

10th Street Corridor Task Force Initiative (now known as Southwest Ecodistrict)

Public Scoping Meeting, Open Discussion Summary February, 2, 2010

On February 2, 2010, NCPC held the first scoping meeting to introduce the 10th Street Task Force Initiative to the public. At this meeting staff discussed the basis for the initiative, described the study area, the Task Force's mission, and the project approach. This discussion included background on the Monumental Core Framework Plan and the President's Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership on Energy, Environmental, and Economic Performance. At the conclusion of staff's presentation, several members of the public commented on the scope of the project and provided their initial comments. A summary of the public comments is provided below.

Jane Jorgensen, ANC 6D01

- Short-term improvements should include street trees to provide shade in the summer.
- Connect the National Mall to the Waterfront (Washington Channel).
- Concern about multi-modal transit center's impact on the existing neighborhoods is strong – partners must include the neighborhood in the discussion.

Alexander Padro, ANC 2C01

- Banneker Park was the first memorial in the District dedicated to the memory of a prominent African-American.
- Redevelopment should include commemorative focus of both Banneker Park and L'Enfant Plaza/Promenade
- 10th Street provides a wonderful walk from Haupt Gardens (Smithsonian Castle).

Ron McBee, ANC 6D03

- Respect the landscape design for the corridor by Dan Kiley – Banneker Park's dramatic site.
- Consider the panoramic vista of a variety of monuments and view sheds.
- Large-scale redevelopment by the Redevelopment Land Agency (RLA) displaced a diverse neighborhood.
- Balance the density of adjacent development with a focal point & terminus.
- The southwest multi-modal plan at Banneker includes parking for buses and cars, additional traffic signals, tearing down an existing memorial and not replacing it. The proposal is disruptive to the community.

Peggy Seats

- Team must recognize 14 years of work to upgrade Banneker to a world-class memorial.
- The corridor is conducive for telling the story of all the founding fathers (Washington, Jefferson, L'Enfant, Ellicott and Banneker), and establishing the Banneker Institute of Math & Science, to strengthen the math and science literacy in America. Schoolchildren will be inspired by the presence of these commemorative elements among their midst.

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Grace Daughtridge

- Any future redevelopment of the area must consider its stormwater impact downstream. There are parts of the Southwest (G Street to I Street, 4th Street to 7th Street) that are constantly flooded due to past Urban Renewal projects
- Will current water and sewer infrastructure be upgraded? Flooding is common in this area.
- Tour buses often travel through the residential neighborhood despite signs that clearly prohibit them in those areas. Residents have monitored tour buses and tried to report them to the District government only to find out they are not registered to operate in the District. The multimodal transportation center should study whether its presence will encourage such illegal activities.

Judy Scott Feldman, National Coalition to Save Our Mall

- The Monumental Core Framework Plan has several assumptions built into it. Two additional issues should be considered – 1) history, 2) Future. A fundamental question that needs to be addressed: where is the boundary of the National Mall. The McMillan Plan extends the National Mall to the waterfront. If 10th Street is to be part of the National Mall, we need to be clear that it includes historic characteristics of the Mall. Secondly, think of this area not just as federal land in the city but as the extension of the National Mall. This will affect how we think of the design and programming of the study area. There is an opportunity to hold future festivals that are traditionally held in the Mall down on 10th Street, such as the Folk Life Festival, which will help activate the streets.
- Treat Banneker Park not as the terminus, but the midpoint between the Mall and East Potomac Park.

Lindsley Williams

- The project needs to reconcile the conflicts between historic preservation and sustainability.
- Expand the study area beyond the centerline of the streets – consider how people will walk to the area from the vicinity. Extend the boundary of the study area to the bulkhead of the Washington Channel and up to Jefferson Drive, as well as across 7th and 12th Streets.

Zev Feder

- The community does not need an intermodal transportation center*. Cars and buses will converge in an area that can't handle even the volume today. This neighborhood is not built to handle a lot of traffic and tour buses. Emphasize walking and mass transit as the main means of getting to the area.
- Mixed-use development is a good idea.

Richard Westbrook

- The Framework Plan showed a good plan to cover I-395 that would double the space of Banneker Park. There is an opportunity to locate several museums, including the National Women's Museum and the African-American History Museum, in addition to a national memorial, in this newly-created space.
- Provide an underground garage to serve the various museums and memorial sites.

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- Tear down the Forrestal building and attach the new building to the existing square to break up the monotony. On the other side of 10th Street, maybe locate another museum, such as the Medical Museum that is currently in the Walter Reed Medical Center.

Geoffrey Morell

- Find creative ways to treat wastewater. In Madrid, they use waterfalls to clean water.
- Provide a children's playground with seats and toilets.
- Provide food and water stations.

Diana Matarac

- Increase retail uses to serve residents of Southwest; there is only one small Safeway grocery store.
- Create an 18-hour neighborhood.
- Federal government can partner with District residents and private developers to attract hotels and restaurants; these uses will also increase District revenues.

Zach Dobelbower

- Consider expanding the boundaries of the study area to capture already existing opportunities in the vicinity for some easy wins; i.e. GSA power plant, USDA Farmers' Market, largest LEED retrofit building east of the study area.
- Consider public art to cover the façade of the Forrestal building during renovation as a way to gain momentum and public interest.

*The intermodal transportation center refers to the proposal in the L'Enfant Promenade and Banneker Park Environmental Assessment, developed by the District Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration Eastern Lands Division. While the Framework Plan acknowledges the need to accommodate a range of transit modes within the corridor, including tour buses, it suggests that alternative locations should be considered. The 10th Street Corridor study will evaluate a range of location options.