SOUTHERN BOULEVARD NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY

Spring 2017 UPDATE

OUTREACH TO DATE

- **Planning Partner Meetings – October 2016, December 2016, January 2017**
- **Community Survey – November 2016 to present**
- **Small Group Meetings – March 2017 to present**
- **Regular Community Board Updates – ongoing**

SHERIDAN EXPRESSWAY UPDATE

Governor Cuomo and State elected officials announced $700 million in this year's State budget to alter the Sheridan Expressway between Westchester Avenue and the Cross Bronx Expressway, implementing elements of a 2013 proposal *(link to plan here: http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/plans-studies/sheridan-hunts-point/final_full_report.pdf)* to develop Sheridan Boulevard, thereby providing direct access to the Bronx River waterfront and new ramps into Hunts Point to improve access to the markets and remove trucks from local streets. The City, along with the Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance and other groups, is working to understand the State's design and how it supports the community's stated goals of improving pedestrian safety, access to the waterfront parks, and overall neighborhood health and vitality.

SURVEY UPDATE

Left: Word Cloud of Southern Boulevard Neighborhood Study Survey responses to what respondents like best about their neighborhood.

To date, about 250 surveys have been completed. The Dept. of City Planning (DCP) continues to seek opportunities to engage the public and will continue to provide access to the online survey, distribute printed copies to organizations, and meet members of the community where they are through tabling events. In the last two months, this has included tabling in the lobby of Urban Health Plan and at events at the Bronx Music Heritage Center.

Encourage your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to take the survey!

Take the survey at: http://bit.ly/SouthernBlvdCommunitySurvey
o para español: http://bit.ly/SouthernBlvdEncuestaComunitaria

SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

Building upon the recommendations of the planning partners, DCP began to engage in small group meetings in March, seeking to meet residents and stakeholders where they are. The summary of those meetings is below:

MARCH 7

Banana Kelly Resident Leadership Meeting

830 Fox Street

DCP staff were invited to Banana Kelly's monthly Resident Leadership meeting to discuss the Southern Blvd neighborhood study. Staff from the Department of Housing Preservation & Development joined us as well. After a brief presentation on the planning process, participants engaged in a frank discussion around housing concerns. Fear of displacement, the need for truly affordable housing, and homelessness in the area were particularly prevalent concerns. DCP looks forward to continuing this conversation and to working with the community to address these issues and to ensure that the planning process is transparent, open, and welcoming.

MARCH 18

Neighborhood Shopp Casa Boricua Senior Center

910 E 172nd Street

For this small group meeting, City Planning staff teamed with the Department of Cultural Affairs to hold a workshop helping to identify concerns specific to the senior community. Participants helped to identify existing assets in the community and engaged in visioning activities and elaborations of key values that will help to shape the study as it moves forward.

MARCH 30

Southern Boulevard Business Improvement District (BID)

Casita Maria, 928 Simpson Street

City Planning staff, together with Small Business Services, held a small group meeting focused on the concerns of merchants in the Southern Boulevard Neighborhood BID. The workshop offered an opportunity to better understand barriers and opportunities to promoting a diverse and vibrant retail and business environment in the corridor.

WHAT'S NEXT?

For the past few months, we have been in listening mode, hearing from the communities around Southern Boulevard about what they would like to see addressed in a neighborhood plan, what some of the major challenges are in the area, and how we can build a planning process to meet the needs of the communities.

In the next month, we hope to share with you a list of summer events where you can engage with us in the community as well as other upcoming opportunities for public engagement.

Additional Small Group Meetings

Upcoming small group meetings are yet to be scheduled but include meetings with youth, schools, businesses, houses of worship, and residents.

If your group, house of worship, club, organization, school, or business would like to host DCP at your meeting, please contact us at:
SouthernBlvd@planning.nyc.gov

Summer Events 2017

DCP will attend events and festivals in the community this summer to introduce residents and stakeholders to the study through visioning and asset-mapping exercises.

If you would like us to your attend your festival or street fair, please contact us at:
SouthernBlvd@planning.nyc.gov

Ongoing Community Board Outreach

DCP will continue to keep the local community boards up-to-date, attending committee meetings and gathering feedback from members on the plan and planning process itself.

Planning Process

NYC PLANNING

For more information, please visit us at:
www.nyc.gov/southern

Contact us at:
SouthernBlvd@planning.nyc.gov or 718-220-8500

Special thanks to the following organizations for helping to facilitate these small group meetings:

- Neighborhood Shopp Casa Boricua Senior Center
- Southern Boulevard Business Improvement District
- Casita Maria
- Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association Inc.