



Summary of October 3rd Public Meeting

EnvisionNR's October meeting focused on prioritizing goals and objectives for the comprehensive plan. Based on discussions, along with information gathered from the June public meetings and from the EnvisionNR website; each of the six advisory sub-committees presented a list of ten potential opportunities of their focus area for prioritization by the public.

The format of the meeting allowed participants to individually rank the top three opportunities (out of the ten total) in each topic area that were of most importance to them. The results of this exercise has been compiled and presented in the following pages, ranked from one to ten, with one receiving the most votes and ten the least.

If you were unable to make the meeting, we would still like to have your vote. The top ten opportunity of each focus area is posted on the site as a poll. Please vote in each category for the top three opportunities you believe are the most important and pressing.

TOP 10 ENVISIONR OPPORTUNITIES - OCT. 3 PUBLIC MEETING

| Housing and Neighborhoods | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Rank | Opportunities | Idea details |
| 1 | Support Downtown Retail | Encourage North End residents to shop in the City's Downtown by attracting retailers which will discourage them from using competing shopping destinations such as Eastchester, White Plains or Central Avenue. |
| 2 | Improve walkability | Create more walkable and visually attractive streets by adding new streetscaping, sidewalks in neighborhoods and working with utility companies to install overhead wires underground. |
| 2 | Housing for college grads & young professionals | Build housing which is affordable to middle-income persons to encourage more young professionals attending the City's colleges to reside in the City after graduation, resulting in a higher-educated labor pool which attracts businesses to locate in the City and create more local jobs. |
| 4 | Buffer existing neighborhoods | Minimize environmental impacts on residential areas, particularly around the City's waterfront and colleges which have existing traffic and noise issues, when the City approves future development projects. |
| 5 | Encourage n'hood interactions through Town Hall meetings | Conduct town hall meetings and community events in locations and venues that encourage participation and interaction between of residents North End/ South End. |
| 6 | Leverage College Students' presence & energy | Encourage students of the City's three colleges to become stakeholders and volunteers in the City by drawing on their manpower, educational skills and athletic interests. |
| 7 | More bike lanes and safety signage | Install more bike routes and safety signage throughout the City to increase safety of riders, encourage a healthier lifestyle, less use of automobiles and more interaction between neighbors. |
| 8 | Be including of apartment dwellers | Encourage neighborhood associations to reach out to apartment dwellers in their neighborhood to make them aware that they are stakeholders in the City and that their issues and ideas are important. |

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| 8 | Encourage preservation of Historic Homes | Encourage owners to preserve the City's historic residential homes and commercial properties by creating more local historic districts, assisting property owners to secure historic tax credits and preservation grants, revising the City's building codes, or presenting awards. |
| 10 | Institute a community beautification program | Institute a community beautification program which includes turning unmaintained islands into community gardens. |

TOP 10 ENVISIONR OPPORTUNITIES - OCT. 3 PUBLIC MEETING

| Economic Development | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Rank | Opportunities | Idea details |
| 1 | Expand Office & Retail space | Expand office space and creative solutions to attract suburban-style retail to downtown and encourage attractive retail on North Ave. |
| 2 | Attract & retain small businesses | Explore creative programs and incentives to attract and retain small business |
| 3 | Revive the Waterfront; retail & recreational activities | Continue to revive the waterfront with retail, recreation and public amenities (e.g., rezoning to allow bed and breakfasts) |
| 4 | Destination City | Encourage New Rochelle as a destination community |
| 5 | Expand BID concept outside downtown | Grass-roots, business Special Improvement Districts for commercial districts outside the BID |
| 6 | Leverage transit | Capture I-95 traffic and sales tax revenues by building on access and location advantages through Transit oriented and adjacent development |
| 6 | Branding & Marketing of the City | Develop a branding and marketing strategy |
| 9 | Ensure a flexible regulatory environment | Regulatory environment to support not hinder the business environment) (e.g., code and police enforcement; free parking downtown; appropriate quality-of-life laws, etc.) |
| 9 | Create Special Districts | Create special districts (e.g., arts, energy, historic, etc.) |
| 10 | Cultivate emerging industries; healthcare, tourism etc. | Focus on emerging industry sectors like healthcare, tourism and light industry clusters/corridors |

TOP 10 ENVISIONR OPPORTUNITIES - OCT. 3 PUBLIC MEETING

| Open Space & Community Resources | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Rank | Opportunities | Idea details |
| 1 | Utilize Waterfront | Ensure best use of the Waterfront clearly defining New Rochelle as the "Queen City of the Sound". |
| 2 | Marketing of open space & recreational opportunities | Market all that New Rochelle parks have to offer through festivals, improved communications (website, interactive park maps, local websites - city, parks & rec, the patch, etc.) with a focus on their beauty, accessibility, and that they are safe. |
| 3 | Increase public access to waterfront | Create and communicate conservation easement program in the hopes of capturing land closest to the waterfront with a long-term goal of connecting waterfront property for public use. |
| 4 | The city as a boating destination | Make New Rochelle a boating destination complete with more boat moorings, restaurants, and shopping. |
| 5 | Accessibility; physically & economical for all residents | Make the parks more accessible by exploring the removal of fees (compare cost of managing the fees against fees collected). |
| 6 | Improve City's visual aesthetics | Build a visual awareness of the waterfront's beauty by opening up more sightlines to the water. |
| 7 | Beautification committee for open spaces | Maintenance and beautification of open spaces through the establishment of a beautification committee. Seek funding through local businesses and community members through initiatives such as "adopt a plot". |
| 8 | Target increasing volunteers | Capitalize on volunteerism, sponsorships, and support from local schools (public, private, colleges, and universities) and businesses. |
| 9 | Safety of all open space | Ensure health and safety of open space, ponds, and lakes. |
| 9 | Additional open space; especially in south and west of city | Seek opportunities to create space for playing fields in the south and the west end areas of New Rochelle. |

TOP 10 ENVISIONR OPPORTUNITIES - OCT. 3 PUBLIC MEETING

| Land Use and Zoning | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Rank | Opportunities | Idea details |
| 1 | Support Downtown Businesses | Support downtown businesses. Provide more shopping and restaurants downtown. |
| 2 | Improve walkability | Make the city attractive for people who don't own a car or don't want to use a car as their primary means of transportation. |
| 3 | Develop pockets of quality retail. | Develop pockets of quality retail. |
| 4 | Encourage Waterfront development | Encourage more waterfront restaurants. |
| 5 | Revitalize North Avenue | Revitalize the North Ave corridor from the transit hub to Eastchester Road |
| 6 | Improve inter-connectivity of the city; north & south, east & west etc. | Provide better / easier access to the waterfront and park space from the North End. |
| 7 | Review the Fifth Ave/Light Industrial overlay zone | Address the 5th Ave overlay LI/FA zone |
| 8 | Encourage neighborhood retail & services | Provide more neighborhood services outside downtown (e.g. in the North End) so residents can walk to services in their neighborhoods w/o using a car. |
| 9 | Develop North South Arteries | Develop Pine Brook Blvd as a N/S transportation artery. Consider Webster Avenue and Weaver Street/Murray Ave as additional N/S arteries |

TOP 10 ENVISIONR OPPORTUNITIES - OCT. 3 PUBLIC MEETING

| Mobility and Infrastructure | | |
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| Rank | Opportunities | Idea details |
| 1 | Upgrade infrastructure; sewer, stormwater etc. | Upgrade sewage and stormwater, powerlines underground, find a better solution for the city yard than Beechwood, burst pipes, brown water. Roads are bumpy, poorly marked. |
| 2 | Improve Parking in the downtown | Free parking downtown, parking spaces closest to senior center are reserved for city employees and should not be. More parking. Net parking revenue should go back to the area it was collected. 15 minute courtesy parking |
| 3 | Traffic calming in the Downtown | Tame traffic on main street, improve timing of traffic lights, traffic taming needed on multiple streets. Traffic lights for pedestrians - walk/don't walk. Tweeters at intersections so people can hear when to cross. |
| 4 | Improve streetscapes | Clear obstacles from sidewalks like low hanging branches, improve cleanliness of streets, curb your dog. More benches. Plant more trees. Create a rustic, small town atmosphere. Update lighting on North Avenue. Need more delivery and loading zones |
| 5 | Road layout improvements | Take down I-95 tolls. People living in Larchmont currently avoid tolls by driving through New Rochelle, causes congestion. Change Main and Huguenot back to two way. Close Main St to cars on weekends. Program traffic lights more intelligently. Improve entrances and exits from shopping centers. Less one way streets. Pedestrians getting hit - need changes to traffic lights on Main St. Put out state law stop for pedestrian signs. Change corners to slow traffic like in Boston |
| 5 | Improve walkability | Damaged, intermittent, non existent, dirty sidewalks. Need more sidewalks. Pedestrian bridges or tunnels.. |
| 7 | Increase and Connect Bike lanes | Bike lanes connecting north and south, more bike paths. Bikes can go fast so keep bike paths separate from pedestrians, more bicycle parking. Green bike paths that are part of a greenway system that can also relieve storm water |
| 7 | Emphasis on code enforcement | Jay walkers, double parking, put police on bikes in downtown, handicapped parking, use form based code to improve city for pedestrians and mixed use. Foot patrol by police |
| 9 | Improve public transit; free trolleys, more buses etc. | Free looping trolleys through downtown, better bus connections, more buses. Greyhound and other bus companies should use the transit center. Public boating. Seniors need more buses |
| 10 | Improve access for disabled | All street corners should be wheelchair accessible, automatic doors on stores, handicapped parking in residential lots. Para-transit |

TOP 10 ENVISIONR OPPORTUNITIES - OCT. 3 PUBLIC MEETING

| Historic Preservation & Urban Design | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Rank | Opportunities | Idea details |
| 1 | Improve public aesthetics | Create a cohesive look for Main Street and North Avenue and improve aesthetics around the train station. |
| 2 | Repurpose City Buildings; Wildcliff, Ward Acres Barn etc. | Through public/private partnerships, preserve and re-purpose unique and historically significant buildings such as Wildcliff, Ward Acres barn, the Armory. |
| 3 | Improve walkability | Create opportunities to make New Rochelle a more walkable community, while improving its aesthetics. |
| 4 | Redesign of gateways and major connectors | Reverse damage done by urban renewal of the 1960's (The "no-man's land, no-character area of Memorial Highway rotary and route and Exit 16 area, Palmer Avenue). |
| 5 | Tax relief for historic properties | Provide tax relief to property owners maintaining historically significant properties. |
| 6 | Conduct Tree Inventory | Complete master tree inventory and institute measures that will ensure levels of protection |
| 7 | Protect historic & cultural resources | Define and identify (inventory) the historic and cultural resources as well as the features that give New Rochelle its identity, and institute measures that will ensure levels of protection. |
| 8 | Create bikeable streets | Create bikeable streets. |
| 9 | Require Public Art during development process | Require percentage of development profits to be used for public art/preservation. |
| 10 | Create a Preservation & Design Review Board | Create a Preservation and Design Review Board/Strengthen current Historical and Landmarks Review Board. Include City staff support for writing of grants (i.e. Certified Local Government grants). |