

Inner Loop North Public Meeting #1

World Of Inquiry School #58 – Gymnasium

200 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14614

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 6:00PM – 7:30PM

Prepared by: Julie Boasi – Highland Planning

1) Meeting Summary

On Thursday, November 7, 2024, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm, the City of Rochester held a public meeting and open house for the Inner Loop North Mobility and Development Study. The meeting was held in the gymnasium of World of Inquiry School #58 and approximately sixty (60) people were in attendance.

Sean Hare from MKSK convened the group and began the presentation. He covered the following:

Introduction and Project Overview

- Two parallel studies: infrastructure design by Stantec and land use perspective by MKSK
- Focus on development opportunities, open space, and transportation improvements
- Multiple rounds of public and stakeholder input planned

Study Outcomes and Deliverables

- Three main deliverables: land use and development strategies, mobility recommendations, and implementation tools
- Development of alternatives for three sub-areas
- Open space plans for potential public spaces and parks
- Mobility recommendations including parking, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure
- Phasing and prioritization of investment areas

Engagement Process

- Three channels: project advisory committee, stakeholder focus groups, and public engagement
- Stakeholder groups include neighborhood organizations, anchored users, mobility groups, and developers/brokers
- Current stage: gathering community and stakeholder input on preferences
- Next steps: review input, outline alternative concepts, and develop preferred plans

Project Area and Open House Format

- Project area divided into three sub-areas: western, central, and eastern
- Five stations around the room for public input
- Stations organized by sub-areas and topics (land use, open space, general comments)
- Project website: www.cityofrochester.gov/innerloopnorth
- Team members from city, GTC, and consultants available for questions

Community Concerns

- Cynthia Elliott raised concerns about gentrification and displacement of long-time residents
- Worried about property tax increases forcing out current residents
- Emphasized the importance of preserving community culture
- Called for sensitivity to existing community members in development plans
- Stressed the need for representation of current residents in decision-making

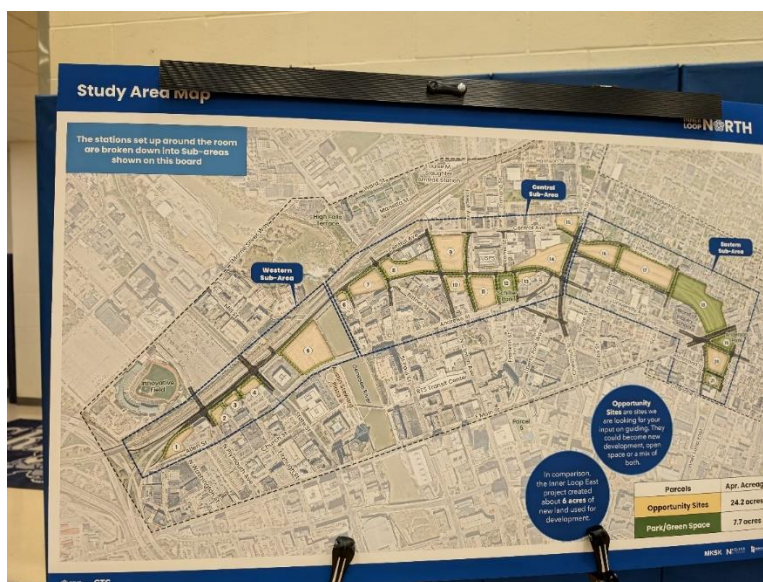
Sean then encouraged participants to visit stations and provide input. The group transitioned into the Open House portion of the meeting.

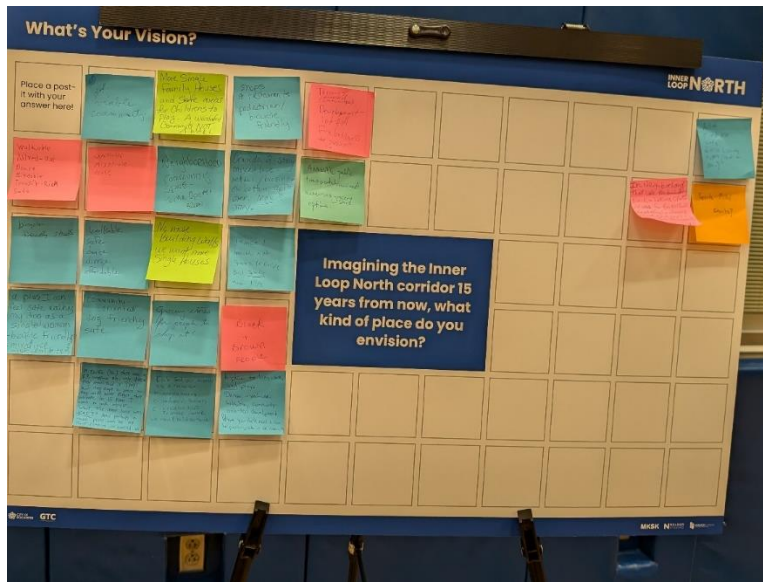
A list of meeting attendees is in Appendix A and photos of the meeting are in Appendix B. A summary of feedback from the stations is in Appendix C.

2) Open House Station Boards

Attendees moved around the room, visiting each station and providing the requested input. City of Rochester staff and members of the consultant team were present at each station to answer questions and discuss the project.

Welcome Station





Prompt / Question

Imagining the Inner Loop North corridor 15 years from now, what kind of place do you envision?

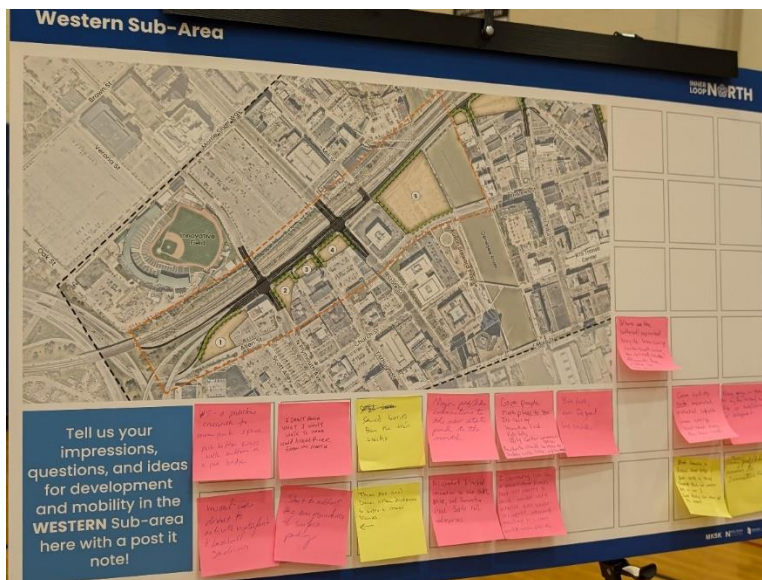
Responses

- Sports field / courts?
- Active mixed-use dafe diverse housing types
- In neighborhood that are predominantly Blacks and Latinos. Sports areas for basketball, baseball, etc.
- A viable community
- More single family home and safe areas for children to play. A wonderful community NOT a wall.
- Shops and restaurants pedestrian/ bicycle friendly
- Thriving, connected communities. Development lot full, fun business to support
- Walkable. Mixed-use. Bikeable. Transit-rich. Safe. Dense.
- Walkable. Mixed-use. Dense.
- Neighborhood community space - some open and green
- Consider -story mixed use - retail/business on bottom, apartments over. Max 3 stories
- Accessible public transportation ad numerous grocery store options
- Bicycle friendly streets
- Walkable. Dense. Safe. Diverse. Affordable.
- No more building ways we want more Single houses
- Place. would not want to drive but walk and live
- Community-oriented. Dog friendly. Safe.
- Black and Brown people.
- Grocery stores for people to shop at
- A place where I can feel safe walking my dog as a single woman - bicycle friendly - mixed-use - where community gathers
- in Delft (NL) there was a RR overpass. Big, ugly. They demolished it (yay) but they kept a piece so they would never forget their mistake. In 15 years I want to ask myself... "wait. The inner loop was HERE?" and perhaps a small piece can be all that remains to remind us.
- Each section has a character. W - upscale housing. C - Industrial business. E - neighborhood, Inmixed income. We should
- A place to live, work and play. Dense, mixed-use, community-oriented development. Where you don't need a car to participate
- Convert highway to at-grade "Ebenezer Allen Parkway" or "Ebenezer Allen Boulevard" from East Main St to round-a-bout connecting it to Jefferson Av, Maple St and Grape St. Absorb Cumberland, Delevan and Allen St; round-a-bout to absorb Wilder St.
- Would have to remain above grade over bridges over State St and Genesee River; would create another opening in between to
- Extend Falls St to either Bausch/Smith St or Vincent St
- Re-create and reconnect parks and squares lost to the Inner Loop North and reconnect them to Schiller Park and extend
- Reconnect both sections of University Ave to create extended triangular park/square between it ad East Main and Union

Land Use, Open Space, and Mobility: West



	Other comments Drive up River Access. I have bad knees and most of the access is a walk or neat high tent apartments (Cornhill) Would love to see downtown fireworks? somewhere		Other comments N/A
LAND USE PREFERENCES		OPEN SPACE CHARACTER	
SINGLE-FAMILY (2 Stories) 5	TOWNHOMES (2-3 Stories) 5	LINEAR GREENSPACE 18	PEDESTRAIN-ONLY SPACES 22
MULTI-FAMILY (3-5Stories) 7	MIXED USE (3-4 Stories) 18	POCKET PARKS 13	CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACES 10
MIXED USE (5+ Stories) 29	EMPLOYMENT (Light Industrial / Office) 9	OPEN GREENSPACES + PARKS 12	PLAZAS 3



Prompt / Question

Tell us your impressions, questions, and ideas for development in the **Western Sub-area**

Responses

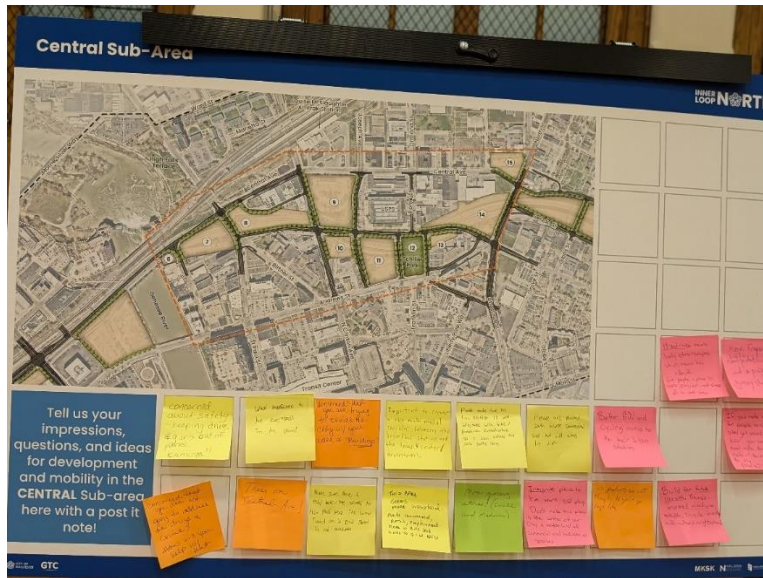
- #5 - a pedestrian cross walk to more public space. Push button cross walk or pedestrian bridge
- I don't know if I would walk to here, would access river from the north
- Sound barrier from the train tracks
- Major pedestrian/bike connections to the new State Park to the North
- Give people more places to live! It is currently nearby; innovative field, high falls, city center commercial space. Residents should be able to safely walk, bike and bus.
- Bus lanes, more frequent bus service
- Where are the buffered/separated bicycle lanes running North-south under the railroad tracks? - Plymouth Ave - State St - River (Parkway?)
- Give cyclists safe, separated, protected bicycle lanes running East-west along the new route
- Mixed-use district to activate waterfront and baseball stadium
- start to address the over abundance of surface parking
- Dense urban development to support mass transit *(in response to over abundance surface parking)*
- High-comfort bike/ped connection to the GRT, MCE and Innovative field. Safe Rail. Underpasses.
- I currently live in a safe home but lost ability to drive, would like to relocate into owner-occupied, attached housing so I can walk places.
- Easy (Safe) pedestrian/bike access to Innovation field
- Better connections and access to complete park and water. Street bridge
- Parking garage or a safe street by the railroad to free up for development

Land Use, Open Space, and Mobility: Central





	Other comments		Other comments
	N/A		N/A
LAND USE PREFERENCES		OPEN SPACE CHARACTER	
SINGLE-FAMILY (2 Stories)	TOWNHOMES (2 -3 Stories)	LINEAR GREENSPACE	PEDESTRAIN-ONLY SPACES
9	17	18	21
MULTI-FAMILY (3-5Stories)	MIXED USE (3-4 Stories)	POCKET PARKS	CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACES
11	26	10	7
MIXED USE (5+ Stories)	EMPLOYMENT (Light Industrial /	OPEN GREENSPACES + PARKS	PLAZAS
16	7	11	3



Prompt / Question

Tell us your impressions, questions, and ideas for development in the Central Sub-area

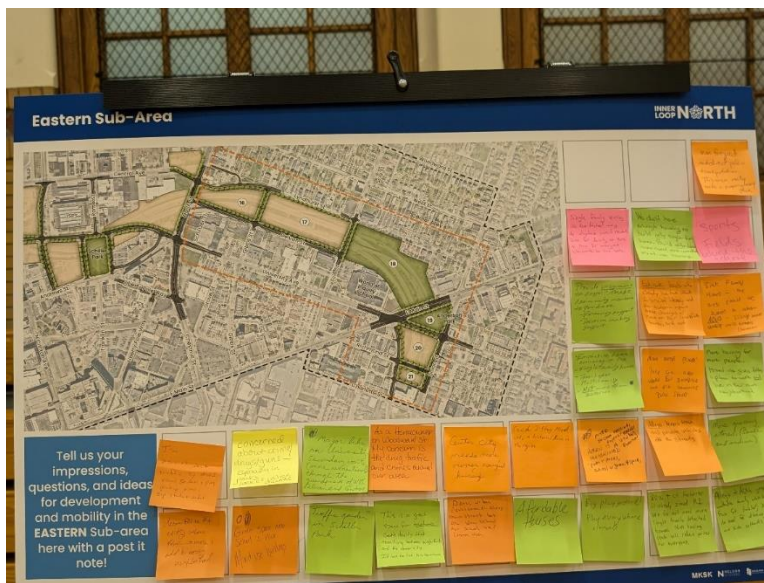
Responses

- Concerned about safety - keeping drugs and guns out of the parks - Cameras
- What happened to the round-a-bouts in the plan?
- Concerned that you are trying to divide the city with your wall of "buildings"
- Important to create a nice multi-modal corridor between the train/bus station and the transit center / downtown
- Please make sure the train station with bike/pedestrian Infrastructure. So I can actually feel safe sitting there.
- Please add North-south bicycle and not just along the river
- Better (RTS) Bus and Cycling access to the train and bus stations
- If you make way for people to walk/bike/get around without a car. You won't need wide, dangerous roads in the middle of the city. People > Cars
- Mixed-use means lively streetscapes. Which means less __?__. Give people a place to work, play, eat, and sleep all in one area.
- More frequent public transportation and proper grocery store
- Concerned that you are not going to address the drugs and crime. How will you help with that?
- Trees on Central Ave
- Make sure there is a easy bike/pedestrian access to the High Falls Park. The current tunnel on the street is inadequate.
- This area seems more industrial - maybe commercial, retail, employment here with bike lane to the E&W areas
- More grocery stores (small & Medium)
- Build for future growth. Transit-oriented, mixed-use, walkable, bicycle -friendly multi-cultural neighborhood.
- Use pedestrian cut throughs to split up the large lots
- Integrate places to live, work and play. Don't make this place in the center of our city a wasteland of commercial and industrial spaces

Land Use, Open Space, and Mobility: East



	Other comments N/A		Other comments N/A
LAND USE PREFERENCES		OPEN SPACE CHARACTER	
SINGLE-FAMILY (2 Stories) 43	TOWNHOMES (2-3 Stories) 38	LINEAR GREENSPACE 20	PEDESTRAIN-ONLY SPACES 19
MULTI-FAMILY (3-5 Stories) 11	MIXED USE (3-4 Stories) 15	POCKET PARKS 16	CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACES 25
MIXED USE (5+ Stories) 3	EMPLOYMENT (Light Industrial / Office) 3	OPEN GREENSPACES + PARKS 30	PLAZAS 4



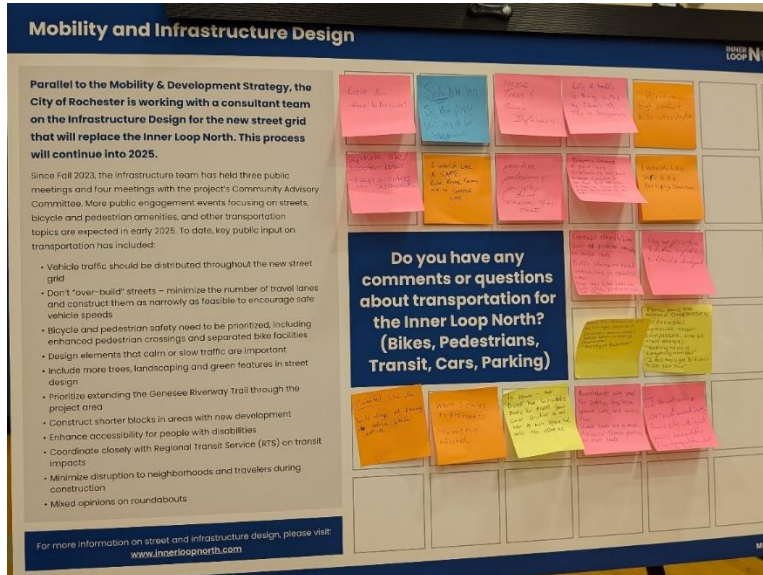
Prompt / Question

Tell us your impressions, questions, and ideas for development in the **Eastern Sub-area**

Responses

I'm worried about traffic by WOI School at AM and PM pickup times - student safety
Concerned about crime/drugs/guns - especially in parks - lack of police presence
Major xxxx on University secondary route [more recreational] through the ___?___ of WOI Delevan and central
As a homeowner on Woodward St my concern is the drug traffic and crimes around our area
Center City needs more owner occupied housing
Consider 2-story mixed use, a historical form in the region
Please fill in the existing urban fabric -- mesh and add to existing neighborhood
Green space near school is nice - Mixed-use buildings
"Traffic Garden" in Schiller Park
This is a great space for townhomes. Gentle density that transition between single-family and the denser city. I'd love to live in a townhome
Dense urban development along Main St but open space for school use/commercial use
Affordable Houses
Big Playground. Play everywhere elements
80% of Rochester is already zoned R1. We do not need more single-family detached homes. More housing stock will reduce prices for everyone.
Alleys + ADUs Walkable density while keeping Scio St character - no need for driveways and safe setbacks
More grocery stores. (small and medium)
Mixed income housing support market return to a <i>view</i> ___?___ - neighborhood expansion- pocket parks & school with green space
Emphasize home ownership - Single-family - Townhomes - Multi-family - Not more than 3 stories
More housing for more people. Mixed use gives folks a place to work and live in their own neighborhood
Provide programs to support/enable community members to purchase; - financing support - decision marking support
Educate locals who already live here about financial literacy and the economic impact these changes will have on their land value, taxes and rent
Single-family homes in the area should be zoned to ADUS - slightly more density while keeping character
Single Family zoning is the fastest way to displace current residents. Zone for density so there is room for everyone who wants to live here
We don't have enough housing to build <u>only</u> single-family homes. Build affordable, income-capped, rent controlled, and mixed-use housing
Sports fields behind the school
More frequent and direct public transportation. This area really needs a proper grocery store
Alleys keep trash and private vehicles off the streets

Next Steps and Open Comment Station



Prompt / Question

Do you have any comments or questions about transportation for the Inner Loop North? (Bikes, Pedestrians, Transit, cars, Parking)

Responses

Love all the bullet points (referring to board provided list)
Safe bike lanes. So more people will try it for transportation.
More trees and Green infrastructure
Separate bike lanes/scooter lanes. Keep scooters off sidewalks
I would like a safe bike route from 104 to Center City
Prioritize pedestrians bicycle - narrow short streets
Traffic calming is good but grid blocks is not good either. Concern on St. Paul Blvd - SB bridge no room for left turn to go
I would like safe bike. Parking Downtown
Don't make bike lanes _____, cyclists onto the side walk or into street sections at intersections
Prioritize high comfort bike infrastructure
Lots of traffic is being routed by School 58. This is dangerous.
Continuous sidewalk/bike laned protect intersection on major roads. Traffic calming ad raised intersections in residential areas.
One way bike lanes on both sides, bi-directional not ideal.
Can we prioritize bide from non-profit or alternative developers?
Need to demolish old buildings please! Consider more retail space when entering downtown "City of Rochester"
Please paint the railroad Overpasses. EX; Syracuse train overpasses., one of the states "Nothing to do is everything with you" "I paid the bight bill just to see your face"
Protected bike infrastructure. Build alleys not driveways to reduce bike/car conflicts
What is change to RTS routes. How are they affected?
Round-a-bouts are good for safety, long term cost, and traffic flow. Steet trees are a must. Minimize street parking on major roads.
Have inadequate parking for bicycles, covered structures do not take up much space and can make a difference
I do not own a car and moved here for a city with a great public transportation - it is lacking here.
I have a car and don't want to need it
Yes to round-a-bouts (no more people blowing through stop signs)
People > Cars. Raided crossings, bump outs for shorter crossing intersections, pedestrian-only streets, safe walking ad biking.
Less need for cars and parking infrastructure.

Appendix A: Meeting Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Relationship to Project / Affiliation
Tony	Apollonio	
Kay	Benjamin	
Foresha	Benton	Resident
Tricia	Bhattacharya	Selden St Resident
Jody	Binnix	GTC
Julie	Boasi	Highland Planning
John William	Bowen	Resident
Carrie	Butler	Resident
Dorothy	Caine	Parent @ 58
Corinne	Chiogna	
Ty	Concepcion	Non-Profit Market View Heights = ED/Business Owner
Monique	Conner	Resident
Anne	DaSilva Tella	NBD
Henease	Davis	Resident
Hendrik	de Smidt	resident
Robert	DiPaola	Windsor St Resident
Matt	Ford	Resident
Kathy	Frame	Selden St Resident
Scott	Frame	ILN CAC
Scott	Frame	Grove Place Neighborhood Association
Emma	Fuller	Resident, Planner
Sean	Hare	MKSK
Ann	Howard	MVH CAP
Howard	Jeffries	R.I.D.C. Member
Brian	Kehoe	
Kevin	Kelley	City Planning
Tom	Kicior	City of Rochester DES
Jesse	Knoth	CAC
Karen	Lankeshofer	
Willie	Lightfoot	Prayer House, Church of God by Faith
Phyllis	Lukenbill	YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County
Nelsy	Madrid	NENSC RPD
Natasha	Main	
G.	Maldonado	NENSC RPD
Brian	Managar	Resident, cyclist

Karen	Mangan	Biker
Adrian	Martin	City resident & downtown worker
Suzanne	Mayer	
Suzanne	Mayer	HINGE
Janene	Miller	Downtown resident
Martin	Pedraza	Scio Street Resident
Gladys	Pedraza-Burgos	Marketview Heights CAP
Miquel	Powell, LMSW	Business Owner RCDC-17
Bill	Price	Community Design ROC
M. Andre	Primus	Resident
Kamillah	Ramos	Resident
Vincent	Rawls	
Howard	Ressel	19th Ward City Resident
David	Riley	DES
Tanner	Ritz	
Alicia	Rogers	58 Staff/Parent
Stephen	Roll	Reconnect ROC (and want to live in a townhouse)
Ismadelin	Santana	Resident (homeowner) on Woodward St
German	Santiago	Resident
Emily	Silvius	MKSK
Steve	Smith	Gibbs St Resident
Julia	Smith	Grove Place Heights
Brendon	Strowe	Resident
Harrison	Taylor	Resident
Sarah	Taylor	Resident
Jim	Townsend	Resident
Troa	Vimahi	RIT invited by Prof. Howard!
Rory	Weilnau	Stantec - Design Consultant
Aaron	Weiner	DES
Carol	Wheeler	Municipality
Aaron	Wilson	Resident
Kevin	Yost	Citizen
Chris	Zeltmann	Sen Schumer Office

Appendix B: Meeting Photos

