

Community Planning Workshop #3 Summary

Community Planning Workshop #3 was the third of four workshops to be held in the Route 59 area. The meeting was held at the Finkelstein Memorial Library from 7 to 9 PM on Tuesday, June 18, 2019. The workshop began with a presentation that further explored the transportation and land use concepts introduced in Workshop #2 and how those precedent designs might be applied along Route 59. The presentation was followed by a short open discussion with the attendees. The attendees were then asked to view boards that had the concepts on them and to discuss with project team members where those concepts could be applied and which should be prioritized.

In the open discussion following the presentation we heard similar themes from our workshops and popup outreach effort. The corridor is heavily congested and there is a concern that new development would further exacerbate the condition. Participants have recommended specific road improvements and safety improvements for pedestrians such as additional turn lanes, wider and continuous sidewalks, midblock crossings, and transit improvements.

Attendees were very concerned that any new development would add additional automotive traffic to Route 59. They noted that two cars per household should be assumed for any development and that Route 59 would not be able to support that additional traffic.

In addition, a need was expressed for frequent bus service to the Suffern and Spring Valley train stations. Participants stated that most residents work outside of the community and need additional options to get to work that does not rely on personal automobiles.

One attendee raised a concern regarding the funding sources that would be available for future improvements. NYMTC described some of the funding sources that may be available.

There was a discussion of whether bike lanes were needed in the community and how they could be made safe. There were also questions on the sufficiency of parking in the land use schemes presented.

Community Planning Workshop #4 will take the input from CPW #3 together with input from other workshops and popup events to identify specific recommendations for roadway, pedestrian, transit, and community design.

