

# UNIVERSITY SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

## Second Public Meeting Summary - Kingessing Recreation Center



The second public meeting for the *University Southwest District Plan* was held on January 23, 2013 at the Kingessing Recreation Center at 49th Street and Kingessing Avenue. This meeting had an attendance of 95. Guests braved the frigid January temperatures to receive an update on the plan progress and share additional input.

Planning Commission staff provided guests with a presentation of draft recommendations and a detailed analysis of the five draft Planning Focus Areas that have been selected for the University Southwest District. Staff also provided instructions for *Philadelphia2035: The Game*, which is a new online method of District Plan public participation.

Following the presentation, guests were engaged in three interactive exercises. The first exercise used a gauge to examine two seemingly opposing ideas and find a consensus for a particular scenario. Participants were given stickers to mark where their opinion fell on the gauge while Planning Commission staff noted public comment. In the second exercise, guests were given “funny money” to help prioritize public investment projects in the district. Each participant was a \$10, \$5, and \$1 bill for “vote” for the project they felt were most important. The third exercise allowed the public to give open ended comments on the draft Focus Areas. Maps were available for guests to draw on, in addition to written comment areas.

The third and final public meeting will be held in March 2013.

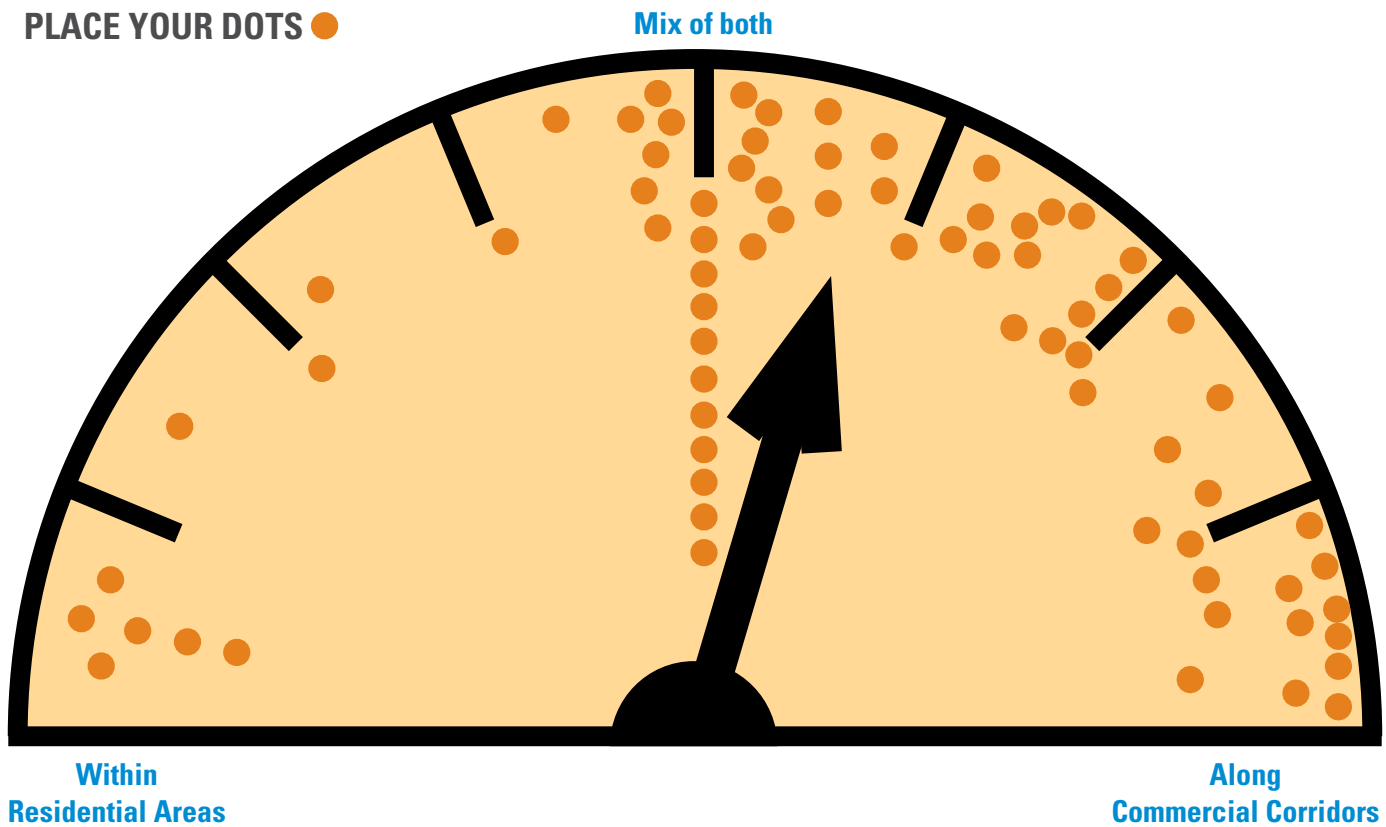


## Gauge Exercise Results

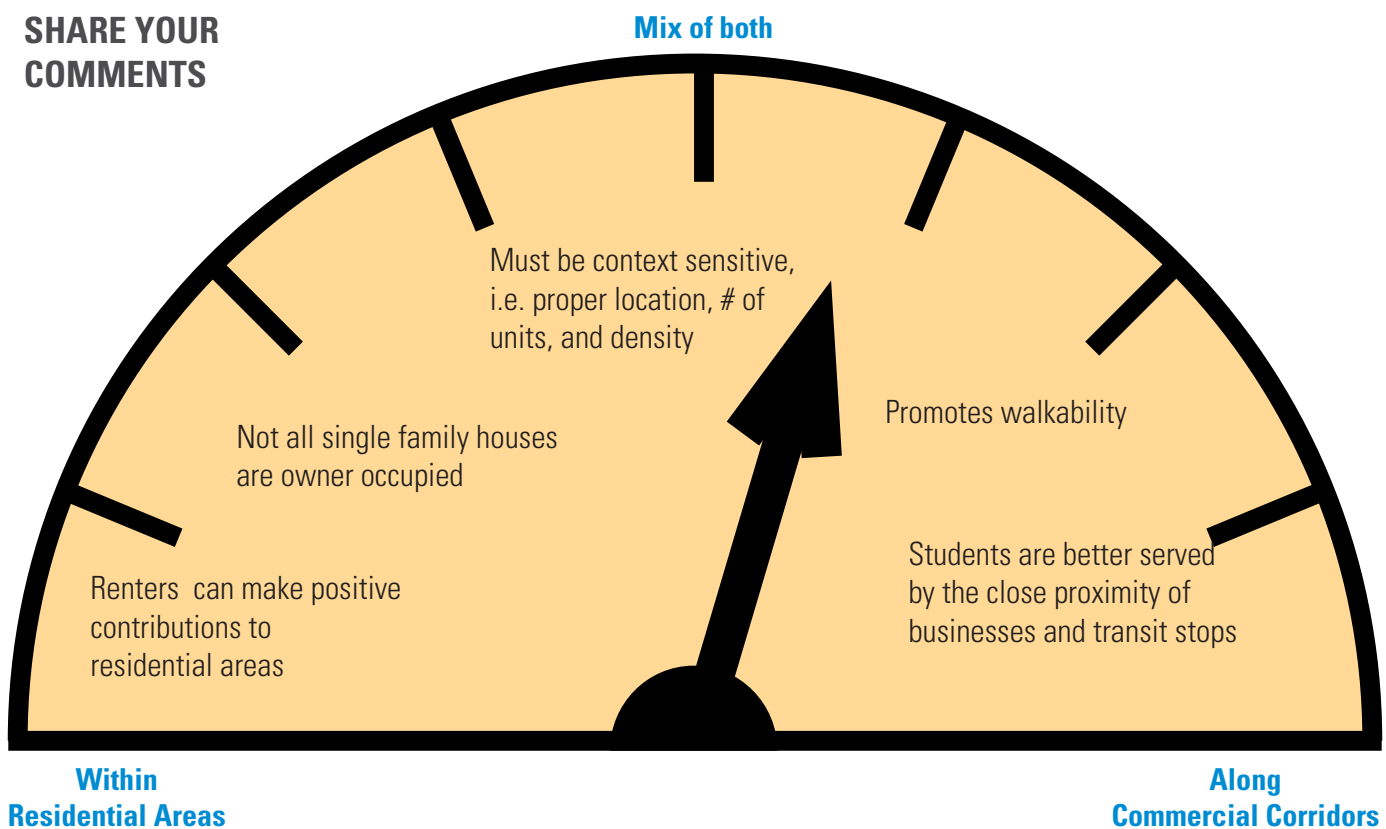
Where should multi-family housing be concentrated?

## HOUSING

PLACE YOUR DOTS ●



SHARE YOUR COMMENTS

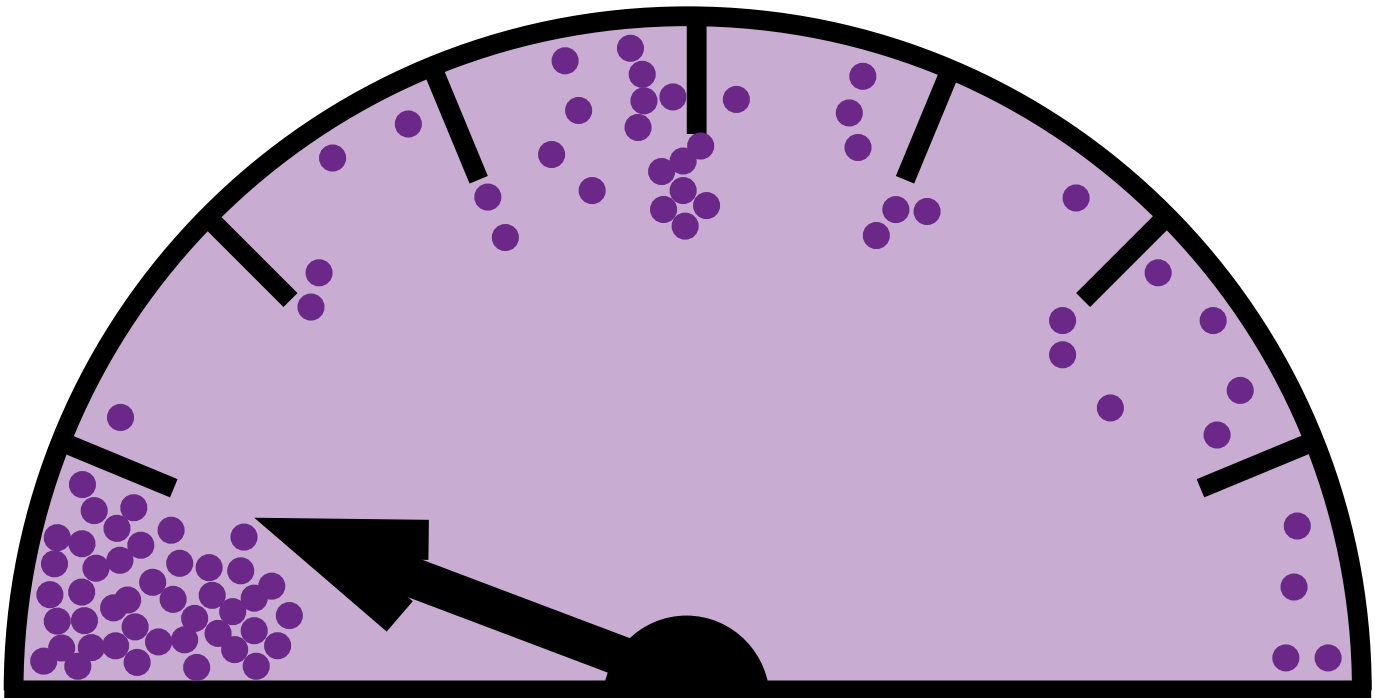


## Gauge Exercise Results

How do you feel about using Transit First to speed service?

## TRANSIT FIRST

PLACE YOUR DOTS ● Keep the same number of stops but modify locations

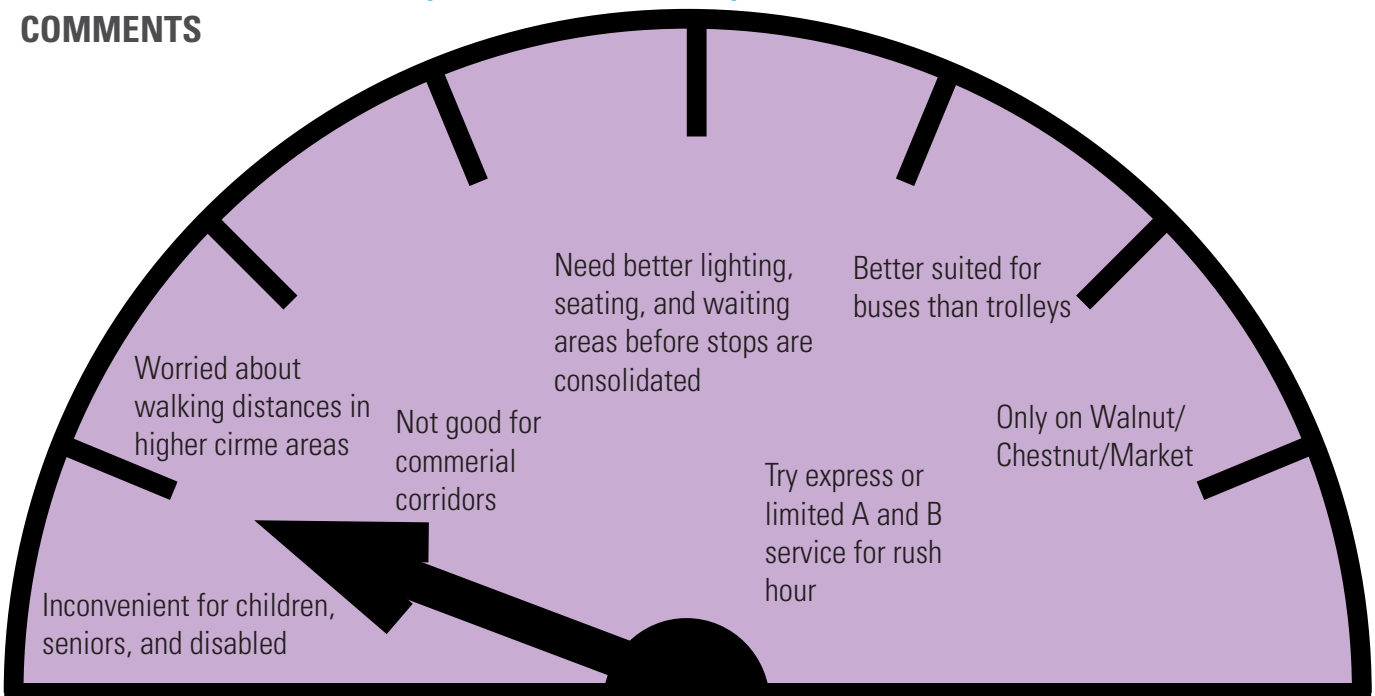


Make No  
Changes

Consolidate and remove  
stops for speedy service

## SHARE YOUR COMMENTS

Keep the same number of stops but modify locations



Make No  
Changes

Consolidate and remove  
stops for speedy service

## Priority Project Results



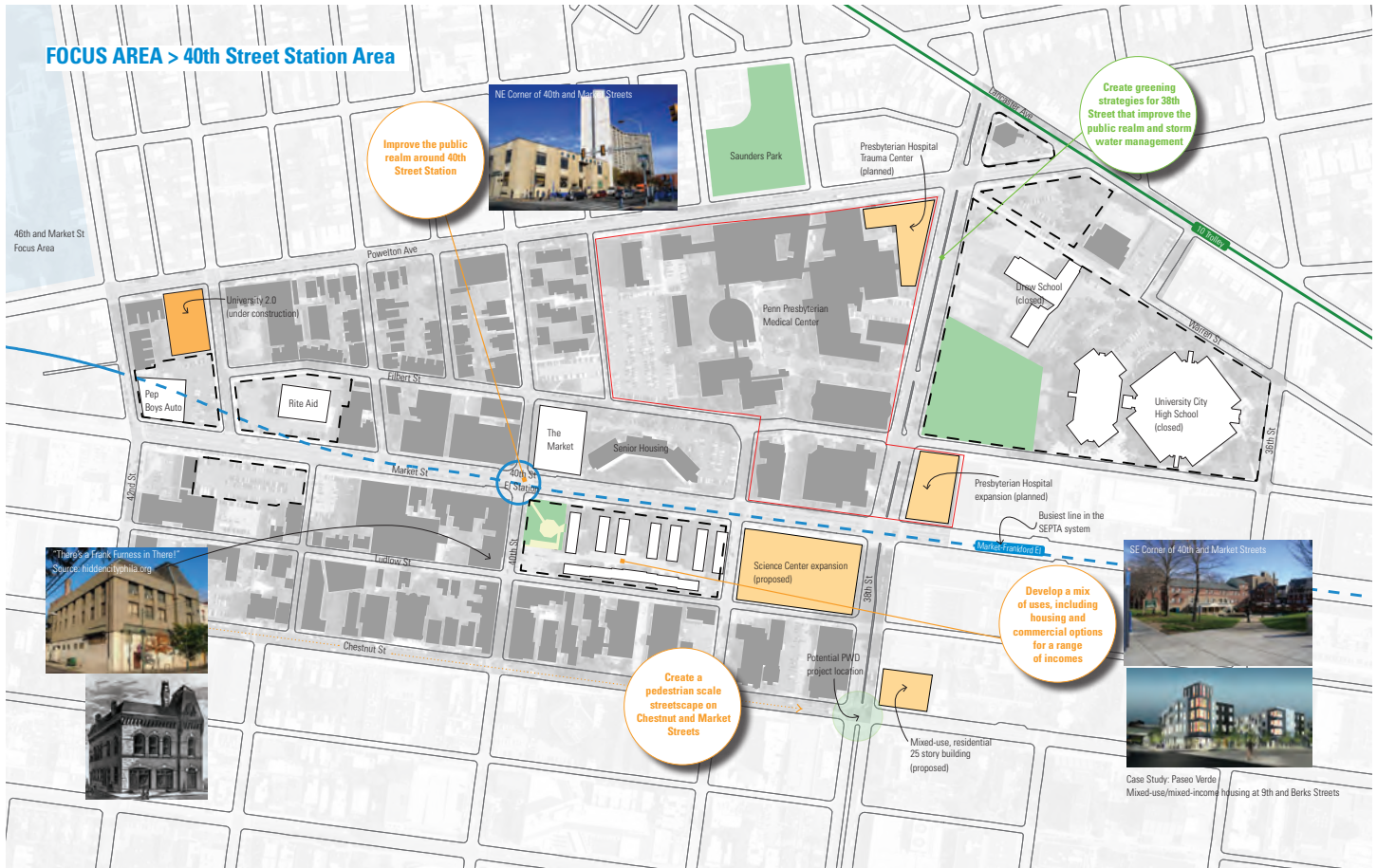
The projects for this exercise were chosen based upon several factors: all are within the public realm or on city-owned land, they use existing programs and funding sources, these proposals are implementable by the City, and these ideas have arisen either from past planning studies or the first University Southwest District Plan public meeting.

## Public Comments

- #1 Scattered site affordable housing** - We need opportunities for senior housing and aging in place. Affordable senior housing should be the priority. Grants/incentives are also needed for first time home buyers. Expand to include affordable housing in University City too.
- #2 Kingsessing Recreation Center Improvement** - Handicapped accessibility should be the highest priority improvement to the Rec Center. More senior programming should also be made available. There is no senior center nearby.
- #3 Improve the Public Realm** - Make a 40th Street a better place to wait for transit, too chaotic now. Expand to include 38th Street with green and roadway narrowing.
- #4 Streetscape and Stormwater Improvements** - Great idea. This area feels very desolate now.
- #5 Trail head and Boat Launch** - Love the boat launch idea. Too few people know about Bartram's Gardens.
- #6 Buffered Bike Lane** - Chestnut Street is too busy for a bike lane. Improve the bike lanes that are in the area now. There should be physical barriers between bike lanes and automobile lanes.



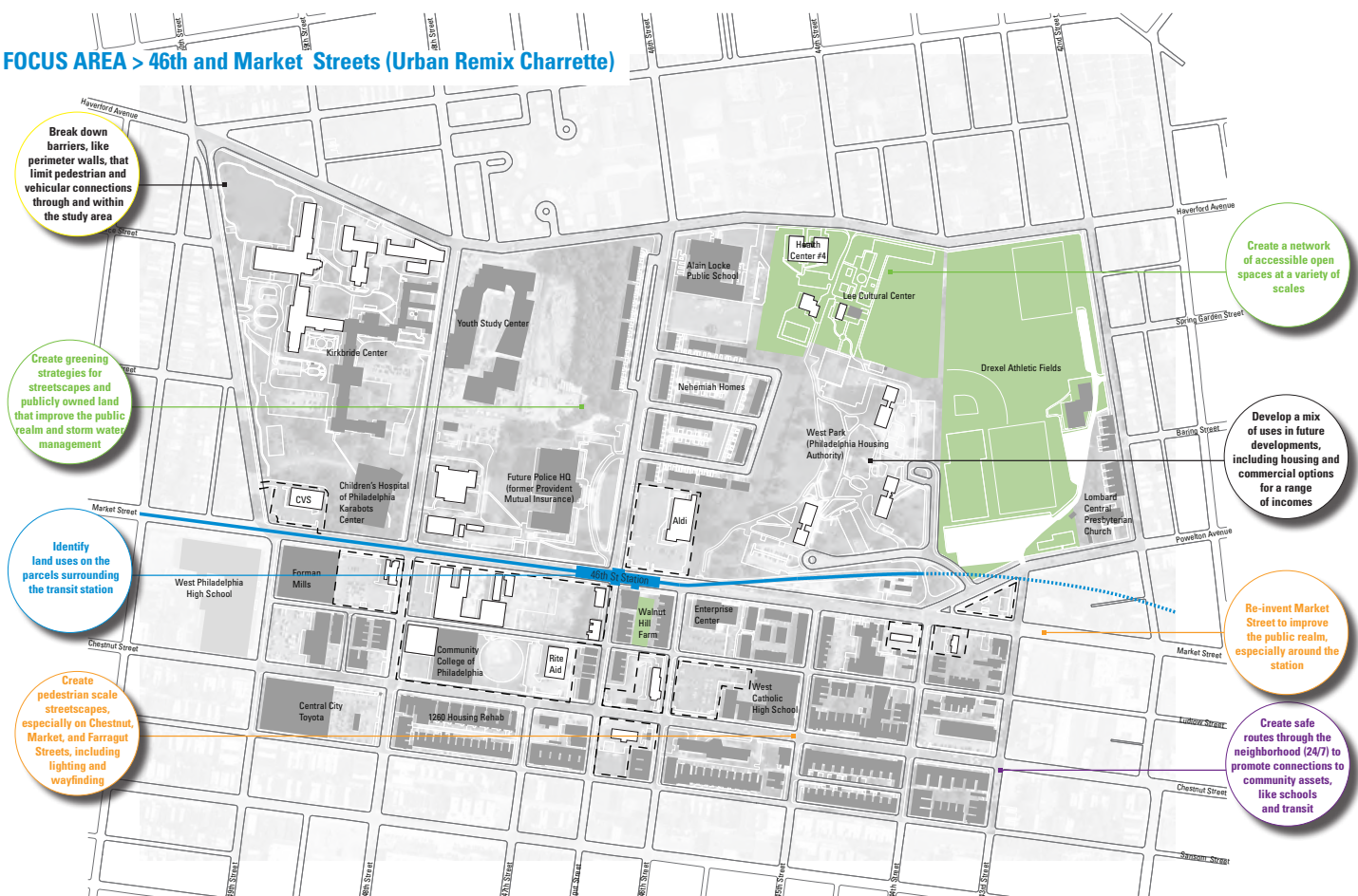
## Focus Area Results



## Public Comments

- > Redevelop "The Market"
- > Mixed-income development disrupts existing communities and social networks
- > Reuse soon-to-be-closed schools for mixed use development (e.g. UC High and Robeson)
- > Reconfigure 38th Street north of Market Street to be narrower and greener
- > Build three-story housing along Warren Street on the site of University City High School
- > Make 40th Street Station ADA accessible
- > More parklets
- > Provide a green median where streets are wide enough to accommodate it, e.g. Market and 38th Streets

## FOCUS AREA > 46th and Market Streets (Urban Remix Charrette)



**No Public Comments**

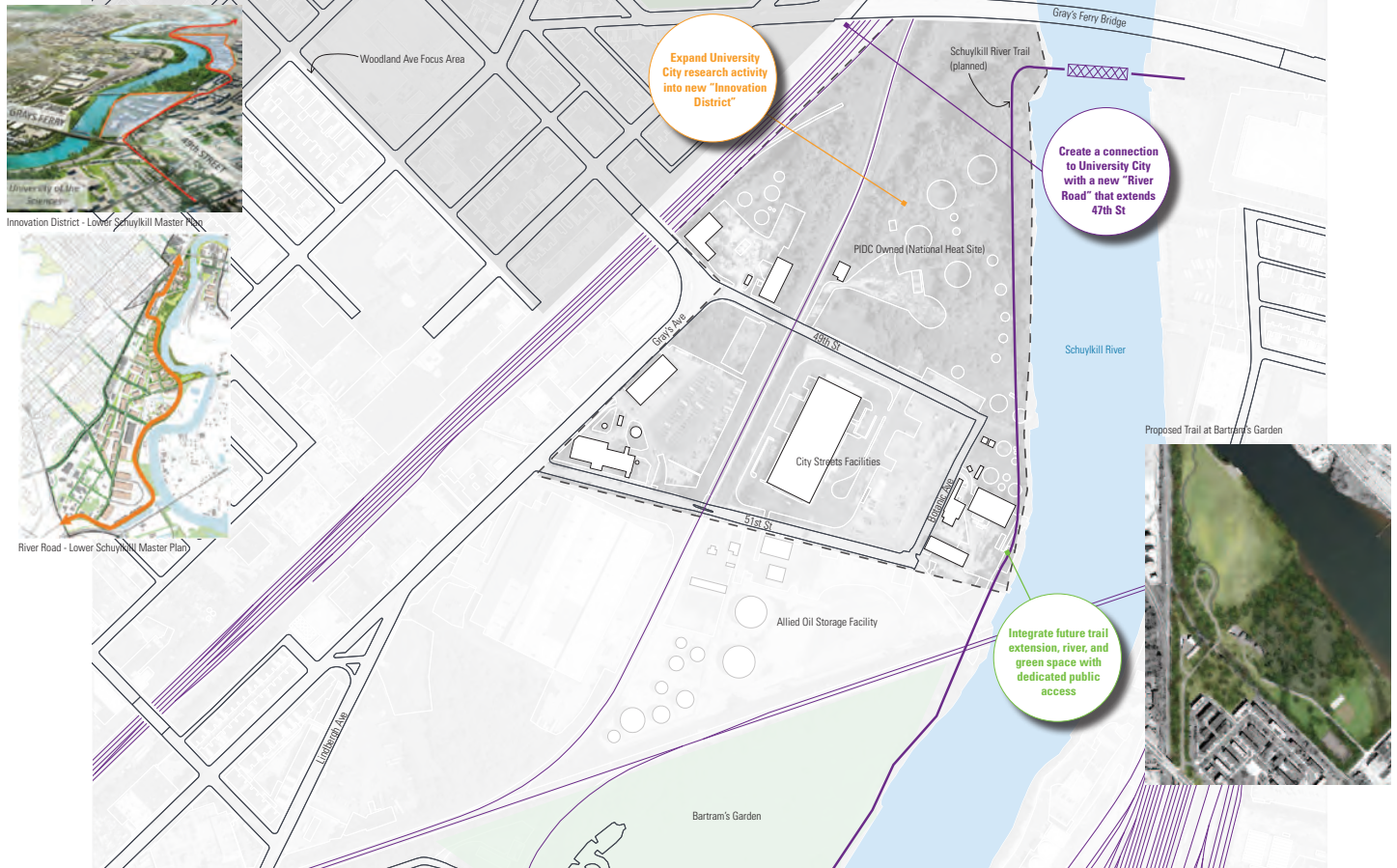




## Public Comments

- > Traffic calming improvement are needed at 45th and Springfield
- > The PPA parking lot on Warrington Street needs to be better utilized for uses other than parking
- > More community gardens are needed in this area...existing ones are at capacity
- > Reconfigure locations of transit stops at 52nd and Baltimore
- > The intersection of 53rd and Baltimore should be safer for pedestrians and nicer looking
- > Include burned down firing range at 53rd and Pentridge within the focus area

## FOCUS AREA > Bartram's North (Lower Schuylkill Master Plan)



## Public Comments

- > Love the boat launch idea...would like to see kayak tours and educational trips for kids
- > Concerns about pressure on nearby residential community from USciences and Lower Schuylkill development
- > Create bridge at 49th St across Schuylkill River
- > Reconfigure locations of transit stops at 52nd and Baltimore
- > Make sure innovation districts benefit existing residents, e.g. new public transit and jobs
- > Create park and picnic areas long river



