

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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Meeting Summary

FREIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: May 10, 2012

TIME: 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

PLACE: Capital City Florida Avenue Market

CHAIR: Eulois Cleckley, Manager of Statewide and Regional Planning/Freight Planning, District Department of Transportation

ATTENDANCE:

Deborah Bowden, Maryland Department of Transportation
Amber Carran-Fletcher, District Department of Transportation
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Eulois Cleckley, District of Columbia Department of Transportation
Crystal Darcy, Maryland Port Administration
Richard Easley, E-square Engineering
Teresa Edelen, DC Truckers Association
Randy Hodgson, Virginia Department of Transportation
Anne-Laure Jeannez, Department of Transportation (intern)
Carl "Chip" Millard, Federal Highway Administration
Paul Pascal, Capital City Florida Avenue Market property owner, lawyer (tour leader)
Latoyia Proctor, DC Truckers Association

MWCOG STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Karin Foster, MWCOG-DTP

Eulois Cleckley, Freight Subcommittee Chairman

Ahead of the walking tour, attendees met in a classroom at the nearby Two Rivers Charter School. Chairman Cleckley opened the meeting. After introductions, tour guide Paul Pascal, began to describe the history, evolution, and future of the Florida Avenue Market.

Paul Pascal, Capital City Florida Avenue Market Property Owner, Attorney for Council of Food Wholesalers, and Tour Leader

Mr. Pascal described the history of the Florida Avenue Market. The general area of the present day market was an old B&O rail terminal. When the historic City Market was closed to build the National Archives, many vendors relocated to the present day Florida Avenue location (1930). The original vendors were largely of Greek, Italian, and Jewish origin and sold produce, chicken, and meats. When the market first opened, it primarily served the local grocery stores. Today, the market is much more diverse, with over 80 businesses, several Asian, West African, and Latino vendors selling produce and many vendors also selling everyday retail goods and tourist trinkets.

Mr. Pascal described the development pressures on the market with the growing value of the surrounding properties. He envisions the market will eventually morph into a combination of upscale food restaurants, market vendors, retail, and residential. Gallaudet University is adjacent to the market and owns many adjacent empty lots. He noted that Gallaudet University growing and beginning to attract people from all backgrounds with and without disabilities. Mr. Pascal mentioned the possibility of building a culinary school in one of these lots. At this time, many ideas are floating around among the property owners and potential developers who see this as a prime location, four blocks from a Metro Station, and adjacent to a major road in and out of the city, New York Avenue.



Next Meeting July 12, 2012