

## **Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting**

**Feb. 3, 2024**

**Gloria Coles Flint Public Library**

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

*Flint Neighborhoods United (FNU) is a coalition of neighborhood groups and residents who come together on the first Saturday of each month to share information and leverage their resources to create positive change in the Greater Flint community.*

### **Announcements/Community Conversation**

- **Neighborhood Associations and Block Clubs**
  - New soup kitchen opening at 1031 Darling Street on Feb. 5 – for more information call Doris: 810-936-3617
  - Doris also noted there will be a film crew around town in the coming weeks. They are interested in sharing the stories of positive Flint experiences.
- **Genesee County Habitat for Humanity**
  - Habitat's neighborhood small grant program deadline is March 1 at 5 p.m.
    - Grants are not for 501(c)3s but rather projects by neighborhood groups of 5 or more people
    - More information can be found here:  
<https://www.geneseehabitat.org/flintbrand.html>
- **North Flint Neighborhood Action Council**
  - Champion of Excellence program starting up at the end of the month, meant to help young people get back into shape following COVID-19
- **MSP**
  - Community Service Troopers are available to attend events throughout Flint
  - Will be at the Chrome & Ice event at Dort Financial Center on Feb. 9
- **Flint Our Community Our Voice**
  - February newspaper is now available

**Flint Mass Transportation Authority** *Paul Mattern, Chief Development Officer; Joe Kapper, SRF*

- MTA is conducting a fixed route study in the hopes of increasing ridership and improving routes for riders
  - Kicked off stake-holder/public meetings this past week, seeking further suggestions on where to hold more over the next few months
  - To give your feedback online instead:  
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MTA\\_Flint](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MTA_Flint)
  - Project website for more information:  
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9df0b67bfd5c4564825017f18c0b9e81>
- SRF and other consultant groups are supporting the study (which includes working with MTA internally to improve communications/structures )
  - Conducted meetings this past week at different locations throughout the city as well as spent multiple days at the downtown transit center to gather rider feedback
- Feedback from FNU on what MTA does well right now:
  - Routes seem to run on time

- Like the bike racks on buses
- Happy with the accessibility for wheelchair users
- Consistent fares, good partnerships with schools to ensure passes are paid for/subsidized
- Like the seating material switch
- Happy with the routes reaching otherwise underserved segments of the community
- Feedback from FNU on possible improvements:
  - Buses end too early for retail workers, second-shift to rely on
    - Members mentioned Walmart area in Burton and Miller Road
  - Hub and spoke system is inefficient; even a shuttle to another line at the end of the route would be helpful
  - Need more bus shelters and greater frequency
    - A bus coming once per hour is not enough
  - Invest in cleaning stops; sometimes neighbor end up doing that work themselves
    - Beecher Road and Caulkins stop – concerned about the number of folks loitering there, some of whom seem to be working through substance use disorders
    - Would like to see trash cans affixed to bus stop signs or at bus stop locations — especially on the north end
  - Your Ride is being denied to some people based on destination (health and shopping seem to be bigger priorities)
  - Need to announce delays better
  - Should consider primary route adjustments based on job center development (like Ashley Capital development on old Buick City site)
- Did a tabletop exercise in 4 smaller groups:
  - Asked to Identify top priorities for Flint today and in the future (where does MTA fit into that?) and mark up maps with suggestions on where buses should/do go, what destinations could be added, etc.
  - Feedback from groups:
    - Need more direct routes, better pedestrian access to bus stops, greater frequency of buses across the system
    - Engage blight/Priority Waste to keep bus stops free of litter, have route map stops, could add interactive screen at stops
    - Need better communication of route info
    - Update Your Ride & on-demand rideshare, add route on Jennings Rd between Pierson and Carpenter, connect routes to Jennings Rd (lots of schools/school children)
    - Add route extension to Bluebell Beach on weekends
    - Have a direct route to the airport, add crosstown bus on Pasenda to connect most lines separate of downtown transit center
    - Hub and spoke does not seem efficient, maybe have 4 mini stations at ends of line; consider reopening Leith Street route once Ashley Capital development is open/running

- The MTA has a trip planning app! It's called Moovit, and you can find it in the app store.

**Next Meeting:** Gloria Coles Flint Public Library, March 2, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

**To get meeting notes if you aren't already on our email list:** email Chris at [FNUcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:FNUcommunications@gmail.com)