Small Group Discussion

Welcome to our Small Group Discussion

Instructions for optimal attendee experience:
• Now is the time to turn on your video and mics if you’re comfortable doing so
• Use the chat to ask questions/provide feedback
• Side by Side view

Online Conversation Etiquette:
• Mute yourself when you’re not speaking to help prevent background noise.
• Listen to each other with respect.
• Each person gets a chance to talk.
• One person talks at a time: don’t cut people off.
• Speak for yourself, and not as the representative of any group.
• If you are bothered by something that was said, say so and say why.

Turn your mic and video on/off here
Please mute when the meeting begins
Ask questions during the presentation here
Parkchester - VanNest Remote Workshop
Small Breakout Group - Room 1
Connected Communities

Connected communities relates to how people get around the neighborhood, the city and the region.

As part of our remote open house, we asked participants to order study objectives based on their importance to them. Below were the top items identified:

58% 1. Ensure that major corridors are safe, well-lit, and offer pleasant pedestrian experiences

27% 2. Strengthen bike and walking connections to the station, transit, retail, and area campuses

11% 3. Address traffic circulation around the new station as the area continues to grow

4% 4. Improve wayfinding to local retail corridors, neighborhoods, and amenities (zoo, libraries, etc.)
Quick Ice breaker

What is the most important thing about this new service and station coming to Parkchester/Van Nest?

One word answers!!

1. Reliability of public transit for commuting
2. Parkchester parking garage housing concerns and notification to the community
3. Noise and mitigation from tracks and service
4. Where will parking be available
5. Pedestrian bridge access
6. Providing parking for communities
7. Clear communication to communities
8. Gentrification concerns to community
9. Game-changer to have new service in the area
10. Possibility
11. Parking
12. Safety for residents
13. Trash cleanup & maintenance
14. Community

❤️ ❤️
Parkchester/Van Nest Station Area Overview

How do you get around the neighborhood and the city today?
- foot traffic and cars
- walk around and buses
- train, express bus, drive
- bike - best way
- pedestrian safety, buses blocking crosswalks

How might you get around if there were other options? Would you bike? Take scooters?
- desire for biking but more safety
- more parking to accommodate families
- clear markings and wayfinding
- biking safety and concerns in Parkchester
- shared services, electric and moped (CitiBike, etc.)
- rides in Parkchester community permit biking
- bike to work and school
- shared services - to not leave personal bikes

The closest ferry station is the Soundview Ferry Terminal, 2.9 miles away.
Pedestrian and Bicycle Access
Pedestrian passageways

**OBJECTIVE:** Ensure that major corridors are safe, well-lit, and offer pleasant pedestrian experiences

**Part 1**

- Identify places-making interventions to support revitalization of the corridor including using key sites such as at Unionport and White Plains Road as gateways to the corridor
- Improve wayfinding and signage in and around the neighborhood to stations and local/regional amenities, such as the zoo and other nearby assets
- Explore opportunities for creating additional ways of getting to and from the station
- Access sidewalks, crossings, and lighting and improve key travel routes between employment and residential centers and commercial corridors to support convenient access
- Work with Parkechester to understand major pedestrian routes through community and opportunities to shift focus to E Tremont Ave
- Work with property owners of large development sites to create additional connections to the station, E Tremont Ave, and the larger area
- Apply lighting and sidewalk standards and introduce artwork at key locations such as the Bronxdale underpass

**What are the biggest barriers to being able to walk around the neighborhood today?**

- Westchester ave - safety plans?
- Parkchester to Morris park - easier way to go through
- lack of connectivity, could be more
- Tremont Ave - stop lights, traffic lights, safe crossing to get across where stop will be
- White Plains Rd - bus and B access, show and represent what will happen and be mentioned
- connection to all other connections near, within broad neighborhood
- lighting/plaza
Pedestrian and Bicycle Access
Transit connections

**OBJECTIVE: Ensure that major corridors are safe, well-lit, and offer pleasant pedestrian experiences**

Part 2

Accessible Station Entrance

Ensure improved sidewalks on the North side of E Tremont Ave

Improve bus amenities and conditions, such as bus shelters, where viable

Implement crosswalk improvements and other interventions to reduce conflicts between people and cars

Increased pedestrian/cyclist safety by implementing standard DOT improvements (landing intervals, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, high visibility crosswalks, etc.)

Increased street furniture and bike racks

What other improvements might help to make E Tremont Ave a more inviting corridor in the future?

Add comments here

Add comments here
We have heard a lot about the pedestrian and bike safety and this intersection of Bronxdale Ave. Here are some potential improvements. Are these the right improvements? Where else in the neighborhood are these needed?
Parkchester - VanNest Remote Workshop
Small Breakout Group - Room 2
Vibrant Communities

Vibrant communities relates to how we can plan for growth while celebrating who we are.

1. Encourage the development of a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly district around the future station
2. Encourage welcoming public connections throughout the neighborhood
3. Make new stations a part of the neighborhood
4. Create new open spaces and improve and better connect to existing ones
5. Preserve existing housing and allow for new housing for a range of incomes and housing types
6. Promote fair transit-oriented development that benefits all residents
7. Support the area’s diverse and growing immigrant communities
8. Make healthy food options available
9. Honor the area’s history and promote public art
10. Plan for added demand for schools, police, fire service, and other basic services
11. Support aging in place
Vibrant Communities

As part of our remote open house, we asked participants to order study objectives based on their importance to them. Below were the top items identified:

**Physical improvements**

31% 1) Make it easier and more pleasant to walk and move throughout the neighborhood

25% 2) Create a walkable area with a mix of housing, retail and commercial uses around the station

15% 3) Make new stations a part of the neighborhood

**Policy improvements**

45% 1) Preserve housing affordability for existing communities and grow new housing for all incomes and ages

19% 2) Ensure everyone can enjoy the benefits of new development around the station

19% 3) Make healthy food options available
Quick Ice breaker

What is the most important thing about this new service and station coming to Parkchester/Van Nest?

One word answers!! :)

convenience
Safety
Ease of traffic
Cleanliness
Security Camera
Safety Officers
Accessibility
Quality of Design
Access through the Con Ed parking lot = better access

There used to be a tunnel where the billboard is now for railroad workers when it was part of the New Haven.
Encourage the development of a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly district around the future station.

The image on the left shows a vision for how the E Tremont Ave corridor might change in the future, including a mix of retail, housing, parks improvements, and better pedestrian connections. How well does this image align with your vision for a Vibrant E Tremont Ave in the future?

What works? What's missing?

**Pollution (air, noise, land)**
- Have ConEd build a multi-level garage and free up some of the parking lot for access to the platform by car.

**Traffic concerns on E Tremont Ave - Mid mornings**
- Need for more crossings, especially between Unionport and Bronxdale.

**How do we slow down traffic and limit conflicts with pedestrians?**
- More traffic lights along the route.
- More traffic speed cameras.

**Welcome to the Parkchester Neighborhood**
- The issue with the southern end of the Con Ed facility I think is late in the day. A traffic light to regulate the flow of Con Ed vehicles in and out of the facility would be essential.

**Unsafe motorbikes, especially at night**
- Pedestrian friendly streets - Retail stores

**Efficiency**
- Local bus service time to arrival and departure of Metro-North service

**Crowd Control**
- Need to house ConEd vehicles or emergency vehicles to service customers
OBJECTIVE: Encourage welcoming public connections throughout the neighborhood

What are the most difficult parts of the neighborhood to navigate on foot or by bike today? What kinds of improvements might make it easier to move about?

- Redesign key streets and intersections to create attractive, safe roadways for multiple modes of transportation that provide easy access between the station and surrounding neighborhoods.

- Develop urban design guidelines for large development sites and shallow lots along rail line that augment and enhance the public realm.

- Improve wayfinding to local retail corridors, neighborhoods, and amenities such as the zoo and other nearby assets.

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES
OBJECTIVE: Create new open spaces and improve and better connect to existing ones

What are parks and open spaces in your neighborhood in most need of?

How can parks and open spaces in your neighborhood better serve you and your neighbors?

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES
How well does the image on the right align with your vision for a Vibrant E Tremont Ave in the future? What's good? What might you change?
Part of a successful station is making it feel like part of the neighborhood. How well does this image correspond to your vision for E Tremont Ave in the future? What's good? What could be improved?
**OBJECTIVE:** Ensure that major corridors are safe, well-lit, and offer pleasant pedestrian experiences

**Part 2**

- Accessible Station Entrance
- Ensure improved sidewalks on the North side of E Tremont Ave
- Implement crosswalk improvements and other interventions to reduce conflicts between people and cars
- Improve bus amenities and conditions, such as bus shelters, where viable
- Improve accessibility, with specific to wheelchairs
- Make all access ADA compliant

What other improvements might help to make E Tremont Ave a more inviting corridor in the future?
Parkchester - VanNest Remote Workshop
Small Breakout Group - Room 3
Working Communities

Working communities relates to focusing on growing jobs and connecting Bronxites to them.

44%
1. Connect Parkchester to major jobs hubs like Morris Park, Penn Station, and the region

34%
2. Ensure that Bronxites are aware of, qualified for, and connected to current and future job opportunities at area institutions and in the region

22%
3. Understand the needs of existing small businesses and identify tools to support them
Quick Ice breaker

What is the most important thing about this new service and station coming to Parkchester/Van Nest? One word answers!! :)
Jobs and Workforce

Most residents work in either the Bronx or Manhattan, commuting up to 46 minutes to reach their place of work.

Most of the workers are coming from the Bronx followed by Westchester County and Queens. Fewer people live and work in the neighborhood.

Residents and workers are primarily employed in either health care, retail trades, or educational services.

The median earnings for the top three industries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Median Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
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Jobs for Future: Lifesciences R&D

Entry level medical and biological jobs pay between $40K and $50K.

Training and certification programs enable advancement to technologist or supervisor positions with higher salaries upwards of $100K.

How do you think the new service will affect your decision about where to work and where to live?

(2.5hr commute to BK) helpful for going to jobs up north.

What are the barriers to getting these jobs?
Does anyone here work in the local jobs centers?

Local jobs can be limited, especially at local nonprofits.

It's limited to retail and health care, need to help young population with more jobs.


No parking!
The New Haven Line has nearly as many jobs as St. Louis.

Jobs within ½ mile of New Haven Line Metro-North Stations by Industry Macro Sector, 2017

What other opportunities does new access open up for you and your family?

What kinds of supports can ensure Bronx residents can take advantage of new regional jobs/job centers?

The New Haven Line has nearly as many jobs as St. Louis.

What other opportunities does new access open up for you and your family?

Does anyone here work at Hunts Point today? What might this mean for connections?

What kinds of supports can ensure Bronx residents can take advantage of new regional jobs/job centers?
Supporting local businesses and jobs growth

**OBJECTIVE:** Understand the needs of existing small businesses and identify tools to support them

- Improve key travel routes between employment and residential centers and commercial corridors to support convenient access.
- Continue to support Morrins Park Ave. For shops - those tend to be the commercial lifeblood of the neighborhood, with affordable 10-20yr leases.
- In order for small businesses to survive, the leases must remain affordable.
- More mom & pop shops - those tend to be the commercial lifeblood of the neighborhood, with affordable 10-20yr leases
- Support growth around the station to expand the customer base for local retail corridors.
- New bakery needed (currently would rate a 3 out of 10).

**Question for residents:**
Have you participated in any workforce development/professional/training programs in your neighborhood or elsewhere? If so, what were they?

**What workforce development programs would you like to see in the neighborhood?**

- Add comments
- horrible eyesore underpass
- Bronxdale
- Quick food options
- lots of shops used to be there. (giant empty lots). they can be there again
- Parkchester is an odd case as planned community - most people shop here in walking distance
- We are in a border line food desert and could use some more fresh food spots
- repurpose Con-ed and vacant properties on Unionport
- nothing around unionport and Castle Hill
- Food quality has declined
- develop on the vacant lots, lots of potential here such as local small business, small shops
- (retail follows people)
- build out from the unused and vacant properties (low-hanging fruits)
We have heard a lot about the pedestrian and bike safety and this intersection of Bronxdale Ave. Here are some potential improvements. Are these the right improvements? Where else in the neighborhood are these needed?
HIGHLIGHTS

- Importance of public realm improvement
- Revitalize small business
- Benefit of shorter commute, convenience, more job options
- More trainings (esp. youth)
- Main concern: safety
- Fresh food options
- Needs better quality bakery
- Building improvement (lighting...)
- More forms of transportation
- New access
- Underpass Bronxdale needs many improvement, for commute, connection
- Improve bus services along the corridor