

# **PARKCHESTER/VAN NEST STATION AREA** **WORKING COMMUNITIES**



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## 1.VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

- A. LAND USE AND PLACEMAKING
- B. STATION AREA AND ACCESS
- C. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
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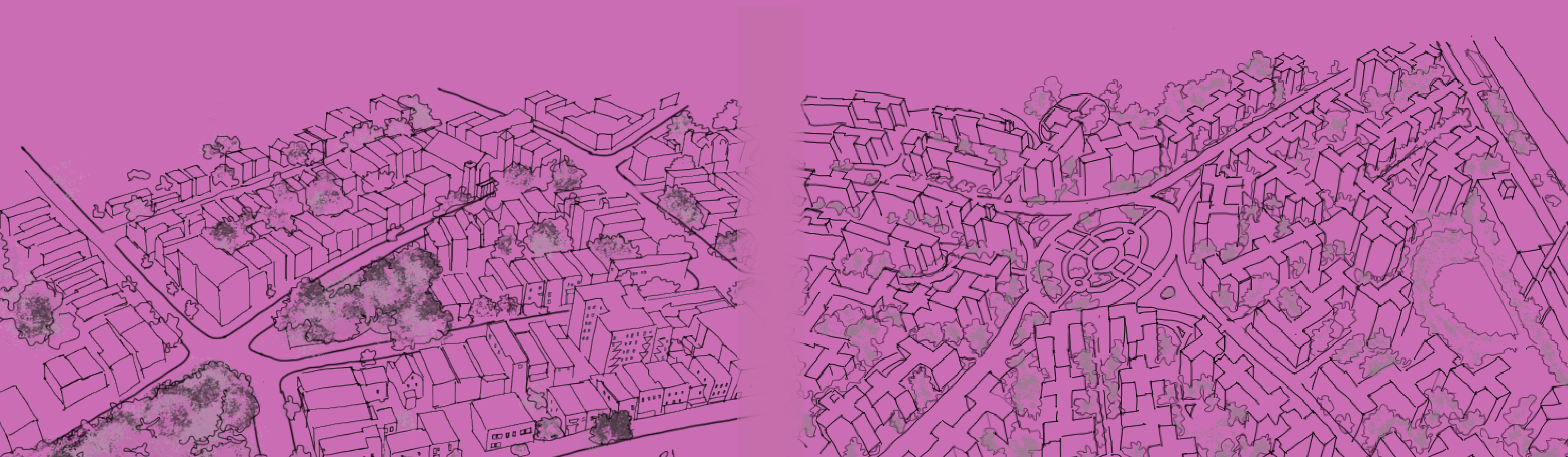
## 2.WORKING COMMUNITIES

- A. CONNECTING TO THE REGION
- B. SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND JOBS GROWTH
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*Working Communities, which focuses on growing jobs and connecting Bronxites to them*

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- A. VEHICULAR ACCESS
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# PLANNING WORK IN PANDEMIC

COVID-19 has changed the world. The Bronx has been particularly affected, and our health and economy are suffering. As we continue to fight back COVID-19, we seek to make the City a hub for public health research, create high-quality jobs, and make New York the fairest city in America. New Metro North service in the Bronx can support economic recovery of the borough and the city in the wake of the pandemic, and station-area planning can bring much needed amenities and services to the neighborhoods of the East and South Bronx.

However, as the City and MTA face extreme financial challenges, stakeholders of all kinds – elected officials, community residents, businesses, institutions - must continue to advocate for the regional rail stations and service to support New York City's recovery. The new stations can be critical to kickstarting the recovery of the borough and city's economy by thoughtfully and pro-actively planning for job growth, supporting existing commercial corridors, and working to get New Yorkers back to work in the Bronx, the city, or the wider region.

The draft recommendations shared in this remote open house are a first attempt at understanding how we move forward amidst the current health, social, and financial crises. Your guidance and feedback on the recommendations in the coming weeks will be fundamental to the plan's success as we seek to understand and respond to changing priorities during COVID.

Through the public planning process, you and your neighbors have already helped develop planning objectives that have only grown in importance as we confront COVID. These include:

- Create new or expanded open spaces where people can relax, play, and enjoy the outdoors.
- Help residents of the Bronx access opportunities for jobs in the borough, the city, and the region.
- Ensure affordable homes are available across the East and South Bronx.
- Help address longstanding health inequities, which have exacerbated the pandemic's impact on Bronxites, by working to reduce systemic barriers to good health. To address this we must plan for:
  - Access to transit that reduces reliance on automobile use and the pollution that comes with it.
  - Expanded healthy food options.
  - Convenient mixed-use neighborhoods that allow residents to accomplish their daily tasks within walking distance from home.

After you have viewed the recommendations, we encourage you to join the conversation, share your priorities, and provide your own guidance as a member of the community.



Photo: Restaurant outdoor dining, Bronx



Photo: Food distribution center, Bronx

# HOW TO READ THE RECOMMENDATION BOARDS ?

## 1. NAVIGATION BAR:

This text tells you where you are.  
For instance, this is the "Land Use and Placemaking: Neighborhood Center" category of the Vibrant Communities section.

## 2. ISSUE/OPPORTUNITY:

This text explains the issue or opportunity to be addressed by each set of objectives and recommendations. These came out of conversations with the community.

## 3. OBJECTIVE:

The objectives state what we are trying to accomplish with each set of recommendations and are a response to the issue/opportunity identified.

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

These are the recommendations for how to carry out the objective identified above

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION:

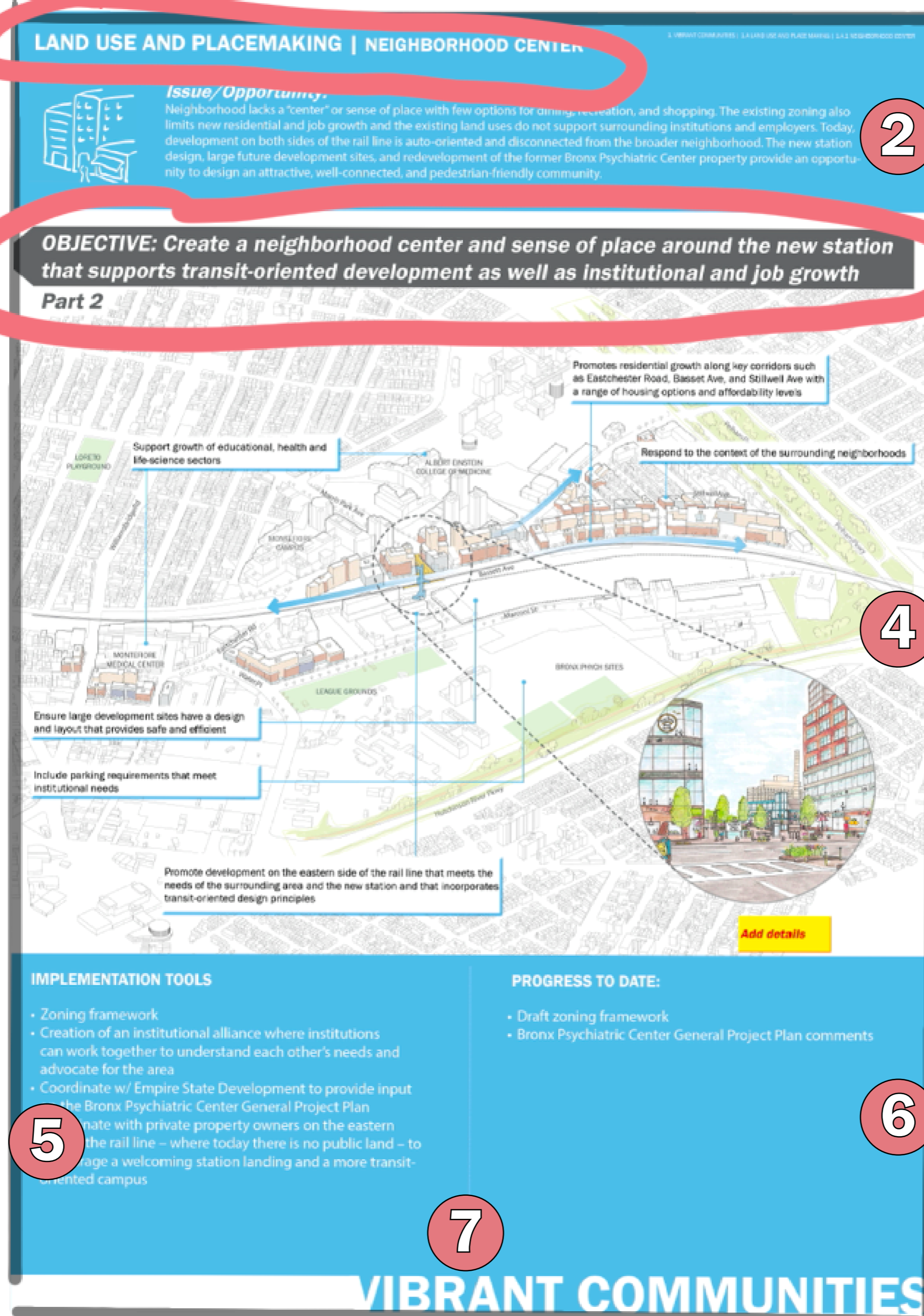
This section identifies how and by whom the above recommendations might be addressed

## 6. PROGRESS TO DATE:

This section identifies the progress to date the city has made, over the course of study, to advance certain recommendations.

## 7. SECTION TITLE:

This bar identifies which of the three major categories or recommendations (Vibrant Communities, Working Communities, or Connected Communities) you're in. Each of these categories is also associated with its own color (blue, purple, and orange, respectively)



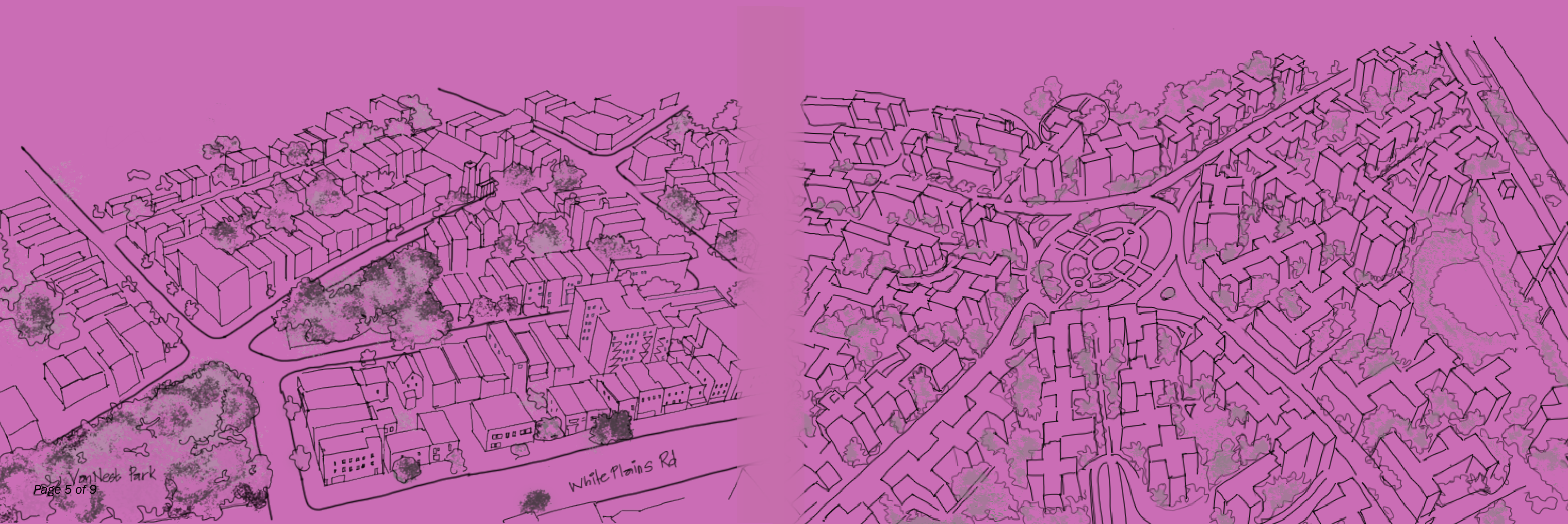
ACRONYMS	
HPD - Housing Preservation and Development	FDNY - Fire Department
DPR - Department of Parks and Recreation	NYPD - Police Department
DOT - Department of Transportation	DCLA - Department of Cultural Affairs
MIH - Mandatory Inclusionary Housing	MTA - Metropolitan Transportation Authority
TOD - Transit Oriented Development	FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency
BID - Business Improvement District	ZCFR - Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency

# WORKING COMMUNITIES

## PARKCHESTER / VAN NEST

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Connect Parkchester to major job hubs in Morris Park, Penn Station, and the region
2. Understand the needs of existing small businesses and identify tools to support them
3. Ensure that Bronxites are aware of, qualified for, and connected to current and future job opportunities in the city and the region



# CONNECTING TO THE REGION

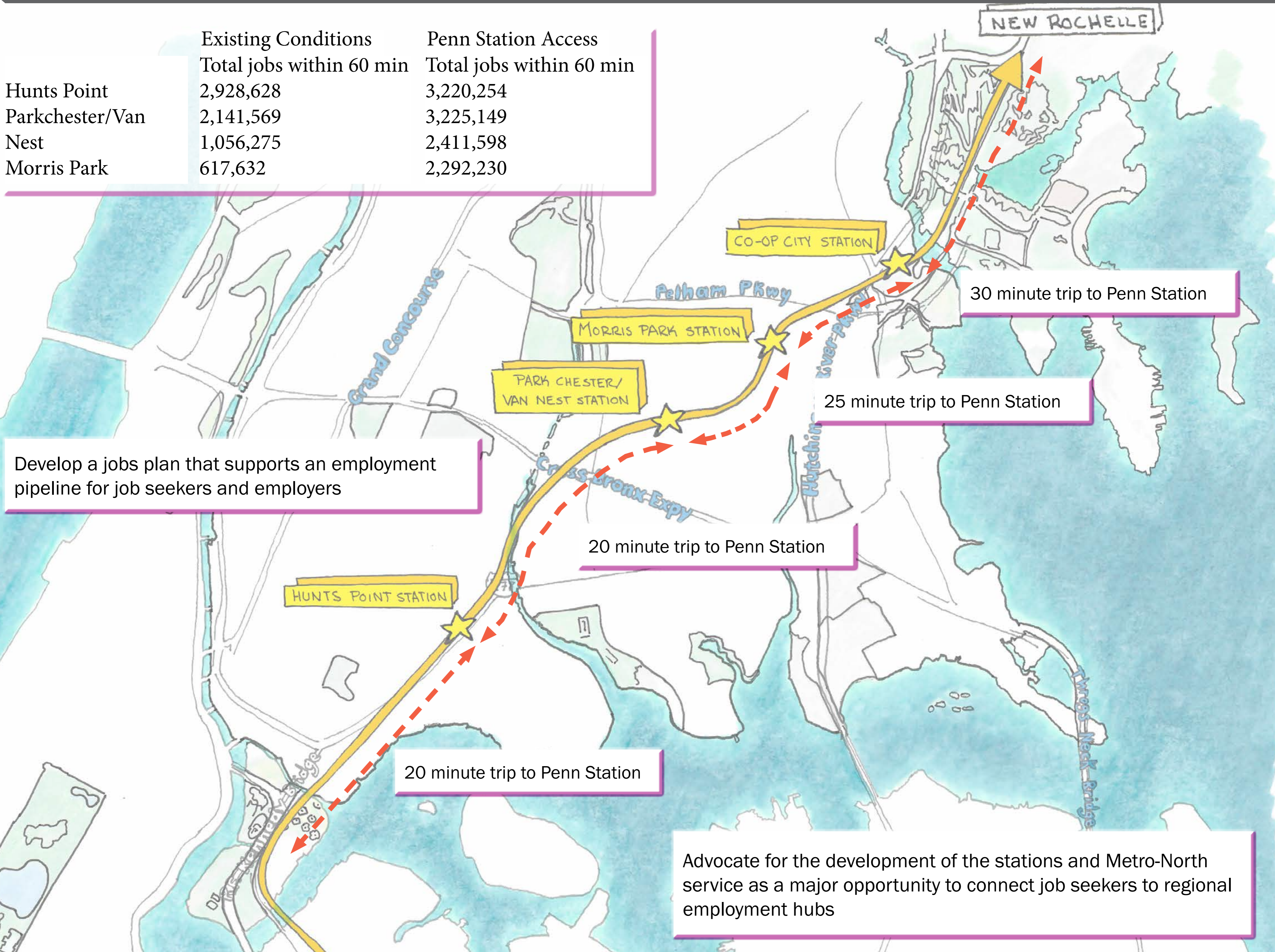
## Issue/Opportunity:

Parkchester is a dense and stable residential community, but is not conveniently connected to major job hubs

**OBJECTIVE: Connect Parkchester to major jobs hubs like Morris Park, Penn Station, and the region**

	Existing Conditions	Penn Station Access
	Total jobs within 60 min	Total jobs within 60 min
Hunts Point	2,928,628	3,220,254
Parkchester/Van Nest	2,141,569	3,225,149
Nest	1,056,275	2,411,598
Morris Park	617,632	2,292,230

Hunts Point  
Parkchester/Van Nest  
Nest  
Morris Park



Develop a jobs plan that supports an employment pipeline for job seekers and employers

20 minute trip to Penn Station

25 minute trip to Penn Station

30 minute trip to Penn Station

20 minute trip to Penn Station

Advocate for the development of the stations and Metro-North service as a major opportunity to connect job seekers to regional employment hubs

## IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

- Jobs Plan
- SBS services for business owners and commercial corridors
  - SBS Business Solutions Centers
  - SBS Mobile Outreach Unit
  - Grant and Loan Programs
  - Commercial District Needs Assessment (CDNA)
- Institutional planning and convening
- DOT Street Design Manual
- NYCT bus planning

## PLANNING TEAM PROGRESS TO DATE:

- Held conversations with area institutions, such as Montefiore, and City's Small Business Services and Workforce Development teams to better understand how to connect Bronxites to jobs opportunities
- Coordinated with NYC Transit Bus Redesign

## Issue/Opportunity:

Existing commercial corridors should remain unique shopping areas that are complemented and supported by future growth. The needs of existing businesses along the corridor, many of which are light industrial, must be considered as part of any land use recommendation. Additionally, there are two business improvement districts (BIDs) in close proximity to the corridor and it is important to work closely with them to understand their needs and make recommendations that support them.

## OBJECTIVE: Understand the needs of existing small businesses and identify tools to support them



Improve key travel routes between employment and residential centers and commercial corridors to support convenient access

Continue to support commercial corridors, such as Morris Park Ave, Castle Hill Ave, Metropolitan Ave, Starling Ave, and others

Support growth around the station to expand the customer base for local retail corridors

Allow local retail around the future station in strategic locations, such as key intersections and near the station

### IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

- SBS services for business owners and commercial corridors
  - SBS Business Solutions Centers
  - SBS Mobile Outreach Unit
  - Grant and Loan Programs
- Small business survey and analysis
- Rezoning to implement the goals of the zoning framework to provide strategic new opportunities for local retail
- DOT Street Design Manual
- Coordination with DOT and NYC Transit
- Coordinate with BIDs, future institutional alliance, Chamber and other orgs
- Develop understanding of business needs and environment

### PLANNING TEAM PROGRESS TO DATE:

- Conducted a desktop survey of the small businesses within the study area to understand where small business employment is concentrated
- Supported creation of Morris Park BID

## JOB PREPAREDNESS

### **Issue/Opportunity:**

Bronxites are not always aware of, readily qualified for, and/or connected to job opportunities in the area, city or region, but growth around the new station present an unprecedented opportunity to grow jobs locally and connect residents to regional jobs. Local institutions and other major employers such as Montefiore, the largest employer in the Bronx, seek qualified employees for a range of positions, and the station-area planning process provides an opportunity to build connections for job seekers throughout the Bronx to these employers.

**OBJECTIVE: Ensure that Bronxites are aware of, qualified for, and connected to current and future job opportunities at area institutions and in the region**



Photo credits: NYCDCC At Bronx Job Fair

**Create a place-based talent pipeline that addresses the needs and challenges of Morris Park residents and workers, and is rooted in their interests**

**Identify gaps and barriers for Bronx residents to access employment in the Morris Park job center, with a focus on access to health care and life sciences jobs**

**Consult with the area's largest employers to identify workforce and skills needs to fill existing and future jobs, with a focus on good-paying positions**

**Identify ways to better connect Bronxites to jobs in the area, city and region**

**Bring together existing local employment networks, local organizations, service providers, institutions, and other employers, such as Montefiore Hospital, the Hutchinson Metro Center, and Jacobi Hospital, to cultivate relationships for future partnerships. Empower the group to identify opportunities and lead projects to improve awareness, training, and job opportunities**

**Increase awareness among local job seekers of City programs, including training and job opportunities**

### IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

- Continued coordination among the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, the Department of Small Business Services, and the New York City Economic Development Corporation
- Bring together Bronx employment and job networks, local organizations, service providers, institutions, and employers:
- Build relationships to existing Workforce 1 Career Centers
- Create an institutional alliance to bring together local employment networks, organizations, service providers, institutions, and employers to advocate for needs around the new station
- Conduct a skills gap analysis to identify opportunities and challenges of the workforce
- Convene regional stakeholders and employers to develop connections between Bronx service providers and local and regional employers
- Resource fairs and SBS Mobile Outreach Unit to increase the awareness of job seekers of services available to them, including City employment and training programs
- Train community-facing organizations on how to use the WorkingNYC and Career Ready NYC web sites as resources for their customers

### PLANNING TEAM PROGRESS TO DATE:

- The City met with several area institutions, workforce organizations, and community groups to discuss workforce needs and strategies. These included: the Bronx Community College, the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, Hostos Community College, Lehman College, Workforce Professionals Training Institute, and NYC Employment and Training Coalition.
- Studied socio-economic and employment data and begin identifying potential challenges and opportunities to better understand workforce landscape and begin identifying potential challenges and opportunities



**To voice your opinion on these recommendations, [click here](#)**

**To see how the study seeks to make Parkchester Van Nest a :**  
**[Connected Community](#), [click here: \[links to pdf\]](#)**  
**[Vibrant Community](#), [click here: \[links to pdf\]](#)**

**To return to the Remote Open House, [click here](#)**

