

BAY STREET CORRIDOR @ DOWNTOWN STATEN ISLAND FALL 2015 PUBLIC WORKSHOPS OVERVIEW

EVENT DATES:
11.12.15
11.14.15

In November 2015, the Bay Street Corridor Team held two public workshop events. The workshops were designed to provide an update on the issues we have been hearing from the community since our first Open House in June, and to help identify potential strategies for the future of the area.

Two identical workshops were held on November 12th at 5050 Skatepark, and November 14th at P.S. 65. Through a series of exercises led by City staff, we received valuable input that will help us craft a comprehensive neighborhood plan, including strategies for zoning, capital investments, community resources and transportation improvements, which will help shape the future of the Bay Street Corridor.

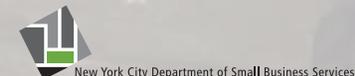
The following is a recap of the events, outlining what the various agencies presented and what they heard from the public. If you were not able to attend the events and would like to provide input regarding Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island, we invite you to participate in the following surveys:

- Take the [N Shore Transportation Survey!](#)
- Take the [Bay Street Corridor Consumer Survey!](#)
- Take the [Bay Street Corridor Merchant Survey!](#)

Additionally, if you would like to provide further input regarding Bay Street Corridor @ Downtown Staten Island, you can always reach the Bay Street Corridor Team at:

BayStreetCorridor@planning.nyc.gov

A special thank you to all those who participated, and to both 5050 Skatepark for their space donation and Bay Sweet Cafe for providing delicious refreshments at both events!



ZONING AND URBAN DESIGN

The Department of City Planning (DCP) led a discussion on Zoning and Urban Design. DCP discussed the current issues in the area, and potential building forms that could respond to issues identified by the community. To facilitate that discussion, DCP constructed a model of the area and its existing built form and topography to demonstrate the relationship between potential building height, bulk, and the impact of parking requirements on public spaces.

These are some of the main points we heard:

- Preserve openness and view corridors
- Buildings should “step-down” in height towards the waterfront
 - General support for building heights around 6 stories, with general comfort for up to 14 stories in some locations where the infrastructure can support
 - Create a “main street” with small shops; comparison to other neighborhoods was made (i.e. East Village)
 - Encourage additional fresh food / supermarket options
 - Need for improved / additional connections to the waterfront (vehicular, pedestrian, cyclist)
 - Need increased lighting on Front Street and throughout area





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Representatives from the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) were on hand to discuss job creation and economic development. The station sought to better understand the ways that people in the community currently use Bay Street, and gather input on what services might be needed to attract businesses and jobs to the area in the future.

As part of the station, SBS distributed two surveys, one for consumers and one for merchants, which allowed participants an opportunity to provide greater insight into current and future needs of the study area. If you would like to participate in the surveys, web links are available below:

[Bay Street Corridor Consumer Survey](#)

[Bay Street Corridor Merchant Survey](#)

These are some of the main points we heard:

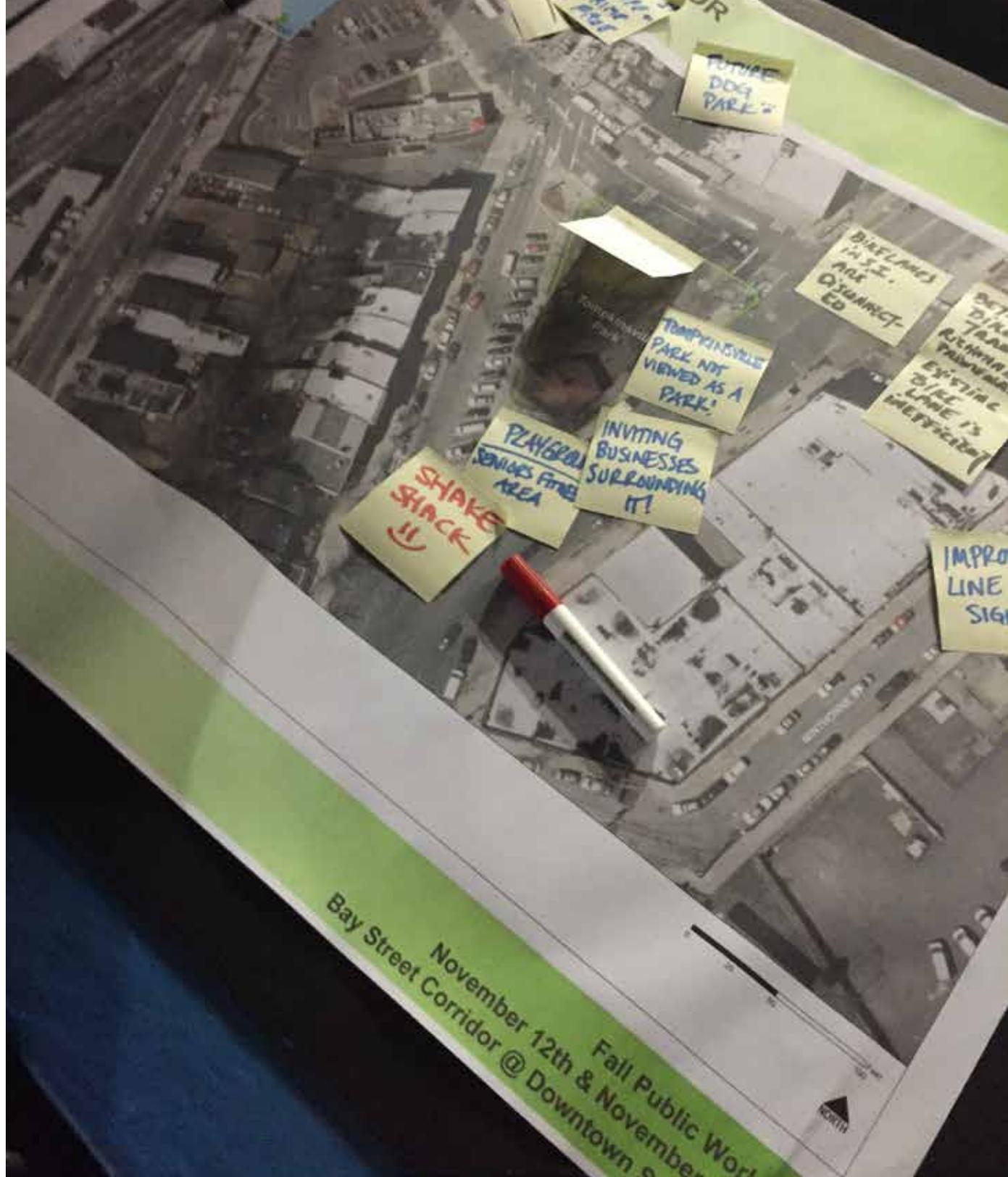
- Improve “sense of place” along Bay Street - want Bay Street to feel like a unique community where people can shop and spend time
- Need more activity to make Bay St feel safer
- Need coffee shop, health/specialty food store, cafés, spaces for live music, art galleries, boutiques, pharmacy, art supply store
- More family-friendly activities along Bay Street
- Create more public gathering spaces for event
- Help address vacant storefronts that deter people from patronizing the area

PARKS, CULTURE AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Representatives from NYC Parks discussed the ongoing study to replace the Cromwell Recreational Center, and hear from the community what types of programming a new recreational center could provide. Participants were also encouraged to provide input on ways to improve Tappen Park and Tompkinsville Park to better serve the needs of the community.

These are some of the main points we heard:

- There was an appreciation for engagement on Cromwell Recreational Center replacement and a lot of interest to see work that's been undertaken on feasibility of three different sites
- Significant concerns about safety and desirable uses at Tompkinsville Park and Tappen Park.
- Concerns that it will require more than new improvements to make Tompkinsville Park and Tappen Park more family and user friendly.





Housing

Led by representatives from Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), participants were asked to provide input on the three draft Housing Plan goals. The draft goals are:

1. Provide new affordable housing that accommodates households with a range of incomes, including options for extremely low-income to moderate- and middle-income levels;
2. Protect current residents from harassment and displacement;
3. Support vibrant, safe and attractive streets.

These are some of the main points we heard:

- There is a desire for home ownership opportunities, senior housing, 1-brs, 2-brs, and supportive housing
- Some participants would like to see mixed use buildings with community space, arts-related uses, local retail, open space, health facilities, dining, and parking
- Some participants wanted to see mixed income buildings, with some units specifically for the 30% - 60% Area Median Income (AMI), and others for middle-income households
- Opportunities for small home preservation
- Desire for proactive outreach to vulnerable populations
- There are concerns within the community about displacement should the market get stronger

TRANSPORTATION

The City's Department of Transportation (DOT), joined by the North Shore Transportation Improvement Strategy Consultant (WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff), discussed transportation issues with the community. Participants were asked to consider transportation from four different perspectives- pedestrian, cyclist, motorist and public transportation user- and assess the need for each mode of transportation in the area. Participants were also asked to complete a transportation survey to provide input on how they currently move throughout the area. If you would like to participate in the survey, the link is provided below:

[Bay Street Corridor Transportation Survey](#)

These are some of the main points we heard:

- Concerns about access to the St George Ferry Terminal; participants noted the difficulty in crossing Bay Street from the terminal to Borough Hall
- Participants noted that they are using bicycles more and more for commuting or leisure and asked for the bicycle network to be expanded, especially through protected lanes
- Participants expressed a desire and need for bike and car sharing options
- Residents expressed concern about traffic congestion associated with the construction of new projects in St. George
- Motorists noted the potential benefit to traffic flow with the addition of left turn bays and signals, especially at Bay St / Victory Blvd and Bay St / Prospect St intersections
- Many people noted a desire to see improved connections to Front St from Bay St in order to access the waterfront
- Improved transit service in general, with a specific emphasis on SIR local service

