

Summary: Hudson DRI: Public Workshop

Overview

October 26, 2017 marked the official launch of the Hudson Downtown Revitalization Initiative process. The event took place at the John L Edwards Elementary School at 360 State Street from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Approximately 100 residents took part, working together to provide insights into what they hope to see for the future of downtown Hudson.



Approximately 100 residents participated in the Hudson DRI Public Workshop.

Opening Presentation

The kickoff event included a presentation by Steve Kearney, project manager for the consultant team. Steve first provided an overview of the initiative; key dates where the public could participate; current conditions of Hudson and a review of the preliminary planning approach. In the presentation, Steve addressed:

- Downtown Profile & Assessment
- Downtown Vision, Goals & Objectives
- Revitalization Strategies & Action Plan
- Key Projects
- Implementation Strategy
- Performance Indicators/Metrics
- Downtown Revitalization Plan

During the presentation, Steve informed the residents that while there were initial projects included in the DRI application the plan would include new projects and other initiatives. He emphasized the importance of community engagement, and he explained how the residents' input would be used to identify and prioritize the DRI plan. A full version of the presentation can be found at: <https://www.ny.gov/downtown-revitalization-initiative/capital-region-hudson>.

Break Out Sessions

Following the presentation, a community visioning workshop took place that included an individual and a group exercise. The goal was to develop a sense of the community's priorities for Downtown and to get feedback about the draft vision statement. Completed worksheets are included in the appendix of this summary.

Draft Vision Statement Feedback

We asked residents what they liked about the draft vision statement and what, if anything, they would change. The current vision statement reads:

Increased development of mixed-use projects that incorporate affordable and market-rate housing and transportation oriented design; workforce development; and re-imagining the waterfront for expanded public use and enjoyment. While tourism is a seasonal surge economy for the Hudson, the DRI application proposes to create an environment for high quality, year-round, living-wage jobs.

These comments capture the most commonly mentioned suggestions:

Positives	Changes
High quality, year-round, living wage jobs	Add affordable access to food/ healthy food
Affordable housing	Ensure there is enough affordable housing and that current affordable housing stays affordable
Waterfront access/ expanded waterfront usage	Add a commitment to sustainable, green development and environmental protection
Transportation improvements/ public transportation/ TOD	Statement is missing "for whom?"-in ref. to jobs
Workforce development	Keeping and preserving the diversity of the neighborhood by prioritizing, not displacing current low-income residents
Public enjoyment of waterfront	Add job training
Low, medium, and high-income housing/ diverse housing	
Emphasis of year-round	

Community Priorities

After the visioning exercise, residents worked together at each of the tables to compile lists of priorities for the future of the Bridge District. At the end of the work session, each table was asked to identify the top five shared priorities. A representative from each table read the priorities to the larger group. While there were many priorities shared, a common theme emerged around making sure that Hudson remain affordable to all residents (in terms of housing, restaurants, groceries, clothes); improved public green spaces; and opportunities for work and workforce training.

Hudson Downtown Revitalization Initiative :The Bridge Distict

Sticker Exercise

Identified Priority Projects

- 1: Basilica Hudson Phase II
- 2: The Warehouse - DigFab
- 3: Wick Hotel Connections
- 4: River House Phase II
- 5: Public Pier Project
- 6: Reconnections to Waterfront
- 7: KAZ Mixed Use & TOD
- 8: Furgary Village Remediation & Redevelopment Plan
- 9: Promenade Hill Park Gateway & Plaza
- 10: Community Food Hub
- 11: Community Food Waste Processing

Top Priorities for this Table

Priorities for Initial Options and New Ideas

1. KAZ MIXED USE & TOD
2. CONNECTIONS TO WATER FRONT
3. PUBLIC PIER PROJECT
4. THE WAREHOUSE
5. COMMUNITY FOOD HUB (IN DIFF. LOCATION)

Sticker Exercise

Blue: My favorite places	Red: New places	Green: Open Space	Yellow: Start Here	Marker/Pen:
Place blue stickers on the store, restaurant, or other places that you visit and spend money at most frequently.	Place red stickers where you would like to see new stores, restaurants or other amenities.	Place green stickers where you would like to preserve, enhance or create new open space.	Place yellow stickers where you think redevelopment efforts should focus first.	Mark the routes you travel most or label your stickers.

The above image depicts one of the 13 table maps completed by the community. All 13 maps are included in the appendix.



Each table group reported their top five shared priorities to the entire group.

The most common priorities appear below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transportation and Circulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public transportation around city and to surrounding areas ○ Connections to waterfront ○ Pedestrian and bike access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food Hub ○ Food access in form of markets, farmers market, community gardens, locally owned affordable restaurants ○ Compost facility ○ Food job training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jobs and training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vocational training ○ Living wage jobs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Waterfront <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Permanent access ○ Development and improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Affordable and mixed income housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public pier project

WHAT WE HEARD AT THE MEETING (REPRESENTATIVE QUOTES):

During the course of the workshop, residents were encouraged to write down their personal vision, goals, and priorities for the Bridge District. Following are a few highlighted statements:

“Front Street is the gateway to downtown, it should be tree lined and street lamps.”

“Food Hub should be focused on affordable. Food Hub should be located at [KAZ site]”

“Waterfront pier has great potential to develop tourism and [be] educational – sailing and environmental ed.”

“[The vision statement] implies that the goal is to make the [Bridge District] better for those in Hudson, without a loss of the character of the community.”

“Including mixed housing is very important. Expanding transportation and unifying the city scape to have a sense of place would be great! In favor of workforce development for all citizens. Waterfront potential to be welcoming to all people in Hudson, not just those with affluence.”

“Walkable and safe access for all.”

“Re-use the KAZ warehouse as mixed housing/retail.”

“I want to see 100% of the funding spent in the public realm. We can support and encourage businesses and new investment by improving and enhancing public spaces and amenities. Keeping the funds in the public arena avoids conflict and tension between competing business entities, and also relieves HDC of the burden and responsibility of monitoring grantees as to their compliance with terms of the grant.”

“Rezoning for mixed-use/commercial/retail in second ward.”

“It would be great to have an artist collective where there was space to work, exhibit, perform, etc.”

APPENDIX

1. Summary of the top five priorities from each of the tables
2. Individual vision and priority sheets

Hudson Bridge District DRI: Table Priorities	
TABLE 1	
1	Food district in North Bay Dock St. Area (food hub) -Supermarket -Compost facility
2	Youth center -Food/youth -Renovation -Safe night/centers
3	Dunn Warehouse -Farmers market -Public space
4	Transportation -Public transport -Walkability/sidewalks/ lighting
5	Vocational training -KAZ area -Business incubating space
TABLE 2	
1	KAZ- mixed use w/ workforce training
2	Food Hub (maybe Dunn Warehouse or North Bay area) -Organic, recycling
3	Circulation, including bus
4	Waterfront: Dunn, public restroom, etc. Café, bikes, kayaks
5	Basilica Phase II and River House
TABLE 3	
1	Sustainable, affordable housing -New mixed-use developments
2	Food access in form of markets, farmers truck, community gardens, locally owned affordable restaurants
3	Permanent access to waterfront and Furgary -Bikes, boats, public pier, amenities- Dunn Bldg.- marine center -Renovations to waterfront/ history
4	Circulation and public transportation in Hudson and from surrounding areas
5	Development that serves all existing populations and serves all income groups
TABLE 4	
1	Housing- mixed income that serves a range on income levels
2	Transportation and pedestrian infrastructure through Bridge District including Hudson-Fairview C-G Community College
3	Food access combined with "green" job skill training -Community kitchen

4	Historic preservation- preserve and enhance public access to significant historic resources -Promenade Park
5	Waterfront all public use
TABLE 5	
1	Traffic flow -Parking (3 stories)- RR and waterfront -Remove or move boat club
2	2nd Ward (N__ to 3rd St.) affordable housing (mixed income)
3	Job making connected to grants -Manufacturing -In warehouse
4	Public transportation in project area and beyond
TABLE 6	
1	Affordable housing (low income availability)
2	Living wage jobs
3	Access to health and fresh food -Community kitchen and storage
4	Development of riverfront and walking access
5	Maker space (wood, ceramic, fabric, etc.)
TABLE 7	
1	Improvements to waterfront (not displacing people)
2	Mini-supermarket and/or food coop or farmer-driven market (food hub)
3	Lighting and sidewalks and transportation
4	Community space for organizations, perhaps in mixed -use space
5	Affordable housing
TABLE 8	
1	North Bay community campus (consolidation of community orgs, including GHPN, __, youth center, food hub, food waste, and affordable housing)
2	2nd Ward affordable retail and commercial space (maybe 1st St. extension)
3	Public pier project
4	Connections (waterfront, 2nd St. stairs, Promenade Hill)
5	DigiFab/Workforce development and job training (not subsidizing antique warehouse)
TABLE 9	
1	KAZ mixed use and TOD
2	Connections to waterfront; Dunn to Furgary/ TOD
3	Public pier project
4	The warehouse
5	Community food hub (in diff location)
TABLE 10	
1	Affordable housing

2	Workforce development -Job training center- EGCC
3	Pedestrian access to the north and south ends of the Bridge District
4	Food hub/food trucks- affordable
5	Jobs -Light manufacturing -Green industry- greenhouse -compost -bioenergy -education + youth -Food businesses
TABLE 11	
1	New stairway from Water St. to park- mixed use seating for events
2	Public pier project
3	Relocate food hub to KAZ Reasonably priced I.C. Adams Fairacre Farm
4	Retail, affordable food/grocery (Adams Fairacre)
TABLE 12	
1	Waterfront greenspace North to South Bay including Furgary
2	Mixed use development maker spaces, training, and incubator, housing (affordable)
3	Infrastructure- lights, sidewalks, sewers, wayfinding, parking, trees, and welcome path from train station up
4	Community food hub w/ multi production kitchen and farmers market, to Dunn or KAZ area or Harvey area
5	Transportation hub, Citibikes, trolley, increase ferry services, boat rental
TABLE 13	
1	interconnected transportation and parking
2	2nd Street stairs & connectivity between upper city and Cross St./Basilica, etc.
3	KAZ warehouse redevelopment- e.g. Housing, mixed use, etc. & connecting
4	Former Dunn warehouse building- rehabilitation, reestablishment of Franklin St. and more Water St. to enlarge the park. Improved connectivity to city. Better park design with public participation and support
5	Altering/improving the entrance (only) to Promenade Hill