT PROJECT what is your jurisdiction's policy for approval or communication with the property owners adjacent to the new sidewalk?

Howard County	Request approval from the adjacent property owner and provide them with the right to block the project. 2/3 majority approval required
Harford County	Communicate with the adjacent property owner to inform them of the new sidewalk
Baltimore County	Communicate with the adjacent property owner to inform them of the new sidewalk
Anne Arundel County	Communicate with the adjacent property owner to inform them of the new sidewalk





NEXT STEPS





Next steps

- Next meeting
 - Wednesday, June 3, 3:00 pm
- Action items from this meeting

