

BPS Notes from York Group Tour and Meeting #0 September 16, 2022

Tour of NW Study Area/York Street

Participants: OB Hill, Jeri Jiminez (on Teams call), Angela Hill, Wilma Alcock, Les Shannon, Cassie Cohen, Darrel Millner (York Group); Barry Manning, Nicholas Starin, Julia Reed, Michelle DePass (City of Portland).

PHCC members and city staff toured York Street between 26th and 21st, stopping to make note of buildings and points of interest. The tour started later than we'd hoped, and we had less time than we'd anticipated at the meeting at Friendly House.

Meeting at Friendly House

Group members moved to the meeting at the community center. OB Hill and Michelle DePass co-created the agenda for the day's meeting.

OB Hill's grandsons Thornton Hill, and James Hill Jr. joined the group meeting.

We made introductions with the prompt "your name, your affiliation, and your hopes and dreams".

Here are some "hopes and dreams" that were captured:

- "It's already a dream come true"
- "I want to see visible change, wealth creation opportunities and see ancestors in the form of a museum"
- "I want younger generations to recognize York"
- "I want to see PHCC move forward with ways to honor York"
- "I want to see real change"
- "I'd like to build wealth, and find benefits to community"
- "I want to know more about York"
- "I want to build wealth and create equity"

We skipped a planned team building exercise due to time.

Staff gave an overview of the MP2H project and where the city is in the process. Some of the questions that are being asked are about zoning, and what the mix of uses might look like, and how it could be served by transit. If a streetcar were to be built, what are the options?

City staff also updated the group on the status of the community outreach and engagement through partners - Urban League, the Hollywood Senior Center and MESO, and Columbia Corridor Association/NW Industrial Business Association.

The project is looking at ways to create broader-based community benefits from the increases in property values that could occur from potential zoning changes and public investments in a streetcar extension. The work of this group could identify ways to celebrate and elevate the history of York, as well as advise staff on the type and mix of public benefits being sought.

Comments from York Group Members:

- Past transportation projects and city planning have harmed people of color.
- People of color need ownership opportunities here.
- The City has the power to require things from ESCO and property owners; they can't just do anything they want. It's a matter of negotiation, and what the opportunities are. In negotiations, both sides need to know what the other is looking for. It's not a negotiation if we are just talking to ourselves.
- Members were interested in speaking with the owner of the ESCO site to better understand what ESCO wants and needs, and what the opportunities are. We need to meet with them, because they are planning right now and it's being done.
- City could seek additional federal funding to do something innovative with the York history piece.

Next steps

- Explore possibility of Colloqate Group to meet with York Group
- BPS to send notes and follow with York Group with additional resources/information.
- Research other "like " projects in cities that have successfully integrated public input with city plans.
- BPS to provide information about Prosper's Affordable Commercial Tenanting, and other public benefits ideas to York group.