

Overview

On October 19, 2017, the Department of City Planning (DCP) and partnering agencies hosted a public event for the Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study at M.S. 51 William Alexander. The event was focused on planning for schools, transportation, and other community resources in the Gowanus area. An estimated 100 people participated, and remarks were provided by City Council Member Brad Lander.

The event had an open house format, with stations dedicated to general study updates, urban design and study working group updates, transportation planning, planning for public schools, environmental and drainage infrastructure, and tenant support. Participants were able to speak with representatives of agencies including DCP, the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Education (DOE) including the Superintendent

of School District 15, the School Construction Authority (SCA), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Human Resources Administration (HRA)'s Tenant Support Unit. Electronic copies of the boards, handouts and other materials provided by each agency are available at www.nyc.gov/gowanus.

The feedback and ideas provided by participants at the event, which are summarized in the following pages,

will help DCP and partner agencies develop a draft planning and land use framework as part of the Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study. These ideas and comments add to the recommendations provided earlier this year by the study's working groups on arts & culture, housing, industry & economic development, public realm, and sustainability & resiliency, as well as ideas shared on the study's public engagement website, www.PlanGowanus.com.



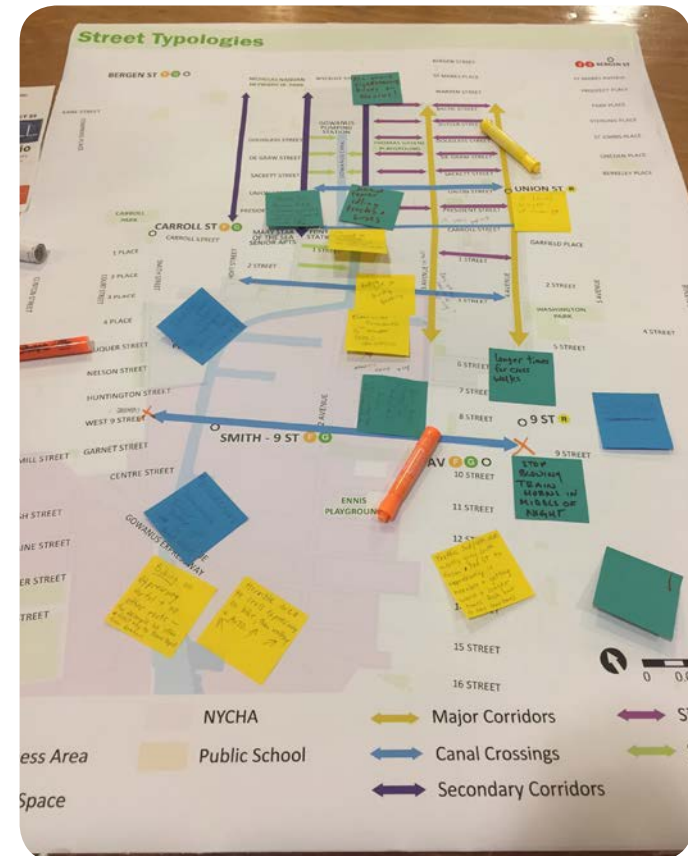
Transportation

Pedestrian & Bike Experience

- Need more crossing time, especially wide streets like 4th Avenue
- Narrow sidewalks on 3rd Avenue
- Add stop sign at Carroll Street and Bond Street
- Need better connection between Southern Gowanus Canal and Red Hook/Carroll Gardens; area under Gowanus Expressway is unsafe for biking
- More protected bike lanes and bicycle enforcement
- Improve safety for bicyclists on 3rd Street
- New bike/pedestrian bridge to cross canal on DeGraw Street
- Add wayfinding around new waterfront access points
- Incorporate street lights with solar backups
- Address street light pollution by changing angles of light fixtures

Freight & Traffic Circulation

- 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue traffic south of 3rd Street to BQE is very congested
- Union Street should have two lanes in each direction
- Too many tractor trailers traveling at excessive speeds on residential streets including Hoyt and Bond
- Enforce no-idling for trucks on Hoyt and Bond Streets
- Due to double parking by trucks making deliveries and taxis/ Ubers/ride services, two-lane design on 4th Avenue will effectively become one lane
- Excessive speeds and trucks/large freight vehicles should not be on Carroll Street Bridge – causes destruction of decking on this small-scale historic bridge



Parking

- No parking minimums
- Developers should contribute to transportation infrastructure

Transportation

Public Transit

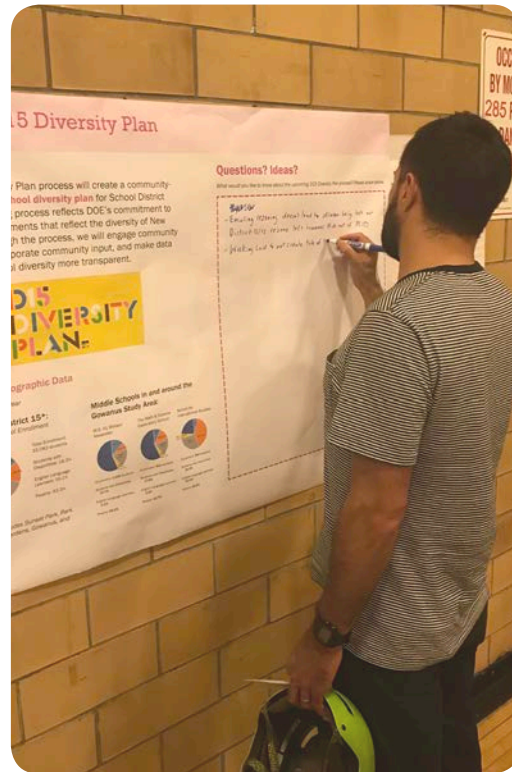
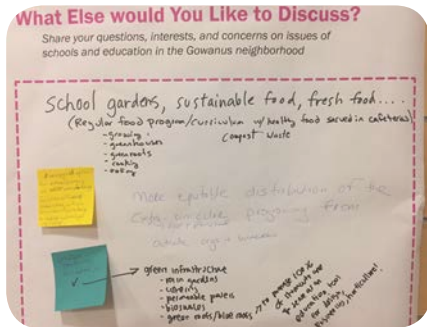
- Reinstate B71 route – Eastbound on Union, Westbound on 3rd Street serving Whole Foods
- Ensure bus poles have route map as well as countdown clocks
- Implement MetroCard re-loading stations at bus stops
- Improve F train service
- Do not make F train run express through Cobble Hill/Carroll Gardens/Gowanus
- R train frequency needs to improve to cope with increase in F train ridership
- Accessibility improvements needed at many stations, including 4 Av-9 St: More elevators and escalators, and more seating at platforms
- BQX plan could operate as express bus in bus-only lane; buses are more flexible and resilient than light rail
- BQX plan could result in costs, displacement, and real estate development not in community members' interests



Key Principles - Transportation

- Pedestrians and cyclists want to see safer accommodations and public realm improvements on Gowanus streets, including 3rd Avenue, Bond Street, and crossing the Gowanus Canal.
- Freight circulation should be planned and enforced to reduce conflicts between fast-moving or double-parked trucks on congested or residential streets.
- Planning for public transit routes and service should consider current and future ridership at each station and the needs of riders, including accessibility.

Schools



Interests and Concerns

- More equitable distribution of the extra-curricular programming in classroom and afterschool; connect with outside organizations and businesses
- School gardens, sustainable food, fresh food: Regular food program/curriculum with greenhouses, green roofs, cooking, eating healthy food served in cafeteria, and composting waste
- Green infrastructure: Rain gardens, cisterns, permeable pavement, bioswales, green roofs/blue roofs on schools to manage 100 percent of stormwater and serve as an education tool for design, engineering, and horticulture
- A microgrid energy option for schools, areas, or manufacturing facilities, would enable renewables, such as iron-redox flow battery, to reduce natural gas reliance

District 15 Diversity Plan

- Ensure rezoning does not lead to children being left out of new schools near their homes
- Work hard to not create a 'tale-of-two-schools' in afterschool programming
- Use income and ethnicity as diversity gauge

Key Principles - Schools

- Meet existing and projected district-wide seat need and explore approaching admissions in a way that improves integration.
- Foster strong connections between schools and the surrounding neighborhood by supporting community events and offering diverse after-school activities and opportunities for students to connect with Gowanus's arts and business resources.
- Environmental sustainability – including energy efficiency, food sources, and green infrastructure – should be a priority in the design, operation, and programming of Gowanus area schools.

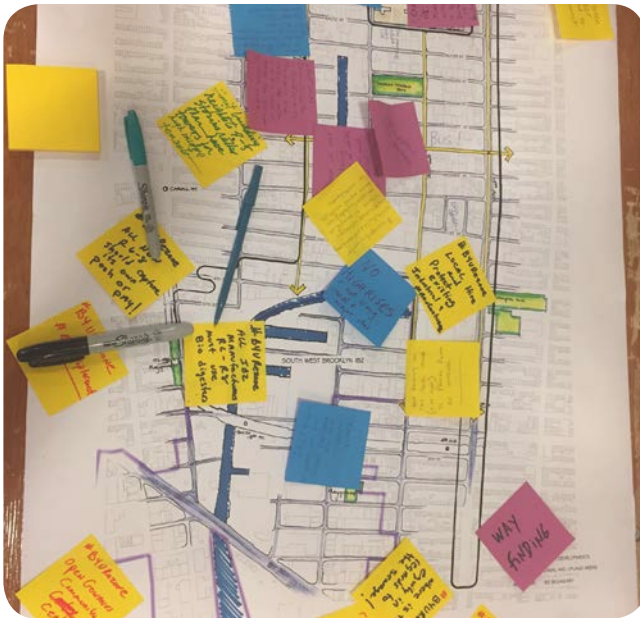
Additional Community Resources

Parks & Open Space

- More green space
- Temporary or permanent Thomas Greene Playground space
- Pool across from Wyckoff Gardens?
- Pool at Salt Lot CSO tank site?
- More public rain gardens

Community Space

- Need libraries
- Re-open Gowanus Community Center
- Need space to accommodate events for 50-99 people in a garage or retail area
- Accessible cultural spaces



Land Use & Urban Design

Housing

- Need more affordable housing and market rate housing along the canal (12-15 stories)
- Limit building height to 4-5 stories rather than towers for high income tenants
- High density on the canal (13-20 stories) itself to provide plenty of housing
- No more luxury housing
- Fix public housing in the rezoning area

Public Realm

- Convert turning basins on canal to land to use for public projects
- Convert Con Ed site on Baltic Street to open space
- Washington Park is a good open space
- Public Place should have open space and a new school
- Wayfinding
- No high rises – not along canal or major sites
- Demap part of Nevins Street
- Have architectural integrity: build to scale = beauty
- Fix urban heat island

Industry & Economic Development

- Preserve industrial uses in and around IBZ
- Require local hiring, and protect existing industrial and manufacturing
- Ensure industrial uses are protected through zoning and operationally

Sustainability & Resiliency

- Require new development to manage CSO produced by new toilets on site using in-building detention tanks
- IBZ manufacturers to use bio-digesters
- New development to capture or pay for own waste

