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Input Workshop Question Responses

Project Name	Downtown Transformation - Public Infrastructure and Enhancements Battle Creek Unlimited	Project Location	Battle Creek, Michigan
Date	December 17, 2009	Project Number	2090102

What is your impression of the appearance of your downtown?

- A. Table 1 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
1. Proud and very attractive
 2. Empty store fronts are disturbing
 3. Mismatched storefronts
 4. Heritage Tower - what to do? How to use it?
 5. Lack of people
 6. Clean
 7. Very Walk able
- B. Table 2 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
1. Not at lot to do for attendees – C. U. B.
 2. Buildings are in disrepair and vacancies
 3. Lacks activity
 4. Lacks density
- C. Table 3 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
1. Vacancies
 2. Some areas have nice design, some poor (frugal design)
 3. Some looks junky - material, design, color, old, outdated
 4. Out-of-town - owners - part of the problem
 5. Historical identity (some feel gone, some feel there's blight)
 6. Maintenance appears adequate (improved in recent years)
 7. Poor building appearance and these areas get more attention
- D. Table 1 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. Blight/empty storefronts are unattractive
 2. We have nice park areas
 3. City is clean
 4. Shabby buildings
 5. Beautiful river, but not user friendly
 6. Linear pathway beautiful, but not utilized
- E. Table 2 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. Tired

2. Depressed
3. Clean - maintained
4. Old but not necessarily historic
5. Limited visual interest
6. Lighting – need consistency
7. Building need consistency
8. Facade improvement
9. Auditory improvement

F. Table 3 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:

1. Not busy usually
2. Empty spaces/vacant buildings
3. Inconsistent light design/fixtures
4. Facades are mismatch and lacks design standards
5. Live eye/6:00 news - not many cars, activity
6. Need to improve junk - not necessarily demo
7. Need to get employees out on street
8. Dull, no vibe
9. Kalamazoo River / concrete channel eye sore
10. Riverfront consumed with parking ramp and State Street lot
11. Lot of inconsistency - lacks master plan, blight in town and cute
12. Maintenance - appears clean

G. Table 1 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:

1. Historical (significance)
2. Tattered
3. Hodge podge
4. Vacancies
5. Eclectic
6. Too dark
7. Empty
8. Clean

H. Table 2 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:

1. Lot of potential
2. Nothing special
3. Nothing pulls you in
4. Love entry masonry arch welcome sign
5. A lot of character/history (not capitalized)
6. Empty storefronts
7. Absent landlords (not caring for property)

8. Connection to river (good)
 9. Lots of areas for improvement
- I. Table 3 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. River walk system - "positive"
 2. Larger than just Michigan Avenue
 3. Identity of what downtown offers is lacking
 4. Vacancy rate - "negative"
 5. Missing "people" activity
 6. Development of existing properties
 7. Opportunity to enlarge the downtown area south to north along with the east to west
- J. Table 1 / Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.:
1. Looks tired/sad - facades and streetscapes
 2. Needs to be updated
 3. Questionable surrounding neighborhoods
 4. Reality and perception are real that the downtown is unsafe

What makes you feel safe/unsafe in your downtown?

- A. Table 1 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
 - 1. Need more people
 - 2. Very safe
 - 3. time of day determines how safe you feel
 - 4. Presence of law enforcement, make them more visible
 - 5. Parking is visible
 - 6. Michigan Street parking is crowded

- B. Table 2 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
 - 1. Urban agriculture - in planters
 - 2. There is an unsafe perception issue
 - 3. Need for lighting - off-street

- C. Table 3 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
 - 1. Most people don't feel safe
 - 2. Need more people on streets / create reasons to get them out of buildings
 - 3. Lighting is important
 - 4. Perception is worse than reality
 - 5. Need to change perception
 - 6. River is under utilized
 - 7. Currently, Clara's is one of few reasons to walk by river
 - 8. Some use linear path
 - 9. Clara's and WKKF only ones and to capitalize on river view, behind Kellogg HQ under utilized by public
 - 10. Would like to see use of river - kayaks, etc.

- D. Table 1 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
 - 1. Lighting is safe
 - 2. Openness makes us feel safe
 - 3. More people/activity
 - 4. Cameras security
 - 5. perception of safety dictates visiting downtown
 - 6. Good police presence

- E. Table 2 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
 - 1. Need lighting improvements
 - 2. Beat cops
 - 3. Better mix of attractions to bring families will make it feel safe

- F. Table 3 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. Might feels unsafe due to lack of people
 2. Emphasis on motor vehicle traffic feels unsafe for bikes, pedestrians
 3. traffic too fast in many places
 4. Crime low
 5. Perception is that downtown is unsafe
 - a. Media doesn't help
 - b. Lighting could be improved in areas
 6. feel less safe near WKKF - wider street, dark and less people
 7. Like new lighting downtown (design) may need more light output
- G. Table 1 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. Feel safe (majority)
 2. Negative perceptions of safety
 3. Programming helps to create safety and change perceptions
- H. Table 2 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. Unsafe
 2. Not a big concern for safety (generally)
 3. Lighting helps safe feeling (under bridge, linear park)
 4. Visibility of police
 5. Other people around help safe feeling – during activities
- I. Table 3 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. Safe feeling "positive"
 2. Lighting on back streets
 3. More activity - more eyes
- J. Table 1 / Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.:
1. Do not feel unsafe down here
 2. Well-lighted areas
 3. Police presence
 4. When walking around and no one is out = scared!!
 5. homeless presence not worry some

Do you feel that your downtown is accessible, and connected to its surroundings?

- A. Table 1 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
1. Lack of access to river
 2. Forgot about river
 3. Activities related to river are important
 4. Bad public transportation

5. Transit system not used
 6. Bus stops not inviting
 7. Need maps for bus routes
 8. Need safe bike lanes
 9. Need bike rentals
- B. Table 2 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
1. City is easy to get around
 2. River is not accessible
- C. Table 3 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
1. When transit station was located by "bank corners" it drew more people to use transit - corner of Capital Avenue and Michigan (difference uses in downtown then)
- D. Table 1 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. Handicap ability
 2. Bus route schedule is needed
 3. Not biker friendly and have limited bike parking racks
 4. We have good parking
 5. Pathways are un-inviting going north/south
 6. Remote feel to river
 7. We should have historical target/river travel
- E. Table 2 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. Parking is accessible
 2. Need better public transit
 3. Need heated sidewalks
 4. Need better river connections
 5. Need signage/kiosks
- F. Table 3 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. Don't see many bikes
 2. I-94 to downtown is adequate
 3. Making it inviting is lacking impressions
 4. Biking from south end - path along the river ends, then traveling along Dickman Road (not inviting)
 5. Capital Ave. - key access point - rail crossings and Michigan Paper block traffic frequently
 6. WKKF design (parking structure and lower walk)
 7. Should consider opening walkway to river access.
 8. Downtown boundaries not clear
 9. Willard Library front steps - not inviting/eye sore – not accessible

10. Need grid design - instead of everything focused in Michigan Avenue
- G. Table 1 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. People do not like to park in ramps and walk
 2. "Walk able" but not encouraged
 3. No connection to river
 4. Traffic routing
 5. **Need** connection to river
 6. Encourage use of linear path - direction/way finding
 7. Lack of connection to river
 8. Friendship Park – canoe access
- H. Table 2 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. Disjointed from neighborhood
 2. It is connected to BCC school
 3. parking is not an issue
 4. River is accessible
- I. Table 3 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. No comments
- J. Table 1 / Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.:
1. Love bike path that goes 12 miles out of city
 2. Surrounded by some blight in neighborhood
 3. River is not utilized well
 4. Not inviting or easily accessible
 5. Roads are not congested over river's or roadways are easily navigated
 6. Access points at river

What types of amenities make a downtown inviting?

- A. Table 1 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
1. Rain gardens
 2. Convenient store
 3. Cultural center - maybe at old cereal museum
 4. Art center downtown
 5. More color
 6. Access to green space
 7. Affordable housing
 8. More entertainment
 9. Movie theater - smaller films, independent films, multi-use

10. Outdoor seating
 11. Ethnic food
 12. Market - somewhere to buy food
 13. Variety of shopping
- B. Table 2 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
1. Heated sidewalks
 2. Trees
 3. Benches
 4. Plantings
 5. Family-oriented activities
 6. Interactive water assets
 7. River - paddleboat rentals
 8. Cereal theme
- C. Table 3 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
1. Design green areas so people don't walk through – make areas raised, and maintain it
 2. High trees to allow visibility of signs and sidewalk level activity
 3. Vandalism - take out and replace immediately
 4. Consider connected, enclosed walkways between some buildings
 5. Water features - asset when they work - must be maintained
 6. Interactive water/kids, not over bearing or noisy
 7. Sound system downtown would be good amenity
 8. Energy efficient, green feature, rain garden
 9. Facade grant not big enough
 10. Historic values
 11. Just because buildings old- doesn't mean they are historic
 12. Demo should be employed to remove blight - non-historic structures
- D. Table 1 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. Art
 2. Convenient shopping
 3. Restaurants - unique/ethnic
 4. Movie theatre
 5. Festival site re-engineered
 6. Festivals cultural/music
 - a. Michigan Avenue/State Street parking lot
 7. Outdoor skating /CAFE program
 8. Trees
 9. Kellogg Arena key to bringing people D/T - 20% usage now, should be 60-70% need business locating downtown

- E. Table 2 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. Signature events
 2. Art
 3. Murals
 4. Interactivity
 5. Cob benches
- F. Table 3 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. Restore BCPS Admin to library use and open up original library entrance
 2. McCamley Plaza disappointing
 3. Art in windows, art in infrastructure design, on signage, on buildings
 4. More open/green space
 5. St. Joseph - theme with different statutes - changing - bears, boats, interactive kids/play on street corners
 6. More plantings
 7. Traffic calming
 8. Water features
 9. Re-introduce downtown to kids, youth, families - create reasons, interactive
 10. Mill Race playground - nice feature - not utilized enough
 11. Restaurants, boutiques
 12. Outdoor skating area, like South Haven and Grand Rapids Millennium Park
 13. Color, trash receptacles, dog friendly features
 14. Public restrooms
 15. Design needs to fit community, maintainable
 16. Disappointed in limited design shown at community forum
 - a. Needs to be more bold, dramatic
 - b. Needs pleasant ambiance - suitable for Battle Creek
- G. Table 1 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. Food vendors on street
 2. Entertainment
 3. Alive **at** 5:00 !!!
 4. Affordable/exclusive living
 5. State Street:
 - a. Entertainment area with programming year round
 - b. City Center
 - c. Outdoor theater
 6. Lower the grade to include the river
 7. Vacant building = gallery
 8. Public art

9. Planned amenities
10. What is the amenity that will bring you down more and then keep you here!!!
11. Walk to market for supplies
12. Walk to get haircut

H. Table 2 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:

1. Street furniture/cafe seating
2. places to go things to do for high school students
3. Events plaza - to allow performances
4. Outdoor events
5. Farmers Market behind backs of buildings facing river

I. Table 3 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:

1. Sidewalks - sno-melt - tree, planters, greenery
2. Unique arts, movies, galleries, etc.
3. Apartment living
4. Accent on the river property to be a focus of development
5. Rental property/condo development

J. Table 1 / Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.:

1. Basketball courts/horseshoe pit/skate park
2. Utilize green spaces with more activities
3. Band shell/entertainment area
4. ice cream shop
5. Places and spaces to keep you here for more than a couple hours

The City of Battle Creek and the Kellogg Company are reviewing the possibility of closing the section of Jackson Street between the Kellogg Headquarters and the 67 W. Michigan building to create a connected campus between the buildings. The City of Battle Creek and BCU are conducting planning to ensure adequate access to the Jackson Street parking lot and to businesses which rely on this access, including the possibility of adding an access drive between 67 W. Michigan Avenue and Shrank's (portion of "Horse Park" area) from Michigan Avenue to Jackson Street. Do you have concerns, recommended alternatives, or recommendations to enhance this potential plan?

A. Table 1 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:

1. Put outdoor seating for Shrank's in new plaza area
2. Save horse

B. Table 2 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:

1. Close portion of Jackson - Kellogg HQ - Fifth-Third, okay with it

- C. Table 3 / Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:
1. Consider alternate access through "Horse Park" next to Shrank's
 2. Nothing would be lost
 3. Better than McCamley closure
- D. Table 1 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. Access through Horse Plaza - make it happen. Limited access perceptions if Jackson closed
- E. Table 2 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
1. No comments - not sure if these belong in this category - I'm thinking they belong in the amenities -
 - a. Mange to own
 - b. Single screen, movie screen
 - c. Find and involve local creatives
 2. Table 3 / Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.:
- a. No problems with closing
 - b. Upgrade Carlyle
 - c. Horse Park access may not be good
 - d. Okay, but plan carefully
 - e. Better than McCamley closure
- F. Table 1 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. Like better than closing McCamley
 2. Makes sense
 3. Suggestion - covered connection (elevate)
 4. No road through Horse Park - too many right angles, curb cut prohibits walk ability
- G. Table 2 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. Connect Kellogg's by blocking Jackson
 2. Positive - not very busy now
 3. Negative - concern of traffic bottle neck that might be created at Michigan Ave.
- H. Table 3 / Time: 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:
1. Suggestion of closing State from Capital to McCamley for events
 2. Suggestion for tourist activities to do - Kayaks, tubing, bike rentals, etc.
- I. Table 1 / Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.:
1. Great idea.

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