

Providence Transportation to Livable Communities -- To Do List: Methods and Work Plan

The work plan of the Providence project may be the best way to share how “to do” cultural inventory and transportation planning.

Phase 1. Cultural Assets Inventory

May 14 2012 ~ Preparation and preliminary planning discussions Planners meet to refine the inventory and planning process and timeline and to determine key stakeholders. We set dates for Project Advisory Committee and Stakeholder Committee meetings. We gather plans, reports, corridor maps, and other documents that may inform the inventory and planning. We review documents.

May - June 2012 ~ Catalogue opportunities for cultural participation along each corridor We identify and access existing local and state directories and databases to identify arts and cultural organizations, visual and performing arts venues, public art installations, historic sites, creative industries, and artist housing. These sources include: local and state arts, humanities and heritage councils plus City economic development databases and NEFA’s Culture Count and Matchbook.com.

We build the inventory using an interactive database (Google docs) that allows researchers to collaborate simultaneously as they build the database from national directories and local, on-the-ground observations and discussions. We work with the Department of Planning and Development to plot cultural resources on corridor maps and determine which fall within the quarter mile corridors.

May – June ~ Meet local partners and explore corridors We identify and meet with local arts and cultural organization leaders, local heritage leaders, and other community representatives who may suggest informal spaces, events, and sites with historic or community significance. We ride buses, drive, and walk to explore the corridors and surrounding streets noting additional opportunities for cultural participation and taking photographs of representative cultural features. We share a draft of the inventory with AC+T staff and members of the Advisory Committee, Stakeholder Committees, and partners to identify gaps.

July 2012 ~ Develop inventory We build an Excel database that catalogues cultural opportunities within a quarter mile of each of the five corridors.

Phase 2. Develop Interpretive Themes for each of the Five Study Corridors

July 2012 ~ Synthesize inventory Our first step of phase two is to summarize preliminary inventory findings, and seek iconic images, stories, history, people, traditions, sites, buildings, etc. that suggest themes that arise from the authentic heritage of places along each corridor. We summarize key facts and representative images, and potential themes for distribution in summary form to stakeholder groups in anticipation of our first meetings.

July – August ~ Identify potential themes We develop the theme for each corridor collaboratively, balancing on-the-ground evidence from cultural asset inventories with opinions of stakeholder groups and the professional expertise of the consulting team. We consult with local experts including neighborhood representatives, cultural leaders, heritage experts, and artists.

Convene first Project Advisory Committee meeting We meet with members of the Project Advisory Committee to accomplish three tasks: 1) We share results of the asset inventory; 2) consider and

refine early versions or alternatives for each corridor theme; and 3) begin to explore potential strategies to integrate arts, culture, housing, and development opportunities at key nodes along each corridor. We invite advisors to suggest additional experts and partners that should be consulted in the project's third strategy task.

September ~ Convene stakeholders We work with the Department of Planning and Development to plot identified cultural resources on corridor maps and to identify promising nodes for development. We convene each of the five stakeholder groups to help generate potential themes.

September ~ Submit corridor theme deliverables We present a report that recommends a theme for each corridor by September 2012.

Phase 3. Plan Strategies to Integrate Arts and Culture, Housing, and Job Opportunities at Key Nodes along the Five Study Corridors

September ~ Meet experts and partners We consult with the Department of Arts, Culture + Tourism (AC+T), Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA), the Department of Planning and Development, and other key partners to assure our plans align with partner priorities. If the design consultant has been identified, we coordinate with the designers.

September ~ Develop preliminary strategies The consulting team, working in collaboration with AC+T and partners, develop first-draft strategies that integrate arts and culture, housing, and job opportunities at high-potential nodes along the five study corridors.

We work closely with AC+T to identify locations where cultural assets, opportunities, and local enthusiasm indicate high potential for creative placemaking and increased cultural participation. We write the plan with outcomes in mind, describing anticipated results when plans are implemented, specific actions required for critical tasks, key agencies responsible, and when possible, likely costs and potential for investment. We create concise statements of overall goals and strategies. Plans incorporate City priorities for neighborhoods, cultural participation, creativity, job creation, housing, and social diversity.

We review and integrate complementary plans for transit, housing, economic development, workforce development, tourism, and cultural participation into our strategies. We work with AC+T and the Department of Planning and Development to recommend specific outcomes and actions to help shape the City's zoning changes. We work with RIPTA to be sure creative placemaking plans work feasibly with transit corridor plans and stops.

October ~ Convene second Project Advisory Committee meeting We convene advisors to review and help refine draft strategies. AC+T staff and key partners may participate. Advisors critique and help ground the plans with reality so that plans are feasible and may be implemented with community support. Brown cultural policy students observe.

October – November ~ Write and revise plans The consulting team revises draft plans to incorporate recommendations from Project Advisors, AC+T staff, and partners. We share the revised draft with AC+T and key partners and finalize the plan.