

**Hamilton County Climate Initiative
Transportation
December 19, 2008
Anderson Center**

Meeting Notes—Answers to:

• **Group #1:**

What do you think about the information presented by our speakers?

- Great!
- Too much mass transit!
- Too little mass transit

What do you think about the information presented by the graduate student research? What did we miss?

- Media strategy section needed
- Smart Crosswalks—light-up by pedestrians
- Health benefits of smart growth

What are the barriers in your communities to implementing these ideas?

- Jurisdictional competition
- Zoning/Planning
 - Variances too easy
 - State regulations for townships encourage 5-Acre lots
- People's resistance to sidewalks and bikepaths
- Existing infrastructure=suburbia---low density

• **Group #2:**

What do you think about the information presented by our speakers?

- Depressing to contemplate
- Loss of Ohio industry (China)
- Could have spent more time on Ohio's opportunities
- Barriers to Bike/Pedestrian
 - \$
 - Perceptions of Safety/security
 - Easement holdouts
 - Land use patterns-destinations far apart

What do you think about the information presented by the graduate student research? What did we miss? What are the barriers to implementation?

- Streets are not safe for bicycling
- Living too far from work
- Street Car may be feasible-Gives "Investment Security"
- Funding—Who pays?!

- Gas prices – catalyst for transportation change
- ODOT Culture of highway building
- Change may need to be forced upon us (Oil prices, \$, etc.)
- Bigger than any one community-need to create a complex regional approach – “Commuter Sheds”
 - Who needs to move, where do they need to go, how to get them there

- **Group #3:**

What do you think about the information presented by the graduate student research? What did we miss?

- Have businesses do more to promote bus ridership and carpooling
- Driving must not be affordable if mass transit is to work
- Need to simplify lives
- Have more businesses that deliver-i.e. milk, dry cleaners
- Need to have shopping and bus/transit close together—prevent unnecessary trips
- Education! Don’t need to drive everywhere
- Tax parking lots the same as an improved building

What are the barriers to implementation?

- Building community consensus around very expensive solutions
 - Rail, transit, etc.
 - Need to spend large amount of \$ to shift back to rail—similar to \$ spent when we shifted to the automobile use in the past
- Hard to link/retrofit existing infrastructure-existing development patterns
- Where to park alternative vehicles-City of Cincinnati NEW “Free Electric Vehicle Parking Ordinance”
- Urban Ride Share Program-perhaps do by community

- **Group #4:**

What do you think about the information presented by the graduate student research? What did we miss?

- Safety ---“Secured Camera” for transit riders
- Easy access to – post office, etc.
- Park and Ride
- Density/zoning—need adequate density for light rail/mass transit-“Form Based Code”
- Education –“Building a sense of Community”
- Funding for new system “gas tax to stabilize gas prices—if gas prices go above a certain level, the tax goes away”
- Improve the traffic control—timing on traffic lights during peak hours/non-peak periods
- Zip Cars—are strategically placed for use in the city etc.—when needed

- Transfer the money from lighting highways to new initiatives—i.e. electric cars
- Implement roundabouts/traffic control crossings

What are the barriers to implementation?

- No electric charge areas for electric cars
- No rapid transit
- Changing bus routes—affects convenience
- Inadequate parking rights
- Zoning Code—density/mixed-use
- Local Government Help
 - Promote education –i.e. “idle free”, turn off your car at long stops
 - Government must lead by example
 - Free parking-electric cars

● **Group #5:**

What do you think about the information presented by the graduate student research? What did we miss?

- Income/revenue
- Relationship between federal, state, local funding
 - Gas tax
 - Grants
- Technology/information
 - New forms of trans/energy tech.
- What changes can be made to communities already set up for mass transit to implement new ideas
- Communications between municipalities and townships
- Vision

● **Group #6:**

What do you think about the information presented by our speakers?

- Comparison on gas tax vs. ODOT funding—impact on road maintenance
- Ratios of tax sources (i=Par) Financial reason for communities to care about local shopping. Would like it to be more granular.
- Big boxes have destroyed communities & ability/desire to walk

What did we miss?

- How do we get kids to walk to school?!
 - Education starts with the kids (PE, Safe Routes to School)
 - Good relationships with school districts
 - Citations four unsafe drop-off behaviors
 - Mayor walks with the kids
- Need more people on bikes
 - Have to drive to Little Miami Bike Trail

- No bike lanes
- No education of drivers on how to watch out for biker
- Police presence on the Bike Trail
- Carpooling—Anyone had any success? Not really!!
- How to we get people to walk??
- WEB site is labor intensive (time consuming) Almost too much
- What happens after these meetings? Don't want it to just die! Little action after COMPASS.
- Other ideas----Fresh Farmers Market

What are the barriers to implementation?

- Distance
- Boxes put local vendors out of business
- Zoning because it segregates residential/work/shopping
- Culture & Attitudes
- Time people have to spend---Always looking for quick, maximum efficiency

What do we need to do differently?

- Aging baby boomers can walk for health
- Education
- Communication---over & over, come at it from different angles--- health, money, environment
- Communities need to work together—i.e. bike trails/bike lanes
- Make driving more difficult—slow it down in city centers (or add potholes)
- Free bikes (painted chartreuse)
- Wide sidewalks and bike trails—make it look friendly, attractive. Combine with narrow roads.

• **Group #7:**

What do you think about the information presented by our speakers?

- Model Ordinances
- Sidewalks that connect to destination points (businesses, schools, parks, etc.)
- Walk Score
- Statistics
- “Fix First” Also in Anderson Township (fixing old sidewalks)
- 40% comes from sales if you buy local the resources stay inside your community or consider revenue sharing

What do you think about the information presented by the graduate student research? What did we miss?

- Use existing assets
 - Rail Lines
 - Mill Creek Corridor

- Multi-use corridors
- Use of rail lines already owned by SORTA
- Use multi-hybrid technology in mass transit
- Opportunity along Mill Creek that could connect to downtown in a usable bike trail
- Rails to Trails perceived only as a leisure thing, it should seriously be considered/promoted as a legitimate transportation option
- Multi-jurisdiction collaboration that is seamless is very important to make a system possible
- Non-motorized forms of transportation as legit modes of transportation (not just recreation)
- More green alternatives to buy fleets (municipal and businesses that are \$ competitive)
- Mass transit (regional context to be able to afford)
- Behavior/attitude change
- Incentives are O.K., but sometimes “stick” is necessary