

RETHINK FOLLY ROAD

A COMPLETE STREETS STUDY

Steering Committee Meeting
James Island Town Hall
1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC

MINUTES
July 24, 2019
3:30PM – 4:30PM

I. Public Comment

One public comment by William Miles. Request for more trees at intersections and more design requirements for new businesses (e.g., signage and landscaping).

II. RFR Process Update

Toole Design staff have gone through the ReThink Folly Road Plan and implementation matrix. They emphasized the richness of the plan and clarity of its vision. Currently the team is working to break down the matrix into larger categories to aid prioritization. Toole Design utilized polling questions throughout the meeting to generate conversation/discussion.

Question #1: From the entire RFR process, of which accomplishment are you most proud?

Discussion: Steering Committee members discussed the importance of public engagement of the whole island and that the success of the COG grant resulted from coordination among all municipalities.

Question #2: From the entire RFR process, where do you see room for improvement?

Discussion: Steering Committee members discussed the need to re-engage the public. Some brought up previous discussions about having a Saturday workshop for this purpose. Others talked about changing the timing of the Steering Committee meetings to allow for more public participation.

III. Steering Committee's Role

Toole Design staff emphasized that the Steering Committee's limited time together should be valuable.

Question #3: The RFR Steering Committee Meetings should...

Discussion: One Steering Committee member stated that they assumed there would be sub-committees who would be assigned specific tasks and that the group would need to decide if this is something they wanted to do. Toole Design staff suggested that the group could establish ad-hoc sub-committees for specific tasks that need to be completed rather than having standing sub-committees. Public engagement was another discussion item, with some suggesting hosting extra meetings or forums that are more focused on the community providing feedback. Another said the design review process could be an avenue for public engagement for new businesses along the corridor. Discussion also included whether to add standing updates back into the agenda.

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Question #4: How are you best positioned to advance the RFR process?

Discussion: Steering Committee members have a great diversity in their interests and skills; they should be capable of accomplishing a variety of things.

IV. Outline Expectations

Toole Design staff provided an overview of resources available to the Steering Committee, beyond what is detailed in the scope of work, including: public engagement, educational activities, social media and marketing, detailed cost estimates and funding sources, conceptual design, design review, demonstration projects, and preliminary engineering.

Question #5: How can Toole Design best support the RFR process?

Discussion: Steering Committee members expressed a desire to utilize a wide variety of Toole Design's available services.

V. Priority Mapping

Toole Design staff stated that even with the implementation matrix broken down into categories, there are still a lot of projects. In order to prioritize the list, they needed the Steering Committee's perspective on what is most important.

Question #6: In your opinion, what should be the highest priorities of the RFR process?

Question #7: In your opinion, what should be the highest SINGLE priority of the RFR process?

Discussion: The importance of getting quality, safe, and connected projects on the ground rather than just implementing projects for the sake of getting something on the ground was emphasized. Steering Committee members also expressed an interest in demonstration projects. One commented on the importance of having people with on-the-ground knowledge and direct experience using active transportation at the table when decisions are being made.

VI. Adjournment/Other Questions

The next Steering Committee meeting will be September 25, 2019. The meeting's agenda will include discussion of timing of the Steering Committee meetings and whether the meetings should be monthly or bi-monthly. Mayor Woolsey stated that he sees the group's purpose as being strategic and having special meetings for public input when needed, adding that public comment will continue to be an opportunity at all meetings. He closed by asking the group if they have any further questions.

- One Steering Committee member re-stated the importance of re-energizing the ReThink Folly Road vision and that a volunteer committee should be considered. Mayor Woolsey said they would place discussion of this item on the next agenda.
- Another member requested that calendar invites are sent further in advance. Toole Design staff stated they will send out a recurring meeting invite once a regular meeting schedule has been established; a meeting invite for the September meeting will be sent out separately.
- Steering Committee members questioned how Toole Design and municipal staff get organized before the Steering Committee meetings. Toole Design staff responded that regular

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communication is ongoing through calls and emails and that a meeting with staff occurred before the Steering Committee meeting; all jurisdictions' staff were invited.

- Another member asked about how the consultants doing the sidewalk project (e.g., Revere) and Toole Design are working together. The Mayor said the Sidewalk Plan is in the hands of the Charleston County Transportation Department and that they could have Toole Design staff look at it and provide their input, if desired.
- The progress of the sidewalk project was discussed. Town of James Island staff said that Revere is moving forward and finalizing plans; major milestone updates can be requested.
- The recent pedestrian fatality was also a discussion item. One Steering Committee member asked that Senator Senn be invited to the next meeting to discuss the intersection.
- A steering committee member suggested that the next segment of focus include the portion of Folly Road near Battery Island Drive due a recent pedestrian fatality in the area. There was not a vote taken on this suggestion.

Meeting Adjourned.