



Tampa's Downtown Vision & Action Plan Annual Update Community Forum

Wednesday, May 28, 2008 - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

John F. Germany Library, Downtown Tampa

COMMUNITY INPUT

Culture & Arts

- Need for a targeted campaign to promote the more than 20 arts institutions and arts events that will be located in downtown by 2010
- Need for more sidewalk/street art

Education

- Incorporate education elements into the AIA Federal Courthouse Community Design Center plan
- Need for additional arts education programs (including performing arts)
- Study the "missing" education needs in downtown and create additional education sites as needed
- Use education programs/opportunities to attract young professionals to the Tampa area

Environment/Open Spaces/Community Gathering Places

- Create community gardens
- Need more playgrounds (such as the ones in Cotanchobee Park and at the Peter O'Knight Airport)
- Install a carousel into a downtown park
- Create a greenways/trail system between the Channel District and downtown.
- Create parks/plazas/walking stops every ¼-mile (or roughly 5 minutes of walking) to encouraging walkability
- Need for Wi-fi zones in downtown parks
- Need for more architectural shade structures
- Need for public kayak rentals
- Need for additional police presence, especially evenings & weekends
- Encourage developers to incorporate green space/pocket parks into their projects
- Homeless Population/Security is an issue – implement a mandatory registration for Homeless and do regular police checks of camps

Hospitality

- Develop additional hotel rooms for convention center expansion
- Create friendly parking options
- Need for better way-finding signage
- Need for detailed transit options information
- Form committee to expand convention center/secure funding for expansion
- Create additional two-way streets for easier navigation downtown
- Need for bike rentals/bike route maps
- Need for a "Hospitality House"
- Make roads more pedestrian-friendly
- Need for more Arts/Entertainment rack cards and downtown promotions information
- Youth Hostel at Riverfront Park
- Create "scenic viewing" sites and a map of such sites
- Create partnerships with downtown venues to create destinations along the Riverwalk
- Need for temporary tent/pavilion-type structures in Curtis Hixon Park to be used during heat/inclement weather

Housing/Residential

- Create Fly-in Condos/Rentals near Peter O'Knight Airport
- Create Attainable Housing options targeted to Boomers and Young Professionals
- Need for additional mixed-use/mixed-income projects
- Create tax rebates for property owners to encourage investment in downtown

Office/Commercial Real Estate

- Create an online resource to match available office space with potential commercial renters
- Target X's and Y's for job growth/creation
- Need additional parking options/more low-cost options
- Need a more comprehensive plan by economic development agencies to attract/retain businesses – identify specific industry clusters to target

Planning/Design/Zoning

- Need more connectivity between destinations
- Increase Urban Density
- Develop codes for ground-floor uses (alternatives to ground-floor parking)
- Need for a true master plan for urban development that incorporates visual images to encourage community buy-in
- Need for development regulations for excellence in design/form-based codes
- Remove barriers in the zoning process/provide development incentives

Retail/ Entertainment

- Need for additional retail, dining and entertainment options
- Need for a retail-mix plan
- Plan for retail corridors on Franklin Street, Polk Street, etc.
- Need for better communication of retail hours/offers
- Create parking alternatives to on-street parking, which discourages sidewalk cafes, etc.
- Need for transportation options to support retail/entertainment connectivity

- Program the Riverwalk to increase usage
- Create distinct districts in downtown
- Need for additional special event signage
- Create alternative garbage storage options
- Attract anchor retailers to encourage future retail clusters, including a large number of independent businesses

Transportation/Parking/Pedestrian Movement

- Increase multi-modal public transportation options
- Need for traffic-calming measures/Ashley Drive improvements to make that corridor more pedestrian-friendly
- Immediate need for streetcar extension
- Remove cones/barriers during special events to create better traffic-flow patterns
- Need for a traffic-routing plan to accommodate traffic flow when IKEA is completed
- Lane-width shortening/sidewalk extensions to create green space/café options
- Call for public input to City regarding the need for pedestrian and public transit options
- Need for additional Streetscaping/beautification, trees/shade options
- Reconnect Polk Street to Nebraska Avenue
- Create more multi-modal transportation options on the Meridian extension