



Together North Jersey 2.0
Livable Task Force Meeting – June 19, 2018
Meeting Notes



Update of Activities

- The Together North Jersey (TNJ) website has updates on past meetings.
- The following workshops/trainings were well-attended – Creative Placemaking, Road Diet, and Healthy Communities.
- Upcoming trainings – Pedestrian Safety in July, Green Infrastructure in September.

Greenway Guidebook

- NV5 is working on the project with generous funding from NJDOT.
- The Scope of Work will be approved by NJDOT in the next few weeks.
- The project will produce a guidebook to assist communities, counties, agencies, and other organizations with bridging the gap between ideas, design, and implementation. It will focus on the process by sharing success stories and challenges.
- NV5 distributed a draft of the guidebook, which is broken into four chapters:
Chapter 1 Summary – Goal of the guidebook, what is a greenway, who is involved, etc.
Chapter 2 Strategies for Success
Chapter 3 Elements of a Greenway Planning Process
Chapter 4 Case Studies – such as the Middlesex Greenway, Traction Line trail, Columbia Trail and Patriots Path, and Henry Hudson Trail.
- Other trails suggested for case studies include Camden Circuit Trail, Empire Trail, Morris Canal Greenway, Lawrence Hopewell Trail, Delaware and Raritan Canal.
- Phase one of the project will likely consist of completing Chapter 4 and performing outreach, and is anticipated to take one year to complete.
- Chapter 4 Case Studies should include failures and challenges, in addition to success stories.
- The guidebook should address ADA accessibility in trail design and access. For example, when to use paved surfaces. Please send any additional case study trail suggestions, as well as any comments on the draft guidebook, to Sutapa B. (sband@njtpa.org) by July 31, 2018.

Community Food Security Assessment – Access to Healthy and fresh Food

- A draft scope of work was passed out to the committee for feedback and comments.

- Attendees suggested these resources:
 - Rutgers Cooperative Extension
 - Trenton Food Master Plan
 - A New England Food Vision
 - Vermont Co-op (local sourcing of fresh food)
 - NJ Fresh
 - Work by The Food Trust in Philadelphia, Camden, and Trenton
 - United Way ALICE report
 - Food incubator projects in Newark and Paterson
 - City Green in Passaic County
 - Forward Franklin in Sussex County
 - Food preparation education offered by the Newark Conservancy
- Attendees suggested including the following research topics: food banks, food trucks, dollar stores as sources for fresh food, corner stores and farmer’s market models, food mapping, crowd sourcing for data collection, using freight/rail for distribution, and social determinants of health.
- New Jersey Health Initiatives, a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, funded “Building a Culture of Health in NJ—Communities Moving to Action” community health plans in 2015 and 2016. Many of these plans addressed food security. The plans can be downloaded at <https://www.njhi.org/our-grants/>
- Leigh Ann Von Hagen provided information about the North Jersey Health Collaborative. The contact is Catherine Connelly, DMH, Manager, North Jersey Health Collaborative, Catherine.Connelly@njhealthmatters.org, and the website is <http://buildhealthchallenge.org/communities/2-forward-franklin/>
- Attendees noted that education is an important component of food access and healthy eating. Educational programs can encourage healthy eating by showing people alternative ways to prepare the fresh foods that are available to them.
- Attendees discussed the final products of this effort, which could include case studies, maps, strategies for success, fact sheets, and toolkits. Possible technical assistance for a community?
- The currently proposed study areas are Newark and Dover. Attendees discussed adding a rural community, such as Newton.
- The Task Force was reminded that the initial draft scope of work should be limited to work products that can be completed in approximately six months with \$10,000-\$15,000 worth of

technical assistance provided by Voorhees Transportation Center graduate students.
Coordination will be provided by NJTPA staff.

- Please send feedback, examples, and suggestions to Sutapa B. (sband@njtpa.org) by July 31, 2018.