

Lower South District Plan 1st Public Meeting Summary

For the mapping exercise at the first District Plan public meeting, the Planning Commission staff broke participants into small groups for a facilitated mapping exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to have the public identify planning focus or opportunity areas by noting destinations, barriers, areas of change and stability on a base map. With over 70 participants, eight maps were created. This memo is a summary of the most common ideas heard at the meeting.

First we asked the participants to identify destinations with orange stars and barriers with red squiggles. For the destinations, facilitators asked "Where do you go?", "What are the destinations?" and explained that destinations can be entrainment attractions, employment centers, shopping, parks, schools, etc. Across all the maps created these were the top destinations:

Top 5 Destinations:

- FDR Park
- Sports Complex
- Navy Yard
- Port
- Shopping (outside of district, including shopping centers on Oregon Avenue and Delaware Avenue)

To identify the barriers, facilitators explained that barriers can be physical like highways, wide streets or railroads; social such as criminal activity or seemingly exclusive areas like gates/security personnel; or environmental like poor lighting and high vacancy

Top 5 Barriers:

- Highways (including specific interchanges at Oregon Avenue and Moyamensing Avenue)
- The Broad Street Gate at the Navy Yard
- Lack of roadway and transit access to the Southport area
- River access
- Sports Complex circulation

Once the designations and barriers were marked, facilitators followed up with questions like "How can we create better connections?", "How do we overcome barriers?", and "How do we make destinations easier to get to?".

Top Connection Ideas:

- Increase walkability and pedestrian safety particularly at the Sports Complex, to FDR Park and along Broad Street.
- Improve highway interchanges particularly the Oregon Avenue/I-95/Walt Whitman Interchange, Moyamensing Avenue/20th Street/I-76 intersection, and the entrances to I-95/Walt Whitman from Broad Street.
- Improved mass transit, most frequently recommended for Navy Yard access, but also to New Jersey, the port, and along Pattison Avenue.
- Creating an extension of Delaware Avenue to the Southport project area/east side of the Navy Yard.

Next participants were asked to imagine Lower South ten years from now. It's the year 2021, what has changed and what has stayed the same?

Areas that would stay the same (stable areas) were marked on the base map in aqua.

Top 5 Areas of Stability:

- FDR Park

- Sports Complex Buildings
- The Residential Neighborhoods
- Sunoco
- Port

Areas of change were marked in purple. Meeting participants were also asked how these would change

Top 5 Areas for Change:

- The Nova Care Parking Lot (New residential that would extent the Packer Park and Sienna Place neighborhoods to FDR park).
- The Sport Complex Parking Lots (More mix-use development like Philly Live! with shops, restaurants, hotels and housing fronting Broad and Pattison Streets; transit-oriented development at AT&T Station.)
- Sunoco (New, clean industry with waterfront recreational access along the Schuylkill
- The Navy Yard and Southport (Continued employment growth spurred by new roadway and transit access)
- The Food Distribution District (New industries as food distributors move to the new Food Distribution Center in Southwest Philadelphia.)