

FEBRUARY 9, 2015 - Philadelphia High School for Creative & Performing Arts

The second of three public meetings for the South District Plan took place on February 9, 2015 at Philadelphia High School for the Creative & Performing Arts. The meeting attracted over 125 attendees to the school located at 901 South Broad Street.

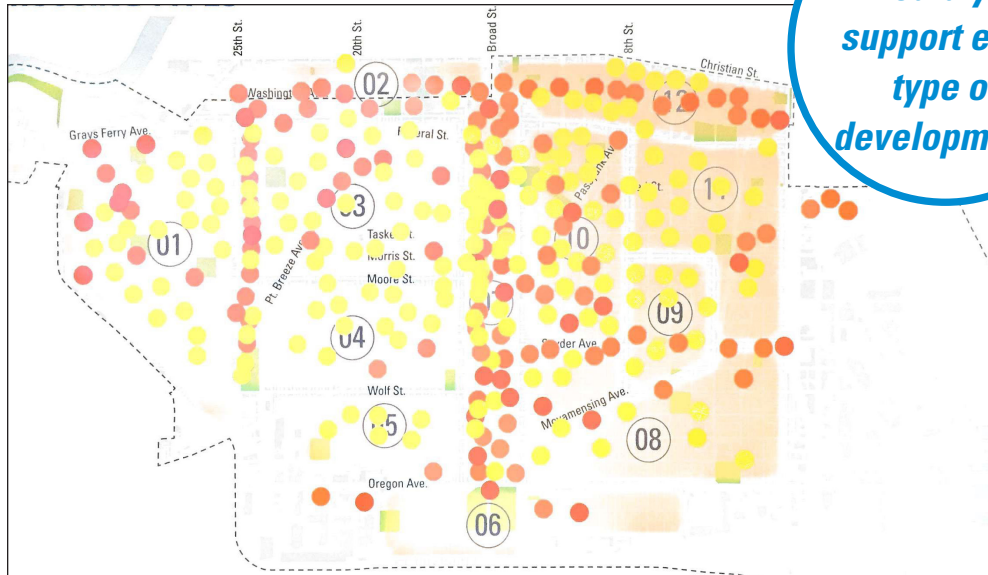
This meeting served a dual purpose. The first was to update the public about the planning process for the South District Plan. The second was to obtain community input on proposed plan recommendations and Focus Areas. Focus Areas are areas where multiple layers of public intervention (e.g. zoning changes, land sales or acquisition, infrastructure improvements, business incentives, etc.) can come together to create positive momentum and revitalize specific intersections, corridors, or neighborhoods.

After a presentation about the planning process and focus areas, Planning Commission staff facilitated conversations at twelve stations. The stations were as follows:

- **Housing Types**
- **Point Breeze Avenue Gateway**
- **Broad and Snyder Intersection**
- **Transit Connected Areas**
- **Broad and Oregon / Marconi Plaza**
- **SEPTA and Pedestrian Safety**
- **Commercial Corridor Streetscape Improvements**
- **Your Neighborhood**
- **Washington Avenue**
- **Focus Area: Point Breeze Avenue / South 20th Street**
- **Focus Area: Broad Street at Snyder and Oregon**
- **Focus Area: Municipal Complex and East Passyunk**



BOARD 1: HOUSING TYPES



- **Multi-Family**
- **Single-Family**

Participants were most vocal about locating multi-family housing along Broad Street, Washington Avenue, and 25th Street.

BOARD 2: POINT BREEZE AVENUE GATEWAY

Should 20th Street be made 2-way between Washington Avenue and Federal Street?



Possible alternative streetscape

Loss of 38 on-street parking spaces
Sidewalks are widened for pedestrians (future planting strategy)
20th St. becomes gateway to Pt. Breeze Ave for autos and pedestrians



Current Conditions

Retains parking spaces
NO change to sidewalk width (limited opportunity for streetscape improvements)
Point Breeze Avenue not directly accessible for cars from Wash. Ave.

YES **51%**

MAYBE **13%**

NO **36%**

BOARD 3: BROAD AND SNYDER INTERSECTION

What should be done with the parking lot and green space in front of South Philadelphia High School?



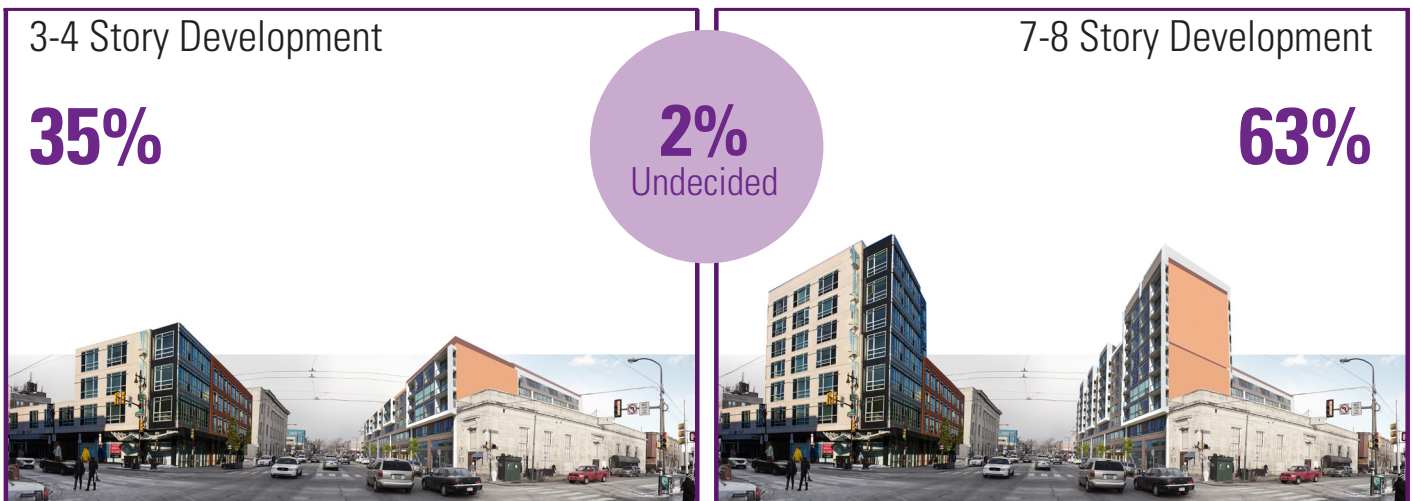
Comment Summary:

- Need for teacher parking in options 2 and 3
- Creating a green campus environment will improve conditions for learning
- Combine options 3 & 4 - a town square design
- Shrink parking & add even more green space for option 2
- Any green plans need to address use by dogs

- 4% Things should stay the way they are
- 32% Move the fence back and re-orient the green space to the street
- 43% **Replace parking with large park space**
- 40% Use the area as a site for future development

BOARD 4: TRANSIT CONNECTED AREAS

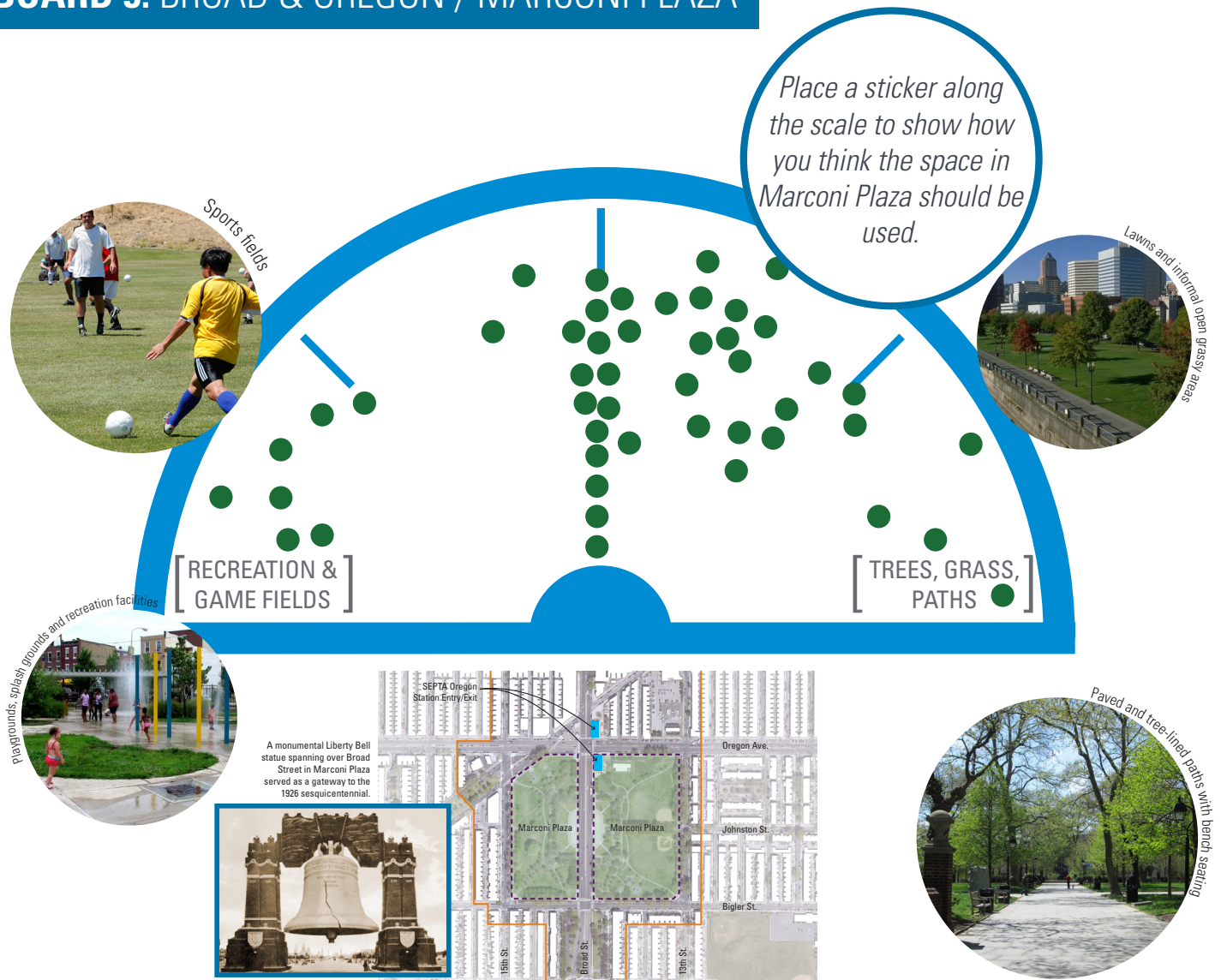
At stations for the Broad Street Subway, how much development do you want to see?



Comment Summary:

- Concern for light access and air quality with taller buildings
- Do not allow ingress/egress off of Broad
- Why not 3-4 stories & 7-8 stories mixed?
- Immigrant and refugee community need living spaces that are affordable and transit-accessible
- What is the impact of higher density development on housing prices?

BOARD 5: BROAD & OREGON / MARCONI PLAZA



Comment Summary:

- Add lighting, clean up trash and broken glass
- Shrink park - sell some property
- Slow down traffic on Broad Street; repave Broad Street
- Separate dog park (not enough spaces around the area to bring dogs)
- Additional tennis courts (FDR Park tennis courts get too crowded)
- Lots of wasted space in the upper concrete areas
- Along with community garden, how about an edible forest!
- Add more places for kids to play

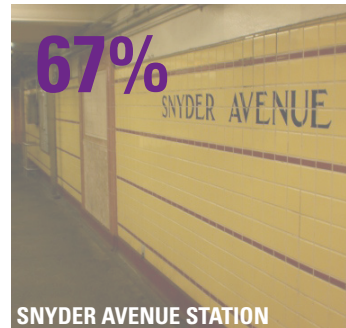
BOARD 6: SEPTA AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

What are the best SAFETY improvements that can be made to the streets in the district?

- 15% bus shelters / waiting areas
- 5% bicycle Parking
- 8% bicycle 'sharrows'
- 22% bike lanes
- 17% street lighting
- 24% **bump outs at corners and crosswalks**
- 9% different paving materials at crosswalks or parking areas

Which Broad Street Subway station should be prioritized for elevator/handicap access?

Place a sticker over the photo showing the Broad Street Subway station that you think is in most urgent need of accessibility upgrades.



BOARD 7: COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS

What are the best AESTHETIC improvements that can be made to the commercial corridors in the district?

- 4% benches / seating
- 19% pedestrian oriented street lighting
- 23% trash receptacles> *There were differing opinions on 'Big Belly' Trash Cans, but generally, people want to see more attention paid to trash collection.*
- 10% street art / decorative planters
- 4% social furniture
- 5% contrasting sidewalk materials / design
- 30% **street trees**> *Most meeting participants wanted more trees on commercial corridors. Street trees in other areas were not as popular.*
- 5% additional parking

BOARD 8: YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

What qualities of your neighborhood should be preserved?

- (7) Diversity and walkability
- (6) Buildings without front garages
- (6) Mixed-use
- (6) Lower Italian Market diversity
- (6) Green space
- (5) Small neighborhoods storefronts
- (4) Existing architecture
- (4) Single-family homes
- (3) Historic landmarks
- (2) Height of buildings in 2-story neighborhoods
- (2) Fountain and mini park/ boxer statue
- (2) Affordable housing
- (2) Churches
- (2) Height in areas with 3-story buildings
- (2) Historic architecture
- (2) Girard Park

Meeting participants submitted 35 comments about qualities they would like preserved in their neighborhoods. An additional 42 comments detailed steps participants would take to preserve those qualities.

The following comments were made by two or more meeting participants.

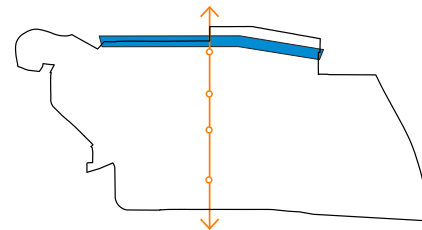
What qualities can be taken to preserve those qualities?

- (5) Historic District
- (3) Encourage home ownership
- (3) Rewardbuilders who preserve brick/brownstone
- (2) Street festivals
- (2) Big bellies/regular trash cans
- (2) City should take a historic survey
- (2) Limit curb cuts
- (2) Permit parking but what about visitors?

BOARD 9: WASHINGTON AVENUE

A board showing Washington Avenue was available for open comments. Below are some of the most popular comments received:

- (23) Safer for people who bike and walk
- (10) Add buffered bike lanes
- (8) Make the Italian Market pedestrian only on weekends
- (8) Yes to back-in angled parking and proposed re-striping plan
- (6) Rezone to IRMX to allow and mixed-use development
- (6) Less front parking uses with setbacks
- (6) Too much congestion from potential new uses
- (5) Need municipal parking lots



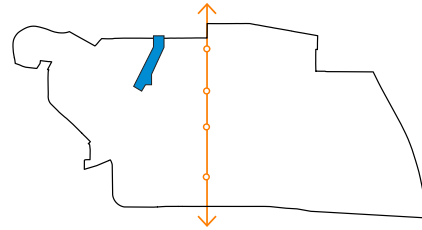
- (5) Not enough parking
- (5) Slower vehicle traffic
- (5) Keep land use commercial
- (5) More trees and trash cans
- (5) Better access along Wash to Delaware River
- (4) Safer for pedestrians who are children
- (4) More pedestrian safety features
- (4) Limit higher buildings to limit traffic

FOCUS AREA:

POINT BREEZE AVENUE / SOUTH 20TH STREET

A board showing the Focus Area was available for open comments. Below are some of the comments we received:

- Create a Business Improvement District
- Redesign / rebuild Cassie L. Holly Court Housing (PHA)
- Plant trees along Point Breeze Avenue
- Better parking management is needed for City lot and on-street parking
- Improve connections on Point Breeze Avenue
- Increase bike parking
- Streetscape improvements - lighting, vegetation
- Keep Police and Fire where they are for safety

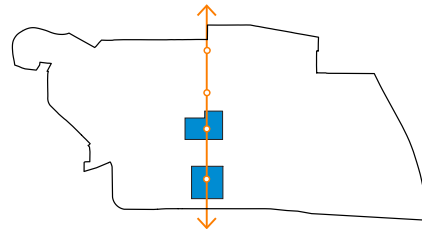


FOCUS AREA:

BROAD STREET AT SNYDER AND OREGON

A board showing the Focus Area was available for open comments. Below are some of the comments we received:

- Traffic calm at all east/west streets crossing Broad Street
- Increase safety education for cyclists
- Enhance lighting at subway stations
- Poor street surfaces – repave (all)
- Better lighting in Marconi plaza
- Add buffered bike lanes on Oregon and Snyder
- Oregon: rework traffic patterns/signal timing
- Encourage funeral home coordination to reduce congestion
- Enforce parking regulations: no parking middle of Broad
- Reconsider TOD regulations in the Zoning Code
- Maximize density at all stations
- Maintain baseball fields @ Marconi Plaza
- Improve auto access to former St. Agnes
- At Oregon Station: please reopen north head house entry
- Examine potential for triangle parks
- Recommend valet parking for food establishments
- No “low-end” ‘controversial’ uses (i.e. psychic)
- @Melrose - rework parking to provide outdoor seating
- Consider gateway treatment @25th & Passyunk Avenue



FOCUS AREA: MUNICIPAL COMPLEX / EAST PASSYUNK

A board showing the Focus Area was available for open comments. Below are some of the comments we received:

Comment Summary:

ACME Parking Lot:

- Encourage pedestrian friendly development at ACME/CVS
- More density - better street wall at ACME on Passyunk
- Sprawl repair for ACME & CVS parking lots
- Improve safety of entrance ACME on 11th Street
- Improve sight lines from ACME parking lot to increase safety
- Improve rear of ACME for pedestrians

11th Street

- Traffic calming for 11th Street
- Pave over the trolley tracks on 11th Street
- Upzone to CMX-3/4 on 11th Street
- Improve pedestrian safety @ intersection of 11th and Reed Streets

Parks: Capitolo Playground / Columbus Square

- Connect Columbus Square to Passyunk Avenue (for walkers)
- Restore + reuse the "roundhouse" at Columbus Square
- Mixed-use zoning (CMX-3) around Columbus Square
- Create multiple access points to parks
- City-owned and run bathrooms next to Capitolo Basketball Court
- More/enhanced green spaces and trees

Passyunk Avenue

- Eliminate auto body shops at Passyunk & Federal
- Extend Passyunk Avenue commercial corridor to the north
- Improve pedestrian crossings at Reed & Passyunk intersection

Municipal Complex

- Restore street grid - reduce parking lots/reorient business to front sidewalks; improve pedestrian safety
- Remove large building; retain Police and Fire
- Industrial does not belong here
- Better utilization of fleet management building
- Revamp adult care center - make it more modern w/ more green space
- Encourage higher and better uses for municipal buildings
- Create a performing arts center where the Fleet Management building is currently
- Move fire company to a two-way street
- Convert Fleet Management building to apartments/condos

Italian Market / 9th Street

- More trash bins; public rest rooms; shut down the street on weekends; more of an open-air market
- Consistent façade improvements on 9th Street

