



Sustainable Communities

Bronx Metro - North

Melrose

Update: Melrose Open House

On November 15th, 2012 the Department of City Planning (DCP) held a Community Open House at Boricua College for the community that surrounds Melrose Metro-North station. This was the third public event held around this station area and draft recommendations were presented to the community for the first time. City and state agencies as well as community stakeholders were well represented and an interactive format produced valuable input. The project team looks forward to continuing to work with community stakeholders as we refine, prioritize and develop a strategy to best ensure these recommendations are implemented. [View the materials presented at the Open House.](#)



Melrose Station Area Open House A Success!

Update: Melrose Tour and Community Workshop

On Saturday March 10th, 2012 the Bronx Sustainable Communities team held an interactive workshop around the Melrose Metro-North station. The three hour workshop was designed as an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to provide early input that will guide the project outcomes as well as an educational opportunity to better understand the concept of transit-oriented development (TOD). The event was preceded by

community tours, on January 28th, 2012 which provided an opportunity for the project team to learn more about the community and the community to understand the project.



Community participates in DCP tour of Melrose Station area



Bronx SC Team facilitates Melrose Community Tour

A number of community members attended the workshop to provide valuable insights which transitioned into high level discussions around access, the pedestrian environment and land use. DCP staff, which consisted of multi-disciplinary planners and urban designers, was able to listen and learn about the communities while also serving as an educational resource. [Melrose Summary](#)



DCP Bronx Office Director Carol Samol welcomes participants to the Melrose Community Workshop on Saturday, March 10th, 2012.

The workshop was designed to be interactive with a focus on community input and education. It began with a brief presentation which framed the Bronx in a regional perspective, provided existing conditions of the station area and then led into an

informative explanation of the principles of TOD. At the conclusion of the presentation attendees were broken out into groups and rotated to three interactive stations.

Each station focused on a different aspect of TOD. However, there was intentional overlap that coalesced around the idea of creating “complete communities.” The first station focused on access and included a discussion of how the Metro-North station is integrated into the community; connectivity between multi-modal transit; and the vehicular environment. At the second station, dubbed the “pedestrian environment”, participants were led on a virtual tour through key pedestrian routes from the Metro-North stations via a large scale, detailed map (shown in pictures below). Participants were asked to comment with numerically coordinated stickers on streetscape elements; urban design; pedestrian features; or other likes/dislikes in the built environment. The setup provided an opportunity for staff to guide participants and help them to understand the importance of the various items that make up a healthy pedestrian environment. Finally the third station focused on land use opportunities or “how the community should grow.” After an overview of land use and zoning around the station; we asked where are the opportunities for density; what land uses does the community need more/less; and then moved on to a discussion regarding building type through the use of photo boards.



Residents and stakeholders discuss zoning and land use in the community that surrounds the Melrose station.

Once the group had completed each of the three stations, they were brought back together and each station leader presented a summary of the findings. These findings were then summarized into common themes and back to the idea of how they tie into more complete communities that maximize transit assets. While a consistent format was used at each of the events unique results were achieved.

The workshop ran from 1PM to 4PM at Boricua College, DCP Bronx Office Director Carol Samol welcomed a community based group of participants and provided an overview of the role the Bronx has in the region. Through a series of interactive discussions a number of important observations were recorded. Specifically, it was

identified that the station lacks visibility and feels unsafe; there needs to be a more vibrant pedestrian environment; current bus lines which serve as the main conduit between modes of transit are overcrowded; the need for affordable and market rate housing that is of high quality; and manufacturing – particularly green business has a place in the community.

DCP will be working hard to incorporate all of your comments into a set of recommendations that will reflect the needs of the community. Look for a detailed summary of our workshop on our website.

Thank you to the hosts, residents and staff who made these events successful. Irving Ramirez and his staff at Boricua College were supportive throughout the day and local residents were excited to use this new facility in their community.

Thank you to all of the attendees from the Melrose community for making the Bronx Sustainable Communities Visioning Workshop a huge success!



Melrose residents provide input on the pedestrian environment along 161st street.

If you have any comments, or if you are interested in receiving information about the project, please contact us. There will be a number of ways to get involved over the next year, so we look forward to hearing from you.

University Heights

Update: University Heights Tour and Workshop

On Saturday March 3rd, 2012 the Bronx Sustainable Communities team held an interactive workshop around the University Heights Metro-North station area. The three hour workshop was designed as an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to provide early input that will guide the project outcomes as well as an educational opportunity to better understand the concept of TOD. The events were preceded by community tours, on January 28th, which provided an opportunity for the project team to learn more about the community and the community to understand the project.



Community participates in DCP tour of University Heights Station area



Bronx SC Team facilitates University Heights Community Tour

A number of community members attended the workshop to provide valuable insights which transitioned into high level discussions around access, the pedestrian environment and land use. DCP staff, which consisted of multi-disciplinary planners and urban designers, was able to listen and learn about the communities while also serving as an educational resource. [📄 University Heights Summary](#)

The workshop was designed to be interactive with a focus on community input and education. It began with a brief presentation which framed the Bronx in a regional perspective, provided existing conditions of the station area and then led into an informative explanation of the principles of (TOD). At the conclusion of the presentation attendees were broken out into groups and rotated to three interactive stations.



DCP Urban Designer Chris Hayner guides community residents through a section of the “pedestrian experience” around the University Heights Station area.

Each station focused on a different aspect of TOD. However, there was intentional overlap that coalesced around the idea of creating “complete communities.” The first station focused on access and included a discussion of how the Metro-North station is integrated into the community; connectivity between multi-modal transit; and the vehicular environment. At the second station, dubbed the “pedestrian environment”, participants were led on a virtual tour through key pedestrian routes from the Metro-North stations via a large scale, detailed map (shown in pictures below). Participants were asked to comment with numerically coordinated stickers on streetscape elements; urban design; pedestrian features; or other likes/dislikes in the built environment. The setup provided an opportunity for staff to guide participants and help them to understand the importance of the various items that make up a healthy pedestrian environment. Finally, the third station focused on land use opportunities or “how the community should grow.” After an overview of land use and zoning, the station asked where are there opportunities for density; what land uses does the community need more/less; and then moved on to a discussion regarding building type through photo boards.

Once the group had completed each of the three stations, they were brought back together and each station leader presented a summary of the findings. These findings were then summarized into common themes and back to the idea of how they tie into more complete communities that maximize transit assets.

The workshop was held from 1PM to 4PM at Monroe College, Dean Ted Goldstein welcomed residents to the event and the DCP Director of Planning Coordination, Sarah Goldwyn, provided a regional overview. A diverse mix of residents and community stakeholders provided key input that will be used to form recommendations as the study

moves forward. Major issues noted included difficult pedestrian access and isolation around the station area; traffic on Fordham Road from a variety of sources; presence of large vacant parcels; and a desire for community ownership and pride.



Community members discuss the transit and accessibility around the station area.

The project team will be working hard to incorporate all of your comments into a set of recommendations that will reflect the needs of the community. Look for a detailed summary of our workshop on our website.

Thank you to the hosts, residents and staff who made the events successful. Dean Ted Goldstein welcomed residents and Facilities Manager Alan Mechanic and his staff provided a comfortable atmosphere for participants.

We thank all of the attendees from the University Heights community for making the Bronx Sustainable Communities Visioning Workshop a huge success!

If you have any comments, or if you are interested in receiving information about the project, please contact us. There will be a number of ways to get involved over the next year, so we look forward to hearing from you.

Morris Park

Update: Morris Park Outreach

The Department of City Planning's Bronx Sustainable Communities Project held a successful joint outreach event around the Morris Park Proposed Metro-North station in coordination with Metro-North Railroad and the Bronx Borough Presidents Office. The event was held at Albert Einstein College of Medicine on September 10th, 2012, just blocks away from the proposed Metro-North station. Dean Gordon of Einstein College kicked off the event and Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. gave remarks in support of the planning efforts and their benefits to Bronx communities and the region. The outreach forum was attended by approximately 60 local residents, institutional and business leaders, and local press. Project representatives from both agencies presented overviews of their studies and fielded comments during a Q & A format. Constructive feedback from attendees was received in both the Q & A session and in an open house hosted in the lobby at the start of the event.



Morris Park Open House



Morris Park Presentation

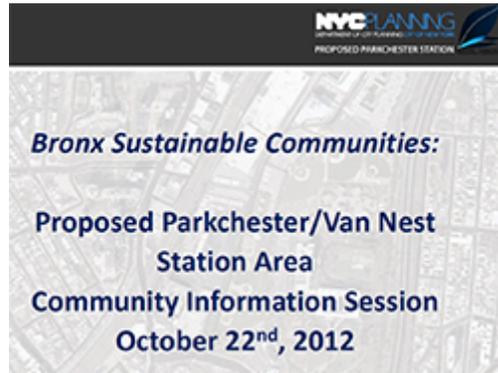
Parkchester/Van Nest

Parkchester/Van Nest Outreach

The Department of City Planning's Bronx Sustainable Communities Project held a successful joint outreach event around the Parkchester/Van Nest Proposed Metro-North station in coordination with Metro-North Railroad and the Bronx Borough Presidents Office. The event was held at the St Raymond Elementary school on October 22nd, 2012, just blocks away from the proposed Metro-North station. Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. gave remarks in support of the planning efforts and their benefits to Bronx communities and the region. The outreach forum was attended by approximately 100 local residents, institutional and business leaders, and local press. Project representatives from both agencies presented overviews of their studies and fielded comments during a Q & A format. Constructive feedback from attendees was received in both the Q & A session and in an open house hosted in the school's lobby at the start of the event.



Parkchester Outreach



[View the community information.](#)