

OCTOBER 22, 2015 | ABRAHAM LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

The second of three public meetings for the North Delaware District Plan took place on October 22, 2015 at Abraham Lincoln High School at 3201 Ryan Avenue. The meeting attracted approximately 60 attendees.

This meeting solicited community input to prioritize municipal actions, which will guide recommendations in the district plan. After a presentation about the planning process, Planning Commission staff led groups in two interactive exercises.

The first activity asked individuals to prioritize sections of Frankford Avenue, from Devereaux Street to Meridian Street, for physical improvements, and gave them a list of the types of improvements to select. Choices included street trees, parklets, pedestrian safety features and storefront facades.

The second activity gave groups the ability to develop consenses for a section of the waterfront from Robbins Street to Cottman Avenue. This section has many large, vacant or underused acres of land, some of which are contaminated. Participants chose from the following land uses - medium industry, light industry, office, retail and parks, and then developed connections among these and between the waterfront and the existing community west of I-95.

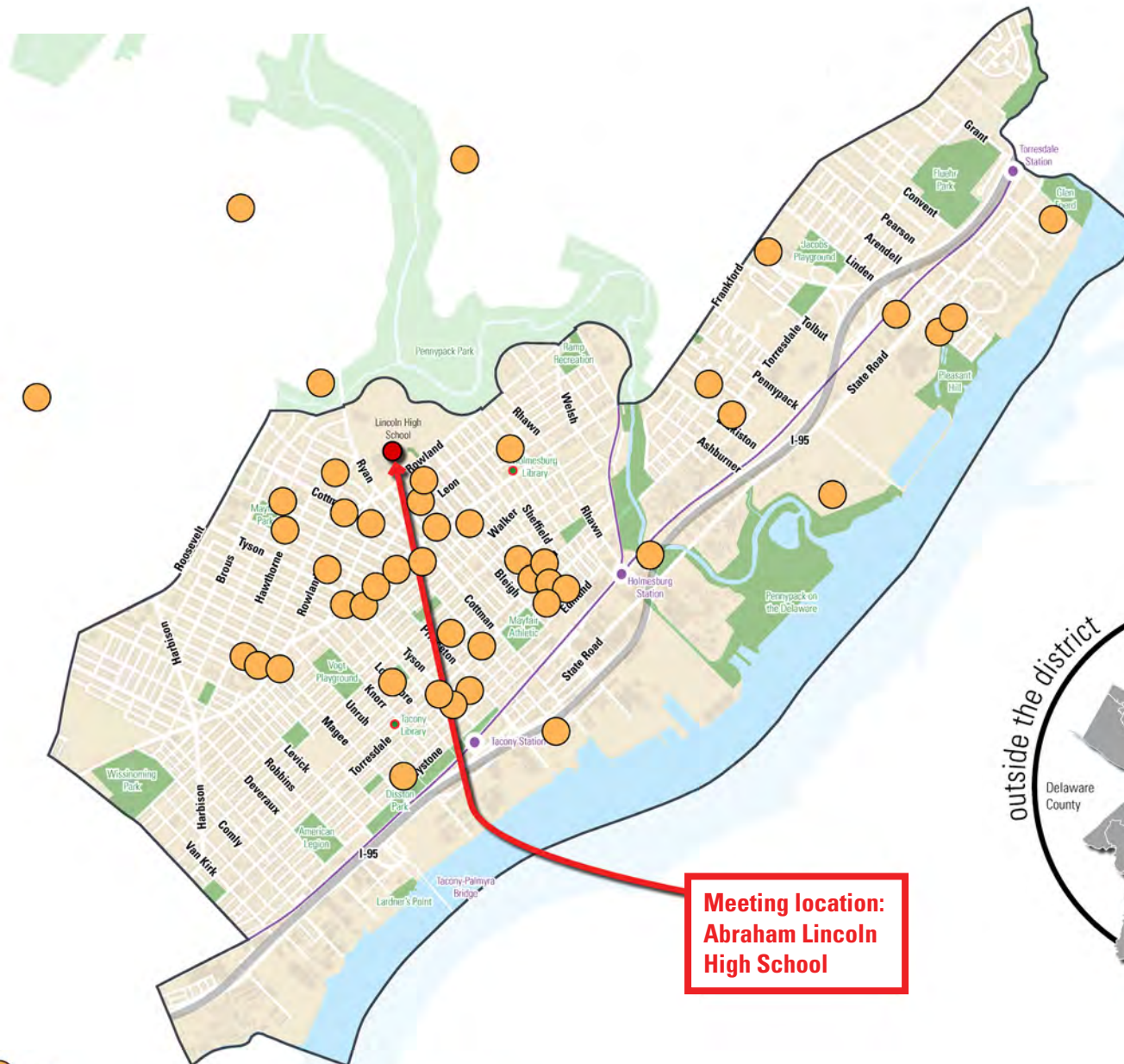
The results of these exercises are summarized on the following pages.



WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Prior to the staff presentation and the facilitated group exercises, residents were asked to participate in a “Where Do You Live” welcoming exercise. The purpose of this exercise was to assess what areas of the North Delaware District participants represented.

As shown on the map below, participants came from all areas of the district. In addition, a few participants came from the River Wards, Central Northeast and Lower Far Northeast Districts.

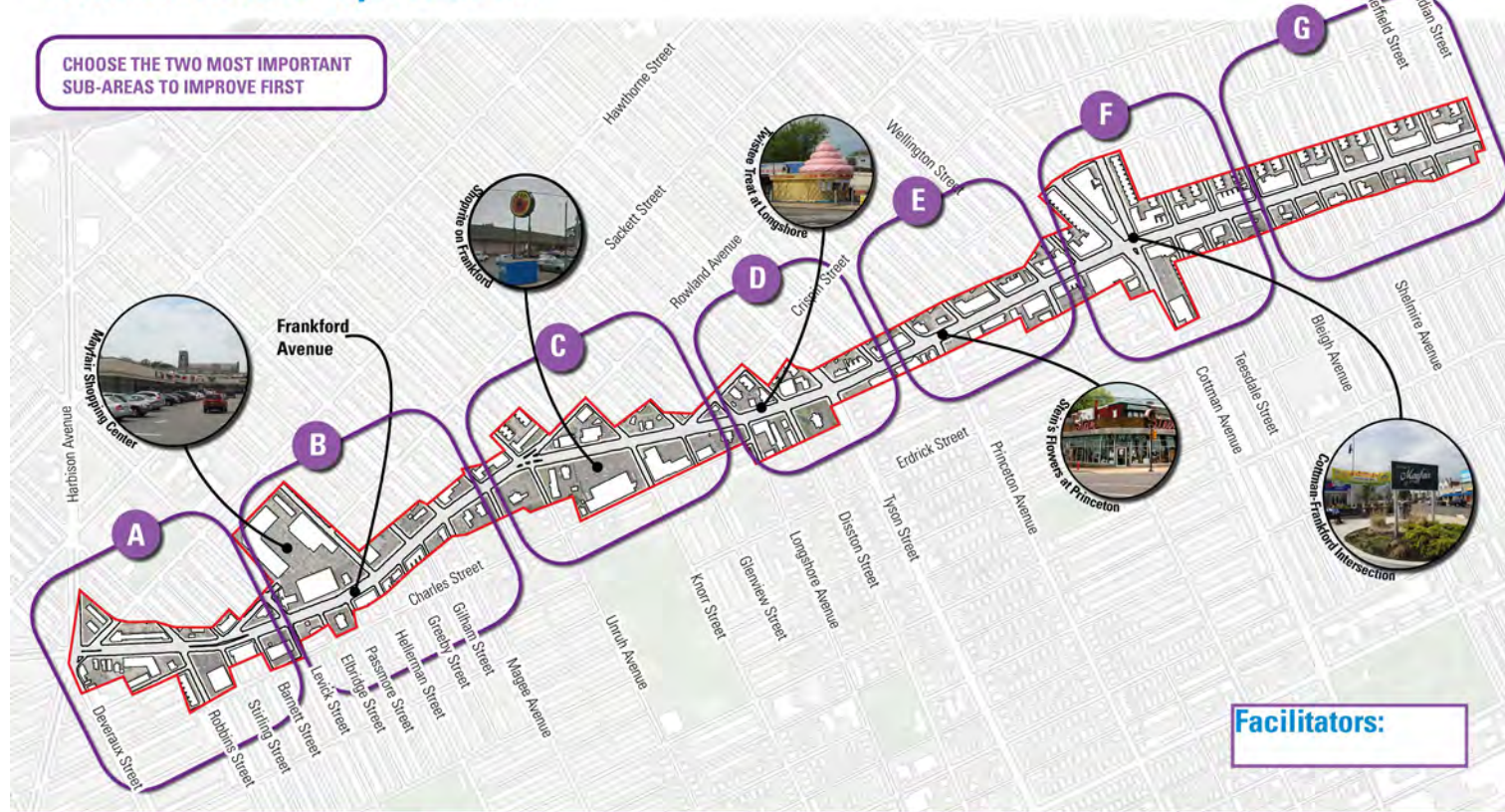


**Meeting location:
Abraham Lincoln
High School**



EXERCISE 1: PRIORITIZE FRANKFORD AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

Frankford Avenue Improvements



Facilitators:

Public Realm Improvements
CHOOSE TWO

Street Trees



Intersections (Pedestrian Safety)



Storefront Facades (Storefront Improvement Program)



Parklet w/Seating



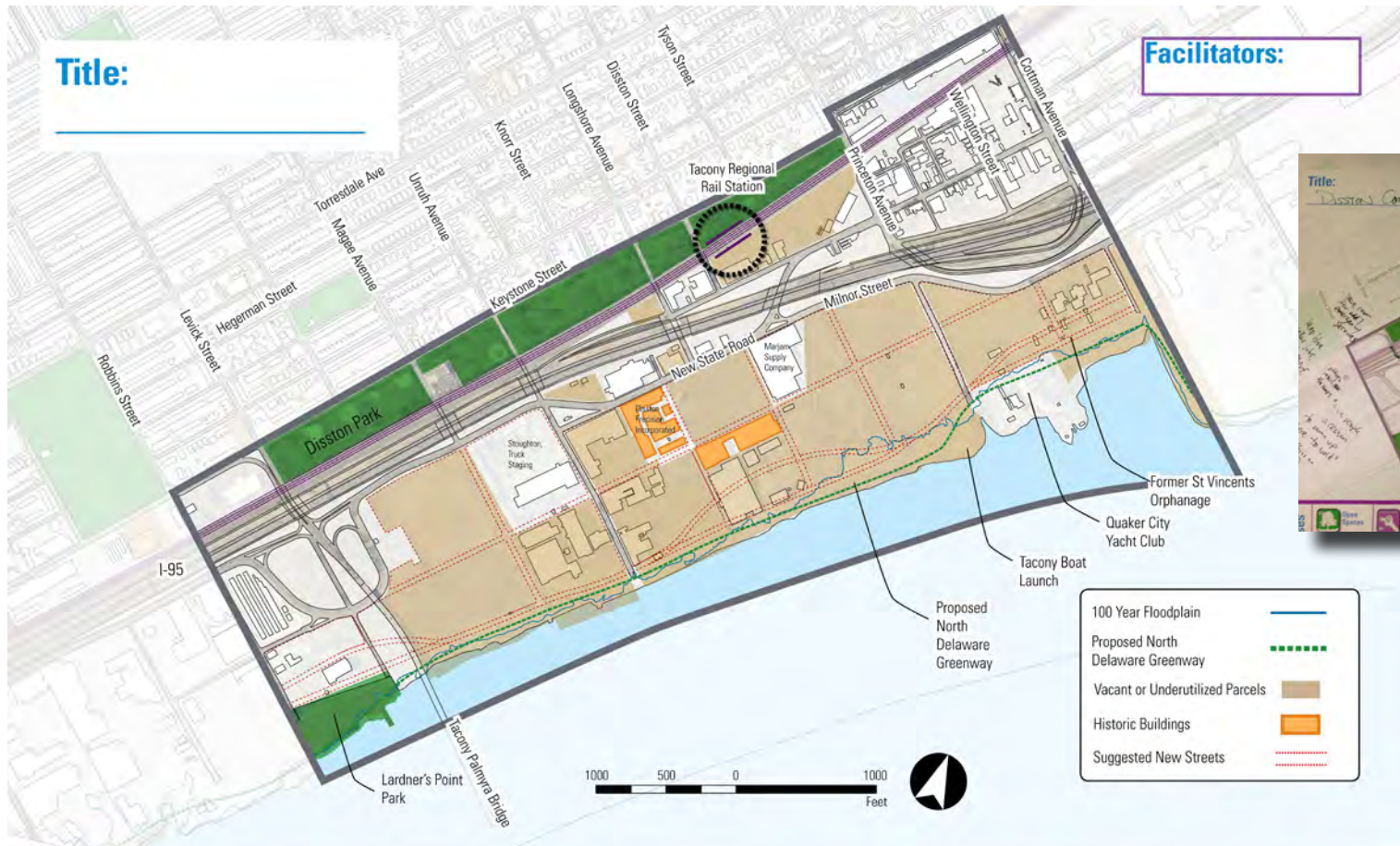
Lighting and Banners



Participants were asked to share which sections of Frankford Avenue they believed needed the most physical improvement. This information helps the PCPC, working with City staff, City Council and area stakeholders, to make the case for more investment in the corridor.

Out of seven subareas, participants expressed priorities for two, Devereaux to Barnett and the Cottman/Frankford intersection. Storefront facades, pedestrian friendly intersections and parklets were the most desired improvements.

EXERCISE 2: ENVISION A NEW WATERFRONT



Example of a completed board.



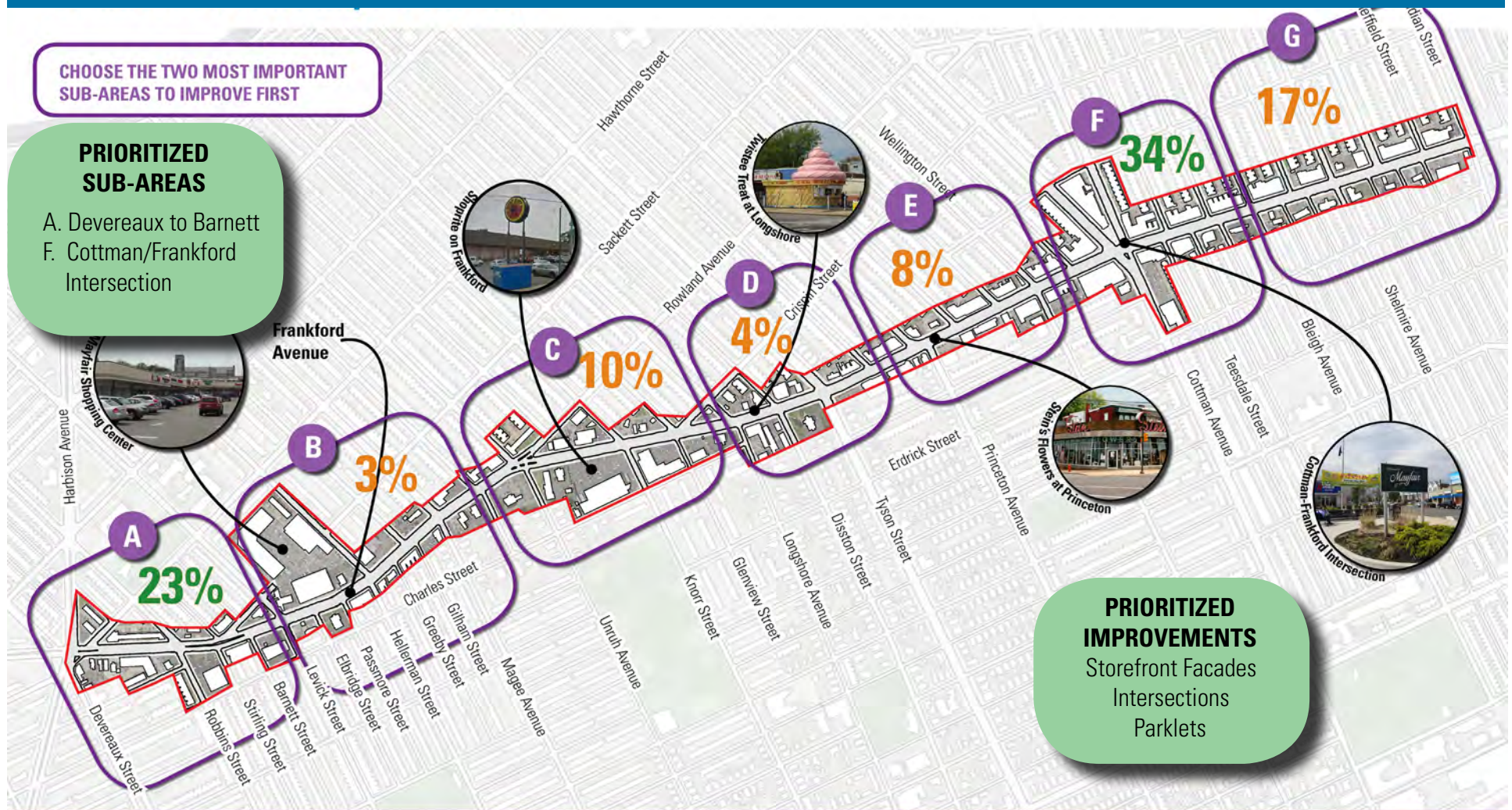
Staff asked participants to create a desired vision for the waterfront. The area includes many acres of vacant and underused land. Because of known contamination, residential activity was not an option in this exercise. Participants placed future land uses as well as the connections that would be needed to access them.

PRIORITIZE FRANKFORD AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS - MEETING RESULTS

CHOOSE THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT SUB-AREAS TO IMPROVE FIRST

PRIORITIZED SUB-AREAS

- A. Devereaux to Barnett
- F. Cottman/Frankford Intersection



PRIORITIZED IMPROVEMENTS

Storefront Facades
Intersections
Parklets

Public Realm Improvements CHOOSE TWO

Street Trees

15%



Intersections
(Pedestrian Safety)

20%



Storefront Facades
(Storefront Improvement Program)

29%



Parklet w/Seating

20%



Lighting and Banners

15%



THE FOCUS AREA DIVIDED INTO SUB-AREAS

1. By the Bridge
2. Disston Mills
3. Tacony Station
4. Former St Vincents
5. Waterfront

LAND USE TALLIES



Potential
land use

#

Within each
sub-area, the
total number of
pieces placed
by all tables.

1 BY THE BRIDGE



**Most Preferred
Land Use**

2 Most Preferred Sub- Area to Redevelop

DISSTON MILLS



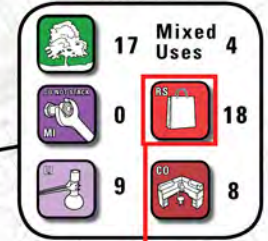
**Most Preferred
Land Use**

3 TACONY STATION



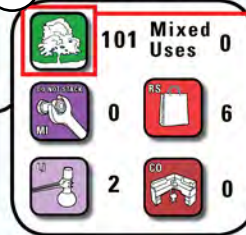
**Most Preferred
Land Use**

4 FORMER ST VINCENTS



**Most Preferred
Land Use**

5 WATERFRONT



**Most Preferred
Land Use**



Future Land Uses



Open
Spaces



Medium
Industry



Light
Industry



Office/
Business
Services



Retail/
Shopping
Center



MOST PREFERRED LAND USES BY SUB-AREA

1. By the Tacony Palmyra Bridge: Light Industry
2. Disston Mills: Mixed Uses: Light industry, Office, Retail
3. Tacony Station: Retail, Offices, and Light industry
4. Former St Vincent's: Retail, Parks and Open Space
5. Waterfront: Parks and Open Space with small retail spaces

FUTURE WATERFRONT CONNECTIONS

Create New Streets
Beautify Existing Streets
Build Pedestrian/Bicycle Paths



MOST PREFERRED CONNECTIONS

1. The most desired option chosen was a new north-south road from the Tacony Palmyra bridge approach to Milnor Street with pedestrian and bicycle facilities;
2. Participants recommended extending Princeton and Magee Avenues to the river;
3. Partipants showed some desire for a riverfront trail and bicycle/pedestrian connections from Milnor Street to the river on an alignment with Tyson Street.

Connections

Preferred Connection for New Streets and Street Beautification

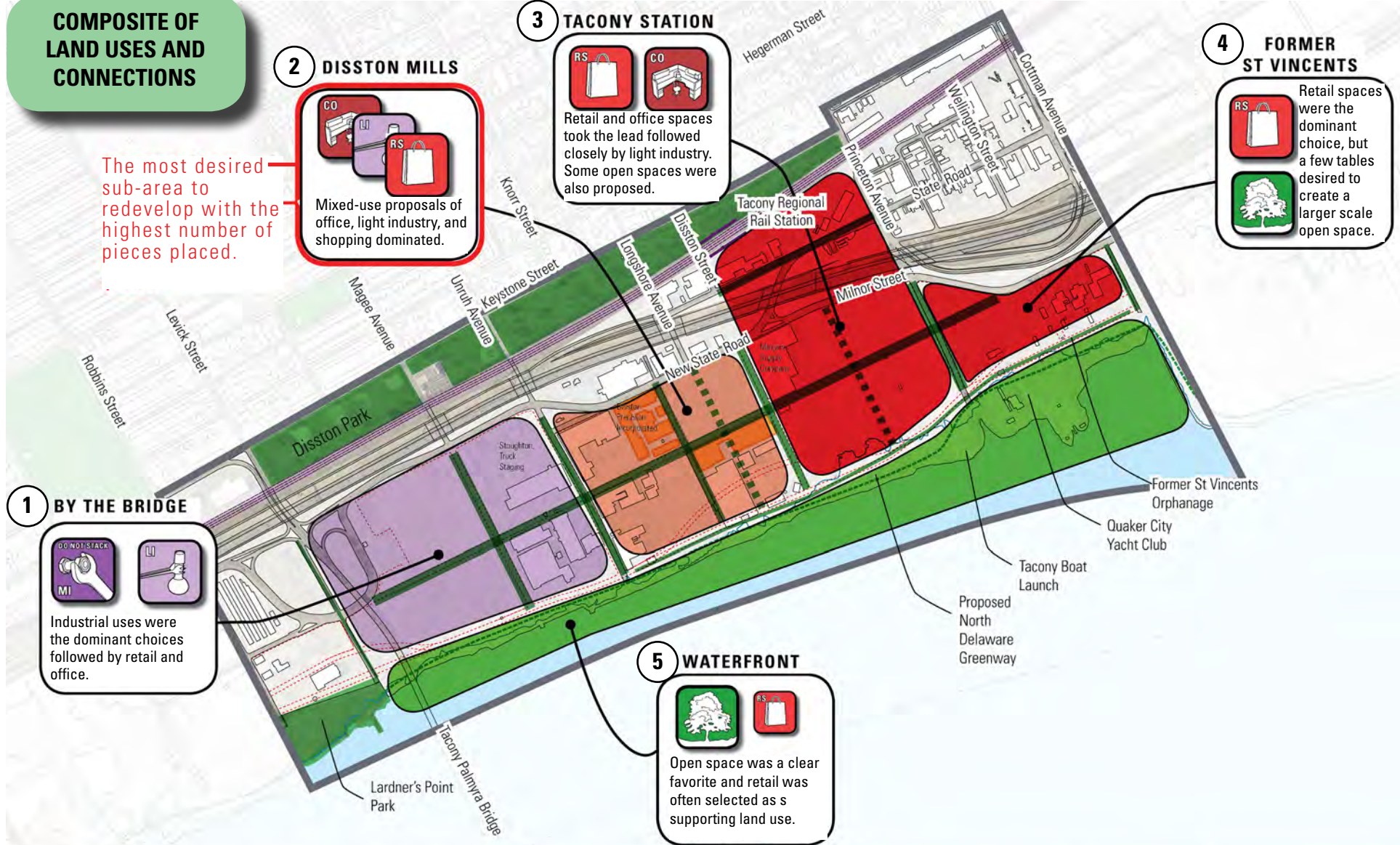


Preferred Connection for Pedestrian/ Bicycle



COMPOSITE OF LAND USES AND CONNECTIONS

The most desired sub-area to redevelop with the highest number of pieces placed.



Future Land Uses



Open Spaces



Medium Industry



Light Industry



Office/Business Services



Retail/Shopping Center



Connections

Preferred for New Streets and Street Beautification



Preferred for Pedestrian/Bicycle Access Only



APPENDIX OF COMMENTS

Along with responses to the structured exercise, participants provided general comments about the waterfront that they would like to see addressed in the plan. These included:

- Preserve existing buildings that are currently used;
- Improvements and additions to boat launches;
- Improve trails and street connections;
- Attract bars, restaurants and entertainment venues;
- Pair improvements with job creation;
- Improve SEPTA's Tacony Regional Rail station;
- Plant more trees;
- Build large amounts of passive green spaces, but not necessarily publicly-owned.

Suggested names for a redeveloped waterfront district included:

- Downtown Disston
- Tacony Revival Commons
- Disston Complex
- Saw Mill Gateway
- New Disston Mills
- Disston Estates
- Returning Life to the Waterfront
- Sawtown Riverpark

