

## Workshop Notes

### Attendees

*Local Planning Committee:* Mayor Noam Bramson, Councilman Jared Rice, Marsha Gordon, Whitney Barrat, Ralph DiBart, Kwamaine Dixon, Leslie Gaskin, Clive Henry, Sarah Jones-Maturo, Martha Lopez-Hanratty, Hugh Price, Yadira Ramos-Herbert, Iris Rosario, Nancy Street

*NYDOS:* Josh Hunn

*NYS:* Brian Hegt

*City Staff:* Luiz Aragon, Gina D'Agrosa, Suzanne Reider, Kevin Kain, Chuck Strome, Bill Zimmermann

*Consultant Team:* David Quart (VHB), Jill Gallant (VHB), Christina Ungureanu (WXY), Kathy Ember (Planning4Places), Jim Levy (Planning4Places)

*Other Attendees:* See attached sign-in sheets for additional names from those attendees who signed in. There were approximately 75 people in attendance.

### Presentation

A PowerPoint presentation kicked-off the Workshop. Councilman Rice welcomed everyone, he introduced Mayor Bramson and members of the Local Planning Committee and provided an overview of the DRI application process. David Quart, VHB, provided an overview of the DRI planning process and Luiz Aragon, City of New Rochelle, provided an overview of existing conditions. Members of the audience asked questions ranging from the status of current development projects, to the stakeholder involvement process, and suggestions for the next meeting format. Comment forms were provided at the sign-in table and several were submitted (see attached images). Comments collected during the open house session at each station are documented below:

### Open House Comments

#### • Vision, Goals & Planning Context

- DRI Paid job training.
- Publicize the website to ensure community comes prepared for an informed discussion.
- Consider "interest group" advisory group beyond the task committee for more inclusive project.
- 95 Lincoln Ave.
- Small Business incubator.
- Highlight that discussion "groups" are in alignment with project goals & objectives.
- What are the plans for Oasis? The homeless should be treated like human beings?
- Outreach to MWBE's to ensure maximum participation in projects.
- Invite people to prioritize those goals of interest or engagement e.g. churches = culture.
- Pedestrian friendly access to Lincoln Park.
- Create an economic incubator for black entrepreneurship.
- Improve traffic patterns for pedestrians. Improve the baseball field. Add soccer. Attract grocery stores.
- More economic incubators for seniors.
- The goals should better reflect the goal of attracting outsiders to New Rochelle.

- Use local realtors to publicize affordable housing.

### • **Mobility & Safety**

- Family friendly Lincoln Avenue.
- Extend Sickles to connect to the other side of Memorial Highway.
- If we are really interested in safety, stop all traffic for pedestrian crossing. That can be done yesterday.
- If we want to redirect traffic going on Hutch. No(rth). build a north entrance to Hutch from 95. We only have south now! Why?
- Decrease traffic flow through Lincoln Ave. to protect our children and seniors. Invest in traffic/speed control equipment.
- Need more parking along Lincoln Ave for churches and 95 Lincoln Ave.
- Concerned about effects of making North Ave and Memorial Highway one-way to get to train...to and from North to south end, etc.
- Overpass
- Make a foot bridge from Boys and Girls Club
- Intensive street tree plantings to reduce wind velocity around high rises.
- Speed bumps for Heritage Homes (there were many duplicative comments about speed bumps on this board).
- Cap 95 btw. North and Memorial Hwy. with park.
- Open up streets like Sickles that are currently cut off from Memorial Highway by chain link fences.
- Cap the I-95 from Memorial Highway to North Ave to increase open space.
- Traffic island. Coordinated traffic lights.
- Improve intersection of Lincoln Avenue & Memorial Highway. Need safe routes to school. Bus stop for Albert Leonard Middle School at North & Lincoln.
- Computer Model for traffic flow would be very helpful.
- Stop traffic, let pedestrians cross! (Posted on corner of Lincoln Avenue and North Avenue.)
- Place avenue overpass for safety.
- Help worshippers exit church parking lots and facilities.

### • **Education & Employment**

- Create minority young adult entrepreneurship programs.
- Cornell Pace has own funding to tear down 51 Winthrop and build park they promised.
- Put a school on Memorial Highway land instead of park.
- Real construction jobs with Union wages.
- I have the answer to this issue. 646-972-5091. Worlds greatest enterprises. Employment & entertainment business – film, building TV, networks & more.
- Tear down 51 Winthrop.
- Funding for real training opportunities.
- New business funding.
- Revolving fund.
- West-Cop @ 95. Lincoln Center for Social Programs needs renovations. Previously housed Legal Aid, The Guidance and other programs to assist community.

- First Source Referral Center. 247 North Avenue – more training program assistance service for the community. (Business card left – Westhab – Nicholas J. Rosa, Employment Services Coordinator)
- We would like to bring the medical membership program to the unserved community in NR. Please call us. Maria Trusa, CEO – 914-494-7922, 912-727-4900(?) Cell. (Flyer – Our Mission, Your Health attached)
- True definition of affordable housing.
- We want to see a revolving loan fund for entrepreneurship.
- 185 Lincoln Ave for education and employment projects.
- Support educational programs at 95 Lincoln Avenue.
- 95 Lincoln New Rochelle community action.
- We need cultural and historic education.
- Collaborate with area churches.
- New business funding.
- We want to see a revolving loan fund for entrepreneurship.
- Hire New Rochellians to do New Rochelle jobs. Yes, \$125K salary is very good to live in New Rochelle. Police should come from here.
- New Rochelle colleges should provide free education to New Rochelle students. Iona, Monroe, CNR have too many benefits for little give back.
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- Create opportunities for jobs
- Reentry programs need to be developed in partnership with the County, Churches and local organizations.
- Check out jobs for life program.
- Soft skills training programs for young potential workers.
- A home for Academic Pathways.
- African American mentorship and college prep.
- Need more schools downtown.

#### • **Culture, Recreation & Open Space**

- 39 Kress Avenue (WXY comment: this seems to be a planned facility location for Shiloh Baptist Church: “a third building on our family campus called the Shiloh CARE House at 39 Kress Avenue where we will teach our children Christian Faith, Culture, History and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Education”)
- 185 Lincoln Avenue (WXY comment: location of Shiloh Baptist Church)
- Love my yoga studio (WXY comment: posted near Library Green)
- Expansion of Boys & Girls Club to accommodate more facilities – indoor pool and 2nd level to building
- The Linc:
  - Concern about traffic impacts from the Linc – want to see traffic study.
  - Want to see art installations on The Linc.
  - If Linc can’t be built right away, improve fencing, open space, ped experience along Memorial, perhaps as a demonstration project?
- Lincoln Corridor:
  - Space for golf/tennis (near Lincoln Corridor).
  - Install murals reflecting great African Americans (near Lincoln Corridor).

- Lincoln Park Conservancy is advocating for a History & Culture Center along the Lincoln Avenue Corridor. 5+ yellow dots (representing "Improve Cultural Centers") were placed at corner of Memorial and Lincoln to represent this. A copy of their proposal will be emailed separately and was given to Cristina from WXY while at the station.
- Build an African American art projects and local history center (near Lincoln Corridor).
- Do not build a bike lane to nowhere along Lincoln Ave, consider unintended consequences of complete streets. Bike lane should connect into a wider network.
- Bring programs for music, acting and other performing arts to Lincoln Corridor.
- Lincoln Park:
  - Restrooms – x2
  - Sculpture
  - More trees
  - More benches – x2
  - Walking/jogging track
  - Fitness trail
  - Paved path from swimming pool to basketball court
- Create a central public park where everyone can gather (i.e. Chicago Bean). Drive tourism/visitation with indoor & outdoor activities – kinetic art sculpture to draw people.
- Deck over I-95 to create park/open space (from North Ave to Memorial Hwy).
- More affordable live/work space (like 50 Webster).
- More programs for seniors.
- Preserve African Burial Grounds.
- Proposed playground at Open Space on Brook & Winthrop should not get DRI funds (Cornell Pace developers are responsible for providing one and should fund it on their own)
- Create more spaces like the boulevards in Barcelona (separated areas for traffic, peds/bikes, play areas, buses, etc.) (WXY comment: see Passeig De St Joan Boulevard)
- Further Engagement Ideas:
  - Engage the North End neighborhood → they come through this area and to the train station every day
  - Connect this DRI process with other cultural planning initiatives taking place in the city (i.e. the Board of Education Culture Committees)

• **Comment Cards**

- Informative. It would have helped if the proposal on the website had been more widely marketed. It would help conversation to be better informed.
- Appreciate your consideration of open discussion and your taking questions before breaking into "goal" stations.
- My concern is the monies allocated for the "Lincoln Avenue Corridor" will not be distributed to develop and redevelop OUR community but used instead for traffic and highway expansion.
- Also, the "Lincoln Avenue Community" should have major input as to how the monies could be best spent.
- When the development begins, jobs and careers should be offered and given to the people of the Lincoln Avenue Community first.
- More meetings need to be held with advance notice via flyers, newspapers, websites, and in person.

• **Notes from LPC Member Leslie Gaskin**

- Consensus that it is good to have been awarded the revitalization grant and desire to have projects that benefit and provide opportunities for the immediate area.
- Feeling that the promotion of the DRI event(s) should be improved. Several people said that they had only heard about it via word of mouth.
- Attendees had difficulty hearing parts of the presentation and the audience speakers.
- People did not respond well to the meeting format. Folks mentioned wanting to engage as a whole rather than at break-out stations. Stations weren't easily inter-acted with or well manned.
- Disappointment in the timeline for the public to submit project ideas and the feeling that the project ideas submitted by the director of development have already been approved.
- Recommendation that the next community meeting include details on real costs of all project ideas that have been submitted and that meeting elements are clear and concise.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.