

Sustainable Communities East New York Town Hall February 9, 2012

Summary Report



NEW YORK & CONNECTICUT
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

NYCPLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING CITY OF NEW YORK

Sustainable Communities East New York Town Hall

KEYNOTE

The Commissioner of the New York City Department of City Planning, Amanda M. Burden, FAICP, opened the East New York Town Hall.

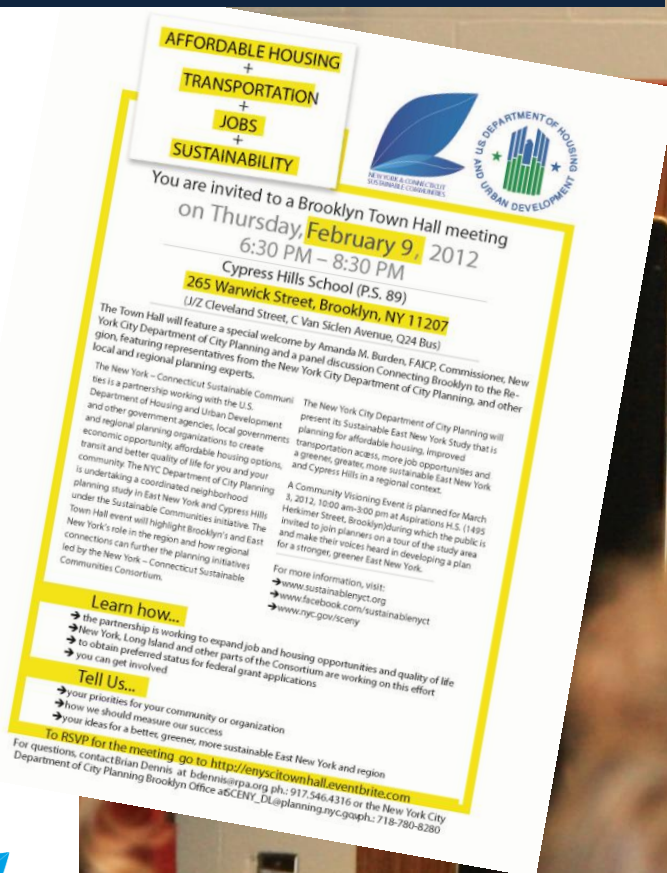


On February 9, 2012, the [New York-Connecticut Sustainable Communities Consortium](#), held a Town Hall meeting at P.S. 89, the Cypress Hills Community School, to update the community about the Consortium's activities and to solicit feedback.

The purpose of the Sustainable East New York Town Hall meeting was to interact with local and regional stakeholders about the Consortium's regional activities and possibilities for public involvement, as well as highlighting the [Sustainable East New York study's](#) regional context.

The event was attended by more than 70 community stakeholders, including residents, representatives of local organizations and elected officials.

The event was opened by a keynote by Amanda M. Burden, FAICP, Commissioner, NYC Department of City Planning, who stressed the importance of community involvement in the many rezonings done by her Department and the Department's [city-wide sustainability initiatives](#), including encouraging transit-oriented development.



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Panel Discussion

Following the keynote, representatives from the Consortium partners described their role in the project and answered questions from the audience

Commissioner Burden's keynote was followed by a panel discussion featuring:

Jennifer Cribbs, Sustainability Coordinator, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, who discussed the importance of connecting the Sustainable Communities studies with local initiatives in order to build a series of strong, grassroots-led sustainability initiatives.

Christopher Jones, Vice President of Research, Regional Plan Association, and **Larry McAuliffe**, Sustainability Manager, New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, discussed the inter-connectivity of the region, and how the ongoing Sustainable Communities studies are capitalizing on unique regional strengths, in particular the transit network, and community-level assets.

Purnima Kapur, Director, NYC Department of City Planning Brooklyn Office, highlighted a series of successful initiatives that her Department has undertaken which could act as precedents for the Sustainable Communities East New York initiative and other regional projects.

Richard Manson, Program Vice President, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, presented how his organization helped to implement community projects in the past and how they could be involved in implementing the recommendations from the Sustainable Communities studies throughout the region.

Sean Sallie, Senior Planner, Nassau County, highlighted some of the proposed concepts for the Nassau Hub, a growing center of jobs and housing connected to the region through the Long Island Rail Road.

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WORKSHOP

After the panel discussion, community stakeholders discussed with the panelists and facilitators from the Regional Plan Association and the New York City Department of City Planning some of the issues and opportunities of the Sustainable East New York Study in a regional context.



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WHAT WE HEARD....*GENERAL COMMENTS*

Local jobs, personal safety and education were the top priorities identified by participants

ISSUES

- Unemployment is seen as the biggest challenge
- Personal safety is a great concern
- Participants highlighted the need for more educational and youth programs

OPPORTUNITIES

- Identify options for local economic and workforce development for all
- Improve safety and perceptions of safety through policies and design interventions
- Increase educational opportunities
- Make Sustainable Communities project data available online

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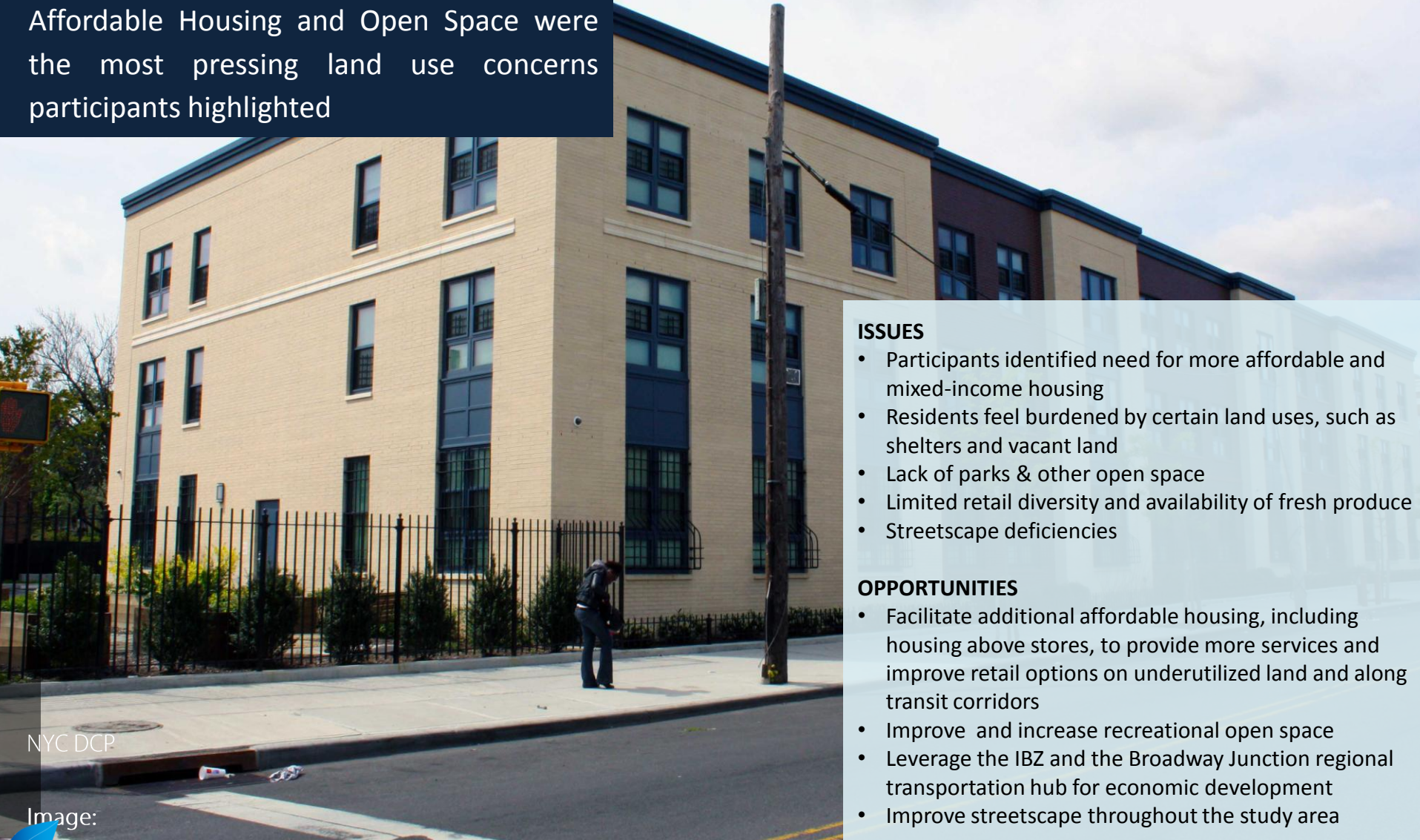
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WHAT WE HEARD... *LAND USE & HOUSING*

Affordable Housing and Open Space were the most pressing land use concerns participants highlighted



ISSUES

- Participants identified need for more affordable and mixed-income housing
- Residents feel burdened by certain land uses, such as shelters and vacant land
- Lack of parks & other open space
- Limited retail diversity and availability of fresh produce
- Streetscape deficiencies

OPPORTUNITIES

- Facilitate additional affordable housing, including housing above stores, to provide more services and improve retail options on underutilized land and along transit corridors
- Improve and increase recreational open space
- Leverage the IBZ and the Broadway Junction regional transportation hub for economic development
- Improve streetscape throughout the study area

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Image:



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WHAT WE HEARD... *TRANSPORTATION*

While there are several transit options, many are difficult to access and do not always connect local residents with their jobs or retail destinations



ISSUES

- Perception of Broadway Junction area as deserted and unsafe due to lack of active land uses
- Lack of north-south transit connections
- Transit in many instances not ADA accessible
- Concern for pedestrian safety along major corridors and crossing at intersections
- Insufficient transit connections from LIRR stations on Long Island

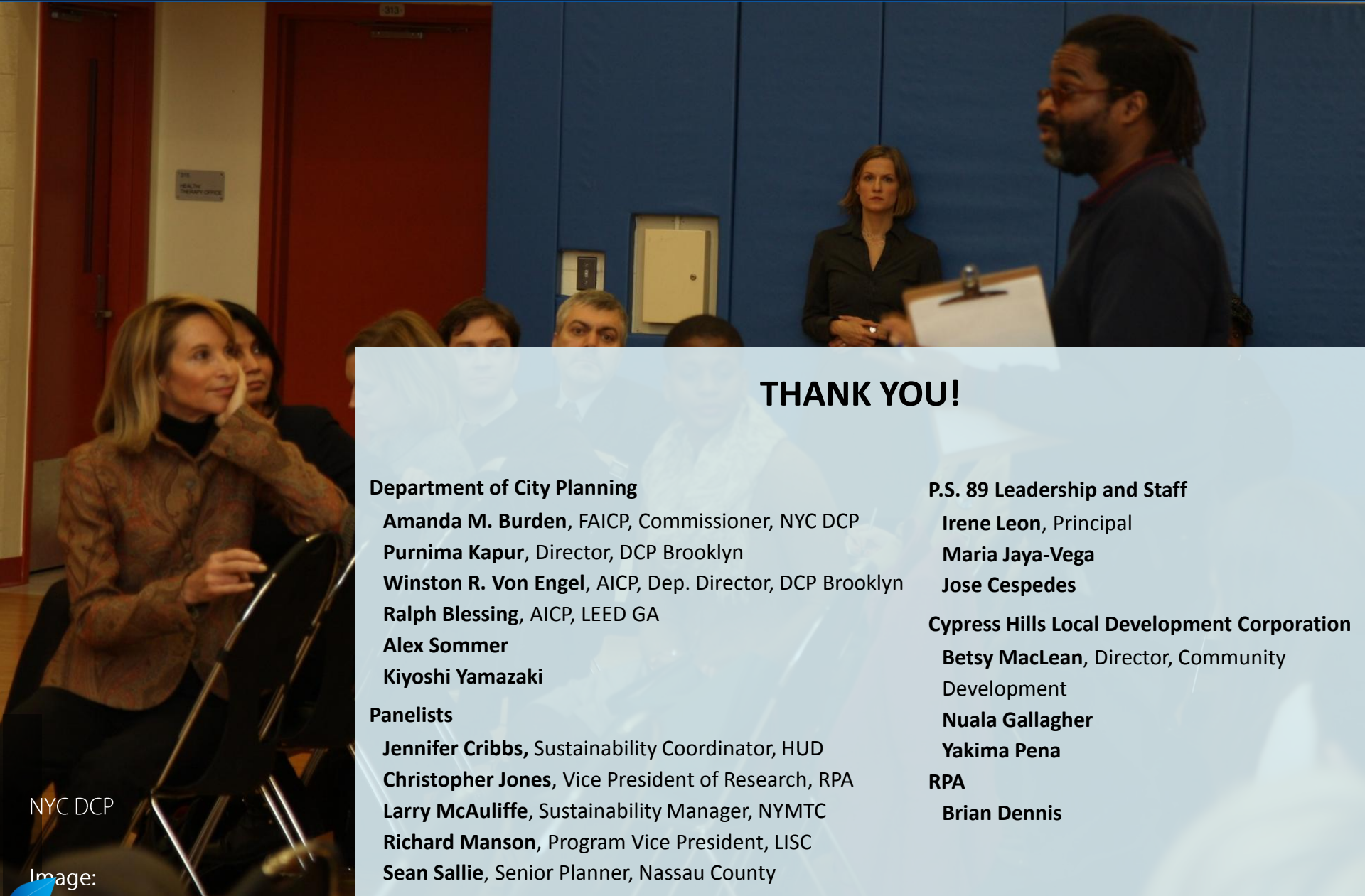
OPPORTUNITIES

- Enhance pedestrian accessibility to Broadway Junction from surrounding areas
- Improve appearance of existing transit facilities
- Study freight rail options
- Enhance pedestrian safety
- Explore opportunities to better connect the area with job centers on Long Island

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THANK YOU!

Department of City Planning

Amanda M. Burden, FAICP, Commissioner, NYC DCP
Purnima Kapur, Director, DCP Brooklyn
Winston R. Von Engel, AICP, Dep. Director, DCP Brooklyn
Ralph Blessing, AICP, LEED GA
Alex Sommer
Kiyoshi Yamazaki

Panelists

Jennifer Cribbs, Sustainability Coordinator, HUD
Christopher Jones, Vice President of Research, RPA
Larry McAuliffe, Sustainability Manager, NYMTC
Richard Manson, Program Vice President, LISC
Sean Sallie, Senior Planner, Nassau County

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