

# Bronx CB12 Public Hearing on White Plains Road Neighborhood Plan

Date: 06/23/2025

Location: Bronx Community District 12 Office

## What Happened

NYC Planning provided an overview of the White Plains Road Neighborhood Plan planning process, including the plan geography, the purpose of the planning process, and timeline for key activities. Community members asked questions and shared comments about the neighborhood today and opportunities for the future

## Event Summary

Community members value walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods with vibrant small businesses and green spaces, as reflected in the praise for Norwood's housing, commercial activity, and tree-lined streets [1], and the desire for more small restaurants and cafes along White Plains Road [2], [3]. Safety and pedestrian connectivity are priorities, with calls for improved lighting under the Burke Avenue Bridge and addressing unsafe-feeling areas caused by blank walls [4], [5]. There is also community interest in enhancing public green spaces through projects like the Shoelace Park Connector and potentially converting Bissel Gardens into a park [6], [7]. One participant suggested setting clear housing production goals as an important step for neighborhood planning [8]. These insights suggest opportunities for development that builds on existing neighborhood strengths while addressing safety and connectivity challenges.

## Citations

[1]: Norwood is a great example of what a walkable neighborhood is like. Lots of housing, lots of first floor commercial, lots of trees. Its very pleasant to walk

[2]: We need commercial overlays, with residential on top. We don't want big box stores. We want small businesses, like cafes, restaurants

[3]: I go to Little Yemen, Morris Park or Bronx Little Italy for small businesses/restaurants. We need more restaurants on WPR

[4]: We need lighting beneath the Burke Avenue Bridge! It is very low, like a tunnel, and it's an essential pedestrian connection between east and west Bronx in the Bronx River Forest/Bronx Park

[5]: Neighbors of mine remark that they don't feel safe walking down Tilden Street between Barnes and Gun Hill Rd. It's the blank wall of the Checkers/Dunkin site that contributed to that block feeling ...

[6]: Create the Shoelace Park Connector! Make continuous parkland between Bronx Park and Shoelace Park via the western (southbound) roadway of Bronx Blvd between 211th St and Dumcomb Av

[7]: Demap Bissel Gardens into a NYC Park (if Bissel Gardens wants that)

[8]: We should consider setting a goal of how much housing we want to produce