



# Steering Committee Meeting #5

**City of Bridgeport  
Plan of Conservation and Development  
9/26/18**





# AGENDA

1. Review of August Meeting
2. Outreach Summary
  - Engagement to date
  - Emerging Themes
3. Discussion of Themes
4. Next steps





# OUTREACH APPROACH

- Outreach strategy that prioritizes **planning with the community, not for the community**
- Public outreach that is **inclusive, informative**, and **engaging**
- **Strategically customized** outreach efforts that meet community needs
- Taking public **outreach to the people** through community events
- **Multi-lingual** outreach materials specific to local demographics
- ADA accessible, family friendly events that **welcome all participants**
- Innovative tools and technology solutions to **maximize participation**, especially from **under-represented populations**





# OUTREACH STRATEGIES

- Online Survey
- Pop-Up Events
- Intercept Surveys
- Submitted Comments
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Thematic Meetings





**Review of  
August Meeting**

# Vision and Guiding Principles

Bridgeport is a sustainable city with an environment, governance, and practices that support a **livable city** for generations into the future. As a livable city, Bridgeport has a diversity of housing options and educational opportunities in an environment that is safe, clean, and easy to travel within. The City's residents are **healthy** and have access to healthy food, recreation opportunities, and health care. Bridgeport is an **equitable** place that is inclusive and celebrates its diversity. The City's costs and resources are equitably distributed among residents, property owners, and other stakeholders and city policies are fair and uniformly enforced. **Nature** is present and accessible throughout the City – in parks, on streets, in neighborhoods, and along the City's waterfront. Bridgeport has a **robust economy** which provides jobs and opportunities for a broad spectrum of its residents while also functioning as a regional center of commerce. As a **regional center** and transportation hub, Bridgeport provides the region with goods, services, higher education and healthcare.

# Vision and Guiding Principles

- Bridgeport is a Livable City
- Bridgeport is a Healthy Community
- Bridgeport is an Equitable City
- Bridgeport values Nature
- Bridgeport has a Robust Economy
- Bridgeport is a Regional Center



# Key Themes from Outreach



# Key Themes Organized by Guiding Principles

- Bridgeport is a Livable City
- Bridgeport is a Healthy Community
- Bridgeport is an Equitable City
- Bridgeport values Nature
- Bridgeport has a Robust Economy
- Bridgeport is a Regional Center

# Bridgeport Is a Livable City

- Street conditions need to be improved (sidewalks, crosswalks, roadway)
- Transit connections are valuable, but the bus system and local transit options have room for improvement
- The city needs bike lanes and pathways
- Pedestrian connections across major barriers such as I-95 and Route 8 need to be improved to create walkable, connected neighborhoods
- Improve access to parks and waterfront
- Historic buildings should be well-maintained and residents should be educated on their history



# Bridgeport Is a Livable City (cont.)

- Waterfront is a key asset that can be further developed
- Some parks, such as Seaside, should remain open after dusk to provide residents a place to go in the evenings
- More neighborhood-based events are needed to build community within and between neighborhoods
- Bridgeport needs more entertainment opportunities for all ages, including nightlife, community events and concerts
- Work to change the negative internal and external perception of Bridgeport by creating own narrative of pride and community

# Bridgeport Is a Healthy Community

- Noise pollution needs to be addressed
- Violence needs to be addressed; Bridgeport needs to feel safer to reduce levels of stress
- Kids need more recreational/physical opportunities, afterschool and summer programs
- Bridgeport needs more social services for disadvantaged residents, especially youth and healthcare services; City needs to create awareness for existing services
- More grocery stores and healthy food options are needed throughout Bridgeport, especially Downtown and East End



# Bridgeport Is a Healthy Community (cont.)

- Air and water quality needs to be Improved
- The collaboration and innovation already happening between nonprofits in Bridgeport needs to be supported by the City by creating processes for information sharing and a friendly environment for coordination
- City services (Police, Fire, Education, Social Services, Blight, EMS) should be knowledgeable, responsive, and able to connect the community
- The City should prepare for disaster planning

# Bridgeport Is an Equitable City

- Bridgeporters value the cultural diversity and the diversity of people
- Bridgeport's education system needs more funding
- Bridgeport needs more housing and rental options at all income levels and should foster upward mobility
- Leadership, city employees, and teachers should reflect the diversity of the City
- City Planning efforts and leadership should consider needs of all constituents; some groups are consistently underrepresented
- Facility improvements are needed city-wide to improve accessibility for those with mobility impairments



# Bridgeport Is an Equitable City (cont.)

- There should be opportunities to learn about Bridgeport's rich and complex history throughout the city
- Bridgeport should offer greater access to LGBTQ services
- Planning and development should be sensitive to gentrification
- The City of Bridgeport should provide housing incentives for teachers and artists who may not be able to stay in Bridgeport otherwise
- Bridgeport's policies and progress should be protected from administration changes; all practices should be transparent and communicated to the public

# Bridgeport Values Nature

- Bridgeporters value the trees, nature, and open space in Bridgeport
- Waste needs to be removed from the natural environment by increasing services for waste collection and management
- City should maintain and enhance open spaces throughout the neighborhoods
- Invest in renewable energy sources
- Focus on sustainability and resiliency

# Bridgeport Values Nature (cont.)

- Bridgeport should provide “green” jobs
- The City should plant and maintain more trees and have a city arborist
- Create “Friends of” groups for funding and advocacy for parks and find other ways to increase park funding



# Bridgeport Has a Robust Economy

- Mill rate/property taxes are too high and hinder economic growth
- Redevelopment of empty lots and vacant storefronts is needed
- Revitalize Downtown to create foot traffic, a lively social scene, and increase residential use
- Bridgeport needs more jobs and job diversity
- Bridgeport needs to attract and retain millennials
- Bridgeport needs job training for adults and youth to address the skills mismatch in the local workforce

# Bridgeport Has a Robust Economy (cont.)

- Bridgeport has a vibrant arts and culture scene and can be an arts and entertainment hub to increase tourism and generate revenue
- City should focus on supporting new and existing businesses by streamlining processes, such as permitting, and focusing on customer service
- The city needs improved communication and collaboration, a strategic vision, and additional staffing

# Bridgeport is a Regional Center

- Bridgeport's convenient location and transportation connections position it as a regional center
- Bridgeport needs to better promote its role and value to the region as a provider of key services
- Bridgeport's private education and healthcare systems are major employers for the region
- The provision of regional services is subsidized by the city's residents; the city needs to pass on more of this cost to the region.



# Bridgeport is a Regional Center (cont.)

- Bridgeport can become a regional tourist destination (casino, resort/conference center, promotion of existing assets)
- Bridgeport would be more successful if the surrounding region increased coordination and collaboration
- Bridgeport needs to make more of a concerted effort to advertise and promote all of its amenities to the region

































Welcome to the  
Broad Street Steps  
Landscaping Made Possible by:  
Nasserino Property Group  
Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District  
Artemis Landscaping Architects

Wrap up and  
Next Steps



# Project Schedule

-  Steering Committee Meeting
-  SC Web Meeting/Conf. Call
-  Pop-Up Events
-  Neighborhood Meetings
-  Focus Group Meetings
-  Thematic Meeting

Task	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Task 1: Project Coordination	 	 	 	 	 	 	
Task 2: Guiding Principles							
Task 3: Community Engagement		   	  	   	   		
Task 4: Existing Conditions							
Task 5: Community Vision							
Task 6: Implementation Plan							
Task 7: POCD Document (Print Version)							
Task 7: POCD Interactive Document							



# Upcoming Steering Committee Meetings

- Wednesday, October 24
- Wednesday, November 28

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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