

## **Warrensville Van Aken TOD Study Council Briefing**

Jan. 24, 2008

**Present:** Mayor Earl Leiken; Council members Al Foster, Nancy Moore, Rob Zimmerman, Brian Gleisser, Earl Williams

**Absent:** Lynn Ruffner, Jim Brady

**Also attending:** Scott Thorburn and Dave Coyle, URS; Rick Merrill and Donna Hinda, The Planning Partnership; Jeri Chaikin, CAO; Joyce Braverman, director of Planning; Patrick Campbell, director of Economic Development; Judy Rawson, former mayor

Ms. Hinde gave a summary of the Jan. 23 public session and said that there were many opinions and for every person who liked one idea, another person felt the opposite. The consultant team (URS, The Planning Partnership, Poulos & Chung and BBP Associates) has narrowed down the options to two basic scenarios. Possibilities that included below grade (tunnel) and above grade (bridge) have now been eliminated due to cost concerns.

Both finalist choices are at grade level and reduce traffic in the intersection by concentrating it on Warrensville Center Road going East-West and Chagrin Boulevard going North-South. Under the new plan options, Van Aken would end at Farnsleigh, which would become a feeder street taking Van Aken traffic in two directions. Northfield Road would end before the intersection. Under both scenarios, traffic wait time would be reduced from the current two minutes to one minute.

Under option 1, the transit line would cut through the intersection on a diagonal and the new RTA station would be built at Northfield Road. Under option 2, the transit line would go straight through and the new station would be built directly across Warrensville.

The next steps include review of the technical issues for each option, especially traffic flow, and the creation of a strategy for implementation and funding that will address relevant codes and regulations. Ms. Moore raised concerns about traffic from the Sussex neighborhood being able to enter and leave that area and also is concerned about costs. Mr. Gleisser mentioned his appreciation of the interesting architecture inspired by the diagonal plan and also asked about using green building techniques. Ms. Moore suggested that Doan Brook needs to be incorporated somehow, and it could be a feature.

The consultant team plans to be back at the end of February with more details. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Julianna Johnston Senturia, 921-5413