



Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails, Inc.
P. O. Box 252 Traverse City, MI 49685 (231) 941-4300 www.traversetrails.org

'Contested Streets' showing at InsideOut Gallery

December 10, 2008 Meeting notes:

Present:

Bob Otwell, Jason Whittaker, Rick & Judy Bowman, Liz Olson, Kate Jaquish, Fred Schaafsma, Jeremiah Edson, Matt Baranski, Fred Elmore, Jim Barnes, Valeria Heffelbower, Sue Green, Kendra Kearney, Missy Luyk, Laura Otwell, Bob Wick, Arianne Petersen, Michael Murphy, Jason Jones, Albert Greiner, Dean Tobias, Kristin Stibel, Chris Campbell, Jerry Lolanics, Dan Mixer, Dave Dalquist, Russ Soyring, Dan Stibel, Julie Botsford (Alec Reznich), Hans Vos, Todd Springer, Ted Okerstrom, Robin Manly, Mark Nixon, Carl Bean-Larson, Glenn Wolff, Emily Bert, M'Lynn Hartwell, Colin Campbell, Cyndi Gaudette, Dennis Bean-Larson, Gary Howe, Christine Sleeman, Mike Erway, Meg Young, Dana Allen, Casey McKeel, Chris Miner, Jonathan Pool, John R. Williams, Bill Palladino

- 1) What did you learn from watching the film?
 - Give riverfronts and waterfronts back to the community
 - Separate bike travel with separate spaces and bike use will increase
 - Patience, baby steps were taken
 - A community is truly a social experience when you are out of the car, as a pedestrian or a cyclist
 - We often hear that "Americans won't walk." Copenhagen thought that too, but they've learned that the Danes will walk and bike.
 - Car-free housing
 - Cities/municipalities could require developers to build trails that connect to existing trail systems

- 2) What did you agree with?
 - Congestion charges in London. It sounds like NYC is looking into it
 - Pedestrian-only streets. Front Street or Garland Street would be good streets to try closing to cars 1 day a week, or for a week in July, or for the month of July.
 - Mode split of: 1/3 car, 1/3 pedestrian/bicycle, 1/3 public transit
 - Taking baby steps and finding small wins. Garland Street lends itself to pedestrian oriented streets. Also the alley behind the State Theater could become a pedestrian-only alley with the exception of delivery trucks
 - Celebrate what we do right- Friday Night Live! The streets are closed, people come, let's celebrate it.
 - Need to have the ability to park and ride or park and walk.
 - Need an economic driver to make change and cultural change work here in America. It seems that Traverse City is against any and all change. It will be an uphill climb.
 - Bikes and cars sharing the road with proper education to both groups
 - Small changes, such as making parking available only on 1 side of the street so that cyclists don't have to weave through parked cars. Eliminate parking on the right side of Front Street so and make a wider bike lane.



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- 3) Other input.
 - We need to let MDOT know what we as pedestrians/cyclists want, not the other way around. There needs to be more pedestrian crossings of Division Street and we do demand a better crossing at Division/Gdvw Parkway.
 - Jason Jones recommended we go to the GT County Commission Jan 22/29 to provide input.

- 4) What would you be willing to do to help the community move forward with these ideas?
 - DANA ALLEN Go to City commission meetings to be heard that TC needs to be more bike/pedestrian friendly. We need more bike lanes.
 - ROBIN MANLY Go to East Bay Township meetings and talk to those officials about making biking and walking a priority
 - SUE GREEN Make our largest employer, Munson Medical Center, more bicycle and pedestrian friendly in a three-pronged approach to 1) improve community health 2) improve Munson's public image and to 3) contain parking deck costs
 - M'LYNN HARTWELL Public service announcements and education. Host an in-service for local police on bicycle rules of the road
 - JONATHAN POOL Promote cycling enthusiasm in youth and sponsor a safe ride to TC West Middle School on Tuesdays
 - GARY HOWE Celebrate "cycloviva" and will look into creating an event in Traverse City.