

Community Working Group Meeting 2

Date: 07/29/2025

Location: Bronx Community District 12 Office

What Happened

On July 29 at Bronx Community Board 12, NYC Planning hosted the second Community Working Group meeting. After a brief presentation that included reviewing some community facts with Community Working Group members, Planning staff facilitated an activity aimed at identifying strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and areas of opportunity for the plan area.

Event Summary

Community Working Group Meeting 2 was organized around an initial assessment of the neighborhoods' Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges (SWOC). A SWOC analysis is a tool commonly used by urban planners to understand what communities value, as well as their concerns and to identify opportunities to build on assets and address future issues.

Community members identified strengths including robust transportation options such as subway, and highway access, as well as trains and buses, alongside a diverse retail environment with low vacancy rates as well as strong cultural identity rooted in Caribbean and Black communities, [1], [2]. However, some participants shared interest in diversifying business types, improving retail quality, and developing multi-story commercial spaces to support growth while maintaining community character [21], [22], [23] [3], [4], [5], [10]. Participants highlighted essential services such as the post office and health services to support community needs, especially for elderly residents [6], [7], [8]. [10]. At the same time, public safety concerns, including drug activity and loitering, and issues with parking enforcement and trash management present opportunities for improvement [11], [12], [13], [14]. Residents also seek enhanced community and recreational spaces for youth and aging adults, as well as better coordination and enforcement around transportation logistics and delivery practices [15], [16], [17]. Community members cited concerns around parking enforcement as well as bike lanes [14], [20]. Some shared that the scooter program does not work for residents, given geographic limitations. [18][19], however others see opportunities to improve the program. Participants shared other challenges and opportunities including the desire for more youth engagement, local hiring, and improved lighting in the corridor. Overall, the community working group exhibits a strong sense of guardianship and cultural richness, with clear aspirations to enhance safety, accessibility, and economic vibrancy.[24], [25].

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- [1]: Strength: highway, metro north, and busses
- [2]: Strength: lots of transit (everything!) (prioritized)
- [3]: Strength: Diversity large black population (prioritized)
- [4]: Strength: Caribbean culture
- [5]: Strength: Options for businesses, retail diversity
- [6]: Strength: post office (passports and mail)
- [7]: Strength: PO great place for elderly neighbors
- [8]: Strength: Health services
- [9]: Strength: Businesses voice concerns, "Block Ceptairs" "Block Community" between businesses
- [10]: Strength: low business vacancy
- [11]: Weakness: Public safety
- [12]: Weakness: loitering (prioritized)
- [13]: Weakness: trash (prioritized)
- [14]: Weakness: lack of enforcement of parking
- [15]: Challenges: Spaces for youth and aging adults (prioritized)
- [16]: Opportunity: Services/ safety for aging adults
- [17]: Opportunity: better coordination with DSNY for garbage plan
- [18]: Challenges: Scooter program - geographic limitations
- [19]: Weakness: scooter program doesn't work for all residents
- [20]: Weakness: Bike lanes/ lack of parking enforcement (prioritized)
- [21]: Opportunity: Diversity of Businesses
- [22]: Opportunity: Increase the quality of retail offerings, not as many big box stores
- [23]: Opportunity: multi-story commercial under the train before building residential on top (prioritized)
- [24]: Community ownership of the space
- [25]: Strength: Diverse community with strong identity