



comprehensive plan

Adopted and Amended June 29, 2021

City of Bordentown

Burlington County, New Jersey



Acknowledgments

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

James E. Lynch, Jr., Mayor
Daniel Kennedy, Planning Board Chair
Mike Tunney
Bill O'Donnell
Santiago Orosco
Robert Pecht
Cathy Shaw
Ralph Simon
Jennifer Smith
Thomas Stanuikynas
Ralph Tomoleo

Mayor & Board of Commissioners (May 2021 Incumbent)

James E. Lynch, Jr.	Mayor, Director of Public Safety and Affairs
John C. Brodowski	Deputy Mayor, Director of Revenue and Finance
Joe Myers	Commissioner, Director of Public Property, Streets and Water

Mayor & Board of Commissioners (May 2021 Elected)

Jennifer L. Sciortino	Mayor, Director of Revenue and Finance
Joe Myers	Deputy Mayor, Director of Public Property, Streets and Water
James E. Lynch, Jr.	Commissioner, Director of Public Safety and Affairs

Planning/Zoning Board

James E. Lynch, Jr., Mayor
Daniel Kennedy, Chair
Crayle Green
Jane Frantz
Deborah Branson
Michael Tunney
B. Lynn Robinson
Joseph R. Malone, III
Mark Antozzeski
C.J. Mugavero (Alternate #1)
Edward Foley, IV (Alternate #2)
Duncan Prime, Planning Board Solicitor
Jennifer Smith, Planning Board Secretary

Special Thanks

Burlington County Bridge Commission

Prepared by L&G Planning

Charles Latini, Jr. PP, AICP
Tristan Harrison



Executive Summary

Public input from both the online survey and strategic engagement with key stakeholders, community leaders, and Planning Board was key to understanding the wide range of opportunities that exist for Bordentown City.

For those not accustomed to reviewing plans of this nature, it is not imperative to digest it in its entirety. For simplicity's sake, the Plan is broken down into 3 main areas:

- **The Community Profile**, is an analysis of existing conditions and demographic data. It also contains the new State requirement to assess climate change and a vulnerability assessment that focuses on the increasing frequency of storms, temperature, and sea-level rise, coordinated with Burlington County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- **Land Use Element Goals**, which is a summary of what the Plan seeks to achieve. The goals incorporate ideas based on public input and past City planning efforts.
- **Land Use Element Strategies**, beginning on page 42, are the recommendations of the key elements today that will be utilized by the City to help drive changes to the Land Development Ordinance to come.

Overall, the recommendations contained in any Comprehensive plan are supposed to provide a coordinated and strategic framework for future policy setting in zoning and coordinated public investment. The work to follow adoption of the comprehensive plan will require additional public input to fully design and implement the recommendations included herein. Further still, many of the recommendations require funding through the City Budget, Capital Improvement Plan, and likely through other sources of funding such as the State of New Jersey, Burlington County, and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). Such efforts always require a high degree of coordination due to the realities of staff capacity, budget constraints, and property rights.

In order to develop a clearer picture for how the components outlined in this Plan come together, the Land Use Strategies are categorized by 4 areas that

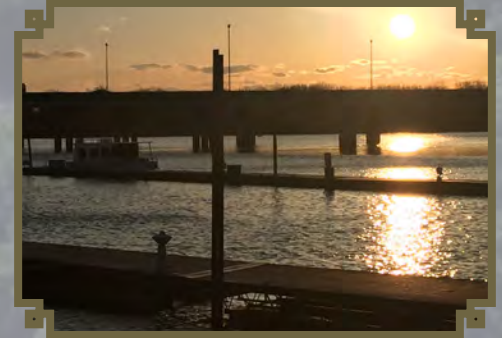
are inextricably related toward the City's overall well-being. Although these topics are typically addressed within their particular area of concern, coordination is key:

Downtown and Economic Development: Stressing creativity and placemaking, the economic development strategies place a high degree of emphasis on preserving the best of the City and utilizing the components of history, walkability, and quality of life as drivers for improvement rather than changing the City's make-up.

Housing and Community Development: Housing affordability is an important concern, particularly for low-income families, smaller household sizes, and residents seeking to age in place and remain in the City. New Jersey's over-reliance on property tax places a significant financial strain on all households thus posing a threat to diversity and overall affordability of the community. Bolstering opportunities for revitalization and rehabilitation without displacement remain at the fore is an important element of the comprehensive plan.

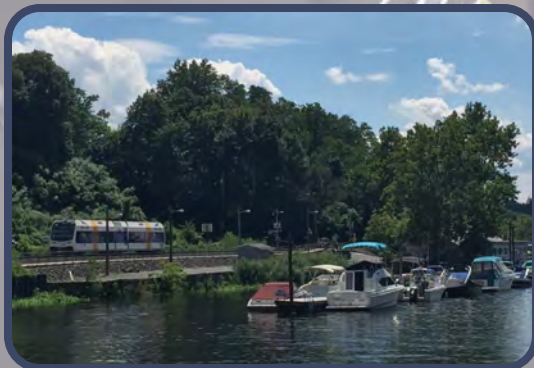
Open Space, Recreation, and Resiliency: The natural environment is the backbone of any community, providing benefits to physical and mental health and vital ecological services. The Open Space section of the comprehensive plan supports these priorities by suggesting strategic improvements that are aimed at improving both the City's connection to and interaction with its parks and natural resources by land and by water.

Circulation and Parking: Stressing connectivity through enhanced pedestrianism and expanded streetscapes, circulation and parking supports land use in many definable ways beyond the movement and storage of automobiles. Taking a pedestrian-first approach does not mean vehicles are not important or considered; it merely means treating the City as a place where human safety, comfort, and livability is the utmost concern. Facilitating our ability to walk and bike to and throughout the City is paramount for tight knit communities such as Bordentown City.



A simple way of understanding the Comprehensive Plan is akin to that of human anatomy. Land use is the “muscle” of a community, streets and infrastructure are the “skeleton,” and public and open spaces are the “tendons and sinew” that join these parts to make the City both a living organism and ecosystem. American Planning Association - New Jersey Chapter awarded in 2012 - “A Great Place in NJ.”

A Comprehensive plan is not an end; it is the beginning of many more meaningful discussions to come as Bordentown City unites under a common vision that seeks to strengthen - not replace - its already fantastic array of assets.





**PAINE'S WORDS AND DEEDS PUT THE CONCEPTS OF INDEPENDENCE
EQUALITY, DEMOCRACY, ABOLITION OF SLAVERY, REPRESENTATIVE
GOVERNMENT AND A CONSTITUTION WITH A BILL OF RIGHTS ON THE
AMERICAN AGENDA**

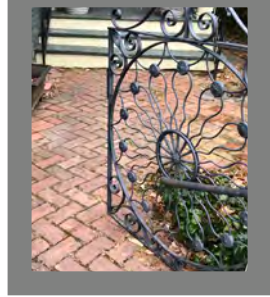
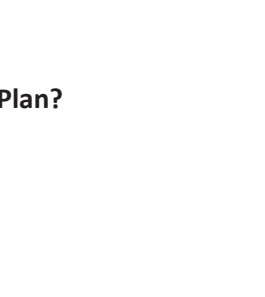
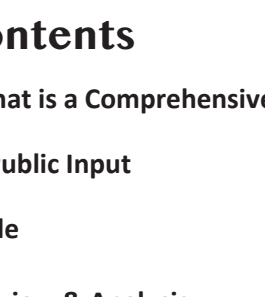
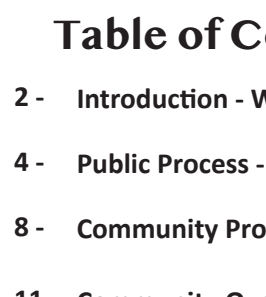
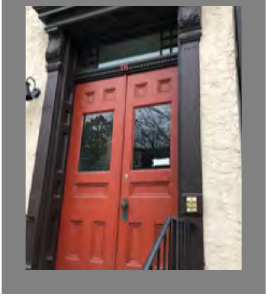
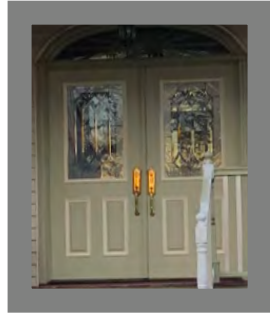
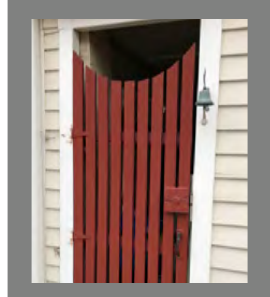
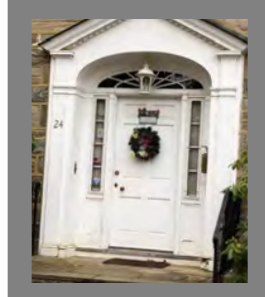
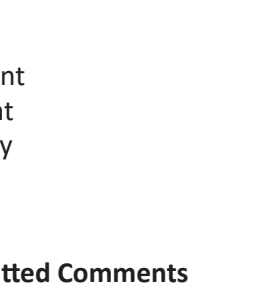
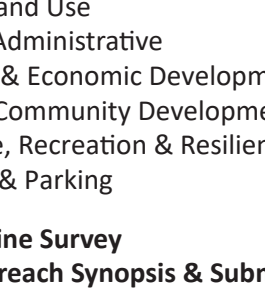
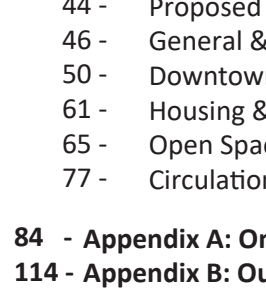
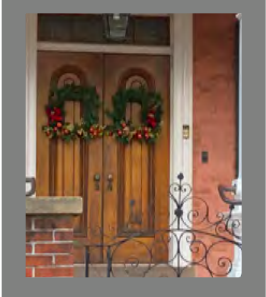
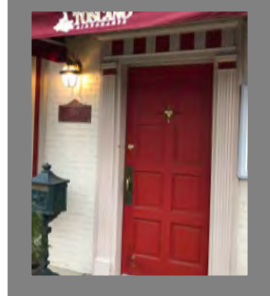
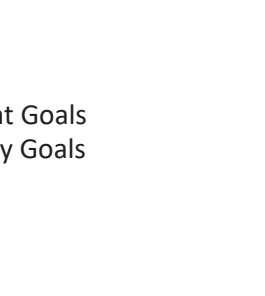
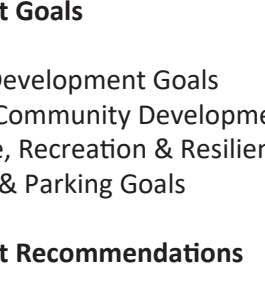
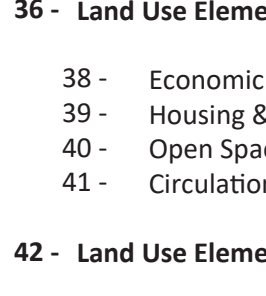
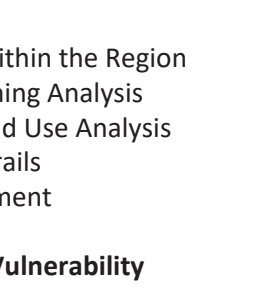
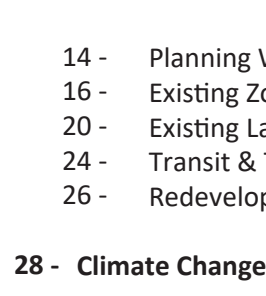


Table of Contents

- 2 - Introduction - What is a Comprehensive Plan?
- 4 - Public Process - Public Input
- 8 - Community Profile
- 11 - Community Overview & Analysis
 - 14 - Planning Within the Region
 - 16 - Existing Zoning Analysis
 - 20 - Existing Land Use Analysis
 - 24 - Transit & Trails
 - 26 - Redevelopment
- 28 - Climate Change Vulnerability
- 36 - Land Use Element Goals
 - 38 - Economic Development Goals
 - 39 - Housing & Community Development Goals
 - 40 - Open Space, Recreation & Resiliency Goals
 - 41 - Circulation & Parking Goals
- 42 - Land Use Element Recommendations
 - 44 - Proposed Land Use
 - 46 - General & Administrative
 - 50 - Downtown & Economic Development
 - 61 - Housing & Community Development
 - 65 - Open Space, Recreation & Resiliency
 - 77 - Circulation & Parking
- 84 - Appendix A: Online Survey
- 114 - Appendix B: Outreach Synopsis & Submitted Comments



Introduction

What IS a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan, traditionally known in New Jersey simply as a “master plan,” reflects a municipality’s blueprint for future growth and development. The plan includes a vision with a set of goals and recommendations to guide land use and infrastructure planning in a manner intended to protect public health, safety, and the general welfare. Upon adoption by the Planning Board, the comprehensive plan reaffirms the City’s legal basis for zoning and decisions by the planning board and zoning board.

What ISN’T a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan is not a law or regulation. Instead, it is a document that lays the groundwork for laws and decisions made by governing bodies such as the City Commission, planning board, and zoning board. Because the comprehensive plan is based on data and public input, government decisions that are consistent with it tend to be more strategic, democratic, and legally supported.

Why is the City updating its Comprehensive Plan?

The New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) requires municipalities to update or reexamine their comprehensive plans at least once every 10 years. The previous Master Plan for the City of Bordentown was adopted in 1983 and last reexamined in 2011. In response to changing conditions, assumptions, and priorities, a broad update of the City’s previous plan is necessary to reconfirm and realign the City’s vision to new information and ideas.



Prior & Related Planning Efforts

Comprehensive Plan Timeline

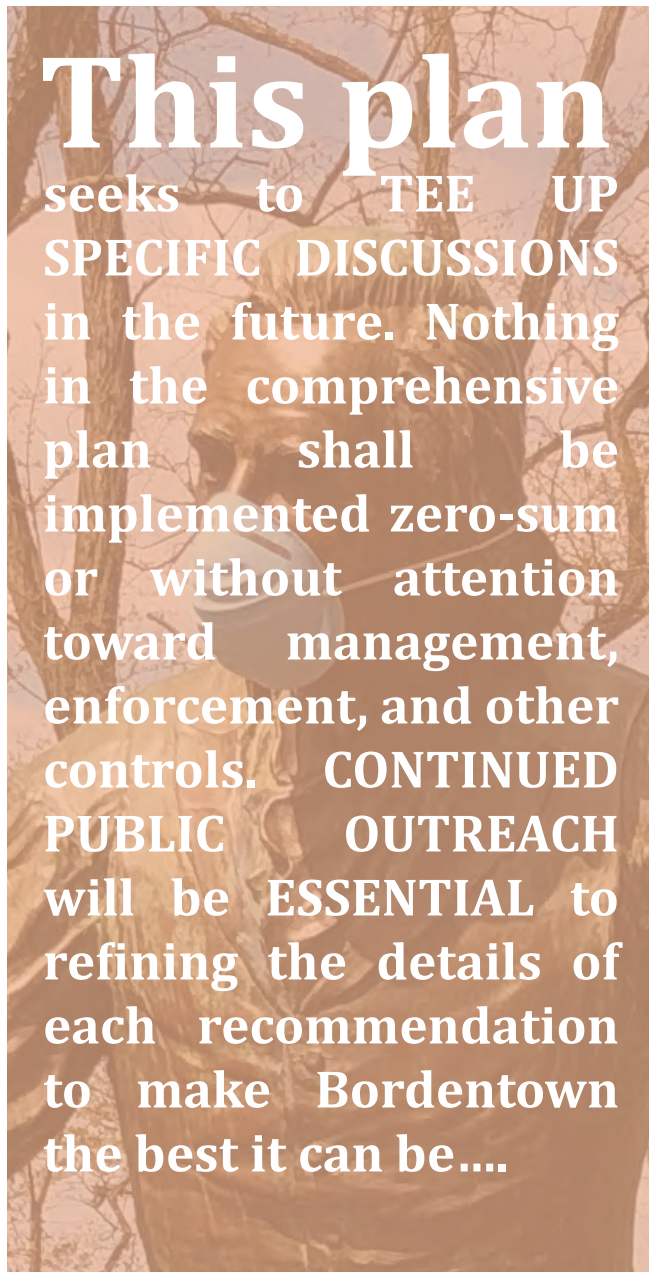
Master Plan	1983
Master Plan Reexamination Report I	1993
Master Plan Reexamination Report II	2002
Land Use Plan Element	2004
Open Space Preservation Plan Element	2005
Municipal Stormwater Management Plan	2005
Utilities Plan Element	2005
Housing Plan Element and Fair Share Plan	2006
Conservation Plan Element	2007
Master Plan Reexamination Report III	2008
Master Plan Reexamination Report IV	2011
Historic Preservation Plan Element	2012

Related Efforts

Bordentown City Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Study (Technical Memorandum – Bicycle Conditions)	2005
Thorntown Creek Riparian Open Space Assessment and Recommendation Report	2005
Bordentown City Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Study (Intersection and Gateway Design Concepts)	2006
Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)	2006
Draft Land Development Ordinance (LDO) (Unadopted)	2008
DVRPC Traffic Calming Alternatives for 130/206	2012
Burlington County Bicycle Master Plan	2014
Burlington County River Route Corridor Study	2018
Burlington County Hazard Mitigation Plan	2019
City of Bordentown Water Department Asset Management Plan	2019
DVRPC Safe Routes to Transit: Bordentown Station	2020

Public Process

The 2021 comprehensive planning process relied on several strategies for public outreach including a steering committee, online survey, and stakeholder focus groups. As prior planning and zoning efforts helped develop an existing level of community insight, the Planning Team was able to engage in well-informed discussions with the community and community leaders. Although COVID-19 restricted the ability to host in-person workshops and meetings, use of Zoom video conferencing at public meetings and with stakeholder groups helped establish a dialogue that underscored past planning recommendations and guided additional analysis by the Planning Team. While the public outreach process was sufficient but by no means exhaustive, the comprehensive plan is fully intended to lay the groundwork for future discussions.



Steering Committee

The Bordentown City Planning Board established a Comprehensive plan Steering Committee to guide development of the updated comprehensive plan. The committee consisted of nine (9) members including a mix of representatives from the planning board, committees, local businesses, and residents. Input from the steering committee helped shape the goals and recommendations throughout the planning process.

Stakeholder Focus Groups

The Planning Team held several meetings with key stakeholders throughout development of the comprehensive plan to gather focused input related to specific, often overlapping topics. For the purposes of encouraging open dialogue, individual commentary has been folded into the overall analysis. Together, the combined interviews and online community survey have been insightful and productive.

Formally and informally, the Planning Team met with:

- » Environmental Commission / Green Team
- » Bordentown City Board of Commissioners
- » Bordentown Historical Society
- » Downtown Bordentown Association
- » Hope Hose Humane Co.
- » Consolidated Fire Co.
- » Restaurants
- » Christ Church Parish
- » City Staff
- » Local Developers and Property Managers
- » Yapewi Aquatic Club

Stakeholder Input Summary

Historic Preservation

- » Continue to further capitalize on the area's historic identity and the associated opportunities for arts, education, tourism, while noting untapped potential in railroad, shipbuilding, indigenous land and indigenous peoples, civil rights...
- » Expand preservation and rehabilitation of historic resources.
- » Minimize the visual impact of mid-century garden apartment buildings in the historic downtown.
- » Revisit the Historic Preservation Commission and 2012 Historic Plan Element to address Certified Local Government status, historic district expansion, enforcement, and administrative capacity...
- » Pursue historic home programs and opportunities for education, pride, tourism, rehabilitation

Downtown and Commercial

- » Manage parking in ways that fully address enforcement and liability concerns with shared parking
- » Enable pop-up uses in a flexible/manageable way
- » Revisit past interests in bed and breakfasts establishments with appropriate conditions
- » Enable creativity in business opportunities downtown like pop-up uses, etc
- » Continue prioritization of Farnsworth outdoor dining, street market, and related opportunities
- » Consider the implications and needs of homeownership vs. renting
- » Improve the appearance of the highway corridor

Open Space, Recreation, Environmental

- » Improve maintenance of open space and parks
- » Preserve remaining greenway opportunities
- » Consider multifunctionality of parks for socialization, recreation, education
- » Explore green infrastructure improvements to manage stormwater and promote renewable energy use
- » Legitimize informal paths near Bordentown Station, Prince St, and Lime Kiln Alley
- » Increase focus on public health goals
- » Plan for electric vehicles, public and private charging station locations
- » Develop a plan for Point Breeze that bridges historic and environmental needs
- » Maintain the current high density downtown and minimize sprawl and its effects

General & Administrative

- » Enhance communication between Bordentown Township, Fieldsboro and the City
- » Assess and respond to the needs of emergency services and responders
- » Address property maintenance and the permit approval process
- » Increase involvement of historic and environmental committees in site plan review

Streets and Public Infrastructure

- » Improve sidewalk conditions with lighting, street trees, grading, accessibility, and historic features
- » Strengthen linkages from existing parking to downtown destinations and places of assembly
- » Improve pedestrian safety, visibility, way-finding, and access to public restrooms
- » Expand opportunities for using the street (markets, fairs, and general dining)

Online Community Survey

An online survey was launched by the Bordentown City Planning Board with assistance by the Burlington County Bridge Commission and Steering Committee. The survey launched on January 15th, 2020 and closed on April 20th, 2020 after being posted on the City's public notices webpage and Bordentown City Facebook group five times throughout March 2020. The survey received 351 responses in total, including 249 responses from residents, or approximately 6% of the City's population. While the survey sample size is by no means fully representative of the City's entire population, the results do provide an additional snapshot of community interests, including the views of non-residents who are still members of the Bordentown community in a familial, geographic, and economic sense.

Despite the limited sample size, the survey suggested the following findings, organized by topic below:

Parking

- » Improving parking is the #1 priority for visitors, #2 for residents
- » 87% visitors are dissatisfied with parking availability
- » 70% residents are dissatisfied with parking availability
- » Bike parking in lieu of a car space is NOT preferred downtown

Pedestrianism

- » Pedestrian safety is the #3 priority among residents and visitors
- » 93% agree that walkability makes Bordentown a great place to live
- » 93% travel within the City by walking
- » 60% want better bike/ped access near Routes 130/206
- » 33% are dissatisfied with access to D+R Canal Trail
- » 36% of residents visit downtown almost daily, 38% visit businesses along 130/206

Bicycle Infrastructure

- » 82% want more bike parking downtown
- » 68% agree bike routes are lacking
- » Bike parking in lieu of a car space is NOT preferred downtown
- » 33% dissatisfied with access to D+R Canal Trail

Downtown and Commercial

- » More local businesses ranked #4 priority by residents and visitors
- » 85% agree that historic character and downtown shopping/dining make the City a great place to live
- » Coffee shop, bakery, live entertainment most wanted businesses downtown followed by more restaurants, public spaces, and public art
- » 54% of residents and visitors are OK with a medical cannabis dispensary downtown or on the highway

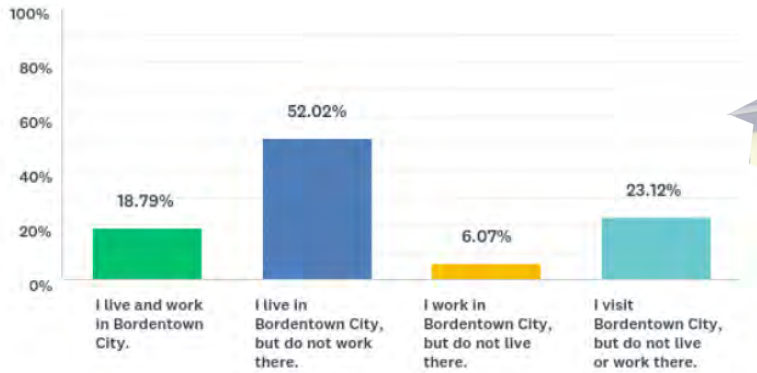
Highway Corridor

- » 60% want to see more coordination with Bordentown Township regarding Rte. 130/206
- » 36% of residents visit downtown almost daily
- » 38% of residents visit businesses along 130/206 almost daily

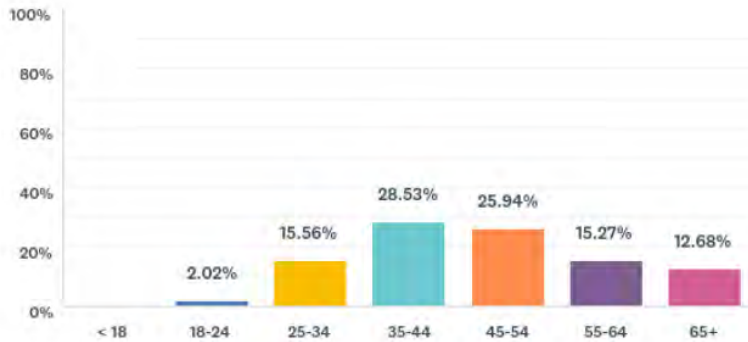
"What words best describe Bordentown City?"



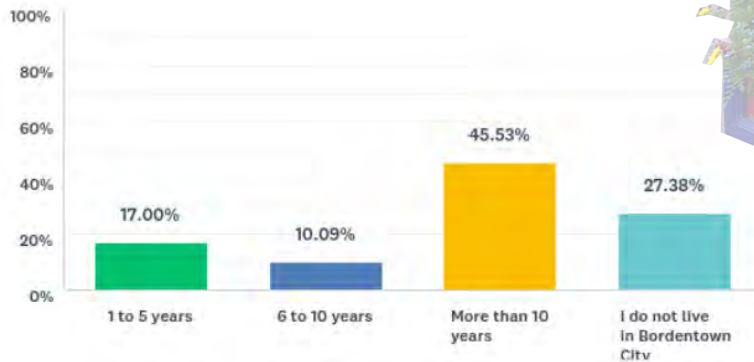
Q1 - What is your relationship to Bordentown City?



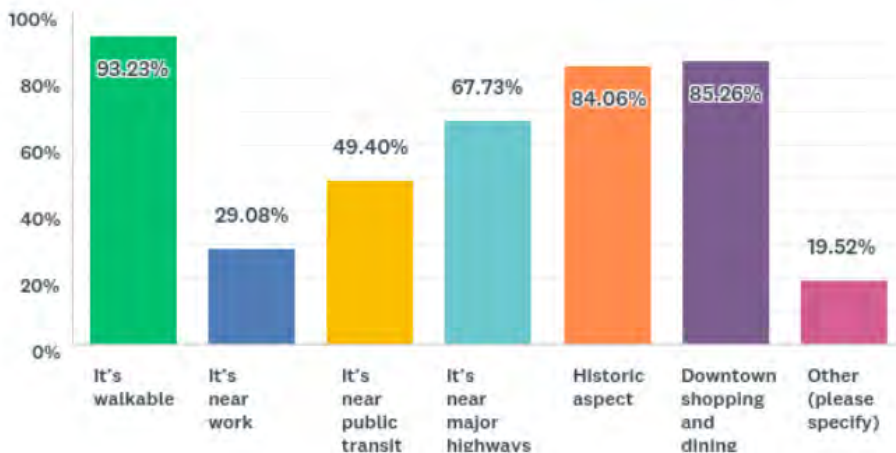
Q2 - What is your age?



Q3 - How long have you lived in Bordentown?



Q4 - What makes Bordentown a great place to live?



Other Responses

parks Diversity friendly great **people town community**
 knows neighbors feel neighbors Family

The full set of survey questions and responses are appended to this plan.



community

The vision of the City of Bordentown has been thoroughly established through its sense of community and rich history. Preserving and enhancing the City's small-town, historic character, we will simultaneously improve safety and quality of life, while continuing to reveal our great sense of community. We will work to ensure our downtown is vibrant and resilient, we will continue to be good stewards of the environment, and we will aim to provide opportunities for all our residents, businesses and visitors alike.



Community profile

Plan Purpose

The direction of Bordentown City has been thoroughly established through a rich history of planning efforts and adopted documents. Although the City is relatively built-out, a city never stops evolving. As we approach the 40th anniversary of the previous plan, the need for a clear and refined vision, based on the availability of new information, changing conditions, and standing recommendations of previous plans becomes increasingly important to the City's future buildout.

The 2021 Comprehensive Plan aims to clarify the City's vision and provide a blueprint of strategies and recommendations to implement it. The following Comprehensive Plan Goals are intended to consolidate the original 15 goals of the 1983 Master Plan into a clear and concise vision for all future planning efforts that may be expanded upon in specific elements.

Comprehensive Plan Goals

- » To preserve and enhance the City's small-town, historic character;
- » To improve safety, quality of life, social equity, and sense of community for all residents and visitors;
- » To ensure a vibrant downtown and resilient local economy; and
- » To advance sustainability and climate resiliency.

vision

Aerial Imagery (2015)



0 200 400 800'



SOURCES: NJGIS, NJDOT, NJDEP, MOD-IV TAX DATA

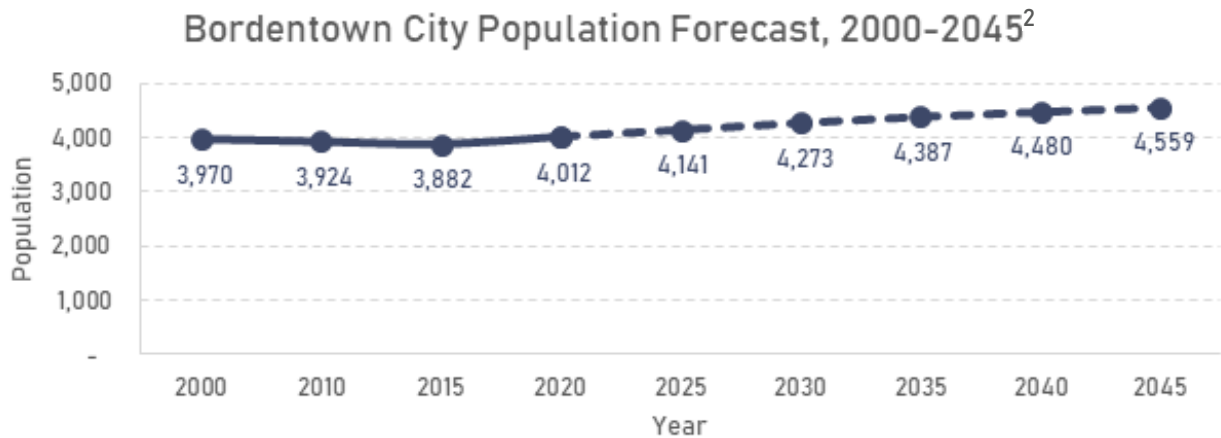


Community Overview

The City of Bordentown is a 1-square-mile community known for its small-town character and historic charm. Settled more than three centuries ago, the City’s abundant historic resources and traditional development pattern have created an irreplaceable vessel for community within a vastly rural and suburban region. The unique pedestrian-scale of Bordentown and its various assets lend themselves to a tightly-knit urban fabric that is home to many long-time residents and frequently visited by others from within the region.

The City is located in northern Burlington County and situated at the northernmost edge of the lower Delaware River corridor within convenient reach of Trenton, Hamilton, and southern Mercer County. Many of the City’s unique assets – such as its waterfront, regional trails, historic character, and transit – further contribute to the City’s relationship with neighboring townships and its context within the New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan regions. Recognizing the economic implications of the City’s historic assets, waterfront access, highway frontage, and active downtown will be a key factor in strengthening the City’s identity and overall vision for the future.

The City of Bordentown has an estimated population of 3,823 as of 2019¹. By 2045, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) has forecasted a local population of 4,559 based on growth rates and demographic data. While the City is rather small and predominantly built-out, infill and redevelopment opportunities are expected to create limited capacity for growth. As a result, continual assessment of City needs will remain as vital as ever to maintain and enhance the quality of life of its residents and visitors.



1. 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau. 2020.

2. DVRPC, Analytical Data Report 22, County- and Municipal-Level Population Forecasts, 2015–2045. 2016.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

	2010 ¹	2018 ²
Population	3,978	3,840
Population/ sq mile	4,282	4,114.1
Median Age	39.6	37.8
% High School Graduate or Higher	94.8 %	94.5%
% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	41.6 %	38.6 %
Households	1,850	1,710
% Family	49.9%	49.5%
% non Family	50.1%	50.5%
Average Household Size	2.15	2.19
Housing Units	2,062	2,017
% Occupied	89.7 %	84.8 %
% Vacant	10.3 %	15.2 %
Occupied Housing Units	1,850	1,710
Own	61.2 %	54.5 %
Rent	38.8 %	48.5 %
Home Ownership Rate	61.2 %	54.5 %
Vacancy Rate	10.3 %	15.2 %
Median Household Income	\$ 66,557	\$ 72,879
Per Capita Income	\$ 36,814	\$ 40,360
Poverty Rate	3.6%	5.9%
Unemployment Rate	12.3%	5.7%
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Units	\$ 254,300	\$ 216,400
Median Gross Rent	\$ 1,121	\$ 1,237

1. 2010 Decennial Census, US Census Bureau

2. 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau

Perspective on the Little City with a lot of Charm

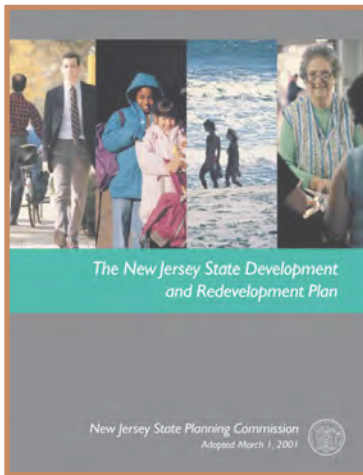
The City's historical patterns of development allow it to remain a resilient place. Over time, the City has ebbed and flowed with the tide of the mighty Delaware River. Its compact street network, historic development patterns, and powerful sense of place, though not without their challenges at times, have played host to many formidable personalities over the centuries and decades since its founding. Time marches on, but Bordentown City is quintessentially Americana at her best.

As all this prose relates to the Comprehensive Plan, one can merely say that wholesale change is not necessary. Rather, a more surgical approach to making upgrades and adaptations is more appropriate. Household sizes across the country have dropped, and the rise of e-commerce has placed pressures on our beloved downtown comparable to the advent of the indoor shopping mall, but Bordentown's strength lies in her people. Faces change, but what drives people to the City, is the same that keeps us all here - COMMUNITY.

The City of Bordentown has what many other towns in the region do not: deep American history, a downtown with connected and walkable street network, and a riverine and associated environmental network that is readily accessible. Strengthening our connections to our assets, locally and regionally, is the goal of many a Comprehensive plan but remains especially important for our 1-square-mile City.



Planning within the Region



State Development and Redevelopment Plan (2001)

The New Jersey State Planning Commission adopted the State Development and Redevelopment Plan in 2001 to promote cohesive planning efforts at the local, county, regional, and statewide levels. While the State Plan is due for an update, it continues to provide statewide planning objectives for municipalities regarding strategies for land use, housing, transportation, and other areas of focus.

The State Plan has designated Bordentown City and portions of Bordentown Township to be within the Metropolitan Planning Area (PA1). Per the State Plan, Metropolitan Planning Areas are intended to provide for redevelopment and revitalization, promote compact urban growth, stabilize older suburbs, and protect the character of existing stable communities. To achieve this vision, the State Plan establishes specific policies, objectives, and recommendations that are reiterated throughout the comprehensive plan.



DVRPC Connections 2045 (2017)

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the nine-county region of Greater Philadelphia. DVRPC's Long-Range Plan, *Connections 2045*, establishes a vision and sets forth recommendations to coordinate regional transportation with land use and other objectives.

Connections 2045 identifies five core principles to achieve its regional vision:

- » Sustain the Environment;
- » Develop Livable Communities;
- » Expand the Economy;
- » Advance Equity and Foster Diversity; and
- » Create an Integrated, Multi-modal Transportation Network.

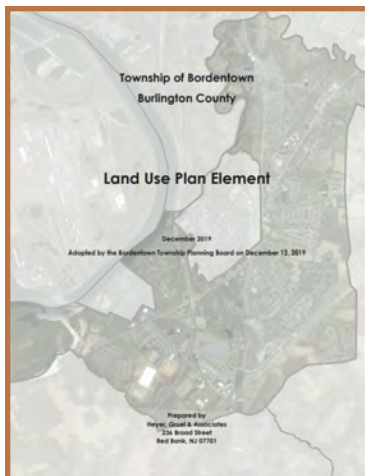
Through *Connections 2045*, DVRPC has identified Bordentown City as a Town Center targeted for investment in transit, redevelopment, and greenway connections to surrounding farmland and the regional greenspace network. The goals and recommendations of the 2021 comprehensive plan are intended to be consistent with the *Connections 2045* regional plan and the guidance therein.



Northern Burlington County Growth and Preservation Plan (2008)

The Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted the Northern Burlington County Growth and Preservation Plan (GAPP) in 2008 to promote regional growth management among the 13 participating municipalities. At a more local level of policymaking, the GAPP effectively emphasizes the State Plan and encourages local growth and development to occur in county-designated centers – nodes, hamlets, villages, and towns – while preserving farmland, open space, and natural features.

The GAPP designated Bordentown City as a “Town Center” envisioned to incorporate smart growth principles such as transit-oriented development, a revitalized mixed-use downtown, and infill redevelopment. The implications of “Town Center” status for Bordentown - in comparison to surrounding rural townships - are considered through nearly all aspects of the City’s comprehensive plan such as tourism, transportation, boating, trails, land use, and housing.




Bordentown Township Land Use Element (2019)

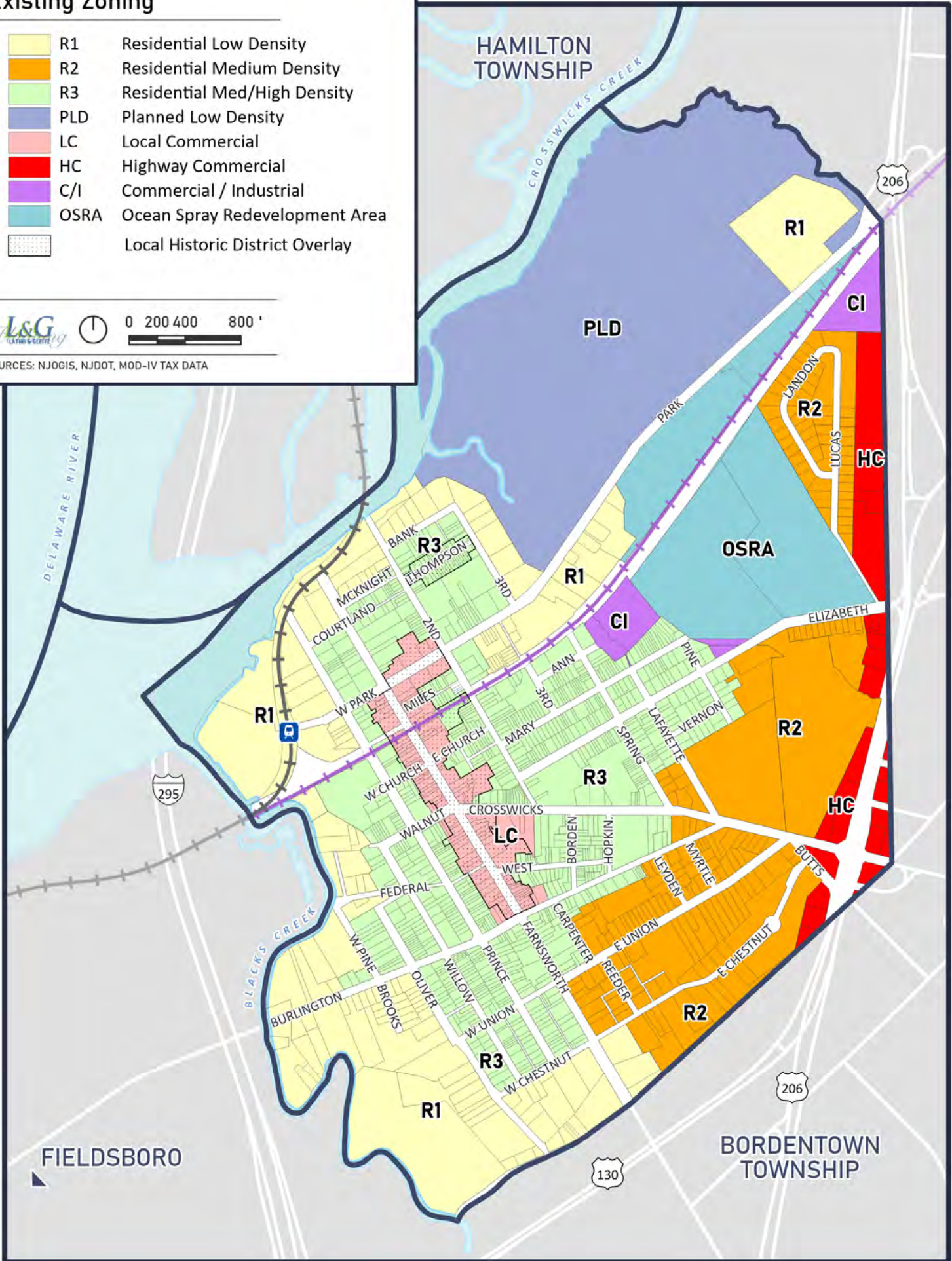
Bordentown Township adopted its Land Use Element in 2019, creating additional context for development at the City’s edges and shared relationships related to open space, local facilities, municipal services, trails and greenways, and general relationship between the City and surrounding Township.

Existing Zoning

	R1	Residential Low Density
	R2	Residential Medium Density
	R3	Residential Med/High Density
	PLD	Planned Low Density
	LC	Local Commercial
	HC	Highway Commercial
	C/I	Commercial / Industrial
	OSRA	Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area
		Local Historic District Overlay




SOURCES: NJGIS, NJDOT, MOD-IV TAX DATA



Existing Zoning Summary

A city's zoning ordinance regulates the location, use, and form of development within each zoning district. The current zoning ordinance was adopted in 1983 and amended over the years. The ordinance establishes the following districts, summarized below:

- » R1 Residential Low Density
- » R2 Residential Medium Density
- » R3 Residential Medium/High Density
- » PLD Planned Low Density
- » LC Local Commercial
- » HC Highway Commercial
- » CI Commercial / Industrial
- » L/M Inclusionary Zoning (Floating/Overlay)
- » Local Historic District (Overlay)

Residential Low Density (R1)

The R1 zone permits single-family detached homes and is characterized by large lot sizes and more restrictive bulk and use requirements than other zones. The R1 zone forms the City's low-density edge along creeks, streams, and bluffs.

Residential Medium Density (R2)

The R2 zone is intended for single-family detached dwellings like the R1 zone but contains bulk requirements that are more appropriate for lots of intermediate size relative to the R1 and R3 zones. Prevailing uses in the R2 zone are single-family detached houses, garden apartments, and public property. The R2 zone separates the HC zone geographically from other zoning districts.

Residential Medium/High Density (R3)

The R3 zone is intended for single-family detached, single-family attached, and single-family semi-detached dwellings. Bulk requirements in the R3 zone reflect smaller lot sizes than other districts and complement the historic residential density surrounding the City's downtown core.

Planned Low Density (PLD)

The PLD zone was established to regulate possible subdivision or development of Block 1701/Lot 14, the 100-acre Point Breeze property formerly owned by Divine Word Missionaries. In 2020, however, NJDEP Green Acres and Bordentown City purchased the property for public open space and reuse of the existing buildings for municipal purposes. As such, the PLD zone has been rendered ultimately unnecessary.

Local Commercial (LC)

The LC zone intends to provide a central business district containing a variety of shops and retail stores at a scale that preserves the small downtown character. The LC zone includes parcels along Park Street, Farnsworth Ave, Crosswicks Street, and Burlington Street. Predominant uses within the LC zone include storefronts, neighborhood-oriented services, apartments, and home-offices.

Highway Commercial (HC)

The HC zone includes parcels along Route 130/206 that are intended to absorb commercial uses that service the larger region and typically require greater land area to develop than the amount of land available downtown. Uses along the highway tend to be more oriented to automobile use and provide abundant parking.

Commercial / Industrial (CI)

The CI zone is intended to encourage and minimize the impact of commercial and industrial facilities on the large lots between Park Street and Elizabeth Street. Uses in the CI zone include packaging, warehousing, distribution and storage. The former Ocean Spray plant on Park Street is planned for mixed-use commercial and multi-family redevelopment.

Inclusionary Zoning (L/M)

The L/M zone was established in 2006 to implement the Housing Element by identifying a suitable location for inclusionary affordable housing. The L/M zone requires that development meet the bulk and design standards of the R-3 zone as well as a 20% set aside of units for low- and moderate-income households as defined by the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH). The L/M zone specifically includes Block 902/Lot 20, the rear portion of Block 902/Lot 23, and Block 1101/Lot 5, but is not shown on the City’s adopted zoning map from 2018. The context of L/M zoning district has changed significantly in regards to State affordable housing procedures and the inclusionary housing units approved through possible redevelopment of the Ocean Spray site.

Historic District (Overlay Zone)

The Historic District overlays the local commercial district (LC Zone) along Farnsworth Avenue and the Thompson Street neighborhood, defined as Block 901/Lots 14-28 and Block 902/Lots 1-19 in the Historic Preservation Ordinance. According to the ordinance, all development applications for properties and improvements within the historic district must be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission except for in-kind maintenance, repainting, cleaning, emergency repairs, and improvements to interiors.



Residential Zoning Analysis

While Bordentown has gradually amended its zoning ordinance over the years, the adopted regulations are rather minimal by today’s standards and generally lack the vigor to meet the City’s land use goals. In fact, many of the zoning standards are ill-suited to the City’s prevailing lot sizes, historic character, and natural features. Amending the zoning code to better accommodate existing and desirable conditions with more responsive standards can help simplify the approval process for applicants and the planning and zoning board.

As much of historic Bordentown developed before the invention of modern zoning, applying lot requirements and bulk standards to residential City blocks that have vastly different lot widths, areas, and development characteristics reduces predictability and smoothness of the development process. **This is an especially high priority as the City’s residents and volunteer boards do not have the time and resources to spare on bureaucratic “red tape” resulting from outdated regulations.**

An analysis of existing lot characteristics based on GIS parcel data emphasizes the need to revisit the bulk and area standards of the zoning ordinance.

One possible approach to improve the City’s planning and zoning procedures is adoption of a form-based code or hybrid zoning code, which can establish basic physical design principles for new construction. Physical design principles would be based on the existing neighborhood context such as build-to lines and appropriate housing typologies. A code that is tailored to the City’s historic development patterns in such a way can encourage construction that is predictable yet flexible and physically cohesive with current density, irregular lot characteristics, parking needs, and historic architectural features.

Working with residents on a specific vision for development standards in the future through workshops and design charrettes can help ensure that any such form-based requirements meet the needs of the City by creating a cohesive streetscape, while protecting the design freedom of applicants and eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy.



Of the 149 lots in the R-1 Zone...

- » 48% do not meet the minimum area of 12,000 square feet;
- » 37% do not meet the minimum lot width of 80 feet; and
- » 28% meet neither lot area nor width requirements

...for a single-family detached house.



Of the 202 lots in the R-2 Zone...

- » 41% do not meet the minimum lot area of 7,500 square feet;
- » 39% do not meet the minimum lot width of 60 feet; and
- » 28% meet neither lot area nor lot width requirements

...for a single-family detached house.



Of the 946 lots in the R-3 Zone...

- » 50% do not meet the minimum lot area of 3,000 square feet;
- » 23% do not meet the minimum lot width of 20 feet; and
- » 22% meet neither the lot area nor lot width requirements

...for a single-family attached house.

- » 79% do not meet the minimum lot area of 5,000 square feet;
- » 80% do not meet the minimum lot width of 50 feet; and
- » 73% meet neither the lot area nor lot width requirements

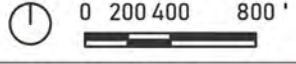
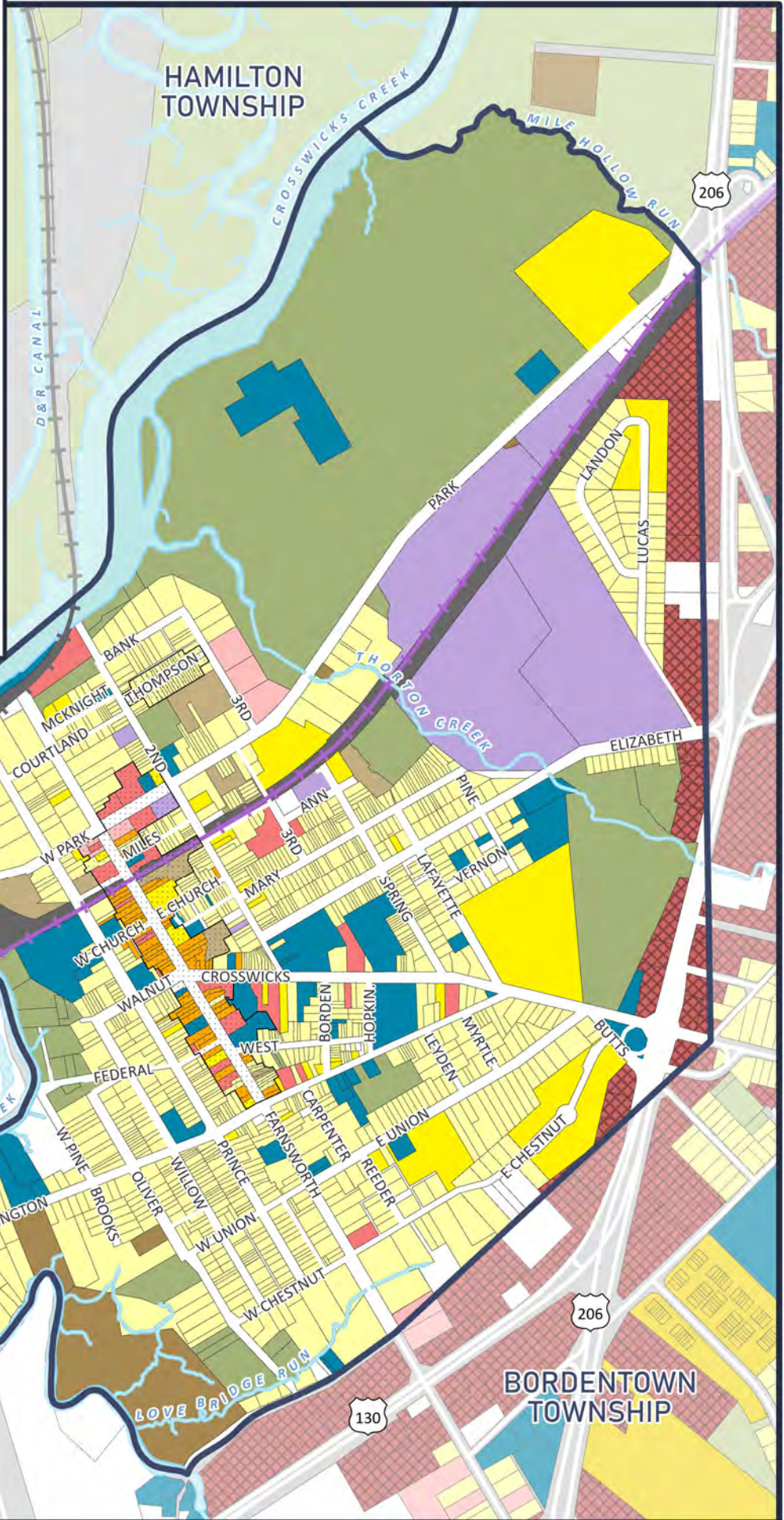
...for a single-family detached house.

- » 86% do not meet the minimum lot area of 7,500 square feet;
- » 80% do not meet the minimum lot width of 50 feet; and
- » 77% meet neither the lot area nor lot width requirements

...for a single-family semi-detached house.

Existing Land Use

- Vacant
- Single-Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Mixed Use
- Office
- Local Commercial
- Highway Commercial
- Industrial
- Public/Quasi-Public
- Parking
- Park/Open Space
- Railroad
- Utility
- Local Historic District Overlay



SOURCES: NJGIS, NJDOT, MOD-IV TAX DATA

Existing Land Use Summary

Land use in Bordentown developed through a traditional development pattern typical of a pre-automobile city. Local commercial uses like retail shops, restaurants, and neighborhood services are generally concentrated within the historic mixed-use downtown of Farnsworth Avenue. Attached and detached single-family homes, apartments, and the occasional park or religious institution form quaint but dense residential streets decreasing in density toward the City's edges.

The Bordentown waterfront has a long history where shipping, shipbuilding, and railroading converged at the mouths of the Crosswicks Creek and the Delaware & Raritan Canal system. Larger parcels throughout the City developed over time and evolved into more specialized uses like senior housing, office buildings, and light industry. Meanwhile, the highway corridor expanded considerably to accommodate auto-oriented commercial uses fronting Rt-130 and Rt-206 resulting from the advent of the automobile, and New Jersey's need to off-set residential property taxes through a reliable commercial ratables base has solidified this trend.

The Existing Land Use Map largely reveals the result of these development patterns and the land use relationships that have unfolded over Bordentown's history. In large part, these patterns have effectively shaped the Proposed Land Use Map.

The following table is a breakdown summary of the City's land use composition by acreage and number of parcels, based on tax data and more detailed field assessment.

Existing Land Use Composition				
Land Use	Acres	%	Parcels	%
Single-Family Residential	155.6	28.1	1,152	78.5
Multi-Family Residential	43.1	7.8	42	2.9
Mixed Use	5.2	0.9	60	4.1
Office	3.6	0.6	8	0.5
Local Commercial	11.8	2.1	28	1.9
Highway Commercial	20.1	3.6	29	2.0
Industrial	36.1	6.5	6	0.4
Public/Quasi-Public	43.5	7.8	58	4.0
Parking	5.6	1	8	0.5
Park/Open Space	187.1	33.8	34	2.3
Railroad	16.8	3	5	0.3
Utility	16.9	3	4	0.3
Vacant	9.1	1.6	33	2.2
Total	554.3	100	1,467	100

Single-Family homes represent the largest share of the City by number of parcels and second largest by acreage. Of the 1,229 single-family parcels within the City, approximately 751 (61%) are detached and 478 (39%) are attached or semi-attached. The majority of single-family houses are located within the R-3 zone (Residential High Density).

Multi-Family residences in Bordentown consist of low-rises, garden apartments, and two- to four-unit apartments scattered throughout the City. Some commercial buildings in the downtown contain accessory apartments on upper floors. Approximately 300 apartment units have been approved through redevelopment of the Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area

Office buildings are generally clustered on Farnsworth Avenue and Third Street. Downtown offices are primarily single-tenant businesses within rehabilitated historic buildings that may contain accessory apartments on upper floors. The office buildings on Third Street are more suburban in character, each containing multiple tenants that share off-street parking across the street. In addition, home-offices are permitted within the downtown and residential zones provided that meet certain requirements in the zoning code.

Local commercial uses such as restaurants, retail shops, barber shops, and neighborhood-oriented businesses are generally oriented to serve City residents and visitors of the downtown. While most of these uses are concentrated on Farnsworth Avenue, some businesses, such as funeral homes and other uses, are located within residential zones or near the waterfront.

Highway commercial uses include auto-services, shopping centers, hotels, and drive-thrus along Route 130 and 206 that are generally oriented to serve passing highway traffic. These uses are primarily accessible by car and contain sufficient parking for regional access.

Industrial uses are generally limited to the CI Zone, which comprises large lots that straddle the freight rail line between Park Street and Elizabeth Street. Additional industrial uses nearer the downtown and residential zones, such as auto body shops are preexisting nonconforming uses that are effectively “grandfathered” in the zoning code.

Parks & Open Space uses include park and recreation areas owned by the State, County, City, and nonprofit organizations like the D&R Greenway Land Trust and Board of Education. Preservation of Point Breeze (formerly Divine Word) by the State of New Jersey for open space has increased the total area of open space in the City by more than 60 acres.

The City has approximately 187 acres of parks and open space within its limits. The Open Space and Recreation map shows a breakdown of the open space system by property ownership.

Public & Quasi-Public uses include public facilities, nonprofit organizations, religious institutions, and other semi-public entities. These uses are located throughout the City on public and private land and often represent unique partnership opportunities.

Vacant land includes undeveloped, underutilized and unpreserved lots. Approximately 43 acres of vacant land exists in the City, mostly located along the City’s edges and within environmental sensitive areas like wetlands or steep slopes.

Open Space and Recreation

● Playgrounds

--- Existing Trails

Parks and Open Space by Ownership

■ State

■ Local

■ Nonprofit

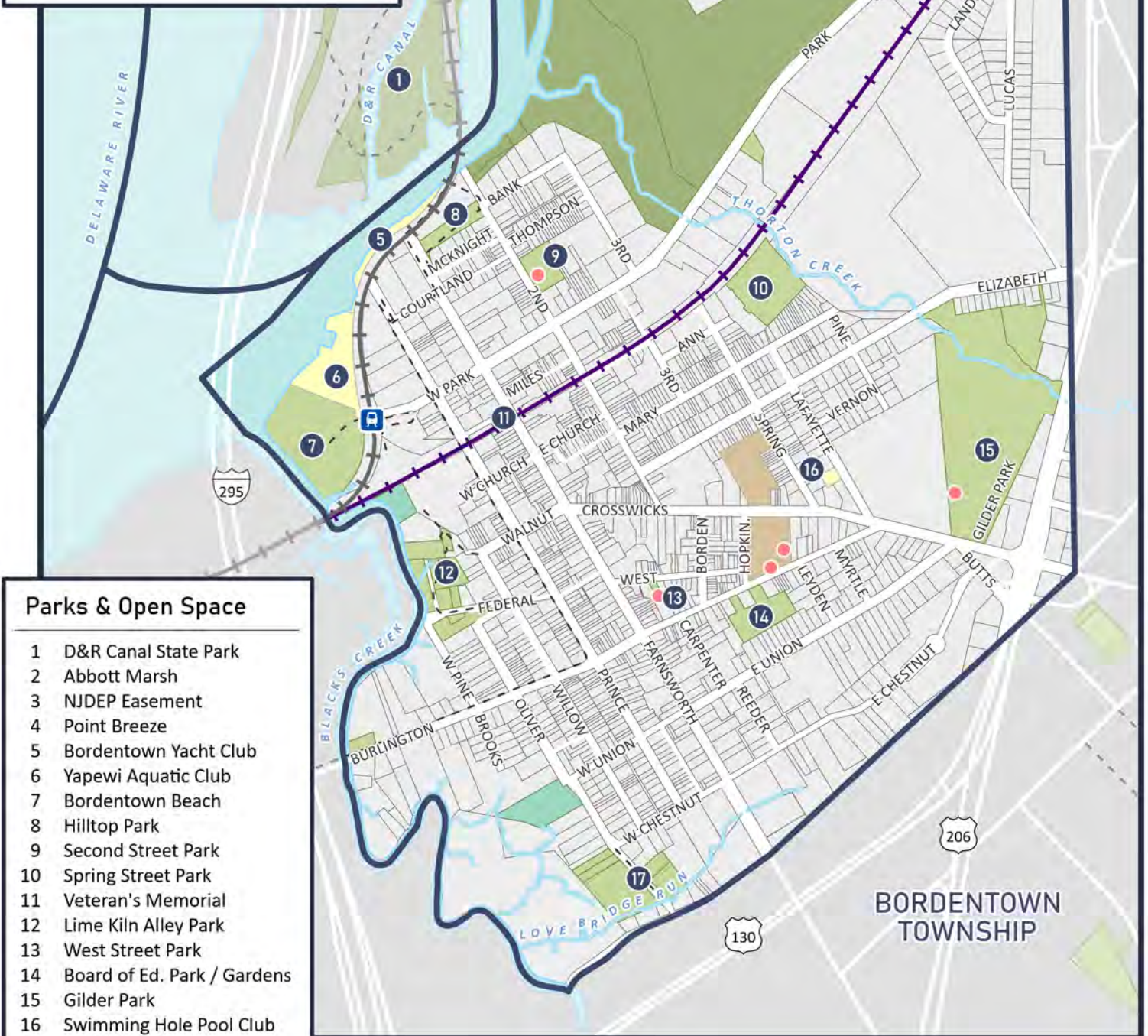
■ Private

■ Public Schools



0 200 400 800'



SOURCES: NJGIS, NJDOT, NJDEP, MOD-IV TAX DATA



Parks & Open Space

- 1 D&R Canal State Park
- 2 Abbott Marsh
- 3 NJDEP Easement
- 4 Point Breeze
- 5 Bordentown Yacht Club
- 6 Yapewi Aquatic Club
- 7 Bordentown Beach
- 8 Hilltop Park
- 9 Second Street Park
- 10 Spring Street Park
- 11 Veteran's Memorial
- 12 Lime Kiln Alley Park
- 13 West Street Park
- 14 Board of Ed. Park / Gardens
- 15 Gilder Park
- 16 Swimming Hole Pool Club
- 17 Oliver Street Park

Transit and Trails

-  Bordentown Station
-  NJ Transit Bus Stops

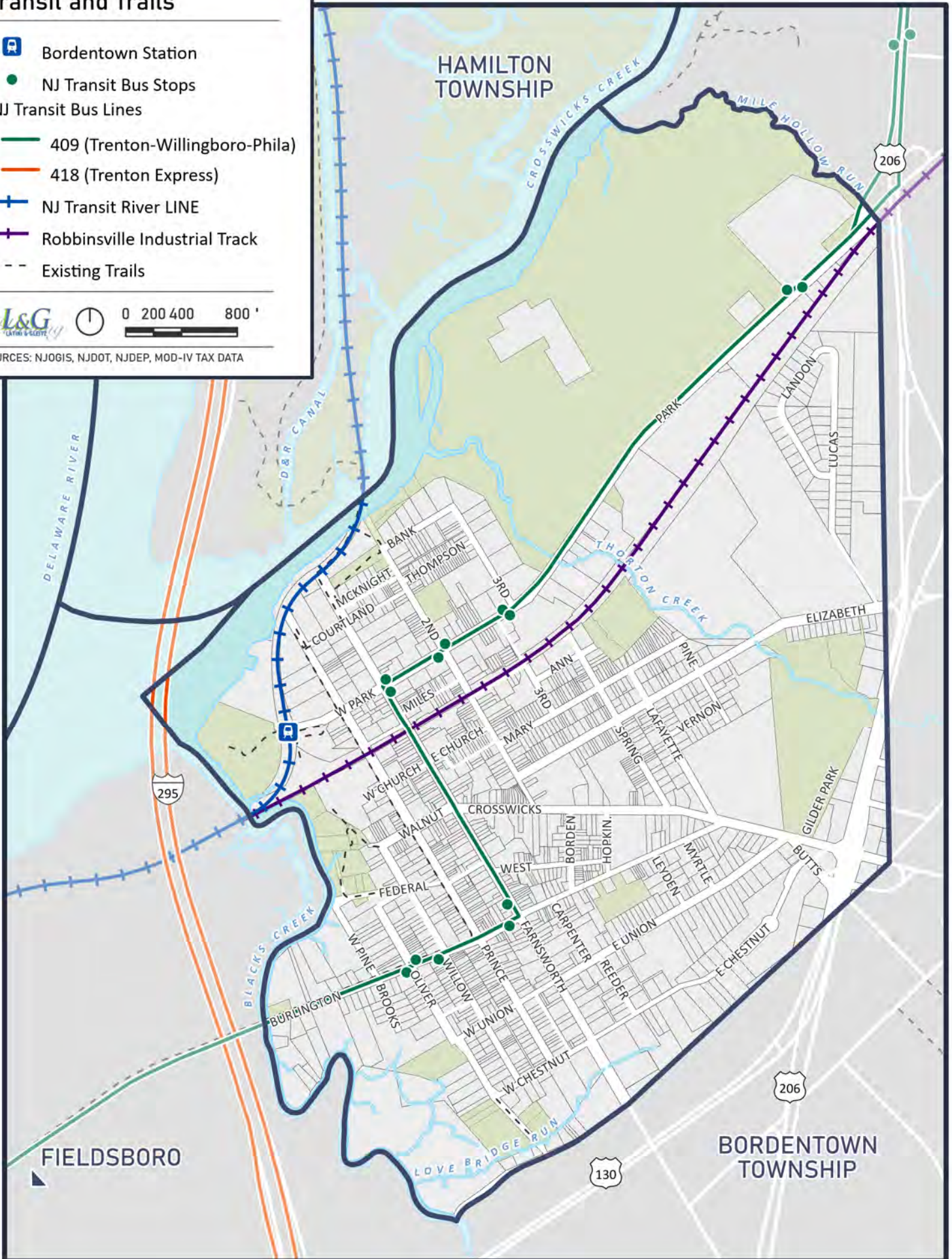
NJ Transit Bus Lines

-  409 (Trenton-Willingboro-Phila)
-  418 (Trenton Express)
-  NJ Transit River LINE
-  Robbinsville Industrial Track
-  Existing Trails



0 200 400 800'

SOURCES: NJGIS, NJDOT, NJDEP, MOD-IV TAX DATA



Transit & Trails

Highway and transit connections connect Bordentown to greater Trenton, Philadelphia, and New York. Direct transportation connections to New York City, Philadelphia, Camden, and Trenton include I-295 to the west and the New Jersey Turnpike, U.S. 130, and U.S. 206 to the east. Access to public transit includes New Jersey Transit bus and New Jersey Transit RiverLINE light rail service, which links Bordentown with Camden and Trenton. Further, the Delaware and Raritan Canal begins in Bordentown and extends north to Trenton where it splits off north toward Lambertville and northeast toward South Amboy. The canal trail also forms a section of the East Coast Greenway and Delaware River Heritage Trail extending southward through the City.

NJ Transit RiverLINE

Connecting the Camden-Philadelphia waterfronts to Trenton Transit Center and the Northeast Corridor, the RiverLine is a tremendous asset to the City and the Lower Delaware Riverfront communities. The Bordentown Station parking lot is also the City's largest parking resource and within a 3-minute walk of the downtown.

NJ Transit Bus 409 (Trenton-Willingboro-Phila.)

The 409 bus line connects people to jobs located along the Rt 130 corridor while servicing the downtowns of the communities along the way to Camden and connections to Philadelphia. In Bordentown, the bus runs along W Burlington St and through downtown Farnsworth before continuing north down Park St to Route 206.

Regional Trails

Several regional trails connect the City to the region's natural and historic resources and form segments of the Circuit Trails network of Greater Philadelphia:

The **Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Trail** is a 77-mile state trail that runs along the historic canal towpath beginning at the end of Farnsworth Avenue. The trail splits in Trenton, branching northeast to New Brunswick and northwest to Stockton.

The **Delaware River Heritage Trail** is a regional trail linking historic resources, open space, and river communities located along the Middle and Lower Delaware River. The Heritage Trail includes the D&R Canal trail and planned on-road and off-road extensions through Bordentown to

The **East Coast Greenway** is a 3,000-mile arterial trail system spanning Key West, Florida to the northern border of Maine. The Delaware River Heritage Trail and D&R Canal Trail feed into the East Coast Greenway, establishing bicycle and pedestrian linkages from Bordentown to major cities and attractions throughout the Atlantic coast.



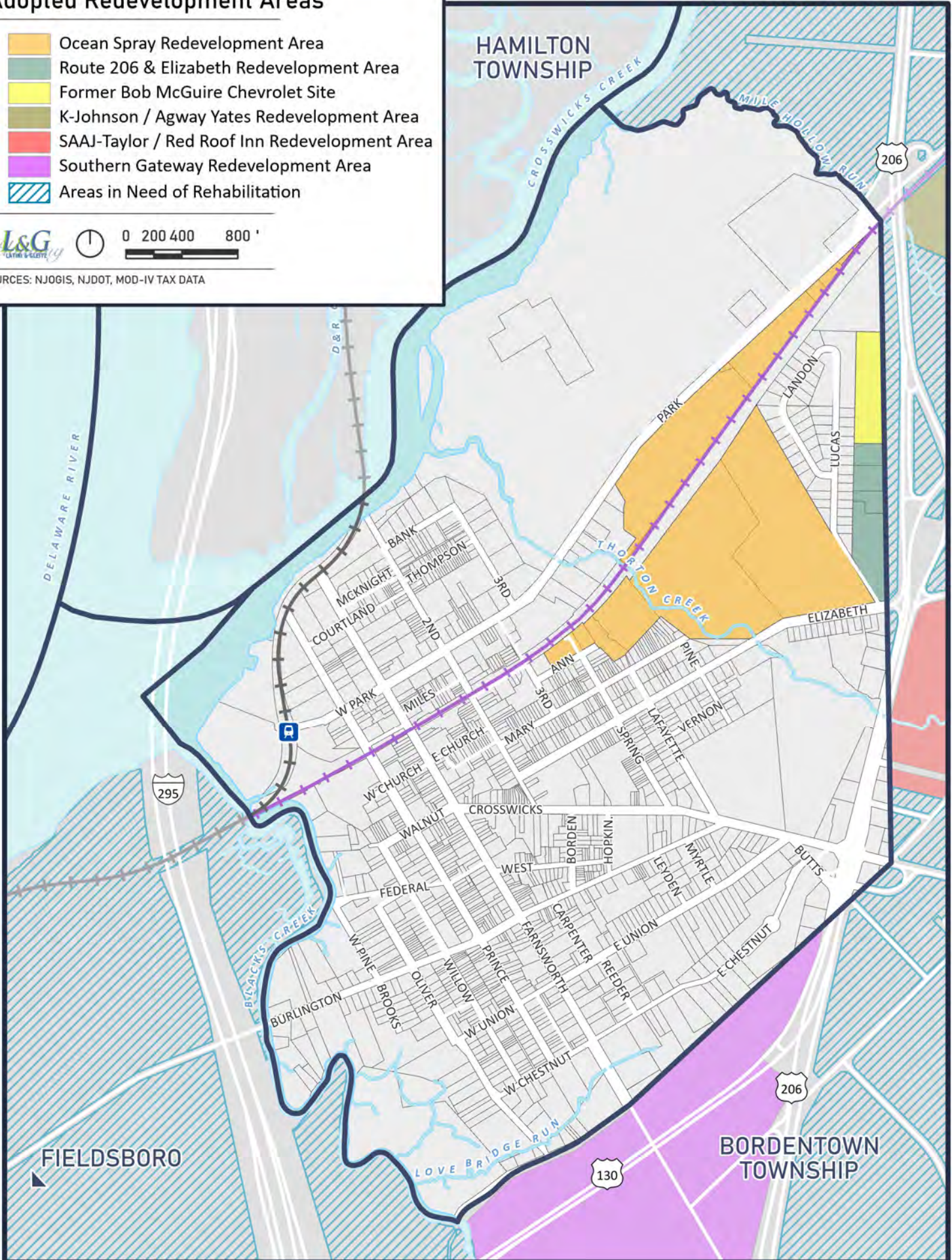
Adopted Redevelopment Areas

- Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area
- Route 206 & Elizabeth Redevelopment Area
- Former Bob McGuire Chevrolet Site
- K-Johnson / Agway Yates Redevelopment Area
- SAAJ-Taylor / Red Roof Inn Redevelopment Area
- Southern Gateway Redevelopment Area
- Areas in Need of Rehabilitation



0 200 400 800'

SOURCES: NJOGIS, NJDOT, MOD-IV TAX DATA



FIELDSBORO

HAMILTON
TOWNSHIP

BORDENTOWN
TOWNSHIP

Redevelopment and Rehabilitation Areas

Redevelopment and rehabilitation through the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (LRHL) are procedural planning tools that can help municipalities encourage revitalization of properties experiencing vacancy, deterioration, or other adverse conditions created by marketplace variations. Adopted redevelopment plans and neighborhood revitalization plans can set specific goals and standards to achieve the City's vision for revitalization. Rehabilitation areas also enable municipalities to offer short-term tax abatements for home restoration.

The Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area was adopted by resolution in 2012 in response to the blighting influence of the then soon-to-vacated Ocean Spray industrial site at 104 Park Street. In 2016, the Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area Redevelopment Plan was adopted by the City Commissioners to encourage compatible re-use of the Ocean Spray site and adjacent Park Street properties in accordance with the City's plans for smart growth. As of the adoption of the 2021 comprehensive plan, the site remains vacant although a site plan for mixed-use commercial and residential development has been approved. Recommendations for amendment of the Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area Redevelopment Plan are included in subsequent sections of this comprehensive plan.

The Former Bob McGuire Chevrolet Site was adopted in 2015 for commercial revitalization of the highway. After a redevelopment plan was adopted in 2016, complete redevelopment of the site has resulted in a hotel and carwash facility

The Route 206 & Elizabeth Redevelopment Area was adopted in 2019 to promote revitalization of the 5-acre site along Route 206 S and north of Elizabeth St. The site comprises four parcels (Block 1501, Lots 37.01 – 37.04) of which two are occupied by an existing gym, self-defense school, and auto repair shop. The middle two parcels remain vacant and undeveloped. A Redevelopment Plan for the area has yet to be submitted and adopted.

Bordentown Township has utilized the LRHL to encourage redevelopment of multiple sites throughout the Township. In 2019, the Township designated nearly the entire municipality as an Area in Need of Rehabilitation to encourage investment in home repairs and improvement of private property. The Township has also established several Areas in Need of Redevelopment just outside the City that may present impacts and opportunities for the City of Bordentown:

Southern Gateway Redevelopment Area

comprises the commercial district surrounding the southern merge of Route 130 and 206, which borders the City's southern edge. The Burlington County Bridge Commission prepared a redevelopment plan for the area in 2013 that permits a wide range of commercial uses as a means for economic development along the highway corridor. While the redevelopment area is under the Township's jurisdiction, efforts to strengthen the City's bicycle and pedestrian connections through this area should be explored.

The K Johnson/Agway Yates Redevelopment Plan

was adopted in 2007 and amended in 2009. The plan is intended to encourage mixed-use development and local employment along the Route 130 to the north of the City. Although ongoing development of the site is characteristic of highway business-park development, the City and Township may work together in the future to further integrate the project into the social and urban fabric of the area through bicycle and pedestrian connections to employment, commerce, housing, and open space via Park Street and rail right of way.

The SAAJ-Taylor/Red Roof Inn Redevelopment Area

was adopted in 2008 comprising 7 acres along Route 130/206 south of Ward Avenue. As of 2021, a Holiday Inn Express has been built, while the pad site fronting Bordentown City remains vacant.



Climate Change Vulnerability

Communities throughout New Jersey are expected to experience a wide range of effects from climate change. To urge local resiliency planning, Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation in February 2021 mandating that land use plan elements include an assessment of climate change vulnerability and specific strategies for improving local resiliency. The following assessment of climate change in Bordentown City is based on findings by the Burlington County Hazard Mitigation Plan, NJDEP Scientific Report on Climate Change, and additional resources made available by state, regional, and national agencies.

Sea-Level Rise

As the City of Bordentown is located along the tidally impacted waterways of the Delaware River and Crosswicks Creek, rising sea-levels and increased severity and frequency of precipitation will require additional efforts to minimize flood hazards. Particular attention to critical facilities such as utilities and transportation infrastructure will be necessary for protecting health and safety in addition to maintaining the longevity of public infrastructure.

NJDEP has identified the likelihood of three possible scenarios for sea-level rise by 2050¹:

- » 83% chance of exceeding 0.9ft;
- » 50% chance of exceeding 1.4ft; and
- » 17% chance of exceeding 2.1ft.






To assess sea-level rise vulnerability in Bordentown based on the projected scenarios, a Sea-Level Rise Vulnerability map has been prepared using GIS data published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Water levels along the Delaware River, Crosswicks Creek, and Blacks Creek are anticipated to encroach existing wetlands and areas currently located within the 100-Year (1-percent annual chance) flood zone. As a result, gradual inundation and greater high-tide water levels are likely to contribute to losses in land area at Bordentown Beach, Lime Kiln Alley Park, and throughout the Blacks Creek stream corridor. Because most of these vulnerable areas already experience intermittent tidal flooding or are located within or near wetlands and floodway, significant losses of *buildable* land by 2050 will be minimal.

However, based on the projected sea-level rise, trees, shrubs, and other vegetation will likely experience increased stress and dieback as sea-levels continue to encroach the City's low-lying areas. Further assessment of erosion control and potential losses to tree canopy, habitat, and marshland evolution resulting from sea-level rise are recommended for future updates to the City's Environmental Resource Inventory to assist with responsive long-term planning.

1. *Scientific Report on Climate Change, NJDEP, 2020*

Sea-Level Rise Vulnerability

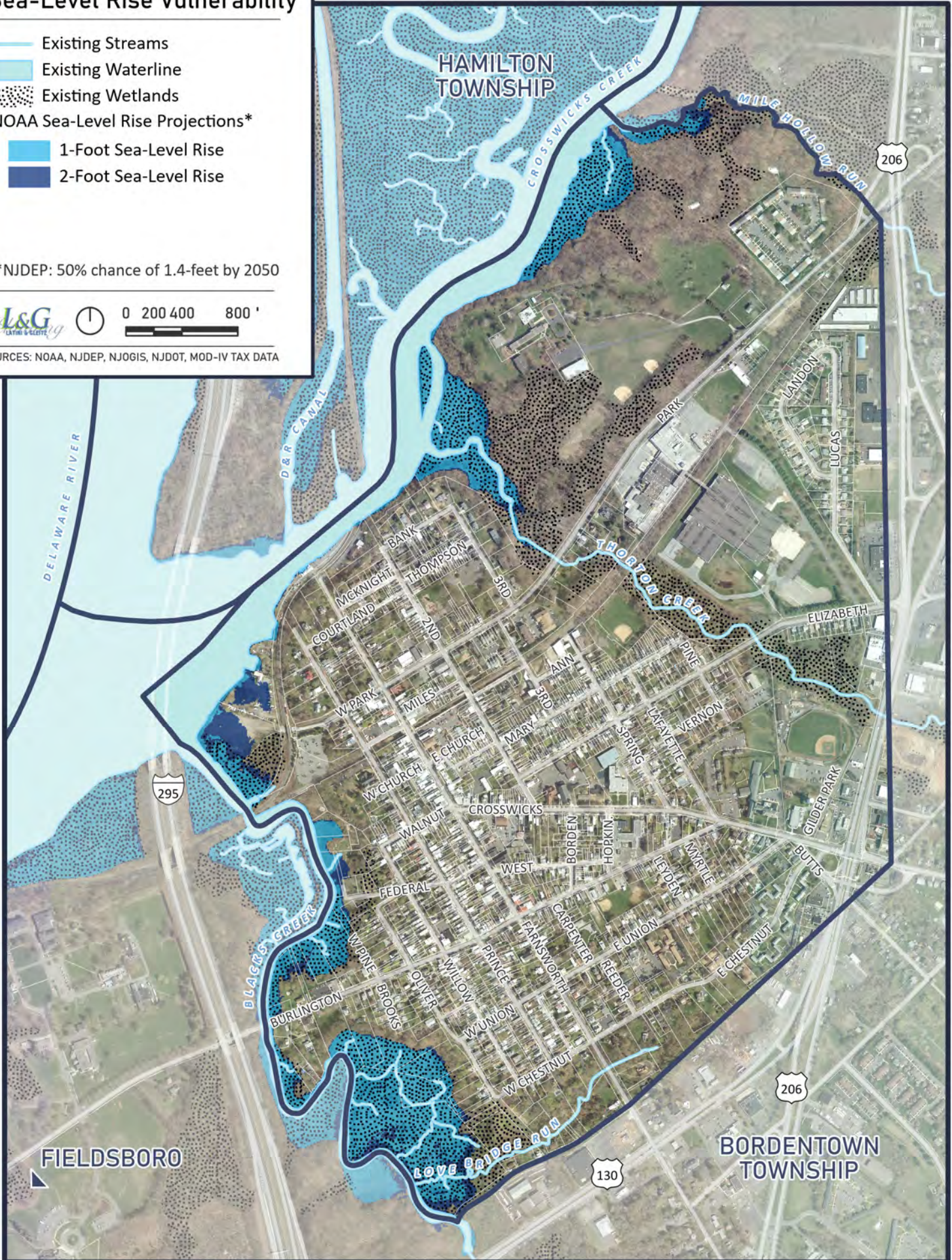
-  Existing Streams
-  Existing Waterline
-  Existing Wetlands
- NOAA Sea-Level Rise Projections*
-  1-Foot Sea-Level Rise
-  2-Foot Sea-Level Rise

*NJDEP: 50% chance of 1.4-feet by 2050










0 200 400 800'

SOURCES: NOAA, NJDEP, NJGIS, NJDOT, MOD-IV TAX DATA



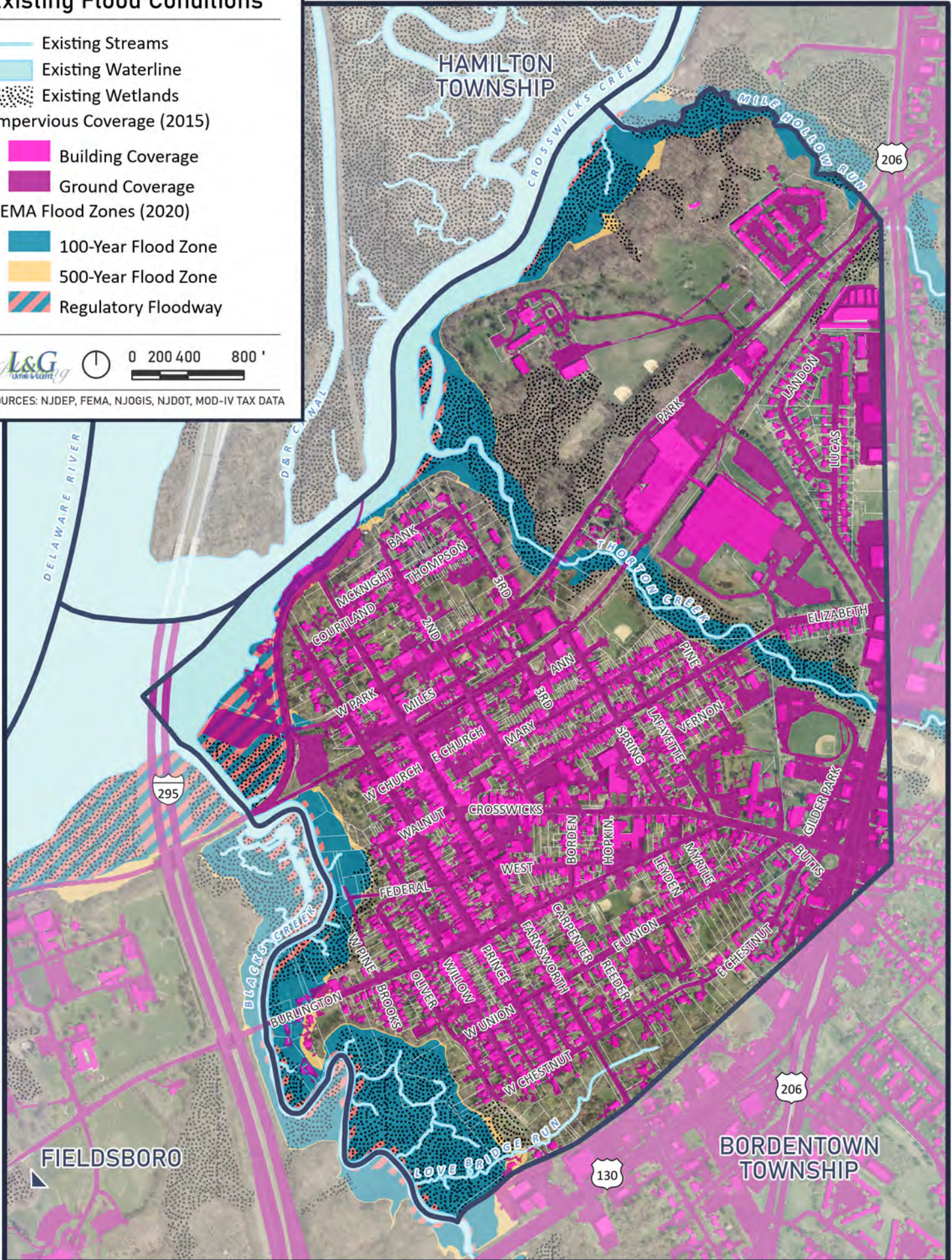
Existing Flood Conditions

-  Existing Streams
-  Existing Waterline
-  Existing Wetlands
- Impervious Coverage (2015)**
-  Building Coverage
-  Ground Coverage
- FEMA Flood Zones (2020)**
-  100-Year Flood Zone
-  500-Year Flood Zone
-  Regulatory Floodway



0 200 400 800'

SOURCES: NJDEP, FEMA, NJGIS, NJDOT, MOD-IV TAX DATA



Precipitation

Spatial climate data have been prepared and mapped online by the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center at Rutgers University.³ Based on locally adapted projection models, Bordentown may experience some increase in precipitation by 2040 as noted below.

Changes in Precipitation		
	1981 – 2020 Average	2020 – 2040 Projected Average
Mean Monthly Precipitation (Summer)	4 – 5in.	5 – 6in.
Mean Monthly Precipitation (Winter)	3 – 4in.	3 – 4in.

An increase in precipitation may cause existing flood zones and wetlands to encroach on areas that do not typically experience flooding. Specifically, expansion of the existing floodplain into areas further from streams and shorelines may be expected further upstream. As future flood zones are not available as of the date of this assessment, the City should remain up to date with the latest Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and FEMA flood-hazard data as the effects of sea-level rise develop and additional guidance and data from national and state agencies are published.

Temperature

Spatial climate data have been prepared and mapped online by the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center at Rutgers University. Based on locally adapted projection models, Bordentown may experience several changes in temperature trends by 2040 as noted below.

Changes in Temperature		
	1981 – 2020 Average	2020 – 2040 Projected Average
Days with High Above 95°F	<4 – 10	11 – 20
Days with Low Below 32°F	101 – 125	76 – 100
Mean Daily Max. Temperature (Summer)	86 – 90°F	86 – 95°F
Mean Daily Max. Temperature (Winter)	41 – 45°F	41 – 45°F
Mean Daily Min. Temperature (Summer)	56 – 60°F	66 – 70°F
Mean Daily Min. Temperature (Winter)	21 – 25°F	26 – 30°F

Drought and Wildfire

Although Bordentown is expected to experience an increase in average precipitation as the NJDEP Scientific Report on Climate Change notes, precipitation may fall less frequently during dry months, contributing to more intense drought. According to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, wildfire risk in Bordentown is of medium hazard ranking with an “occasional” probability of occurrence, which the City plans to address through a Fire Plan within the next 3 years.

3. New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center, NJ Adapt Online Tools, <https://njclimateresourcecenter.rutgers.edu/nj-adapt/>.

Critical Facilities

Several critical facilities are located within current flood plains or areas expected to experience tidal flooding:

Bordentown Sewerage Authority Wastewater Pump Station

A wastewater pump station operated by the Bordentown Sewerage Authority is located within the existing 100-year and 500-year flood zones in addition to steep slopes greater than 15%. As such, the station is susceptible to increased flooding, erosion, and landslides. An engineer’s assessment of these potential impacts is recommended to determine what actions, if any, are necessary.

W Burlington Street Bridge

The W Burlington Street bridge over Blacks Creek is located along County Route 662. The bridge footprint and its approximate 450-foot approach is located within the 100-year and 500-year flood zones. Assessment by the Burlington County Bridge Commission may be necessary to evaluate the impacts of sea-level rise, erosion, and general effects of increased flood risk. The W Burlington Street bridge is used by NJ Transit Bus 409.

NJ Transit River LINE

Portions of the light rail tracks and track embankments are located within the 100-year and 500-year flood zones and steep slopes, putting the rail infrastructure at risk for flooding, soil erosion, and landslides. The River LINE light rail system is operated and managed by the State through NJ Transit. Action by the City is likely not necessary.

Future Build-out

As the City of Bordentown is mostly already built-out, growth and development is primarily limited to redevelopment and scattered-site infill on few remaining buildable lots. As a result, large-scale impacts on impervious coverage and flood capacity from development are not expected. Following recent preservation of Point Breeze, which has reduced the City’s buildable land by more than 60 acres, the City has relatively few remaining buildable lots that remain unaffected by environmental constraints like wetlands, slopes, and streams.

The City’s largest vacant or underutilized properties, according to MOD-IV tax data, are identified in the following table and Potential Future Build-Out Map. Area #1 is the 14.3-acre Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area, which is one of the few parcels able to handle any significant development. The Ocean Spray Redevelopment Plan calls for mixed-use residential development not to exceed 20 units per acre with a minimum of 50,000 square feet of adaptive reuse commercial space.

Of the other parcels identified, only Area #2 on Route 206 possesses significant development potential. All other undeveloped land in residentially zoned areas or within the downtown, are fit for small-scale infill consistent with surrounding density. Additionally, some of these vacant lots are significantly undersized and may be considered viable locations for pocket parks or consolidation with neighboring properties in the future.

Considering existing floodplains, wetlands, projected sea level rise, and limited infill, approximately 17 to 18 acres of vacant or buildable land could contribute to future buildout within highly localized locations.

Location	Address	Block/Lot	Acreage	Buildable
1) Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area	104 Park St	1601 / 21 1702 / 1.01, 2, 3	14.3	YES
2) Route 206/Elizabeth Redevelopment Area	909-911 US 206 S	1501 / 37.02, 37.03	1.63	YES
3) 28 E Chestnut St	28 E Chestnut St	403 / 11	0.62	YES
4) Park & Farnsworth (Corner)	1 East park	904 / 23	0.11-0.27	YES
5) 3rd Street Parking Lot	24-30 Third Street	902/20	1.79	NO
6) 244 Rt 130 (Cheyanne rear land locked)	244 Route 130	403/5	0.84	NO
7) Black’s Creek Parcel	20 Mill Street	204/47	15.6	NO
8) Pine Street Bluffs	Pine Street	202/4	2.1	NO
9) 3rd and Ann Street	1 Ann Street	1102/1	0.32	NO

Potential Future Build-Out

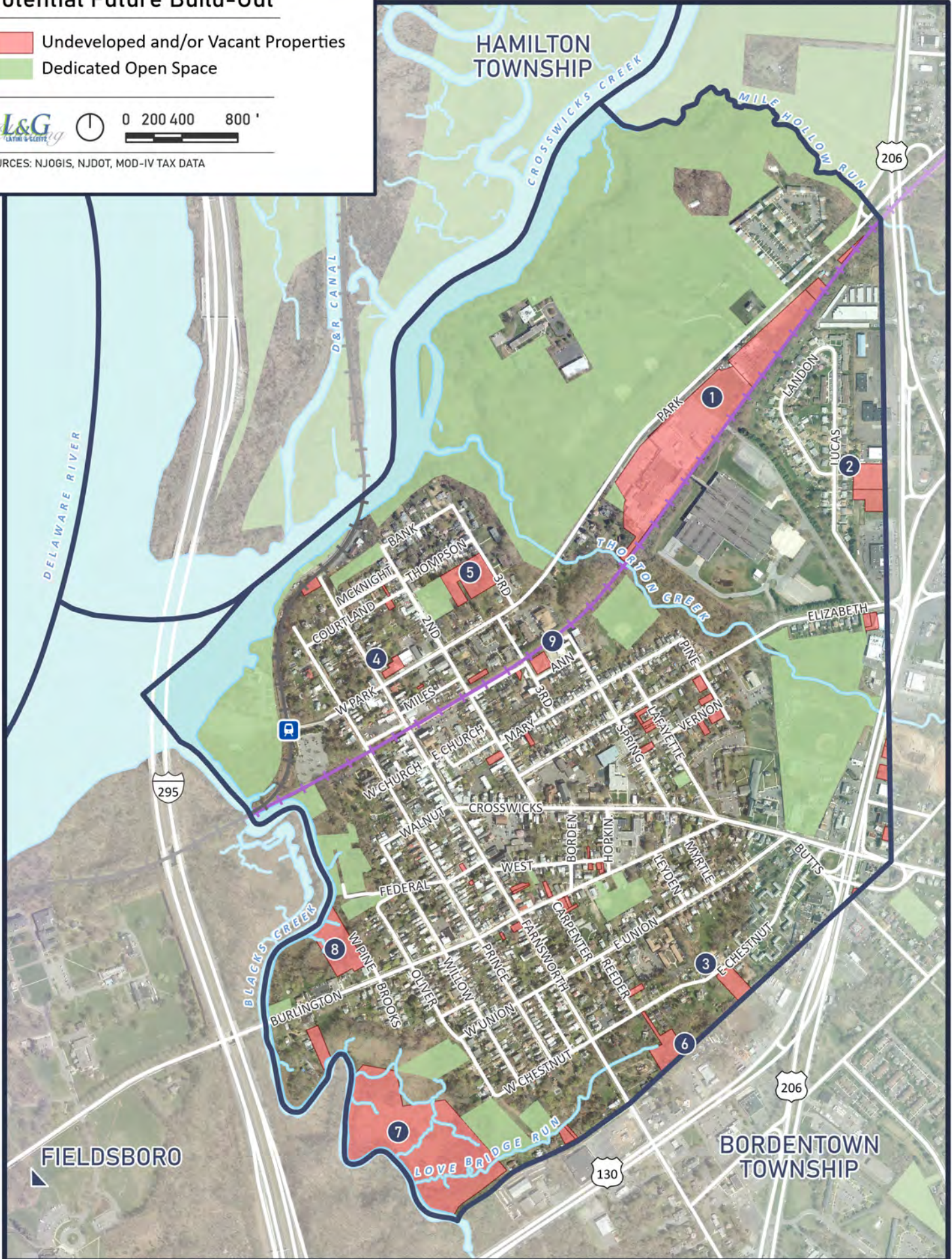
- Undeveloped and/or Vacant Properties
- Dedicated Open Space



0 200 400 800'



SOURCES: NJGIS, NJDOT, MOD-IV TAX DATA



Advancing Resiliency throughout the Comprehensive Plan

Adopted elements of the comprehensive plan, such as the Conservation Plan Element, Open Space Element, and Utilities Element include varying levels of discussion related to flood-hazard. Future updates to the comprehensive plan through additional elements are recommended to include further assessment of climate change resiliency strategies.

Open Space, Recreation, and Conservation

Through efforts by the City, D&R Greenway, the Green Team and others, Bordentown has gradually preserved increasingly flood-prone areas along streams and waterways. The Open Space Element and Conservation Plan Element recommend continued preservation of greenways and development of trails along stream corridors and remaining natural land. These efforts are compatible with and complementary to flood hazard mitigation efforts, placing additional emphasis on the importance of conserving land for ecological services like flood capacity and erosion control.

Circulation, Parking, and Economic Development

Preparation of the Circulation and Parking Element is recommended to include a more detailed assessment of green stormwater infrastructure opportunities to incorporate best management practices into the streetscape. These efforts are also recommended to advance economic development goals for revitalizing the downtown.

Additional Vulnerability Planning Efforts

The City adopted a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance in 2017 to address and guide development in flood prone areas per NJDEP guidance. In addition, the City has or is amidst amending its Stormwater Management Ordinance to comply with updated NJDEP municipal stormwater regulations. Additional guidance and relevant information on similar efforts can be found in the Bordentown Water Department Asset Management Plan and Burlington County Hazard Mitigation Plan



Implementation Strategies

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

As noted in other sections of the comprehensive plan, use of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) is recommended to mitigate flooding throughout the City. Widespread use of features like swales, rain gardens, rain barrels, permeable pavement, and drought- and flood-tolerant landscaping can help manage stormwater on-site by reducing the amount of runoff entering the City's storm sewers and waterways. Implementation of GSI is recommended through capital improvement planning, design of parks and public spaces, streetscape improvements, and revised landscaping standards of the zoning ordinance.

Combating the Urban Heat Island Effect

To reduce solar heat gain, also known as the urban heat island effect, the City may consider increased shade tree plantings, preservation of mature tree canopy, and use of lighter groundcover to help offset projected increases in temperature while improving overall quality of life throughout the City. It is recommended that the Shade Tree Committee, Green Team, and Environmental Commission continue to maintain an inventory of the City's shade tree infrastructure and identify needs for expansion. Additionally, use of materials that increase the reflectivity of ground and building coverage should be encouraged. Implementation may be achieved through reinforced zoning and landscaping standards, thorough review of development applications, and capital improvement planning for parks, streetscapes, and public facilities.

Promoting On-Site Renewable Energy

Local renewable energy systems can increase the City's energy resiliency during storms, heatwaves, natural disasters, and supply-chain disruptions. The City should continue to encourage public and private investment in local renewable energy sources such as solar and ways of increasing efficiency through microgrid systems, energy recovery systems, and other potentially viable technologies. As an increase in average temperatures may lead to higher peak energy demand for air conditioning, local energy resiliency will be increasingly important.



Rain gardens on public streets can manage stormwater, beautify the City, and calm traffic.

Advancing Land Conservation

Conservation of environmentally sensitive land can help preserve the City's natural flood capacity and mature tree canopy to help offset the effects of climate change. Conservation Restricted Overlay Zones as proposed by the Land Use Element are recommended to preserve natural land along stream corridors to protect ecological services in the City such as flood capacity, erosion control, micro-climate, air filtration, biodiversity, pollinator habitat, and sound buffering.

Snow and Ice Management

According to the NJDEP Scientific Report on Climate Change, warmer and wetter climate may worsen winter conditions. While the City of Bordentown already does a great job managing snow and ice removal, a strategic snow and ice removal plan for the City's public walkways could help further minimize slipping hazards for pedestrians, especially in troublesome areas like West Park Street, the railroad bridges, and sloped sidewalks.

land use

Land Use Goals

The Land Use Goals of this Plan are steeped in public input and bridge the City's rich history with its eye for the future. While these 10 basic goals are broken down further by specific land use category to follow, they work to achieve a holistic vision for the entire City.

- 1) Nurture a vibrant and resilient downtown.
- 2) Provide high-quality and diverse housing opportunities.
- 3) Preserve and reinforce historic heritage.
- 4) Embrace the highway corridor.
- 5) Re-orient the waterfront.
- 6) Promote climate resiliency and environmental stewardship.
- 7) Advance public health and safety.
- 8) Strengthen regional planning efforts.
- 9) Provide adequate and integrated open spaces.
- 10) Improve mobility and access.

use element

PRINCE STREET

goals

Downtown & Economic Development Goals

- 1** **Preserve and enhance** the historic, mixed-use character of the downtown and further integrate history into the City's strategies for economic development and resiliency.
- 2** **Improve safety and comfort** for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit ridership through streetscape improvements and capital investment planning.
- 3** **Strengthen pedestrian activity** through a strategic balance of uses and integration with public spaces and streets.
- 4** **Enhance connectivity and wayfinding** to community assets like historic landmarks, transit stops, open space, and public parking.
- 5** **Promote opportunities for contextually-appropriate infill**, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse of historic structures.
- 6** **Manage parking and circulation** to improve safety, visibility, mobility, and access for all modes of transportation.
- 7** **Treat public streets as public spaces** by continuing to explore opportunities for streetscape amenities, open streets, parklets, and integration of land uses with the streetscape.
- 8** **Embrace the highway corridor** by improving safety, access, and gateways into the City while strengthening the City's ratable base.
- 9** **Stay current** with emerging land uses, legislation, economic strategies, and administrative best management practices.



Housing & Community Development Goals

- 10** Encourage preservation and rehabilitation of the City’s historic housing stock.
- 11** Adopt zoning that respects the City’s small-town, historic character and promotes a smooth and intuitive application process.
- 12** Encourage high-quality affordable housing options for low- to moderate-income households and a local workforce.
- 13** Promote aging-in-place through flexible housing types and supportive infrastructure for all ages.
- 14** Provide adequate and integrated open space for highly accessible recreation and leisure opportunities.



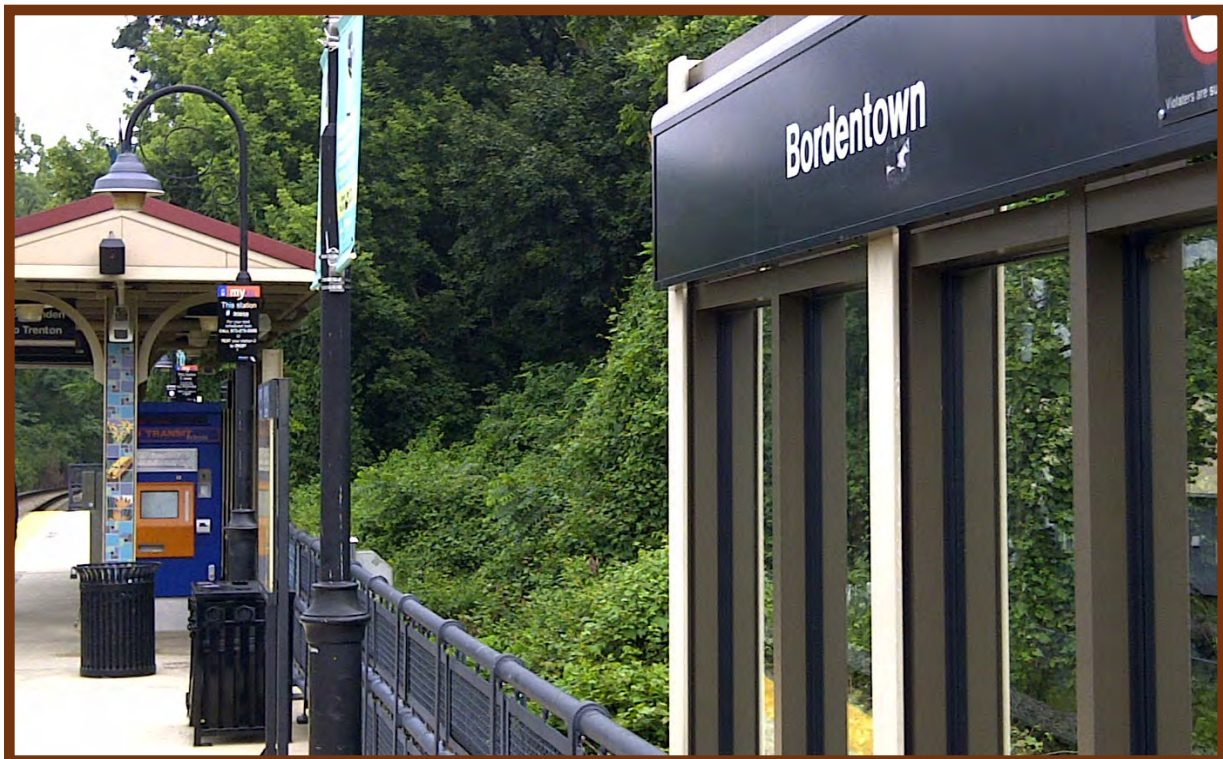
Open Space, Recreation & Resiliency Goals

- 15** Provide a **diverse range of facilities** to accommodate active and passive recreation needs, various ages and preferences, and advancement of public health goals.
- 16** Treat **public streets as public spaces** by continuing to explore opportunities for streetscape amenities, open streets, parklets, and pocket parks.
- 17** **Improve access and connectivity** to open space and community assets by strengthening bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, transit access, and connections to local and regional trail networks.
- 18** **Incorporate art and history** into public space planning to enrich the social functions offered by parks and open space and promote tourism.
- 19** **Reinforce environmental stewardship** through conservation, best management practices, brownfields remediation, green infrastructure, and long-range planning.
- 20** **Embrace the waterfront** through enhanced design, trail connections, tourism opportunities, and public access.



Circulation & Parking Goals

- 21** Enhance **mobility** throughout the City and strengthen connections to community facilities, employment, transit stops, and across the highway.
- 22** Manage **parking demand** and improve pedestrian connections to existing public parking facilities within walkable distances.
- 23** Encourage **bicycle use** through infrastructure improvements to make biking safe, convenient, and comfortable.
- 24** Leverage **transit investments** through enhanced pedestrian infrastructure, economic and community-oriented programs and events.
- 25** Expand the **trail network** to incorporate greenways, open space, rights of way, and regional assets.
- 26** Preserve and enhance **alleyways** for private property access and multi-functionality where appropriate.
- 27** Embrace the **highway corridor** by improving safety, appearance, access, and gateways into the City.



land use

Land Use Recommendations

Land use within the City overlaps nearly all aspects of its physical and social landscape and is thus inseparable from issues and outcomes related to public health, economic development, historic preservation, conservation, and other areas of focus, both large and small. Although the strategies and recommendations of this Land Use Element are categorized for practical purposes, they are intended to be viewed through a comprehensive lens and implemented together with recognition of the other elements and the effects decisions play on one another aspect of City life in order to fully advance the City's vision. These decisions will also serve as the basis for future zoning amendments assuredly to come, but that of which are not part of this process.

The Land Use Element sets the stage for continuing discussions necessary to implement this plan, as well as additional plans in the future. Some recommendations warrant further exploration, such as amendments to the zoning code, open space and park capital planning, urban design strategies, historic preservation planning and review, and streetscape improvements.

Distribution of a wider survey is recommended to prioritize the recommendations of this plan and the contents of the draft Land Development Ordinance according to additional public input.

Streets

A photograph of the Clara Barton School building, a brick structure with a gabled roof and a large window. A sign on the building reads "CLARA BARTON SCHOOL" and "ONE OF THE EARLIEST FREE SCHOOLS OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHED 1852 BY CLARA BARTON, FOUNDER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS." A wooden signpost in the foreground has a decorative top and the year "1864" on it. A white picket fence is visible in the foreground.

se element

ategy

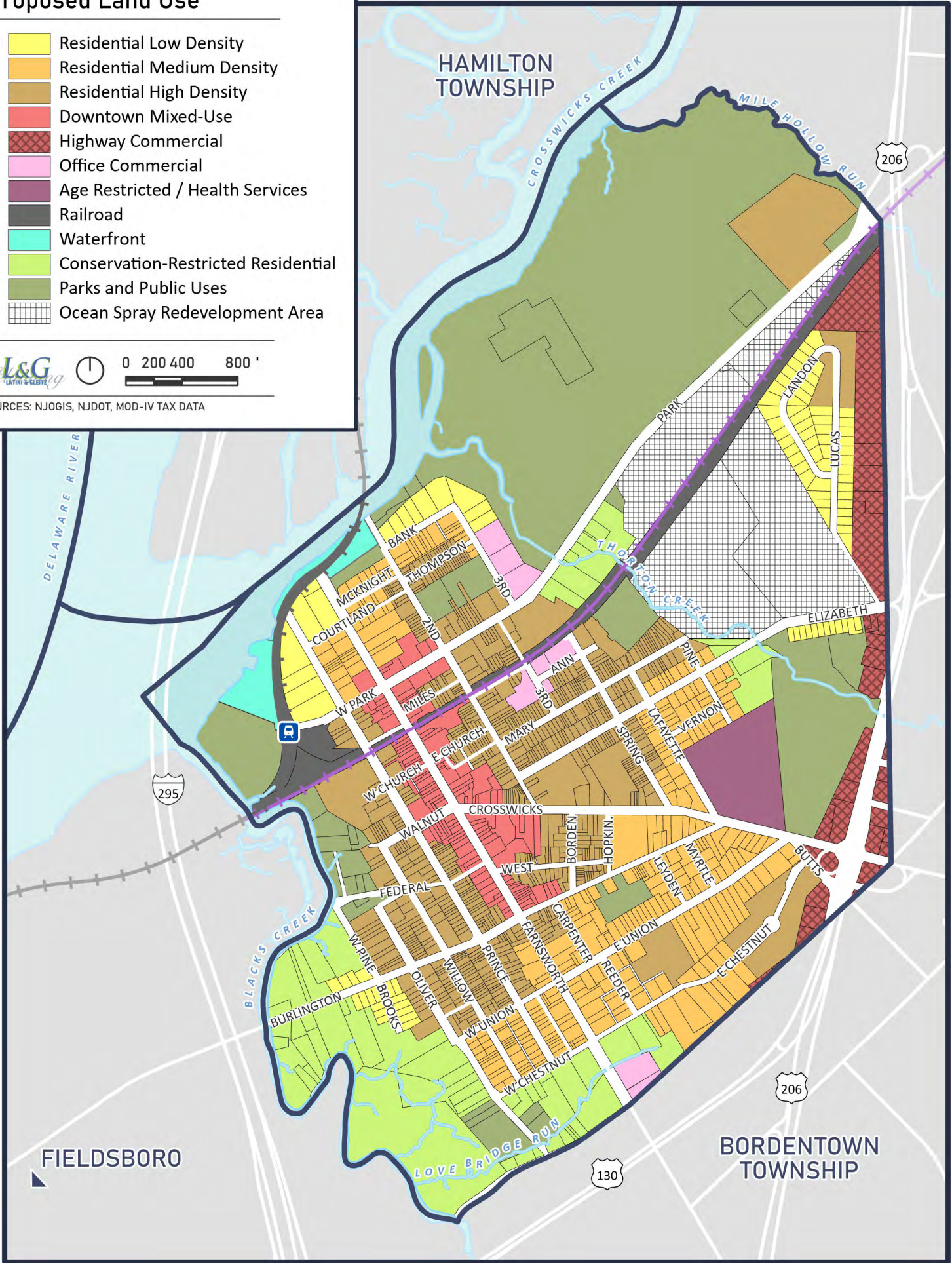
Proposed Land Use

- Residential Low Density
- Residential Medium Density
- Residential High Density
- Downtown Mixed-Use
- Highway Commercial
- Office Commercial
- Age Restricted / Health Services
- Railroad
- Waterfront
- Conservation-Restricted Residential
- Parks and Public Uses
- Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area



0 200 400 800'

SOURCES: NJGIS, NJDOT, MOD-IV TAX DATA



Proposed Land Use Map

The Proposed Land Use Map sets the foundation for other recommendations of the comprehensive plan. Land use descriptions are based on existing development patterns in the City and prior recommendations of the comprehensive plan. While the Proposed Land Use map is not a zoning map, it establishes a basis for zoning amendments by coordinating recommendations of the Land Use Element with existing conditions and on-the-ground realities within the City.

Residential uses have been categorized based on current zoning, housing types, density, and a preliminary assessment of existing lot characteristics. As suggested in the Residential Zoning Analysis, the City would benefit from updated zoning standards and possibly a form-based code or hybrid zoning code that fully accommodates existing lot characteristics while advancing the City's goals.

Office Commercial areas consist of office buildings in residential areas that are occupied by one or more tenants and often have the capacity for off-street parking. Efforts to further integrate these "grandfathered" uses into the surrounding residential neighborhood should be explored through future applications and careful attention to sidewalk connectivity, landscaping, and building setbacks.

Downtown Mixed-Use entails properties fronting Farnsworth Avenue or within the "downtown fringe." These areas are characterized by narrow lots, repurposed historic structures, limited off-street parking, accessory apartments on upper floors, local businesses, and pedestrian activity.

Highway Commercial uses are characterized by large commercial lots, often occupied by franchises, oriented toward the highway and accessed predominantly by car.

Waterfront uses include non-residential uses along Crosswicks Creek such as marinas, boating clubs, restaurants, open space, artisan studios, and recreational trails. Many of the uses and structures along the waterfront are located within the existing flood plain but are effectively "grandfathered." Future use of this zone may necessitate flood-resilient design in response to climate change and increasing flood hazards.

Railroad property includes parcels and right of way owned and/or operated by NJ Transit and rail companies like CSX /Conrail. Railroad right of ways and public transit real estate represent valuable opportunities for local and regional trail development as recommended further within the Land Use Element.

Conservation-Restricted Residential areas as discussed in more detail in the recommendations, encourage preservation of the City's stream corridors and remaining natural features within residentially zoned areas in response to climate change, flood hazards, and the City's goals for conservation, greenways, and trail development.

Parks and Public Uses include existing public parks, open space, and public or semi-public facilities existing within such areas.

The Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area establishes permitted uses for reuse of the former Ocean Spray site for light commercial industrial, mixed-use residential, and open space and trail connections as adopted by the Ocean Spray Redevelopment Plan.

General & Administrative Recommendations

The following recommendations are administrative and procedural in function but extremely important toward the efficient implementation of the comprehensive plan. These recommendations seek to simplify procedures, increase transparency, assist with planning and zoning decisions, and reinforce general coordination among the City's many devoted officials, committees, volunteers, and stakeholders. Together, these efforts can limit the exposure to liability by the City and applicants while ensuring predictability and efficiency of private investment.

1. Revisit Past Zoning Efforts

MEETS GOALS: **1 5 9 10 11**

The previous Land Use Element adopted in 2004 recommended extensive changes to the zoning code that resulted in preparation of an unadopted Land Development Ordinance (LDO) in 2008. That exercise aimed to implement the recommendations of the Land Use Element through a complete overhaul of the existing zoning by establishing new districts, expanding the range of permissible uses, and laying out modified standards for land use and development. Many of the items included in the LDO are worthy of proscriptive reconsideration, while some are reintroduced at a conceptual level within this comprehensive plan.

A thorough and surgical approach that reviews and revises the LDO should be a high priority to the City. Included in review of the LDO should be the application and development review process, fees, opportunities for new and recommended land uses, contextually appropriate design standards, and reconfiguration of zoning districts to protect natural and historic resources.

It is recommended that the City establish a diverse steering committee to dissect the draft LDO with the Planning Board and guide adoption by the Board of Commissioners. Due

to the sheer size and complexity of the LDO, a phased or bit-by-bit approach to assessment and adoption is recommended. Facilitated discussions with affected neighborhoods may also prove useful.



2. Amend the Ocean Spray Redevelopment Plan

MEETS GOALS: **5** **9** **11** **12** **17**

A development plan for a mixed-use project was approved for adaptive reuse and redevelopment of the former Ocean Spray industrial site on Park Street. As the plan and its approval are protected under a Redevelopment Agreement, the City should reexamine the adopted Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area Redevelopment Plan to ensure that the future use of the site remains consistent with the comprehensive plan if the development should not occur. Specifically, the City and State's acquisition of the Point Breeze site (formerly Divine Word) directly across the street from the Ocean Spray site presents possible contradictions as the adopted permissible uses of the current Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area Redevelopment Plan run contrary to comprehensive civic design. In light of these changes and other recommendations of the comprehensive plan, the City should reexamine the permitted uses within the Redevelopment Plan and the underlying C/I zone and make amendments as necessary.

The Ocean Spray Redevelopment Plan should be amended to supersede the underlying zoning and reflect the preservation efforts of the Point Breeze property. Permitted uses within the Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area should be amended to reflect the City's goals for historic reuse, mixed-use infill, inclusionary housing, and low-intensity commercial uses intended for the site.

Assess the Administrative Review Process

MEETS GOALS: **9**

Permitting, Approval, and Enforcement

An assessment of the development review process, through the lens of the annual Planning Board report, can provide a complete understanding of the City's administrative

capacities, improve predictability, and effectuate a coordinated economic investment strategy among public and private actors. Assurance that structures are built with sufficient review through updated zoning can assist property owners with design options while also reducing potential public and private liability. Implementation of the comprehensive plan throughout the planning and zoning approval process should be continually explored wherever feasible.

Online Access

The City has greatly expanded its online presence in recent years through development of the municipal website and several resources uploaded to ecode360.com. Additional documents have been prepared and uploaded to the Bordentown City Environmental Commission website. Ensuring that all planning documents are up-to-date and easily accessible will ensure meaningful public participation and well-informed decisions in the future.

The City should consider additional resources to make the development process more understandable by the average applicant. Publicly available documents can include an outline of the development review process, relevant permit documents, staff contacts, and zoning bulk/use standards in table form.

Continued Collaboration

The City of Bordentown is known for the sense of community generated by its residents, volunteers, public officials, businesses, and community organizations. Harnessing the energy of these stakeholders and channeling it is a powerful and efficient strategy for implementing the comprehensive plan.

Similarly, expanding formal relationships with Bordentown Township and Fieldsboro can help implement many of the recommendations of the comprehensive plan that go beyond municipal

boundaries such as highway improvements, community programs, trails, open space, the school system, and advancing local planning coordination.

As the City analyzes its capacities, it should reexamine the currently unstaffed Community Development and Municipal Affairs Coordinator position and their described duties. Recognizing that many improvements recommended in the comprehensive plan will depend on effective timing with infrastructure repair schedules and similar constraints, the Coordinator could be extremely advantageous at moving items forward in a strategic and cost-effective manner.

Explore Rehabilitation Area Designation

MEETS GOALS: **1 9 10 12 13**

Establishing an area in need of rehabilitation, as defined by the State of New Jersey, can help stimulate private investment in home restoration and eliminate substandard housing units through a 5-year tax abatement program. According to tax records, more than 90% of the City's housing stock was built prior to 1970, which potentially qualifies the majority of the City for designation. Rehabilitation ***is not*** a blight designation but instead a tool that communities can utilize to help offset the increased property tax value resulting from property improvements.

Per the state Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-14), an area may be determined to be in need of rehabilitation if:

- » A significant portion of structures therein are in a deteriorated or substandard condition and there is a continuing pattern of vacancy, abandonment or underutilization of properties in the area, with a persistent arrearage of property tax payments thereon;
- » More than half of the housing stock in the delineated area is at least 50 years old, or a majority of the water and sewer infrastructure in the delineated area is at least 50 years old and is in need of repair or

substantial maintenance; and

- » A program of rehabilitation, as defined in section 3 of P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-3), may be expected to prevent further deterioration and promote the overall development of the community.

Statutory rehabilitation can be viewed as a way of combining historic restoration, home rehabilitation, and infrastructure upgrades to holistically improve the physical condition of the City. Despite possible stigma of rehabilitation, such efforts would not require or recommend any declaration of blight or dilapidation. Instead, rehabilitation could be wielded more as a public finance tool to soften tax assessment increases typically associated with home repairs and improvements. Note that even homeowners who have already made considerable investments in their homes without rehabilitation programs can still benefit as the investments of their neighbors continue to raise property values throughout the neighborhood.

In addition to direct benefits, designation and recognition by the State as a Rehabilitation Area may even grant the City higher priority status for competitive state and federal programs in the future.

Example: a home is assessed and paying taxes on a property worth \$100,000. A major addition could see the value of the home, and the taxes it pays, increase to \$125,000. In a Rehabilitation Area, the homeowner's valuation freezes at \$100,000. The first year they pay 0% increase; Second year they pay a 20% increase on the added value only; Third year 40% on the added value only; Fourth year 60% on the added value only; Fifth year 80% on the added value only.

In the Sixth year, the homeowner will pay fully assessed tax value, but the savings on taxes over those 5 years will have off-set the investment made to the property and both City, neighborhood, and homeowner benefit from the result.

3. Keep the Plan Up to Date

MEETS GOALS: **9**

To advance the holistic vision of the comprehensive plan, the following plan elements should be prepared, listed in general order of urgency and/or practicality:

Circulation and Parking Element

A Circulation and Parking Element has been a longstanding priority for the City. Recommendations and findings of recent studies, such as those prepared by DVRPC, should be combined with the recommendations herein to further explore problems and solutions regarding parking, safety, mobility, and other goals.

Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

A Housing Element and Fair Share Plan was prepared in 2006 to assess affordable housing characteristics in the City and establish a plan to meet the City's State-mandated affordable housing obligations. As much of the context surrounding the projected affordable housing need has changed since the 2006 plan, an updated Housing Element is recommended further herein.

Open Space and Recreation Element

The Open Space Element was last updated in 2005. The City should carry forward the recent volunteer effort initiated by the Green Team and Environmental Commission and incorporate additional changes noted in the comprehensive plan such as preservation of Point Breeze, expansion of the trail network, and streetscape infrastructure opportunities.

Utilities and Community Facilities Element

A Utilities Element was prepared in 2005 to establish strategies for public utility planning of water and wastewater infrastructure. More recently, the Water Department prepared an Asset Management Plan in 2019, which could serve as a basis for such effort. An updated Utility and Community Facilities Element is recommended to help incorporate stormwater regulations recently mandated by NJDEP, emerging technology and programs to address climate resiliency, and address issues of lead toxicity and water infrastructure upgrades. The City should also continue to coordinate infrastructure upgrades with the streetscape improvement opportunities that are recommended throughout the comprehensive plan, such as green stormwater infrastructure, curb adjustments, and public vehicles compatible with narrow streets.

Resiliency & Climate Change

Governor Murphy signed legislation in February 2021 mandating that land use elements include an assessment of climate change impacts and strategies for improving local climate resiliency. This Plan includes an assessment of climate vulnerability and recommends strategies for improved resiliency throughout the Plan. Subsequent amendments to the comprehensive plan and its various elements should continue to expand and improve upon these strategies.



Economic Development Recommendations

1. Fine-Tune the Downtown Core

MEETS GOALS: **1 3 5**

In coordination with the draft Land Development Ordinance (LDO) described above, the City should amend the zoning ordinance similarly as reflected in the Proposed Land Use Map and include additional strategies to revitalize the downtown. For instance, construction of additional single-family residential structures and garden apartments in the downtown core should be discouraged as those uses do not contribute to the commercial mixed-use character of Farnsworth Avenue. Further, activating both sides of the streetscape along Farnsworth Avenue is ideal for maximizing pedestrian traffic at the ground-level.

The downtown commercial zone should be amended to exclude new single-family detached homes and garden-style apartments. Permitted residential uses within the downtown core should only be included within mixed-

use buildings with ground-floor commercial space to reflect the general historic character of downtown Farnsworth Avenue. Strategies to further integrate existing “grandfathered” residential structures into the downtown commercial mixed-use character should be encouraged and explored through means such as pop-up shops, micro-retail, pocket parks, landscaping, and architectural treatments that can help foster a more functionally and aesthetically cohesive downtown.

Prior to any adopted zoning changes, the priorities of both residents and businesses shall be considered fully and balanced appropriately with proper management strategies.

2. Explore Creative Opportunities to Increase Economic Vitality and Business Development

MEETS GOALS: **1 7 9**

Prior master plans have mentioned Hamilton Marketplace, the highway corridor, and

similar commercial areas as potential threats to the prosperity of downtown Farnsworth. However, between COVID-19 restrictions and the burgeoning on-line shopping industry, the most significant threats to a city's main street are likely no longer just shopping malls and big-box stores but an increasingly decentralized consumer marketplace. Similarly, the rise of delivery services may have implications on the basic needs of food establishments – square footage, frontage, labor, hours – and evolving definitions of what a “restaurant” actually is. In recent years, shopping and dining services have become increasingly more fluid and detached from local land use, increasing competition for downtown main streets like Farnsworth Avenue.

The need to promote downtown resiliency and help local businesses compete and engage with modern conveniences warrants increased flexibility and creativity in form and use. Although finer-grain retail can take many forms such as those recommended below, it may be possible to enable multiple types of businesses like pop-up kiosks and outdoor displays through simple, yet transparent zoning permits rather than costly board approvals. Although different from traditional conceptions of commercial uses, these more flexible commercial uses can fit in with the City's existing charm while meeting other City goals for pedestrianism and economic development.

Bordentown is fortunate to have such uniquely preserved streetscapes. Although there are some pre-zoning “quirks” that would probably not be built today, these are some of the features that most strongly contribute to the quaint small-town character and historic legacy of the City. Narrow streets and buildings constructed before the invention of the automobile have created invaluable opportunities to explore additional uniquely responsive infill development that

not only conforms to the historic streetscapes that the community enjoys but complements neighborhood character and generates pedestrian activity for businesses and community life.

Through the revision and adoption of the draft LDO, the City may wish to permit special downtown uses as a strategy for economic development. Conditional uses like accessory entertainment, outdoor dining, pop-up retail, and other uses recommended below may be utilized as a way to boost activity throughout the entire downtown with specific controls through approval and zoning enforcement. The City may also consider issuing mercantile or business licenses to permit certain activities.

Accessory Entertainment

MEETS GOALS: **1 3 7 9**

Allowing flexibility for businesses in the downtown to host temporary live entertainment has been a longstanding priority for Bordentown as a means for economic development and revitalization. Conditions for entertainment within the zoning code will need to address highly variable spatial constraints like historic building dimensions, parking availability, fire safety, In many cases, fire and occupancy codes may severely limit or exclude entertainment opportunities, but safety must remain the utmost priority. Further, controls that address sound levels and protect the quality of life of nearby residences will be crucial. With respect to these conditions, it is recommended that the City continue to explore ways to accommodate live music and entertainment in response to specific business needs.

The City may establish a temporary assembly use permit for specific or seasonal events with approval contingent upon review by licensed

construction and fire code officials regarding maximum occupancy, floor-plan, ingress and egress, fire evacuation, and fire suppression.

The following conditions may be used as a starting basis for codifying entertainment as a conditional accessory use:

- a. Submission of an application and management plan including a layout plan, hours of operation, security arrangements, noise management, etc.*
- b. Compliance with City regulations regarding quiet hours and noise.*
- c. Exclusion of sexually-oriented businesses in the downtown*

Pop-Up Retail

MEETS GOALS: **1 2 3 5 7 9**

Pop-up retail can strengthen the viability of local businesses while contributing to an active pedestrian streetscape. Opportunities for pop-up uses such as sidewalk shopping displays and temporary spaces like kiosks, tents, shipping containers, or carts should be explored and added as a conditional use within the downtown commercial zone, provided that specific guidelines are enforced to manage appearance and function of pop-up spaces.

The City may consider permitting pop-up retail as a conditional use restricted to existing storefronts in the downtown commercial zone, such as:

- a. Pedestrian circulation on public sidewalks shall not be impaired or redirected from the expected walkway. A minimum width of five (5) feet must be maintained for pedestrian traffic.*
- b. Outdoor display areas must not exceed the street frontage width of the primary commercial storefront.*
- c. Patrons and pedestrians should be able to clearly ascertain the entrances and exits of business establishments.*
- d. Overhead coverings may not obstruct*

pedestrian traffic.

e. The outdoor display area must remain clean and orderly at all times.

The City may also consider other design requirements to help instill a specific character of pop-up spaces through encouraged use of materials, furnishings, landscaping, and general layout.

Micro-Retail

MEETS GOALS: **1 3 5 7**

Micro-retail is similar to pop-up retail but occupies ground-floor spaces whose area and frontage may or may not accommodate traditional commercial uses per traditional zoning requirements. Due to their low floor area and subsequently lower rents, micro-retail spaces can provide incubation spaces for business startups such as a quick-service food, retail, or a very small boutique shop. As micro-retail is typically located indoors, it is generally more resistant to seasonal weather than pop-up retail and can provide year-long occupancy for small businesses to grow.



Creative use of space, such as areas behind storefronts like the Bombadill Plant shop offer great opportunities for shared spaces and micro-retail. (Circa 2015 Beanwood Cafe)

The City may consider micro-retail as a conditional use restricted to resident-occupied businesses in the downtown commercial zone.

Conditions could include:

- a. Historically-appropriate façade treatments.*
- b. Review of pedestrian circulation and queuing expectations.*
- c. Adherence to fire code and fire safety protocols.*

Limits to impacts on parking demand may be addressed by coordination with zoning amendments for home occupations and a permanent resident condition.

Outdoor Sidewalk Cafés

MEETS GOALS: **1 3 5 7**

In response to the economic distress caused by the pandemic, the City adopted the Sidewalk Dining Permits ordinance (Section 240-34) establishing basic conditions and procedures for outdoor dining space. Throughout the summer and fall, restaurants were permitted to utilize portions of the sidewalk and in some cases parking space within the street. As is evident by generally positive feedback from residents and business owners, there is lasting support for expanding the development of outdoor dining and related uses in a manner that is sensitive to public and private concerns.

Outdoor sidewalk cafés are a recommended conditional use for the downtown core and waterfront. The following basic conditions are intended to provide manageable requirements for outdoor dining spaces that enhance the streetscape with safe, flexible amenities for restaurants and patrons:

- a. Pedestrian circulation on public sidewalks shall not be impaired or redirected from the expected walkway. A minimum width of five (5) feet must be maintained for pedestrian traffic.*

- b. Patrons and pedestrians should be able to clearly ascertain the entrances and exits of business establishments and outdoor seating areas*

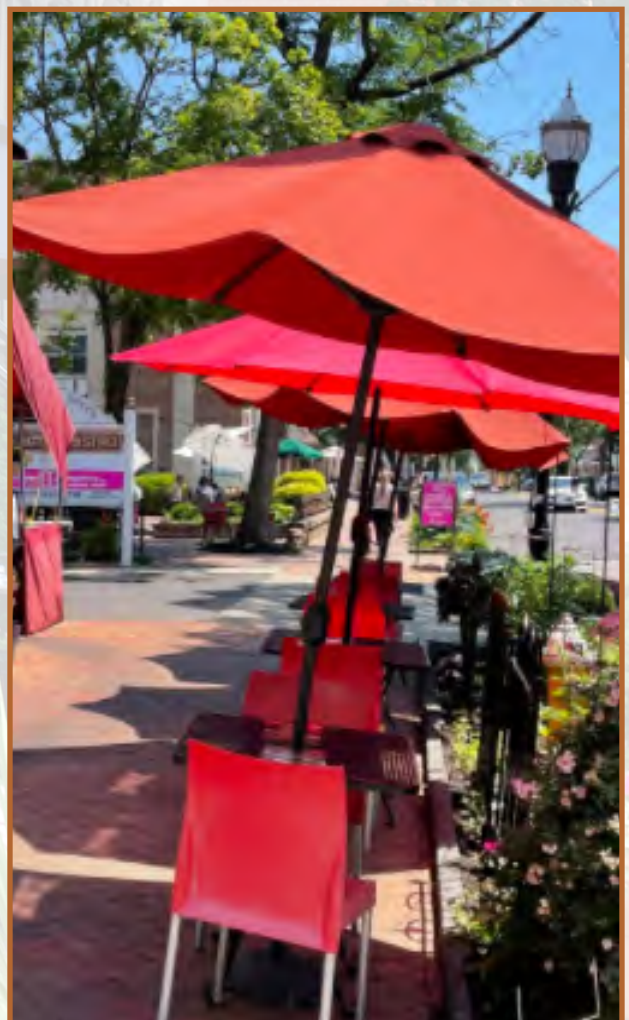
- c. Overhead coverings may not obstruct pedestrian traffic*

- d. The outdoor dining area including tables and chairs must remain clean and orderly at all times.*

- e. Alcoholic beverages must only be served and consumed in the established outdoor dining area.*

The City may also consider other design requirements to help instill a specific character through encouraged use of materials, furnishings, landscaping, and partitions.

Outdoor dining standards can create aesthetically pleasing spaces and clear circulation for pedestrians.





Bed and Breakfast Establishments

MEETS GOALS: **1** **3** **5**

Bed and breakfast establishments offer accommodations for visitors seeking a unique experience while drawing clientele for local businesses. Permitting such establishments ***only in select locations*** can increase the City’s capacity for tourism while boosting shopping activity in the downtown for a wider array of goods and services than is currently offered. Further, permission of bed and breakfast uses has been utilized in other historic towns around New Jersey as a means for preserving historic and architecturally significant residences that have relatively large square footage. While the City does not currently permit bed and breakfast establishments, such uses can contribute positively to the local economy with minimal impacts to permanent residents ***if integrated responsibly***.

The need to accommodate parking for several guests means simple conversion of any residence in Bordentown into a bed and breakfast will not be feasible. Relatively large lots, which may have capacity for additional off-street parking, as well as existing funeral homes – if they were to ever change ownership – may be viable locations.

Potential nuisances arising from transient occupancy, such as parking, traffic, or noise, can be addressed through conditional requirements in the zoning ordinance as well as regulations and procedures established by the general City Code.

However, further community discussions and resident engagement will be necessary to ensure that potential nuisances are adequately prevented wherever bed and breakfasts may be considered a viable permitted use.

Permission of bed and breakfasts near the waterfront and the downtown, are recommended only if conditional upon controls such as:

- a. Full adherence to all State-mandated requirements for bed and breakfasts.***
- b. Site plan review and approval by the Planning Board.***
- c. Compliance with the area and bulk requirements of the underlying zone.***
- d. Permanent occupancy by the property owner and manager of the establishment.***
- e. A reasonable number of guest rooms consistent with the surrounding neighborhood.***
- f. Prohibition of individual kitchens in guest rooms.***
- g. One off-street parking space per guest room***
- h. Limitations on live entertainment and/or sales of alcohol.***
- i. (optional) The City may request that applicants seek and receive a Certificate of Appropriateness or advisement from the Historic Preservation Commission to further integrate bed and breakfasts architecturally into the historic streetscape.***
- j. (optional) The City may establish a local licensing procedure with additional controls on operations, management, liability, and a maximum number of bed and breakfast operators in the City.***

Addressing the Downtown Fringe

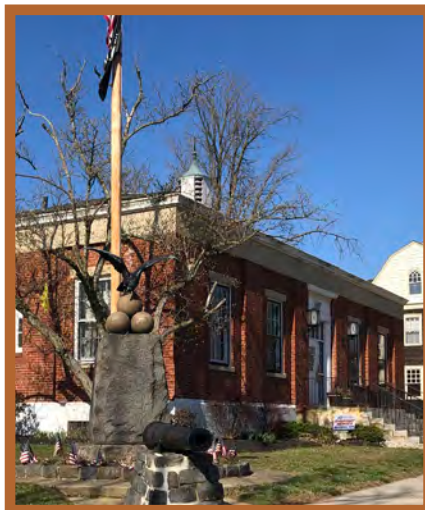
MEETS GOALS: **1** **3** **5** **9**

Through revision of the draft LDO and amendments to the current zoning, the City may consider how the downtown transitions to – and interfaces with – residential streets. Expansion of the existing downtown zone with conditional uses and revised conditions may be appropriate to allow light commercial, residential-scale offices, home-occupations, certain crafts and mixed-use buildings that are more suitable for the edge of the downtown than within the active commercial core.

Slight expansion of the downtown (Local Commercial) zone, or an addition to the conditional use standards surrounding the downtown per the Proposed Land Use map, can accommodate existing low-intensity commercial uses at the downtown fringe that are currently zoned High Density Residential (R-3). Additional amendments to the zoning ordinance can help establish a more controlled transition from the commercial downtown to the surrounding residential properties in ways that are sensitive to surrounding residential property owners.



Parcels within the downtown fringe (dark red) are currently zoned R-3 and display characteristics of the downtown and/or opportunities to transition residential and non-residential uses gradually. Some examples of existing properties (below) that are in, or have been at some point, properties that have played host to commerce.



3. Explore Creative Infill and Public Space Opportunities

MEETS GOALS: **1 2 3 4 5 7 9**

Several small and underutilized spaces throughout the downtown create opportunities to further activate the street or otherwise contribute to the public realm. Pocket parks, semi-public spaces, green stormwater infrastructure, and pop-up shops can achieve small-scale infill that meets other goals of the comprehensive plan such as enhanced pedestrianism, economic resiliency, and stormwater management.

Specific opportunities to establish pocket parks within the downtown should be explored. The undeveloped corner of Farnsworth and Park, for instance, could include a small public space on the corner without compromising the property owner's existing ability to develop the lot for private use as is their right to do. The City may also consider potential purchase of the southeast corner of Farnsworth and Crosswicks St to achieve a similar effect. Each of these corners could create additional public space and function as visual gateways into the downtown core with signage, landscaping, seating, bicycle parking, historic features, or other amenities.

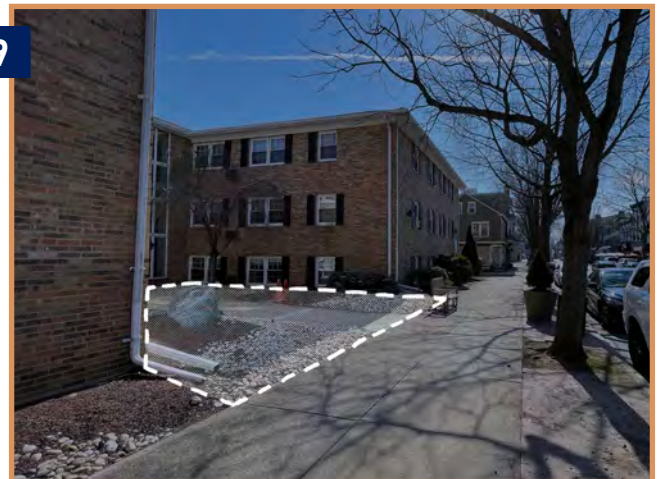
Pocket Parks

MEETS GOALS: **1 2 3 4 5 7 9**

With respect to the residences in the existing garden apartments on Farnsworth Avenue, the City may wish to work with both property owners and residents to enhance the semi-public courtyard space through landscaping treatments that further activate the street and create small-scale public spaces. Such a space could become a part of the public realm with liability issues subsumed by the City in exchange for public use. Alternatively, this area and others could simply contribute to the downtown with enhanced greenery, landscaping, and green stormwater management.



Infill development at the corner of Farnsworth and Park St can coexist with inclusion of a pocket park.



Currently private plaza space at the garden apartments on Farnsworth possesses opportunities for a parklet or other improvements to better integrate the site in the downtown.

Farnsworth & Railroad Bridge Deck

MEETS GOALS: **1 2 3 4 5 7 9**

A much more ambitious opportunity presents itself with a deck expansion over the railroad at Farnsworth and Railroad Ave which could create a unique public space in the heart of downtown - perhaps through impending CSX railroad bridge work. The site's high-profile location and adjacent public parking may be ideal for a permanent farmer's market, outdoor performance area, and/or a combination of daily amenities like bicycle parking and seating.



Railroad Avenue Promenade

MEETS GOALS: **1 2 3 4 5 7 9 15 18**

Past efforts to create a Railroad Avenue Promenade between Prince St and Third St may be expanded upon with an elevated open deck over the ROW between Prince and Second Streets. A linear plaza running perpendicular to the downtown could improve connectivity to Bordentown Station and its available parking as well as access to a unique downtown open space. The details of how such a concept may be integrated into the bridge replacement project could be explored in the near future while recognizing a cost-benefit analysis of such a project may be necessary.

4. Prepare a Circulation and Parking Element

MEETS GOALS: **2 3 4 6 8 13 21 27**

Pedestrian safety and parking availability remain critical issues among residents and business owners throughout the City and especially the downtown. Past efforts to explore shared-parking opportunities, enhanced pedestrian linkages, and other design strategies should be explored and implemented through a Circulation and Parking Element as recommended elsewhere in the comprehensive plan.

5. Expand Creative Use of the Street

MEETS GOALS: **1 2 3 4 6 7 9 14 16 21**

In the past, the City has restricted vehicle access on portions of Farnsworth Avenue for pedestrians during City-wide events, fairs, and festivals. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City explored temporary closures of Farnsworth Avenue for socially-distanced outdoor dining in the street. Although there were some concerns related to noise and bar traffic, the community was generally supportive of these efforts. As such, additional opportunities should be explored for creative pedestrianization of Farnsworth Avenue for open air markets, pop-up shops, and general use of the street as a public space. However, careful consideration of strategies that address noise, resident parking, emergency vehicle access, loading zones, and other concerns will be necessary.

As the City contemplates use of Farnsworth Avenue, a variety of different options exist as COVID-19 rolls into the Summer of 2021 and the railroad bridge approaches construction. From one-way configurations to full closures, the possibilities for creative use of the street for people are vast but require coordinated effort. Public art, landscaping, lighting, public safety, development of design standards and emergency access should be included in future conversations and additional concept development.



Opportunities for expanded outdoor dining, shopping, and passive recreation in the downtown can be reinforced through semi-permanent infrastructure like planters, moveable public seating, and string lights.

6. Address Cannabis Legalization Proactively

MEETS GOAL **9**

New Jersey voters approved adult use of cannabis for individuals over the age of 21 by ballot referendum in 2020. Licensing requirements established by the State legislature for medical and adult use require all municipalities to adopt zoning to regulate such uses prior to August 21st or else permit cannabis businesses by default as a conditional use in their respective zoning districts. Accordingly, the City should determine where cannabis-related uses should be permitted, if at all, and where to prohibit them. Such considerations shall consider the land use implications for each license class - retail, cultivation, manufacturing, consumption, delivery, and warehousing – which may be regulated separately.

Cultivation and manufacturing of cannabis related products is akin to industrial type uses and should be limited to industrial zoning districts. Retail dispensing for medical uses is similar to a pharmacy, while adult use and sales resemble more of a bar or lounge.

Although medical use of cannabis is a pharmacy use for patient access, adult use retail cannabis, and its associated traffic, should be limited to the commercial highway zone along route 130 and Route 206 with consideration of proximity and distancing requirements. As such a use could be a significant source of revenue for the City, it is recommended that adoption of a cannabis ordinance include the City’s ability to capture 2% of all retail sales per the legislation.

From the survey: Where would you find a Medical Cannabis dispensary acceptable in Bordentown City?



7. Reactivate the Historic Preservation Commission

MEETS GOALS: **1 5 9 11 18**

The abundance of historic resources in Bordentown City plays a significant role in its local identity and physical character. The deeply embedded historic legacies of the City, which are visible within the physical and social landscape, create unique potential for historic preservation efforts that can also make broad strides toward City goals regarding pedestrianism, tourism, housing, open space, and other strategies. The following recommendations are intended to bridge these themes and further incorporate the findings of the 2012 Historic Preservation Element into the City's strategies for land use planning, community facilities planning, and economic development.

The status of the City's Historic Preservation Commission has been unclear. It is recommended that the City reactivate the commission to play a more involved advisory role in the application review process and encourage historic rehabilitation activities through technical assistance and connecting funding sources for public and private projects. As it has done in the past, the commission should continue to collaborate with Bordentown Historical Society to ensure that the commission is staffed and the Historic Preservation Plan Element is advanced and amended as necessary. As it is currently adopted, the Historic Preservation Ordinance establishes a primarily advisory role of the commission, rather than regulatory, which helps retain a flexible balance between historic preservation goals and the financial capabilities of applicants and property owners.

Expand the Local Historic District

MEETS GOALS: **1 5**

While the Bordentown Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places envelopes nearly the entire City, the Local Historic District as adopted by the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance represents only a portion of the

downtown and Thompson Street as indicated on the Existing Zoning map. With an active Historic Preservation Commission, the City can provide supportive review of development applications to address potential impacts on historic landmarks while assisting applicants and property owners with historically appropriate design guidelines.

In coordination with reactivating the Historic Preservation Commission, the City should explore expansion of the Local Historic District to encourage review of development applications and provide technical assistance for property owners to ensure rational implementation and recognition of cost constraints. Additional reassessment of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and its scope for rehabilitation and enforcement should be explored in the future with respect to balancing public and private concerns.

Establish Historic Design Guidelines

MEETS GOALS: **1 5 9 11 18**

In conjunction with rehabilitation efforts and the above recommendations, the City should revisit the standards of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and the recommendations of the Historic Preservation Element. Establishment of specific standards for development activities affecting historic landmarks and districts can guide planning and zoning reviews in a transparent, predictable, and advisory manner.

Specific standards for architectural treatments and improvements such as signs, fencing, and lighting are recommended to encourage private investment in historic rehabilitation and ensure that public and private needs are considered. Priorities should include historic-sensitive signage, finding effective ways of discouraging certain materials like vinyl or aluminum siding, and promoting restoration of corbels, cornice lines, wood, and natural brick. In lieu of strict regulatory requirements, the Historic Preservation Commission can provide technical assistance through educational materials for homeowners and renovators.



Architectural and design integration should be viewed as value-added amenities that aid in the overall economic value of the City at-large. From outdoor spaces, to architectural treatments, signage, and streetscape all add to the character of this community.

Promote Rehabilitation of Non-Historic Structures

MEETS GOALS: **1 3 5 9 10 13**

Through reactivation of the Historic Preservation Commission, rehabilitation of non-historic structures within the historic district should be encouraged. As noted above, establishment of design guidelines and educational materials can provide property owners with technical assistance to spur voluntary improvements and historically appropriate renovations. Opportunities to integrate non-historic structures in the downtown should be explored through strategies that activate the ground-level and strengthen the visual relationship of non-traditional buildings and historic landmarks.

Along Farnsworth, it is recommended that the City work with property owners and tenants to strengthen the interface between non-historic structures, the streetscape, and the overall character of the historic district. A focus on reactivating or addressing residential ground-

floors facing retail and restaurant establishments should be explored through means like ornamental landscaping and buffering, expanded outdoor seating, parklets, and historic architectural treatments. In the long term, the City may consider a rehabilitation plan that establishes a targeted strategy to improve land use, circulation, and parking in the area between Farnsworth Ave, Church Ct and 2nd St.

Continue Joint Efforts

MEETS GOALS: **1 4 5 9 16 18**

The City should continue to explore opportunities to integrate historic preservation with other initiatives such as public spaces, recreation, trails, public art, and streetscape improvements. Creative team efforts may leverage financial and administrative resources in unexpected ways, while strengthening the City's unique identity and contributing to economic development.



Housing and Community Development Recommendations

1. Amend Residential Zoning

MEETS GOALS: **5 9 10 11**

As the City revisits the Land Development Ordinance, particular attention should be paid to residential zoning. The standards of the current zoning in place do not accommodate prevailing lot characteristics or the historic development patterns that the City has shown great interest in preserving. As noted in the Residential Lot Conformity Analysis above, the zoning causes a high percentage of non-conforming lots. In addition, the development process is further complicated by suburban bulk standards such as front yards that are entirely inconsistent with neighboring historic structures. The resulting process thus requires variances for projects that are well within the City’s existing character, while permitting some applications proposals that are not.

Realigning the zoning standards to the City’s goals can streamline the development process and provide assurance that projects fit and are value-added investments. Residential zoning districts and their applicable bulk and area requirements should be tailored to prevailing lot areas, lot widths, and reasonable expectations for residential development and

rehabilitation throughout the City. As discussed in the Residential Zoning Analysis section, a form-based hybrid zoning code may be most appropriate.

2. Explore Rehabilitation Designation

MEETS GOALS: **1 9 10 12 13**

Establishing an area in need of rehabilitation, as defined by the State of New Jersey, can help stimulate private investment in home restoration, eliminate substandard housing units, and authorize the City to offer 5-year tax abatements for home improvements. According to tax records, more than 90% of the City’s housing stock was built prior to 1970, potentially qualifying the majority of the City for designation.

Per the state Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-14), an area may be determined to be in need of rehabilitation if:

- » A significant portion of structures therein are in a deteriorated or substandard condition and there is a continuing pattern of vacancy, abandonment or underutilization of properties in the area, with a persistent arrearage of property tax payments thereon;
- » More than half of the housing stock in the delineated area is at least 50 years old, or a majority of the water and sewer

infrastructure in the delineated area is at least 50 years old and is in need of repair or substantial maintenance; and

- » A program of rehabilitation, as defined in section 3 of P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-3), may be expected to prevent further deterioration and promote the overall development of the community.

Statutory rehabilitation can be viewed as a way of combining historic restoration, home rehabilitation, and infrastructure upgrades to holistically improve the physical condition of the City. Despite the stigma of rehabilitation, such efforts would not require or recommend any declaration of blight or dilapidation. Instead, rehabilitation could be wielded more as a public finance tool to soften the tax assessment increases that are typically associated with home repairs and improvements. Note that even homeowners who have already made considerable investments in their homes without rehabilitation programs can benefit as the investments of their neighbors continue to enhance property values throughout the neighborhood.

In addition to direct benefits, designation and recognition by the State as a Rehabilitation Area may even grant the City higher priority status for competitive state and federal programs in the future.

3. Preserve and Enhance Alleyways

MEETS GOALS: **1 5 9 11 26**

Alleys are an important component of a public and semi-public street network, but their low visibility and limited use often causes them to be overlooked and neglected. To prevent the construction of structures within public right of way, the City should aim to preserve access through its alleyways via continual inspections and zoning enforcement. Additional opportunities for optimal use and strategic connection of alleyways should be explored through site plan review and possible acquisition opportunities such as the parking lot on Third St.

While alleyway improvements are not as high profile as on a primary street, their low-traffic, semi-private nature can create valuable opportunities for use by bicyclists, pedestrians, and even integration into the open space and recreation network. Opportunities to enhance the linkage of dead-end alleyways through cross access easements should be explored. One such example is the four-foot alleyway between Miles Avenue and Park Street, which could contribute to rear parking abilities for narrow lots on Farnsworth Avenue as proposed in the Circulation and Parking recommendations

Street-Facing Accessory Structures

MEETS GOALS: **1 2 5 9 11 26**

In certain areas of the City, accessory structures such as barns, garages, and sheds contribute - almost coincidentally - to a picturesque, rustic pedestrian-scale streetscape despite their general utilitarian use. This phenomenon is noticeable along some of the City's narrowest streets like McKnight Ave, Courtland St, and Federal St. While the location of accessory structures along public right of ways is not permitted in the LDO, fine-tuning the code could further enhance the historic-scale pedestrian network.

Specifically, standards for material use and architectural principles designed to reinforce the character of alleyways could be required for conditional approval of "street-facing accessory structures." The effect may be replicated on Federal St, Coopers Alley, and similar alleyways to create low-traffic, semi-private spaces for property access, leisure, and utilities in aesthetically pleasing ways.

Conditional approval for street-facing accessory structures may include:

- a. Restrict to Courtland St, McKnight Ave, Federal St, Coopers Alley, and any unnamed public alleyways depicted on the City tax maps.***

b. Public rights-of-way must remain unobstructed.

c. Accessory structures must not contain accessory dwelling units.

d. Accessory structures must be located at a reasonable distance from the applicant's property line.

e. The lot must remain compliant with all general requirements of the underlying zone.

f. (Optional) The City may require more rigorous use of materials and architecture to achieve and strengthen the intended effect, such as issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission to justify the purpose of the approval. While this condition may seem stringent, special oversight by the Historic Preservation Commission may be necessary to effectuate the purpose of allowing these structures to face the street, which is typically prohibited altogether by modern zoning codes.



Certain architectural and landscaping elements can give sheds and garages a welcoming, rustic streetface.

4. Revisit Past Zoning Efforts

Accessory Dwelling Units

MEETS GOALS: **9** **11** **12** **13** **14**

Accessory dwelling units – also known as ADU's, "granny flats" or in-law suites – are separate, fully equipped apartment units located on the same lot or within the same structure as an established principal use. An ADU is typically created by way of new accessory structure or expansion, conversion of an existing garage, or conversion of a portion of an existing principal structure.

The flexibility and affordability created by an ADU can benefit renters, property owners, and the general community. For instance, the small floor area, typically lower rents, and increased privacy can provide housing accommodations for independent college students, changing family composition, and accessible units for seniors or persons with disabilities. An ADU can also provide supplemental rent income for property owners and utilize unneeded or otherwise undeveloped infill spaces.

Conditional use requirements and application of the standard zoning rules can ensure that ADUs are restricted to properties that have the necessary capacity for an additional unit. Further assessment of the public infrastructure capacity for ADU's should be explored. Using the draft Land Development Ordinance as a baseline, the following conditions are recommended for the establishment of ADU's:

a. The property owner must be a permanent occupant of the lot.

b. No more than one ADU per lot

c. No ADU shall be used for short-term rentals

d. One off-street parking space per ADU shall be required or waived under special circumstances

Prepare a Housing Element

MEETS GOALS: **10 11 12 13 14**

A Housing Element is a component of the comprehensive plan that assesses housing statistics and affordability to establish a plan for growth management and State-mandated affordable housing obligations.

Housing Plan Element and Fair Share Plan was adopted in 2005 in response to the State Court’s invalidation of the Fair Share Housing Center’s growth-share mandate for affordable housing. Voluntary and proactive Fair Share Housing Center settlement agreements have since occurred throughout the State among municipalities seeking additional protection from litigation related to affordable housing. At the time, Bordentown City opted to instead meet its anticipated affordable housing obligation through projects that were already underway, including Union Eagle Apartments, Clare Estate, and prospective redevelopment of the Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area.

As the region’s obligation has been determined to be 33 units of prior round need and 148 units of prospective need, the City has a number of different projects that meet past need and are eligible to offset prospective need. However, after applying the credits from existing and in-process housing projects to the prospective need, the City must plan for its 89-unit deficit of affordable housing obligations.

With respect to the release of the identified prior and prospective need above, the acquisition and preservation of Point Breeze (formerly Divine Word) for state open space has effectively removed 67 acres of land from the City’s buildable area. Any efforts to address the City’s affordable housing obligation **must** be based on a vacant land adjustment so that the City can determine its adjusted need now that the availability of vacant land has decreased substantially.

As Bordentown nears full build-out, development of a Housing Element will be essential to for growth management strategies and affordable housing obligations; especially to ensure Bordentown residents can age in place. Efforts to plan for scattered site infill and a possible buy-down and rent-restriction program with owners of key multi-family residential properties should be explored in addition to rehabilitation.

While the comprehensive plan includes some market-based solutions for affordability such as ADUs, refined zoning standards, and growth management through the Ocean Spray redevelopment, a Housing Element will be necessary to assess the perceived risk of displacement and strategies for socially equitable housing.

Estimated Affordable Housing Obligations	
Housing Project	Eligible Credits (dwelling units)
Union Eagle Apartments	3
Clare Estate	34
Ocean Spray/Cranberry Park (approved set aside)	22
Total Eligible Credits	59

Prospective Round Identified Need	148
Minus Existing Eligible Credits	-59
Prospective Round Net Need	88



Community Open Space and Recreation Recommendations

1. Prepare a comprehensive update to the Open Space and Recreation Element

MEETS GOALS: **1 2 3 4 7 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 25**

The Open Space Element was last updated in 2005. The City should carry forward the recent volunteer effort initiated by the Green Team and Environmental Commission and incorporate additional changes noted in the comprehensive plan such as preservation of Point Breeze, expansion of the trail network, and streetscape infrastructure opportunities. Implementation strategies should be addressed through a capital improvement plan and conceptual vision for full build-out of each park location.

Recent reactivation of the Parks Committee, consisting of representatives from the community, Environmental Commission and Public Works Department also creates new opportunities for coordination and planning for the parks system.

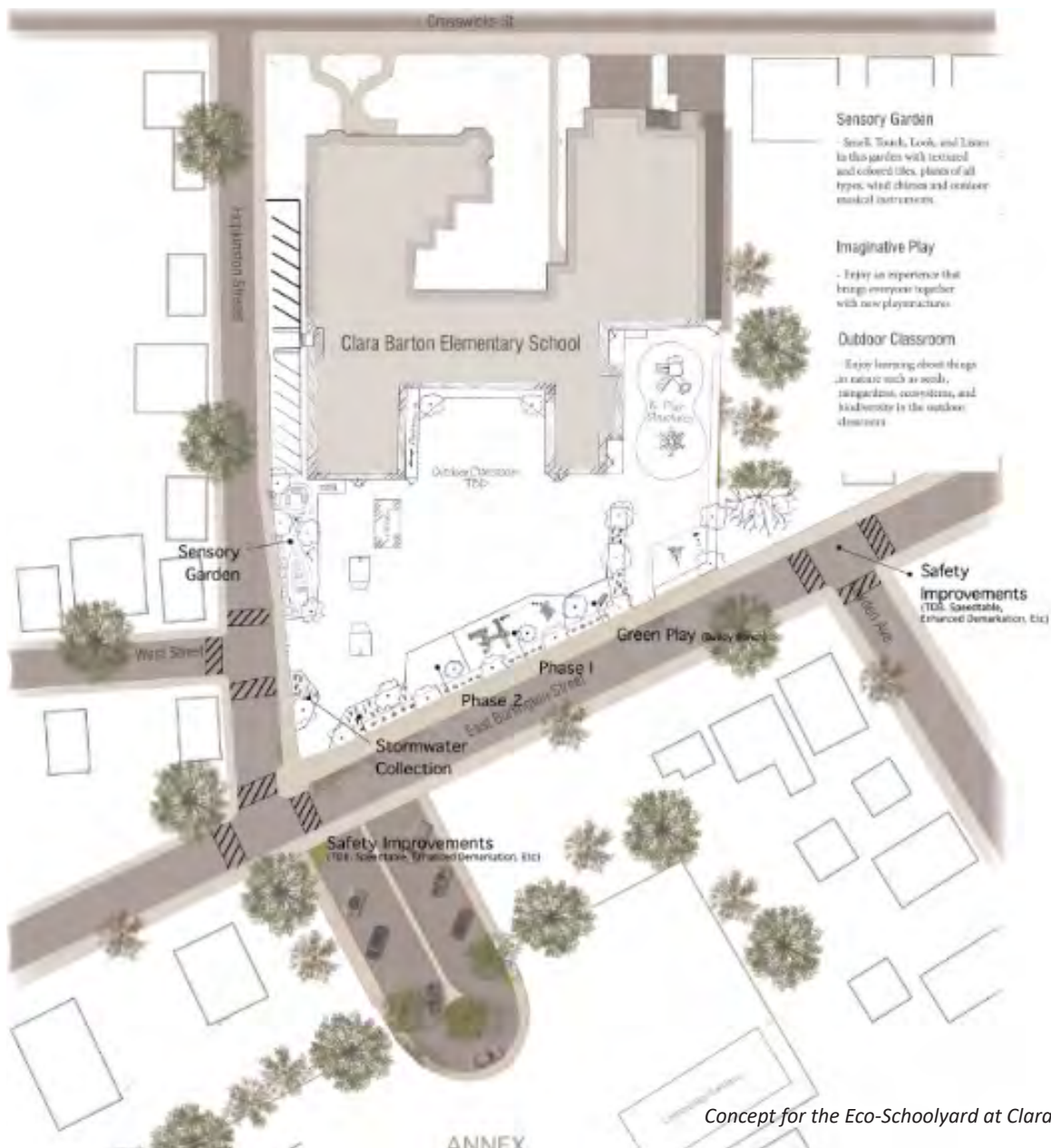


Coordinate with Public Schools Facilities and Transportation

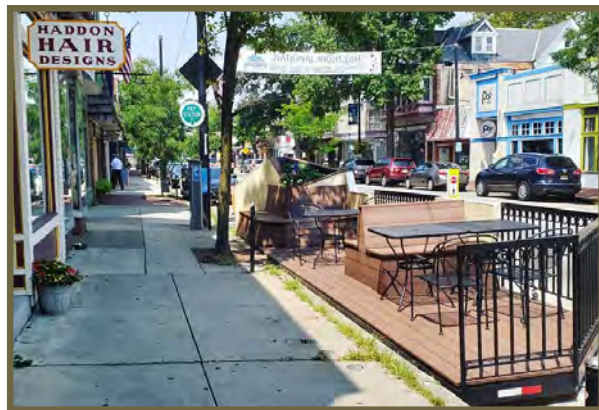
MEETS GOALS: **1 4 7 14 15 16 17 18 19**

Opportunities to expand use of recreation areas of public schools for after-school use should be explored with regard to safety and surveillance needs. Through the Open Space and Recreation Element, efforts to integrate public schools into the City's parks system should be explored through physical design and management solutions. Efforts similar to the Phase I concept plan for the Clara Barton Eco-Schoolyard project should be explored with coordination from the school board, PTA, Green Team, Parks Committee and other groups to implement the goals of the comprehensive plan through the land use of public schools.

Strengthening bicycle and pedestrian connections for regional safe routes to school and school-ground recreation facilities is recommended through long-term planning for transportation, parks, and trails based on the comprehensive plan and studies by DVRPC and other agencies. Additional focus should be placed on safe autonomous transportation for youth at key intersections and community facilities. Parks that provide natural surveillance from facing buildings is ideal.



Concept for the Eco-Schoolyard at Clara Barton



A mobile parklet example in Collingswood

Explore Pop-Up Park & Parklet Opportunities

MEETS GOALS: **1** **2** **3** **7** **9**
14 **15**

Parklets and pop-up parks can provide flexible pedestrian space and complement outdoor shopping, dining, and leisure in the downtown. Parklets are often the size of an on-street parking space designed to reclaim space in the street for pedestrian leisure. To address the “either-or” conflict of balancing vehicle parking with the habitable public space, a parklet may be designed to be transportable by trailer such as the mobile parklet implemented in Downtown Collingswood, which is transportable to various locations in response to parking demand, street clearing needs, and events. Creation and maintenance of a parklet can also take the form of a valuable community-led project.

Consideration of a mobile parklet within the downtown is recommended as a means to activate the street without permanently compromising on-street parking space. A pop-up, or temporary, parklet can be established through movable and erasable features like planters and paint with coordination among volunteers, property owners, and City officials.

2. Develop a Plan for Point Breeze

MEETS GOALS:

1	4	14	17	18
19	20			

The City recently established a steering committee to guide integration of the park space at Point Breeze and City-owned portion of the property into the greater parks and recreation system. The City will need to coordinate with NJDEP, who owns the majority of the land on potential amenities for bicycle connectivity, waterfront access, scenic views, historic features, and other opportunities for active and passive recreation. The City should also consider transportation and accessibility accommodations to the new City Hall for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Development of a long-term plan for Point Breeze should include:

a. Coordination with the Historic Preservation Commission and Bordentown Historical Society regarding the site’s historic status and cultural and educational potential;

b. Coordination with NJDEP, D&R Greenway Land Trust, Bordentown Green Team, Friends of Abbot Marsh and Environmental Commission regarding linkage of trails to the Bordentown Bluffs, Abbot Marshlands, Thornton Creek and other recreation facilities;

c. Coordination with Burlington County and DVRPC regarding bicycle and pedestrian connections to the Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area, Bordentown Station, and downtown Farnsworth via Park Street.

d. Consideration of active vs. passive recreation facilities and their suitability to the site.

e. Coordination of all efforts with the open space and waterfront recommendations of the comprehensive plan.

Further visioning for Point Breeze may take the form of workshops, surveys, and inclusion in the forthcoming Open Space and Recreation Element recommended above.



Landscape painting of the Bonaparte Pointe Breeze Estate, attributed to Charles B. Lawrence, 1817–1820

3. Explore Greenway and Trail Opportunities

MEETS GOALS: **1 4 7 9 17 18**
19 20 25

Greenway corridors are contiguous areas of undeveloped land that encapsulate continuous tree canopy, wild habitat, flood capacity, and create valuable local and regional trail opportunities. Bordentown is located at the confluence of Blacks Creek, Crosswicks Creek, the Delaware River, and the Delaware and Raritan Canal system. Efforts by the Bordentown Green Team, D&R Greenway Land Trust, and others have begun to preserve the City’s greenway corridors. In coordination with these efforts, it is recommended that the City continue to support and coordinate conservation, and expansion of these networks while exploring the shared use of railroad right of way as part of the overall circulation network.

To strategically preserve additional land without wholesale public acquisition, Conservation

Overlay Zones can establish zoning standards that require conservation of natural features and environmentally sensitive land without compromising use of property. For instance, an overlay district can address lot sizes, impervious coverage limitations, and increased buffers for natural features like slopes, streams, woodland habitat, and trails in trade-off. Conservation Overlay Zones may also address the natural hazards noted in the Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis of this plan.

Similarly, a Railroad Zone, as proposed by the Proposed Land Use map and the draft LDO, would establish zoning for all railroad properties in the City including all railroad right of ways and the Bordentown Station parking lot. While the owners of these properties - NJ Transit and CSX/Conrail – would not necessarily be beholden to local zoning regulations, requirements could be set for public uses like trails and recreational features if the City were to propose them or acquire these sites or portions thereof in the future.



Concept sketch of a multi-use path within the Robbinsville Industrial Track (Camden and Amboy) right of way.

Conceptual greenways, through Bordentown and beyond, link open space, natural features, and community assets.



In conjunction with planning and zoning review, the City should continue to explore opportunities for conservation easements and trails to expand the local trail network per the Existing and Proposed Trails map.

Rails-to-Trails and Rails-with-Trails

The railroad lines and historic railroading sites in Bordentown City represent significant opportunities to reconnect with the City’s railroad heritage and further incorporate historic resources into the City’s tourism, open space, and economic development strategies. Operation of the Camden and Amboy Railroad Main Line, extending under the City and connecting Bordentown Station to South Amboy, was an integral milestone in the development of railroading in North America. While the railroad is currently owned by CSX/Conrail and used for intermittent freight traffic to Yardville, the right of way is eligible to be listed as an historic district on the National Register of Historic Places and much of the line north of Robbinsville appears to be abandoned..

The Camden and Amboy Railroad Main Line extends under the City toward several town centers in Central Jersey and offers vast potential for an historic regional trail that would exceed State, County, and regional transportation planning goals and set an example for similar efforts occurring across the country. At a minimum, the City should remain aware of the operating status of the railroad and opportunities to pursue regional trail development. However, it is recommended that the City continue to pursue opportunities to negotiate shared-use of CSX/Conrail right-of-way through guidance from the Rails to Trails Conservancy and exploration of design and policy solutions that may reduce liability by the railroad.

4. Reorient the Waterfront

MEETS GOALS:

1	4	14	15	17
18	20	25		

Bordentown’s waterfront is an invaluable amenity that provides access to nature, history, and recreation, both public and private. As the Bordentown Beach area and yacht clubs continue to function as regional attractions for residents and visitors, they also create opportunities to draw visitors to and from the downtown and Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Trail. The City should continue to explore ways of integrating the waterfront with the rest of the City and region through enhanced pedestrian connections, active land uses, public spaces, regional trails, and public events. Collaboration with the yacht clubs, which provide ambiance and charm, with public activities along the river’s edge is critical. Dredging needs, combined with public access from Black’s Creek to Pointe Breeze are all issues of importance along the waterfront.

Expand Waterfront Trail Connections

The City should continue to enhance access to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Trail, Delaware River Heritage Trail, and East Coast Greenway by extending a connector trail along the RiverLINE Right-of-Way and adjacent to Yapewi and Bordentown Yacht Clubs. Access and security management on private land should be addressed through aesthetically appropriate fencing, landscaping, lighting, and/or surveillance appropriately coordinated. Additionally, connections that link Lime Kiln Alley, Hilltop Park, and the newly preserved open space at Point Breeze as an integrated public open space network is a goal worth further exploration.

A cross-access easement parallel to the NJ Transit right of way can strengthen access to public amenities like the canal tow-path to Bordentown Beach, Bordentown Station, and the Downtown.



A more refined concept plan for the beach parking area can enhance multi-functionality, link trail connections, organize parking and circulation, and make the area more welcoming overall to all visitors.

Develop a Plan for Bordentown Beach

The 1.8-acre stone parking area at Bordentown Beach experiences highly variable parking demand characterized by heavy use for boat trailers during the summer months and light use during the off-season. While recreational space has been improved along the beach and wetlands near Blacks Creek, opportunities to expand the range of recreational uses and amenities at the Delaware River and Crosswicks Creek waterfront should be explored to increase habitable space and overall utility of the parking lot

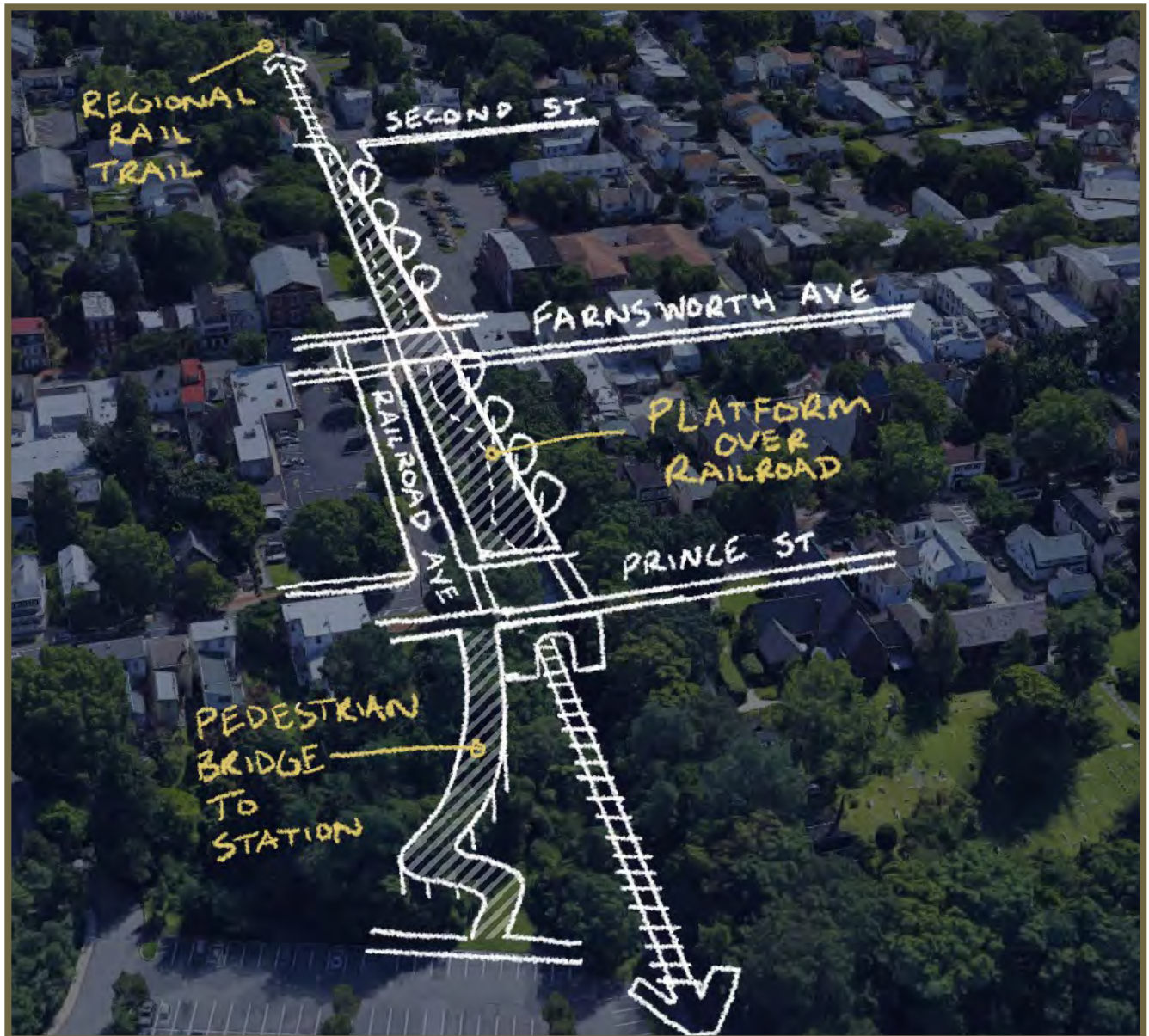
While the entirety of the Bordentown Beach site exists within the regulatory flood-way, the City should work with NJDEP to determine possible improvements for reorganization of this underutilized asset. Combined, the Bordentown Station parking lot for peak-demand parking on summer weekends will allow reclamation of the water's edge for additional beach space. Additionally, summer event planning is encouraged to be expanded upon with perhaps more routine availability of pop-up vendors and mobile food establishments.

Improvements to the beach should advance climate resiliency through flood-compatible improvements to the parking lot such as reclaimed wetlands, swales, flood-resistant plantings, and/or floating platforms. Coordination with an identified need for dredging within the area is highly recommended as the value for boating access and the yaught clubs is critical toward to overal atmosphere of the waterfront in general.

Enhance Connections

As the City nears full buildout, limitations for the construction of additional public parking without compromising historic buildings and walkable streets becomes an increasing challenge. Alternative solutions can include strengthening pedestrian connections to existing parking facilities and the waterfront in order to optimize the supply of available parking, preserving and enhancing the City's street network, while enhancing the open space network. Encouraging a comfortable walk from parking facilities to common destinations like the downtown and waterfront can advance public health and help identify needs for enhanced lighting, shade tree coverage, and other environmental and parks improvements that encourage walking.

As either an alternative or complement to the City's downtown shuttle service, an extension of Railroad Avenue could form a pedestrian linkage from the Bordentown Station parking lot to Prince Street to increase convenience of parking outside the downtown, while providing additional public space for leisure and connectivity that includes the integration of the Beach, Black's Creek.



5. Grow the City's Tree Canopy

MEETS GOALS: 2 3 7 16 19

Street tree removals have outpaced street tree plantings in recent years. The City should continue to coordinate with the Shade Tree Committee, DPW, Environmental Commission, Green Team, and Parks Committee to preserve and expand the City's street tree canopy on public land and through the site plan review process

An updated street tree and streetscape inventory is recommended for the Circulation and Parking Plan Element in coordination with the Open Space and Recreation Plan Element. Implementation strategies should be addressed through capital improvement planning, site plan review process, and amendment to the landscaping standards of the zoning ordinance as necessary.

6. Coordinate Open Space and Landscaping Design Standards

MEETS GOALS: 1 8 9 19 27

The Environmental Commission should continue to provide review of applications and redevelopment plans with respect to open space and landscaping standards. Opportunities to implement the goals and recommendations of the comprehensive plan through commission review and board approval should be advanced where possible. Particular attention to promoting best practices in resiliency, stormwater management, and green infrastructure may be necessary.



7. Encourage Public and Private Investment

MEETS GOALS: **1** **3** **5** **9** **16** **19**

“Greener” Infrastructure

Explore public investment in green infrastructure on public property such as parks, municipal facilities, and right of ways. Green stormwater infrastructure such as bioswales, rain gardens, and rain barrels will help meet NJDEP stormwater management regulations while also contributing to a greener, livelier City. The City should also continue to explore opportunities for solar and other on-site renewable energy sources in addition to more efficient technologies like LED lighting, water efficiency, etc.

The City should continue to seek ways of incentivizing public and private investment in green stormwater infrastructure, solar, recycling, building reuse, and other strategies that may be useful for green building certifications such as LEED.

In coordination with the Shade Tree Committee, Environmental Commission, and other groups, the City should consider providing pollinator habitat on public land. No-mow zones and meadows can free time and resources for public works staff in ways that also contribute to park design, landscaping, and environmental health.

Bicycle Infrastructure

The presence of bicyclists and public investment in bicycle infrastructure is typically a “chicken or the egg” phenomenon, where biking becomes an increasingly accessible mode of transportation with each cumulative effort made to accommodate it. Increasing facilities for bicyclists, such as sheltered bike racks at public locations and intersection safety improvements can truly encourage biking in Bordentown and simultaneously address City goals related to on-street parking demand, personal mobility, social equity, and reduced air and noise pollution. It is

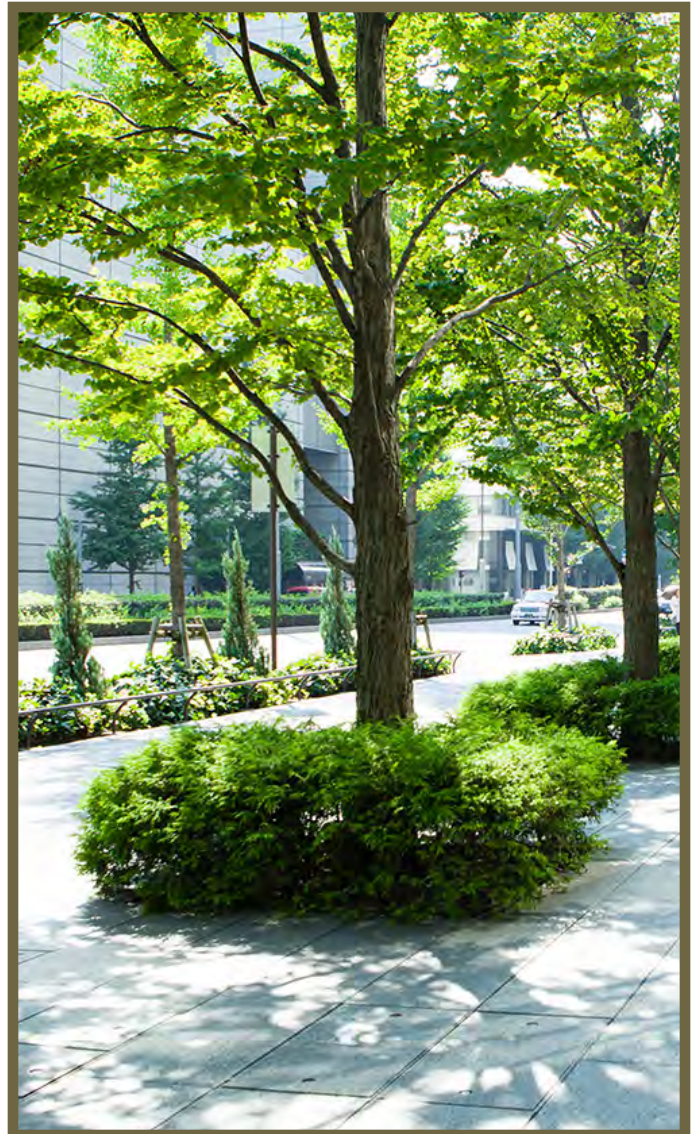
recommended that the City continue to explore opportunities and funding sources for public bicycle facilities and incorporate bicycle linkage strategies in its open space planning efforts.

Electric Vehicles

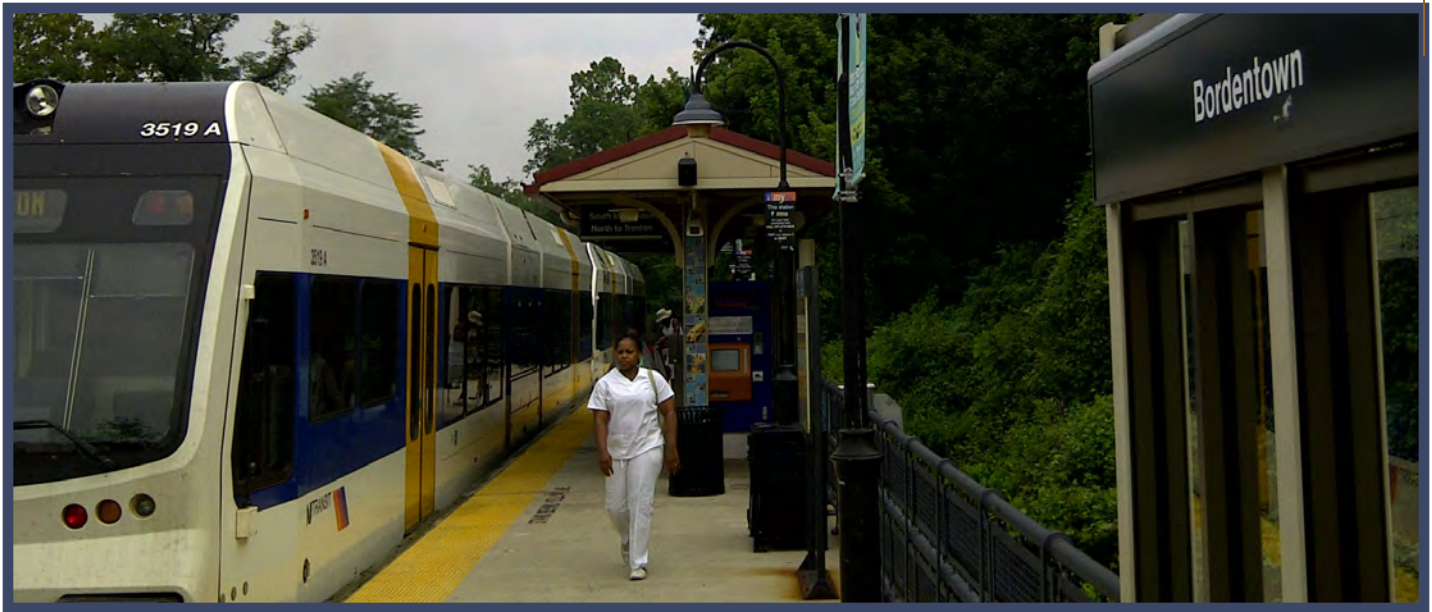
Electric vehicles have become an increasingly viable alternative to standard vehicles in recent years. While EV’s can lead to cleaner air at the local level, the City should explore potential locations and funding sources for charging stations, while balancing the negative effects of general automobile use such as land consumed for parking, driveway impacts on pedestrianism, and general road safety. Prioritization of EV infrastructure should be balanced with investment in bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements which are typically much more effective and equitable ways of reducing the carbon footprint of cities and individuals.

Regulation of private electric vehicle charging stations and cable management should be considered with respect to potential visual and safety impacts on the public realm.

1.



Clockwise, Top left. Urban rain-garden example, www.nrdc.org; EV charging station, www.burohappold.com; Integrated landscaping/raingardens, Innogy; Temporary curb bulb-out example, www.sarisinfrastructure.com



Circulation & Parking Recommendations

1. Prepare a Circulation and Parking Element

MEETS GOALS: **1 2 6 7 8 9 17 21 22 23 24 25 27**

A Circulation and Parking Element is recommended to assess the recommendations of the Land Use Plan in more detail and more rigorously pursue strategies to address mobility, safety, and parking management. In the meantime, the comprehensive plan and Land Use Element recommend starting points for discussion and continued exploration of possible solutions by drawing upon guidance from recent studies.

2. Address Visibility Issues

MEETS GOALS: **2 3 6 9 24**

Visibility concerns exist in many locations throughout the City for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. In many cases, on-street parking is too close to intersections and encroaches crosswalks and curb ramps. In addition to obscuring crossing pedestrians, choked street corners impair the visibility for turning cars and reduce the turning abilities of service and delivery trucks.



To reduce crossing times and address visibility concerns related to on-street parking, depressed curb bump-outs, neck-downs, and enhanced lighting are recommended long-term solutions for all feasible intersections in the downtown and around the public schools. A pilot test may be implemented through paint in the short-term. Use of the expanded sidewalk space for green infrastructure and public space amenities should be explored where feasible. Compatibility with stormwater infrastructure and municipal services should be explored further in development of the Circulation and Parking Element.

3. Improve Sidewalk Connectivity

MEETS GOALS: **2** **3** **4** **17** **21**

Bordentown is a highly walkable and human-scaled City, but several opportunities to increase sidewalk connectivity exist. Redevelopment of the Ocean Spray Redevelopment Area shall include associated Park Street improvements linking the site and Point Breeze to the downtown per the adopted Redevelopment Plan. However, other locations in the City, such as connections into the Lucas-Landon Drive neighborhood, should be addressed through a capital improvement plan that phases sidewalk construction with roadway maintenance schedules, redevelopment, and other timely factors. The 2020 DVRPC Safe Routes to Transit Report has provided a thorough basis for near City-wide implementation.

Zoning enforcement and site plan review can also improve sidewalk connectivity through the development process. In some locations, such as Park Street, parking lots abutting the roadway create pedestrian and circulation hazards that detract from the walkable downtown character of the City. Where possible, parking in rear yards, landscape buffers, clearly designated driveways, depressed curbs, driveway crosswalk aprons, and shared driveways should be encouraged to maintain a cohesive pedestrian-oriented realm.

In other locations, uneven brick and concrete slabs create tripping hazards and obstacles for persons with disabilities. The Circulation and Parking Element should revisit the sidewalk inventory prepared by DVRPC to assess the condition, connectivity, and ADA-compliance of sidewalks throughout the entire City and its gateways.

Where sidewalks currently do not exist or are determined to be substandard with regard to ADA compliance, safety, and contiguity, efforts to improve streetscapes should be pursued through site plan review or public investment. Areas in need of sidewalks and streetscape adjustments should be addressed in the

Circulation and Parking Element and included in a capital improvement plan.

4. Implement Past Studies

MEETS GOALS: **2** **3** **4** **17** **21** **22**
23 **24** **25** **27**

Several studies have laid the analysis and groundwork for future improvements and coordination with development of a Circulation and Parking Element. Many of the findings should be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Plan through coordination with public works, utilities, redevelopment, and site plan review.

DVRPC Safe Routes to Transit (2020)

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) prepared a study in 2020 to explore safety and connectivity to Bordentown Station. Safe Routes to Transit provides a strong foundation for assessing circulation needs, which are in many ways relevant to the goals of the comprehensive plan. The City should carry forward the report's findings and incorporate the preferred alternatives into the City's forthcoming Circulation and Parking Element and capital improvement plan.

DVRPC Traffic Calming Alternatives for Rte. 130/206 Corridor (2012)

The prepared a study in 2012 to explore safety and access issues along Routes 130 and 206. The report proposed multiple concepts supported through public input and traffic data modeling. Collectively, the recommendations would improve the barrier imposed by the highway's current design and unlock opportunities through enhanced crossings, gateway treatments, and management of land use and highway access along the corridor.

The preferred alternatives included:

- » ***A Road Diet Scenario*** involving removal of a travel lane in each direction where the routes overlap. This scenario is cheapest, least invasive, and provides the

opportunity to enhance safety, access, and aesthetics of the commercial corridor by effectively “boulevard-izing” the highway.

- » **A Two-Lane Roundabout Scenario** at the southern merge located primarily within existing right of way and involving removal of the northbound Route 130 overpass.
- » **A Left-Turn Lane Scenario** at the northern merge, allowing connectivity of Elizabeth Street to Ward Avenue and direct linkage to Bordentown Regional High School.

While implementation of the recommended improvements is ultimately a NJDOT decision, the concepts should remain a priority as the proposed highway and intersection improvements overlap with many of the City’s goals.

Some of these concepts were expanded upon more recently in the 2018 Burlington County River Route Corridor Study.

Bordentown City Bicycle and Pedestrian Study (2005)

A Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was prepared in 2005 to explore concepts for road improvements throughout the City. The plan proposed upgrading intersections downtown with bollards, pavement

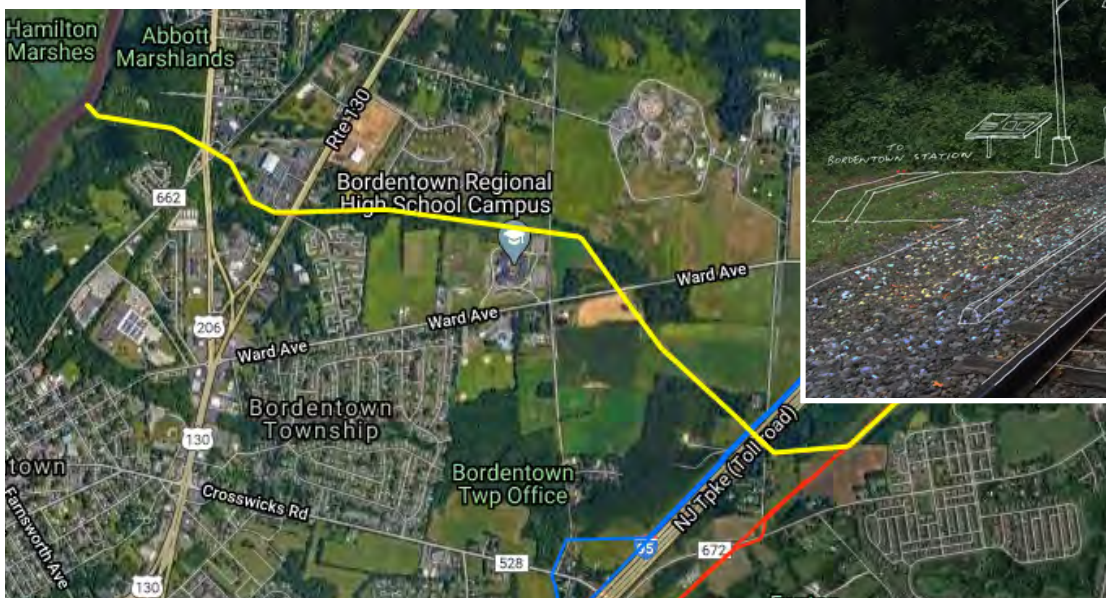
changes, and sidewalk extensions. This Study should be incorporated during the development of an updated Circulation and Parking Element.

5. Expand Trail and Greenway Opportunities

MEETS GOALS: **2 3 5 17 20**
21 25

As noted in the Open Space, Recreation, and Resiliency recommendations, the City has several opportunities to explore shared right of ways to expand the local and regional trail network. Partnerships with railroad companies and utilities are encouraged and may be pursued with assistance and buy-in from other local, state, county, and regional agencies. Rail-to-trail and rail-with-trail opportunities for the Robbinsville Industrial Track (Camden & Amboy Main Line) owned by CSX/Conrail should be explored as described in the Open Space recommendations.

Concept revealing how the infrequently used, yet active CSX rail ROW could be converted into a shared bike/ped path that intersects the City.



Colonial Pipeline right of way (yellow) can form a conceptual trail linkage between Point Breeze, Bordentown Township, Chesterfield, and key regional assets like schools and parks.

6. Continue to Establish a Sense of Arrival

MEETS GOALS:

1	2	3	4
7	8	17	27

In addition to improving safety and traffic flow through intersection improvements like bump-outs and sidewalk extensions, the City can further define the sense of arrival to the downtown by coordinating landscaping, utility, and stormwater infrastructure upgrades. Additional assessment of turning capabilities of large vehicles is necessary but may be addressed through strategic implementation of depressed curbs, removable bollards, and less invasive strategies like paint or pavement changes.

Gateways into the City from the highway can be treated primarily through landscaping and site layout improvements but will require more involvement through zoning, site plan review, redevelopment (where appropriate) and coordination with Bordentown Township and NJDOT. Gateway opportunities related to Routes 130 and 206 should consider past concepts and future discussions by the State.

Making slight changes to the intersection of Farnsworth and Crosswicks, while ensuring emergency services (firetrucks) can continue navigate the turns could yield enhance public space while improving the pedestrian environment and economic development opportunities. A more accessible location for the monument celebrating the Bordentown Females College would be appropriate.



The City may pursue painting and branding of the railroad bridge over Route 206 by engaging in a joint effort with the Township, railroad, and NJDOT. This effort may be accomplished alongside discussions of a rail-to-trail linkage as discussed in the open space recommendations of the comprehensive plan.

Work with NJ Transit and Volunteers

MEETS GOALS:

2	3	6	9	16	17
19	23	24			

The City should continue to work with NJ Transit and volunteer organizations and committees to improve the comfort and user-friendliness of transit infrastructure in the City. Treatment of bus shelters and bicycle parking as community projects could lead to significant placemaking opportunities that reflect and contribute to the local physical character and strengthen community stewardship. Great examples of covered bike racks and bus shelters within the region may be sources of inspiration to further integrate these facilities in Bordentown.

7. Explore Parking Management Options

MEETS GOALS: **2** **3** **4** **6** **9** **17**
21 **22**

Parking management has been a consistently high priority for Bordentown City, where well-preserved historic density has resulted in competition for space. Relatively small lot sizes, narrow lot widths, and a high percentage of attached and semi-attached homes means that many residents rely on on-street parking to store their vehicles and conveniently access their homes. On Farnsworth Avenue, the reliance on pedestrian visitors and on-street parking that is used by residents, employees, and visiting customers has created very high competition for parking that often overflows onto side streets where residents do not have off-street parking. For a City where walkability and community are cherished assets, this competition for space has ultimately limited imaginations and abilities to utilize public streets for many purposes beyond the movement and storage of automobiles.

The following parking management options are recommended starting points for further discussions through the forthcoming Circulation and Parking Element of the comprehensive plan:

Revisit the Bordentown EDAC Parking Study

The Bordentown Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) drafted a management plan for downtown parking that explored potential shared-parking strategies. While management of liability and enforcement created challenges for implementation, the drafted study should be revisited and expanded upon through preparation of the recommended Circulation and Parking Element and other recommendations of the comprehensive plan regarding driveways, alleyways, and parking management.

A good foundation for implementing the City's parking and circulation goals has been outlined in various local and regional studies. It is recommended that the City continue to utilize these resources and implement relevant findings through various elements of the comprehensive parking plan.

Encourage Shared Driveways

Shared driveways can enhance pedestrianism within the City by reducing the number of curb cuts and gaps between buildings. Opportunities to encourage shared driveways through site plan approval process should be considered, and where feasible, joint parking layouts should be explored through access easements and parking agreements across property lines. Underutilized alleyways – public and private – may be key to unlocking shared parking areas that span rear and side lot lines. Coordination of off-street parking, driveways, and alleyways is recommended through site plan review and development of a Circulation and Parking Element.

Along the highway, limiting the number of driveways can also lead to significant improvements to traffic safety, traffic flow, and better designed pedestrian access along the highway. It is recommended that the highway commercial zone be amended to improve site plan criteria for driveway management, parking standards, and bicycle and pedestrian access.

Encourage Rear-Yard Parking

Through the development of a parking plan, the City should consider concepts for access easements, parking agreements, and zoning amendments to encourage small-scale, shared parking areas in the rear of spatially constrained lots. Organization of rear yards with respect to property access can reduce the number of vehicles parked on-street and the number of driveways required for off-street parking.

Additional benefits would include reduced on-street parking pressures and increased continuity of the sidewalk. Further, rear parking areas can be arranged like courtyards, with added amenities like shaded patios, tree cover, pervious pavement, and other improvements that maintain safety, livability, and multi-functionality of off-street parking areas. Such opportunities should be expanded upon in the Circulation and Parking Element with address of management, enforcement, and implementation strategies. Additional benefits would include reduced on-street parking pressures and increased continuity of the sidewalk. Further, rear parking areas can be arranged like courtyards, with added amenities like shaded patios, tree cover, pervious pavement, and other improvements that maintain safety, livability, and multi-functionality of off-street parking areas. Such opportunities should be expanded upon in the Circulation and Parking Element with address of management, enforcement, and implementation strategies.

Explore Shared Parking Strategies

Development of a parking plan within the recommended Circulation and Parking Element should continue prior discussions of how to best implement opportunities for scheduled sharing of off-street parking. Strategies in which the City assumes full liability for property owners should be explored in addition to strengthened pedestrian connections between parking facilities and key destinations. A downtown parking inventory of potential shared parking locations is provided below as a possible basis for a shared-parking strategy.

Consider Context-Sensitive Parking Structures

Modern parking garages can be integrated into the architecture and scale of their surrounding context. While these structures are costly, the

City may achieve significant cost-savings by establishing a centralized parking location that frees up public real estate along the City's most parking-congested streets and provides better access to downtown businesses.

Possible locations may include the interior area behind buildings fronting Farnsworth Ave, Railroad Ave, Crosswicks St, and 2nd St. In any scenario where parking garages are considered, treatment of the streetscape with wrapped building frontage and appropriate architectural details and building preservation should be required to shield the garage from public view. No entrances to or exits from any such garage should be considered on Farnsworth Avenue, and special care regarding parking structures and impacts on residential streets must be considered.

Consider Paid Parking

A wide variety of ways to implement paid parking in the downtown can increase turnover and generate revenue to the City. Meters, kiosks, residential and business permits, permit schedules, and mobile apps are some methods the City may consider in the future. However, any such efforts must consider residential parking needs downtown and prevent pushing parking demand to free on-street spaces in residential areas.



Appendix A – Online Survey Results Summary¹
Prepared by Burlington County Bridge Commission
April 2020

¹ No actions will be taken by the City of Bordentown based solely on the results of the online survey.

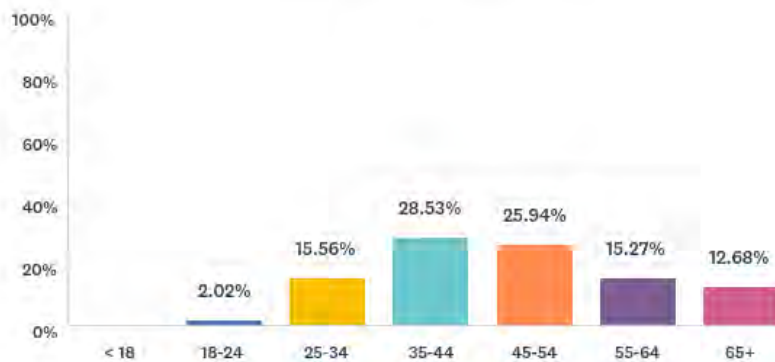
Bordentown City Master Plan 2020

Online Survey Results Summary

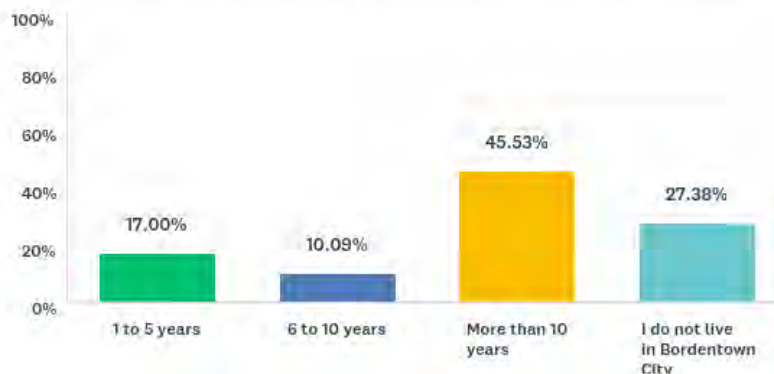
Q1 What is your relationship to Bordentown City?



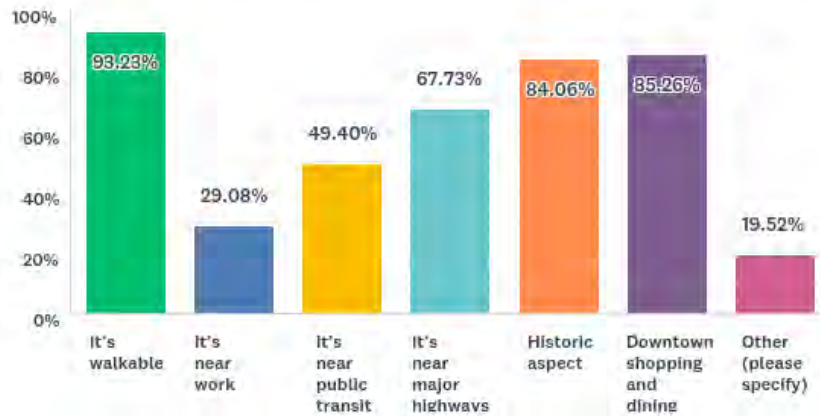
Q2 What is your age?



Q3 How long have you lived in Bordentown City?



Q4 What makes Bordentown City a great place to live?

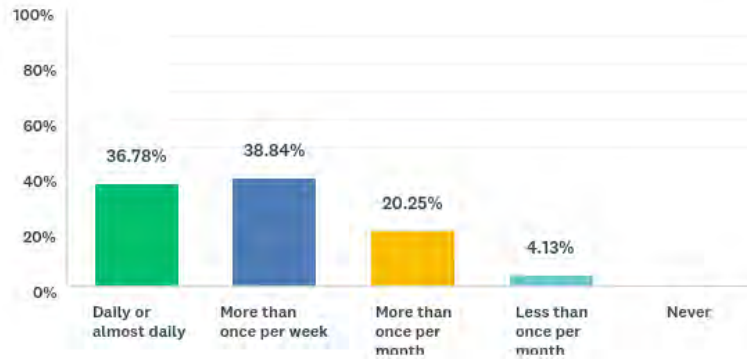


Other Responses

parks Diversity friendly great people town community
 knows neighbors feel neighbors Family

Q5 How often do you visit downtown Bordentown City (Farnsworth Avenue)?

Results from Residents

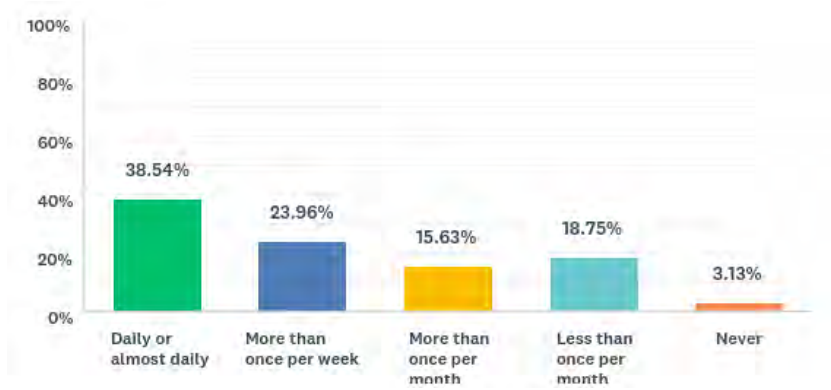


Results from Visitors

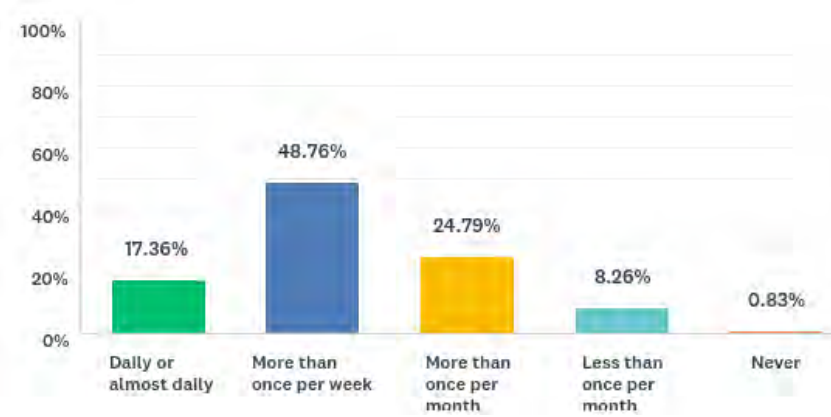


Q6 How often do you visit businesses along Rt 130 and 206?

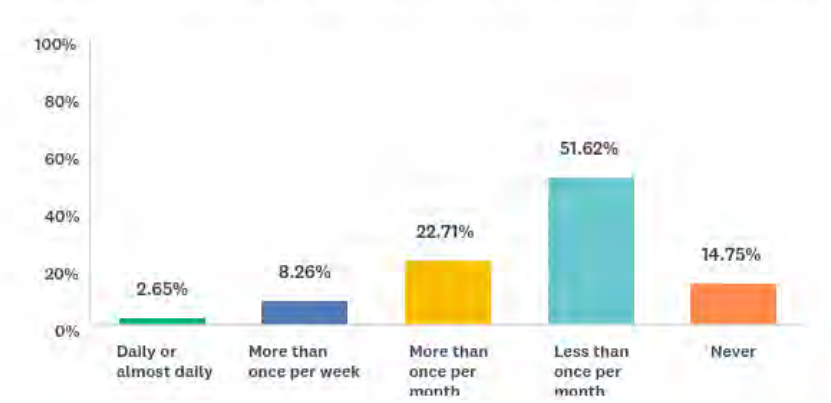
Results from Residents



Results from Visitors

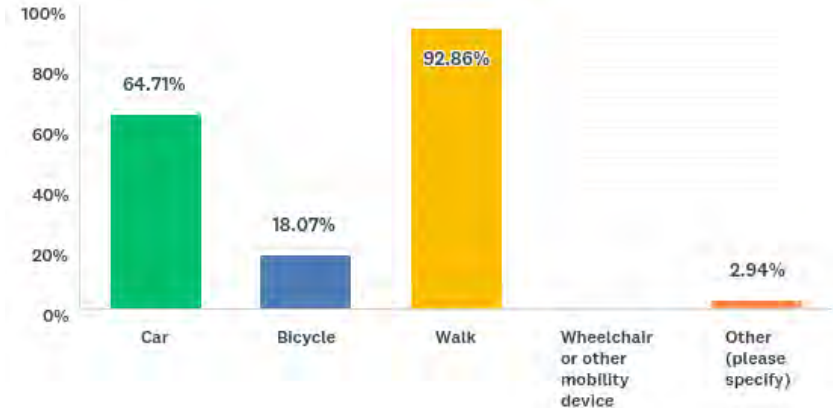


Q7 How often do you visit Bordentown Beach and boating area?

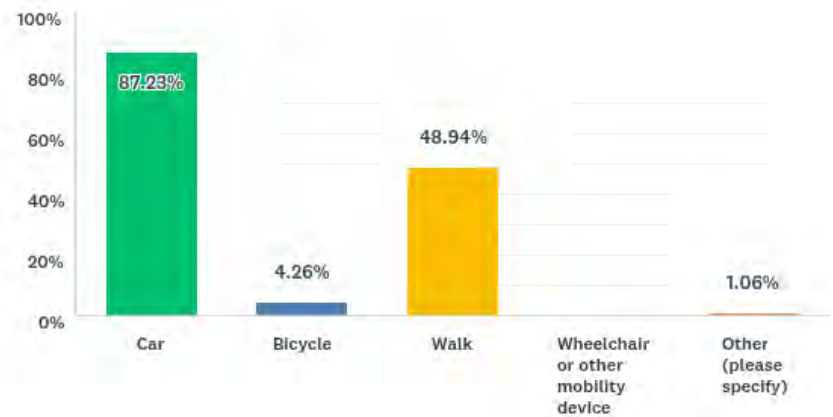


Q8 How do you typically travel within Bordentown City?

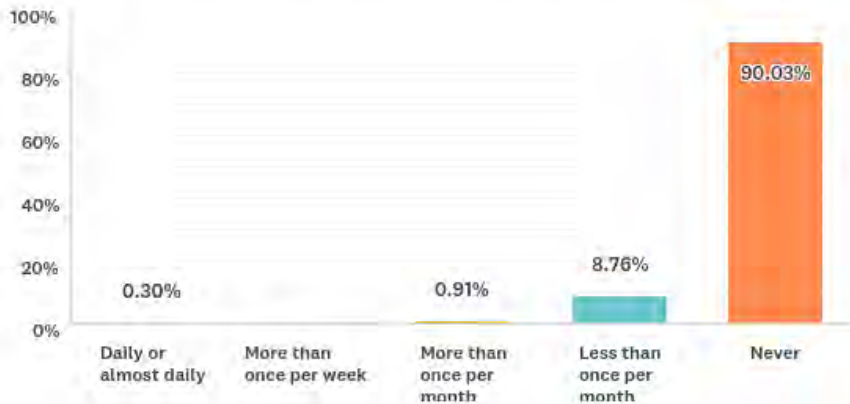
Results from Residents



Results from Visitors

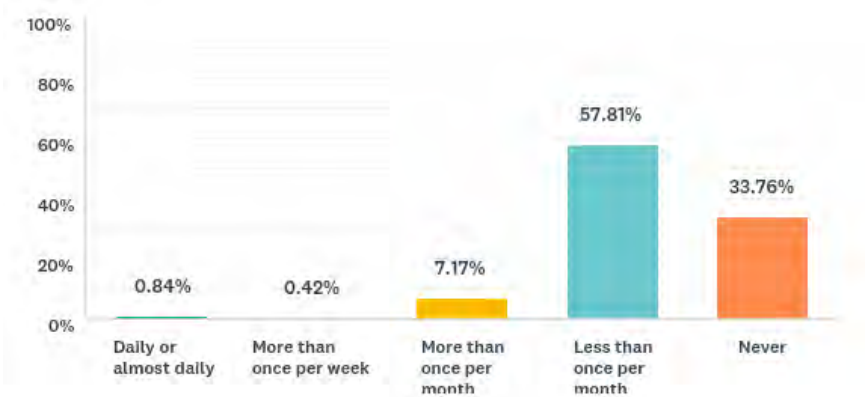


Q9 How often do you ride NJ Transit buses?

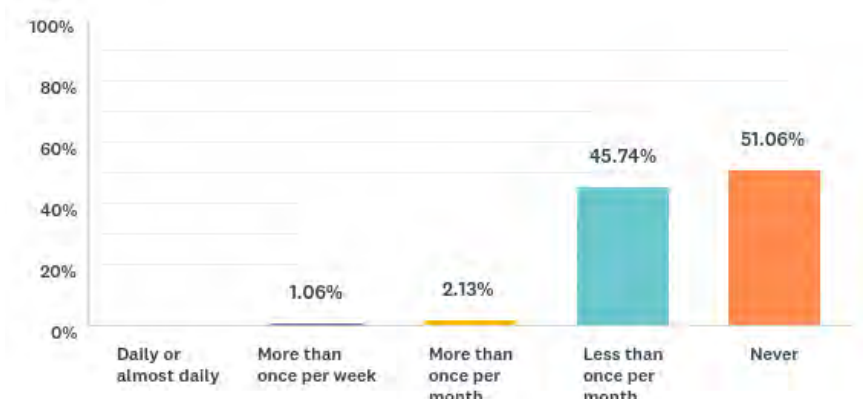


Q10 How often do you ride NJ Transit RiverLINE?

Results from Residents

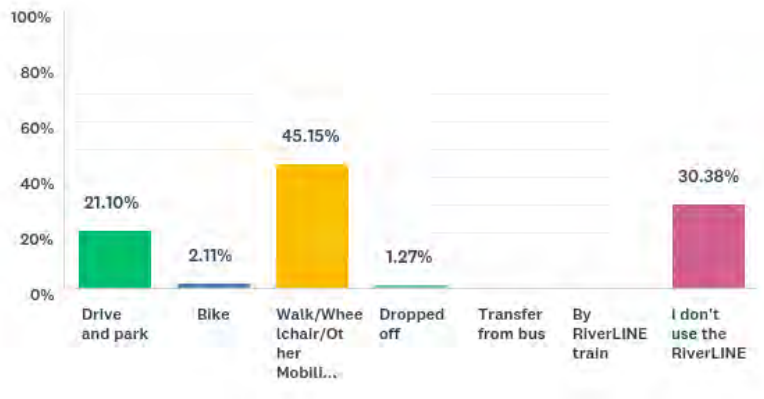


Results from Visitors



Q11 How do you typically get to the Bordentown City RiverLINE station?

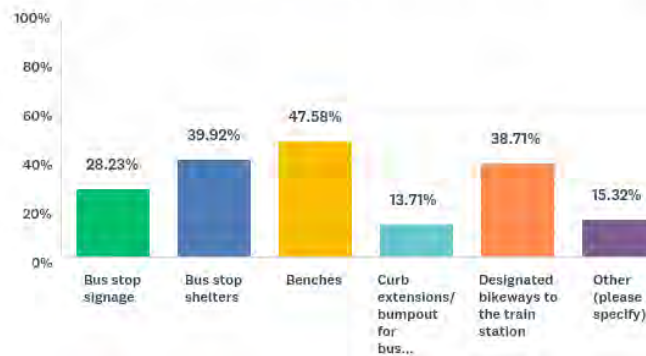
Results from Residents



Results from Visitors



Q12 What improvements can be made to public transit access and facilities, both the Station area and Bus facilities within Bordentown City?



Other Responses

Security, Publicity for facilities, cleaning/maintenance

Q13 What 3 words would you use to describe Bordentown City?

Historic	105	39%
Friendly	83	31%
Quaint	81	30%
Charming	56	21%
Walkable	38	14%
Community	25	9%
Convenient	20	7%
Beautiful	19	7%
Fun	18	7%
Small	14	5%
795 answers		

Other Notable Responses

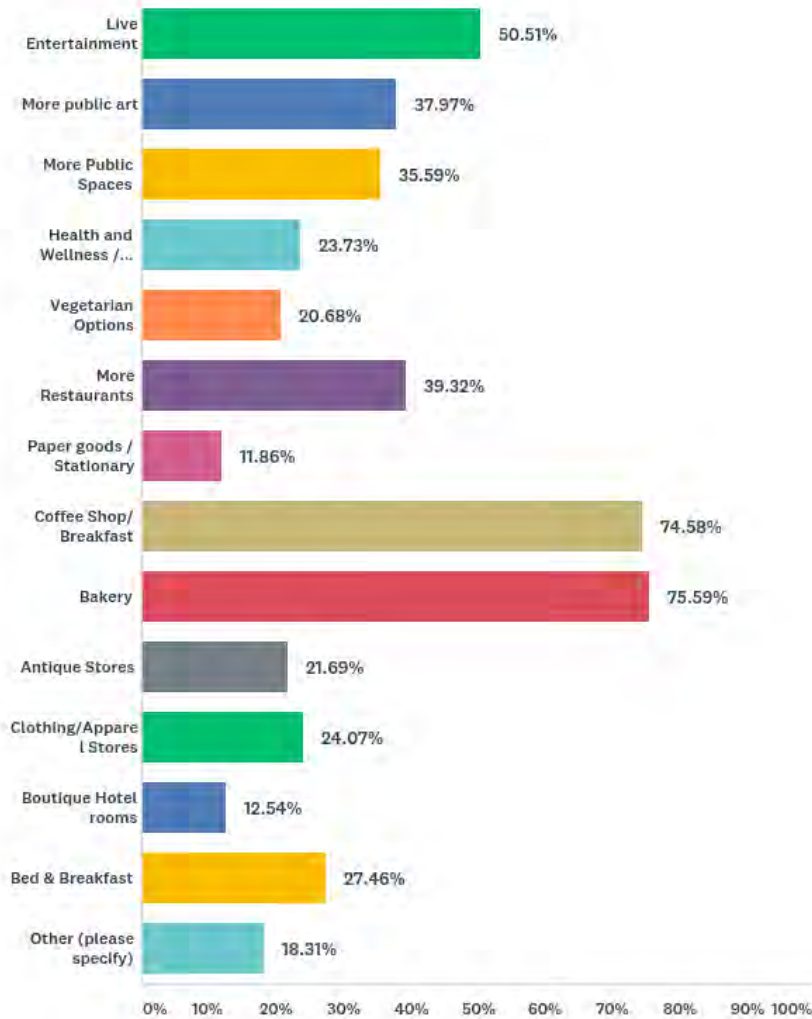
Clean, Family Oriented, Great Food, Growing, Potential, Variety, Vibrant, Welcoming

Q14 What are 3 issues or weaknesses you would like to address in Bordentown City?

30%	Parking
15%	Business development, business assistance, or variety in new businesses (coffee shop, music venue)
8%	Maintenance of buildings (commercial and Residential), maintenance of roads, general cleanliness and appearance of town
7%	Sidewalk repair, pedestrian improvements, lighting, and ADA compliance
6%	Automobile dominance (safety, traffic, trucks, need bike lanes)
6%	Public spaces (More green spaces and better maintained. Calls for dog park, benches, community garden, parklet)
4%	Taxes
3%	Community outreach, public relations, information, and coordination from City
3%	Business hours, downtown shops and restaurants should open nights and weekends
2%	Racism /Lack of diversity
2%	Crime (Perceived crime)
2%	Lack of Youth/Family activities
2%	Water quality
1%	Public Events (more frequent, better quality)
1%	Modernize, call for new leadership, old thinking (from leaders and community)
1%	police relations, community policing
1%	dog poop
7%	Other: preserve historic places, utilities/services, corruption, affordable housing, transit schedule, etc.

698 Total Responses

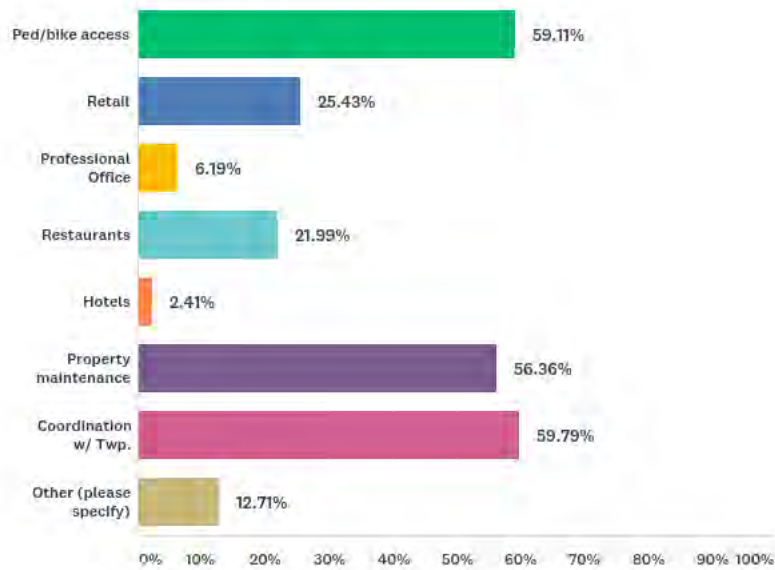
Q15 What type of businesses or improvements would you like to see downtown?



Other Notable Responses

“Ethnic” Restaurants (Indian, Sushi, Pho, Vegan), Deli, Pizza-by-the-slice, Bagels. General, Convenience, or Hardware Stores. Community events/recreation, theatre, murals, art galleries, public spaces.

Q16 What businesses or improvements would you like to see along Routes 130/206?



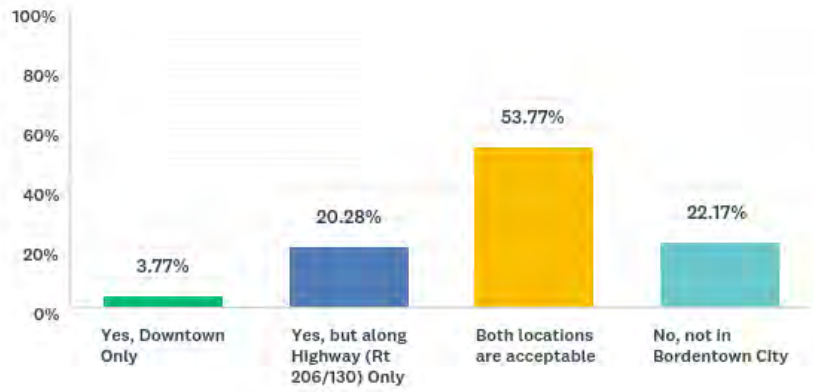
(Some respondents had difficulty with these categories and answered "Other" with...)
(+2.7%) Pedestrian/Bike trails, (+1.4%) Maintenance/Landscaping, (+1%) Hotel, (+.7%) Retail, (+.7%) Coordination

Other Notable Responses

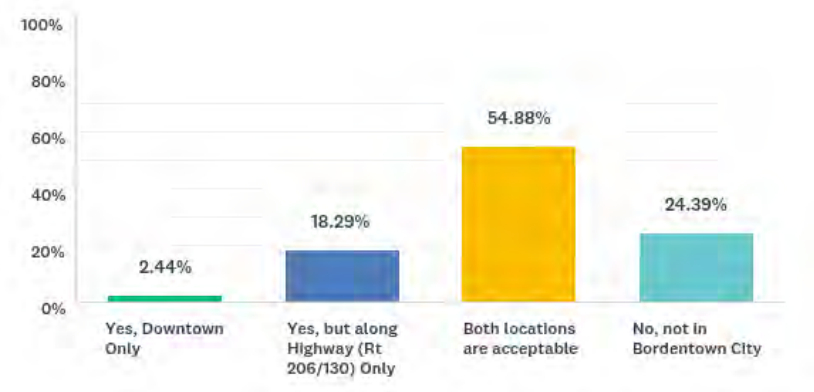
Highway and intersection improvements, "No more warehouses," "No more gas stations," "get rid of porn shop"

Q17 Would you find a Medical Cannabis dispensary acceptable in Bordentown City?

Results from Residents



Results from Visitors



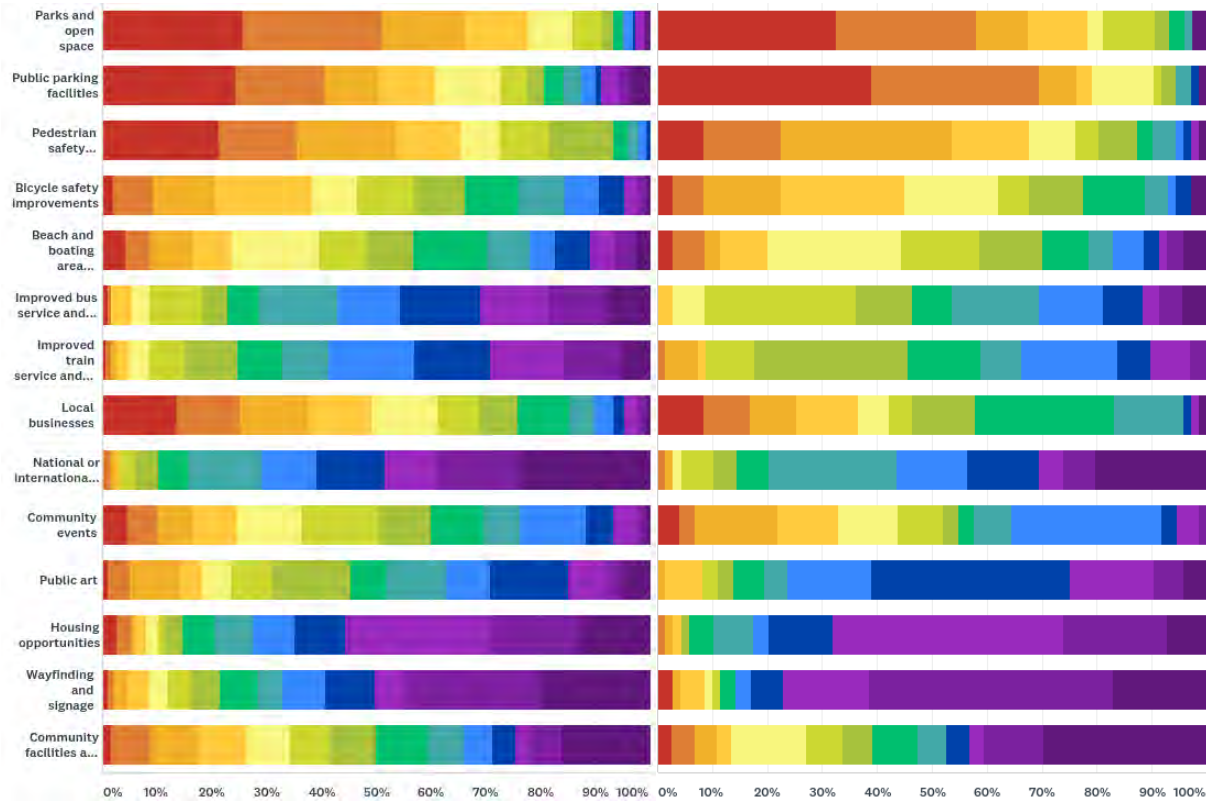
*Note of Interest: Visitors and residents are in close agreement

Q18 Rank what you would like to see more of in Bordentown City?



Results from Residents

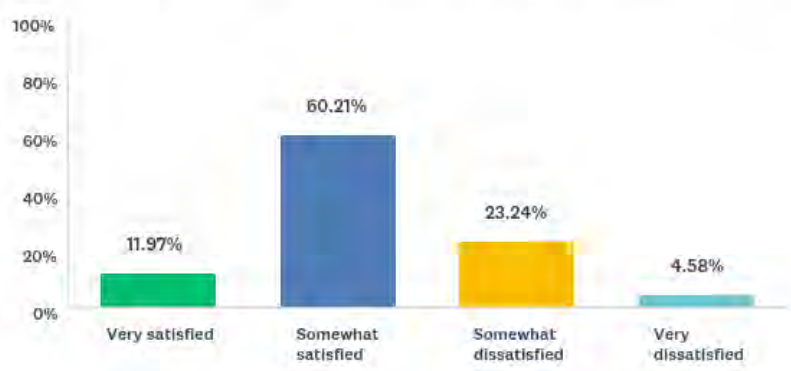
Results from Visitors



*Notes of Interest:

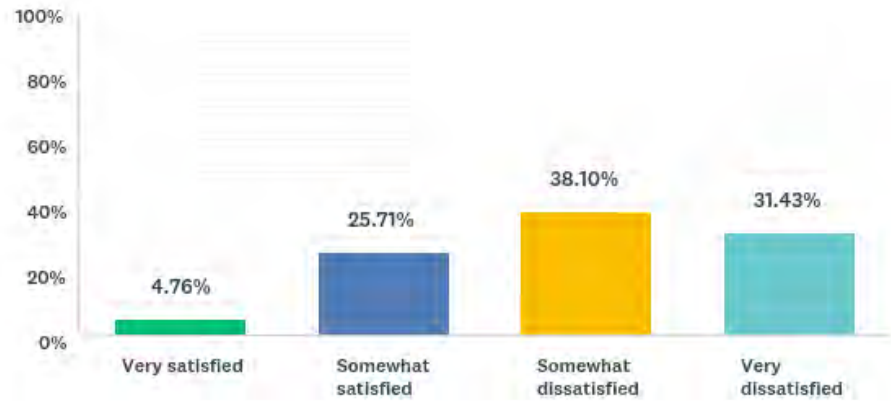
- The top priority for residents is parks and open space, followed by pedestrian safety and then parking.
- The top priority for visitors is parking, followed by parks and open space and pedestrian safety.
- More residents make pedestrian safety a top priority than visitors, but all agree it is among the highest priorities.
- Visitors consistently make Bus and Train Service a middle priority, while residents vary greatly on its importance.
- Every category is the top priority to at least a small percent of residents, while no visitors place their highest priority on housing, public art, or bus service.

Q19 How satisfied are you with the amount of park facilities in Bordentown City?



Q20 How satisfied are you with the amount of public parking in Bordentown City?

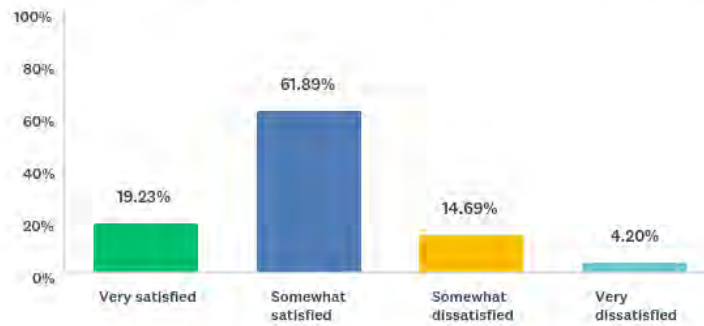
Results from Residents



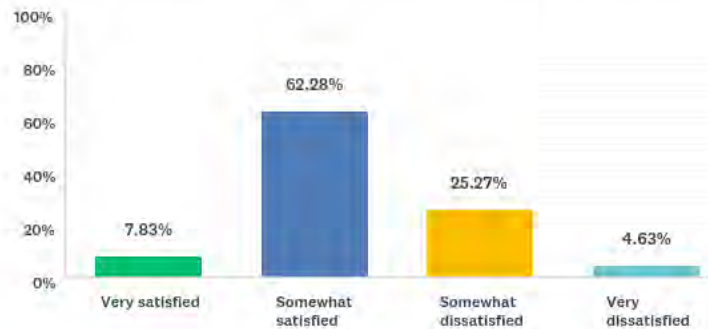
Results from Visitors



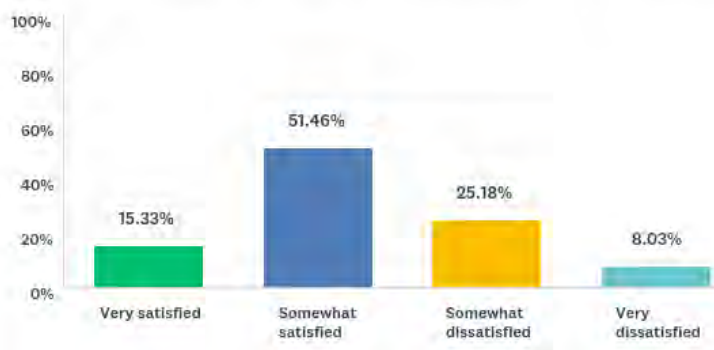
Q21 How satisfied are you with locational and informational signage in Bordentown City?



Q22 How satisfied are you with the Bordentown Beach and boating area?

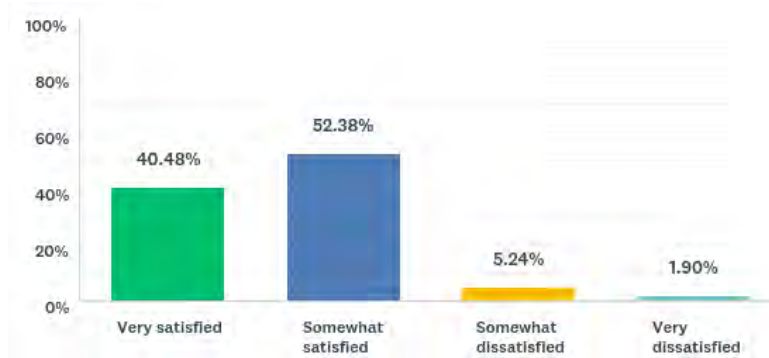


Q23 How satisfied are you with the access to the D&R Canal Path area?

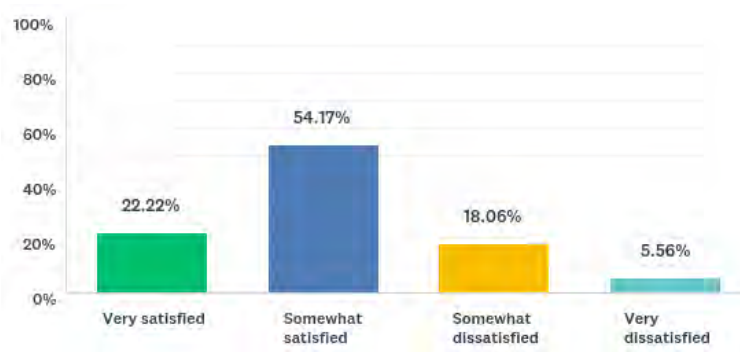


Q24 How satisfied are you with community events in Bordentown City?

Results from Residents



Results from Visitors



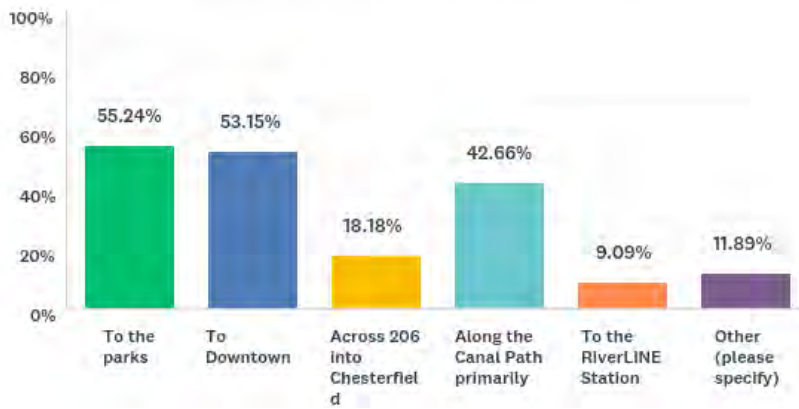
Q25 What other issues should be address in Bordentown City 2020 Master Plan?

*Note: Most answers reiterate opinions from earlier questions, particularly #14.
See Appendix for full text of answers.

Q26 Do you bike in Bordentown City or Beyond?



Q27 Where do you bike?



Other Responses include:
Crystal Lake Park

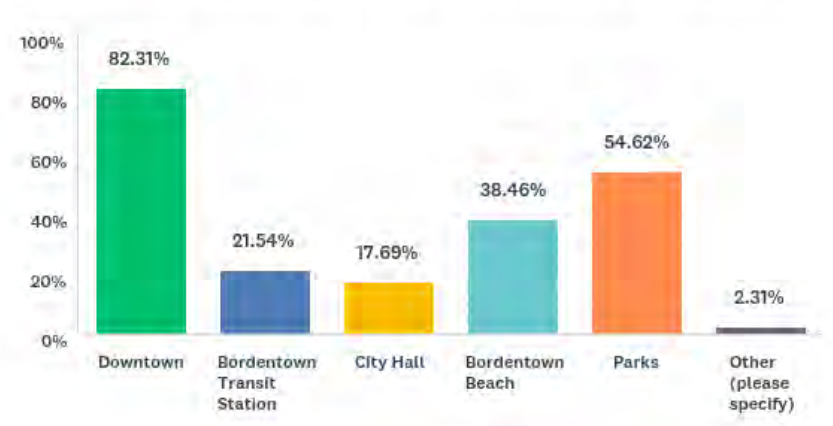
*All other specified places are redundant of multiple choice options.

Q28 What Bike Safety issues have you noticed, if any (You may choose more than one)?



See Appendix for full text of "Other" answers.

Q29 Where would you like to see more bike parking?



Other Responses include:

Schools

*All other specified places are redundant of multiple choice options.

Q30 Which of the following bicycle parking images are the most appropriate for public spaces (i.e. Bordentown Station, City Hall, public parking areas)?

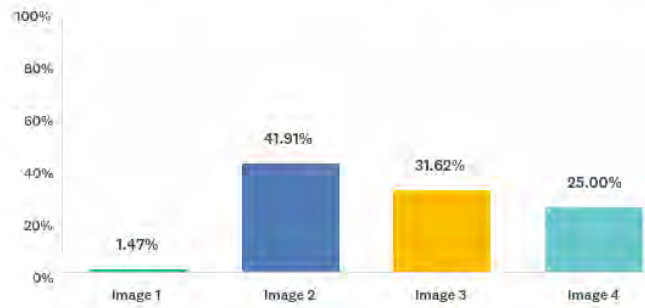


Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

Q31 Which of the following bicycle parking images are the most appropriate for downtown?
 (i.e. Farnsworth Avenue, Park Street, Prince Street)



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

Image 4

Q32 If feasible, which type of bicycle lane do you prefer for Park Street?

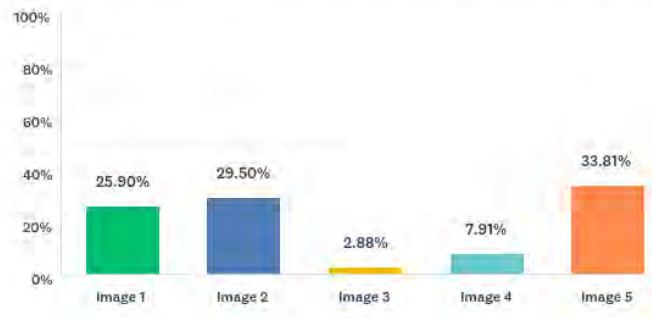


Image 1



Image 2



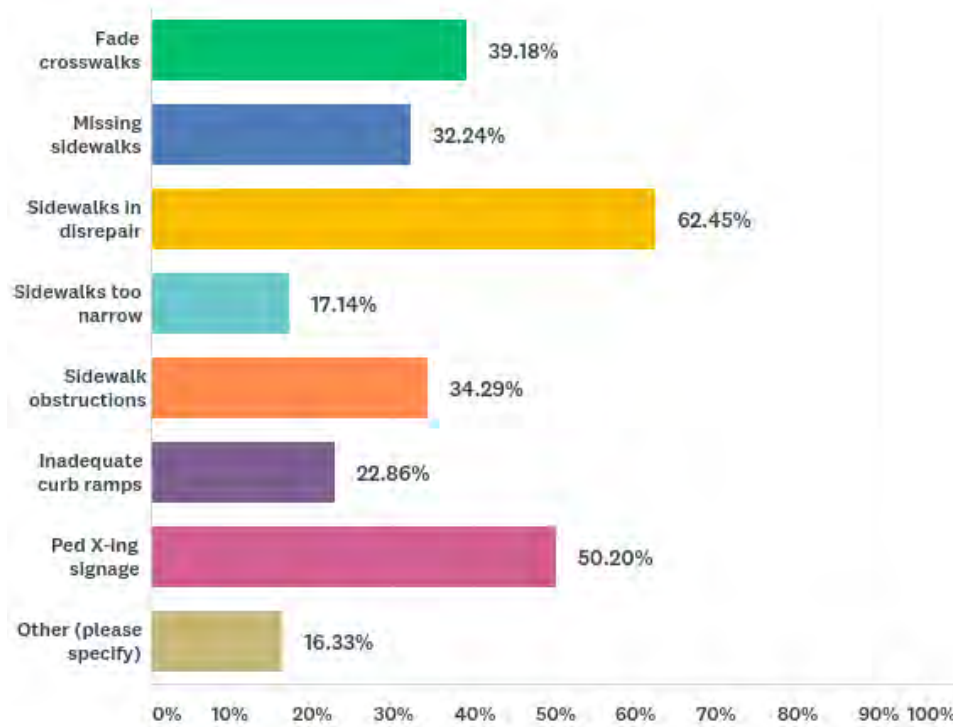
Image 3

Image 4

Image 5



Q33 What pedestrian safety issues have you noticed in the study locations, If any? (You may select more than one)



See Appendix for full text of "Other" answers.

Q34 Which of the following pedestrian improvements are the most appropriate for the study locations?

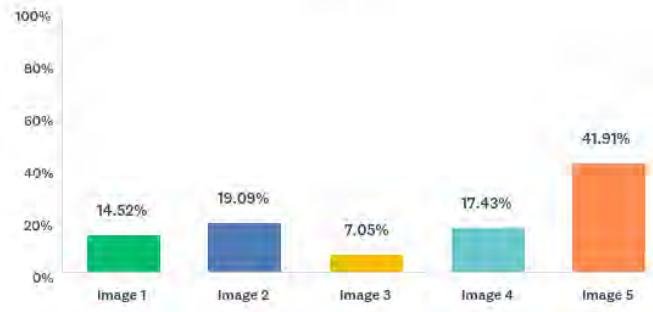


Image 1

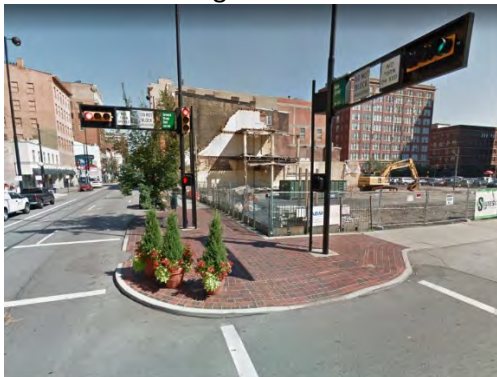


Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

Image 5



Q35 Do you have any other thoughts on bicycle and pedestrian safety in Bordentown City?

*Note: Most answers reiterate opinions from earlier questions.

- **Instead of the shuttle driving around empty or nearly empty let's develop something where people could summon the shuttle as needed. This would save cost of running it unnecessarily and save the environment.**
- **open space preservation hiking biking trails**
- **Spring Street Park**
- **Working with Bordentown Township to share thoughts and potentially expenses.**
- **Attract young, cool people**
- **Beautiful beachfront property is being monopolized by what appears to be a decrepit boatyard. I'd love to see a restaurant or something in that space. Also, the bluffs along Crosswicks creek are spectacular, but there's no access to them from the city. Let's get a walking path to the bluffs.**
- **Solar energy, electric vehicles, improved communication between planning board and committees, guidelines for new construction and building renovations to maintain the historic character of the city, improve parks and trails, assess natural areas and planning protections for same.**
- **Vertical parking lot to increase business and access. Like Princeton has. Could farmers market be in front of carslake a little more? It is too hidden. That's where a redesign of space could use a stage/pit for performance. For a gathering/market space. Why are 5ks scheduled so early there's not a ton of brunch available in town afterwards?**
- **Houses that are not being maintained or abandoned**
- **West street park is not maintained well**
- **It is dangerous to cross Farnsworth on foot. Crosswalks and enforcement**
- **Enforcement of speed laws.**
- **Kill that annual Halloween spectacle on Thompson st because it creates a major nuisance for resident parking and brings in outsiders, increasing crime risk.**
- **Encourage recycling and rain gardens when developing the area. Open space for entertainment**
- **Keeping small town feel. Keep big box at bay. Particularly warehouses.**
- **Walkable trails along streams and creeks that connect with each other as much as possible. People love to walk along or near water, which is why the D&R towpath is so popular. Would love to extend that idea into Bordentown City areas.**
- **More job opportunities for local h.s. teenagers.**
- **More focus on generating awareness & marketing for local businesses in town.**
- **Need to get rid of sewing, art, books, vacuums, old shops no one goes in. Need more brewery fun local shops. Need cannabis facility. Coffee shop. Dog park. More for young adults.**
- **Parking and storm drain issue on Chestnut**
- **Diversity**
- **Parking!**
- **Diversity**

- Ensuring landlords, businesses, stakeholders and our leaders adhere to a long-term strategy to ensure Bordentown City's continuing growth and increasing wealth, benefitting all of us and improving our school districts as well.
- Unique community events
- If parking was improved it would attract more diversified businesses
- Public safety- fire safety information and access.
- Dealing with slum lords
- There needs to be a pedestrian crossing at 3rd Street and Park Street. I know it is is considered a county road but there needs to be one there.
- Environmental impact and preservation, services and bidding allowances (getting the most for our money, not just forced into the lowest bid)
- RESIDENT PARKING!!!
- Coffee shop please!!!
- Decreasing property taxes for homeowners. Possibly offset with so many new commercial businesses along 206 and 130. Township is nearly half of the city
- Allowing groups other than the DBA to plan events. They're obviously not good at working together successfully.
- helping small businesses survive
- It would be great to have both community sailing and community kayaking.
- Growth of the business district
- Promoting higher density housing; condominiums, apartments, townhomes for lower-middle, middle, upper-middle, Upper income.
- REAL PARKING LOT
- Prevent office business from using buildings like what happened with the Vault/old Bank. More office space means more parking needed but not increasing retail or restaurant traffic or walking traffic, and eliminates people coming into town at night or on weekends.
- Encourage businesses to be open on Saturdays and Sundays to draw visitors. Encourage charming Air BnBs in historic homes to add to appeal of old city and partner it with walking tours.
- Have businesses listed on the map of the Shuttle Stops.
- Have flyers and other items in the shuttle to educate visitors as to what is here in town.
- Set up a movable parklette like they have in Lambertville.
- Encourage more events like wine tasting festival - we are surrounded by vineyards and we should benefit from that. Put together a working group to align with other towns for shared events.
- Fix city of Bordentown website. It is not easy on the eyes at all and difficult to navigate or do searches. List more phone numbers. The calendar however looks great.
- Assist small business with grant writing.
- Explain current land usage rights on buildings in the city.
- Explain what is being coordinated with the township as far as expansion of the highway business and effects on traffic and how it impacts safety as well.
- Tweak the branding of the city by focusing on what the new generation is bringing in and how it is in harmony with the history of the city.
- Bordentown would get more business if we had a florist and a coffee shop. Find out what brings people to Allentown and Lambertville that we would copy and improve upon.

- Encouragement of higher-end tourism by way of bed & breakfasts, additional parking in the downtown area
- Parking parking parking
- Enforce noise ordinances to the restaurants and bars open late, more variety in street fairs/events,
- There is evidently a problem with outsiders stealing and residents should not have to worry about parking on the street and if their car is safe, more police presence is needed.
- Developing a city police force whose members embrace community policing instead of clinging onto an "us vs. them" mentality. Police riding around in all black cars and not interacting with citizens isn't good for the city. It's "Protect and Serve," not bully and scare the citizens. Also, it's time for the city clerk, who abuses her powers, to be dismissed. Commissioners must run the city, not the clerk.
- Also, the welfare tombstone at City Hall needs to go. Why does it remain? Its history is intertwined with racism.
- Lower taxes, sensible, planned and controlled development. proper grading of new street resurfacing projects for drainage, just look at sections of 2nd st ...
- Lowering rent especially on Farnsworth to draw in more businesses and KEEP them open!
- Rezoning to stop building in Bordentown City.
- Pedestrian safety.
- Dilapidated houses and landlords who do not maintain their properties and rent to irresponsible renters.
- Placemaking, streetscaping, electric vehicle infrastructure, solar energy infrastructure, connectivity between assets in the city.
- Crosswalk safety. Pedestrians stepping in front of cars without looking and/or jaywalking. Impatient drivers not allowing people waiting to cross to do so.
- dilapidated or run down houses
- Safety at the Bordentown beach and D&G canal
- I don't know.
- More coordination with Bordentown township so a CVS isn't down the street from 2 pharmacies in Bordentown City.
- Balancing the lifestyle priorities of the local young adults, families and seniors in a logical and amicable way.
- Lowering taxes, getting more businesses in town
- less construction - we have enough buildings/homes/apartment complexes for a little town
- Encouraging owner occupied housing, make Bordentown City a place to live and work.
- Parking
- clean up sidewalks. get the park street development moving. its been years since ocean spray left .
- Excessive numbers of rentals. Would love to see more homeowners/stakeholders
- Road repair/maintenance, addressing existing public parking lots,
- Always maintain the historic character of the city. Support local businesses in every way.
- How to lower taxes
- Improving our water. Improving family safety along the entire walking/bicycle path along the river and adding benches. Public recycling trash cans. Improving local/small business awareness and advertising to attract more people to B town.

- I think the overwhelming issue here is parking. The residents are in constant competition with visitors for parking near our homes. We can't continue to live and work nearby when we have to drive around looking for parking every time we leave our house. Also it would benefit the businesses here to have a dedicated parking area that doesn't take away from existing residential parking lots and street parking areas. It's definitely the number one issue for locals without a driveway or dedicated parking spot. The other issue is the pedestrian crossing at the highway points leaving the city. People die there every single year. We need a people bridge or something else to remove pedestrians from the highway traffic and keep them safe as they cross from the city into the township. It's a huge issue that must be addressed before we lose another life tragically.
- Taxes...
- Water system management and safety
- We should advertise the city businesses and services more to the public. Not just to Bordentown but beyond in newspapers and social media. And we should include more planning with the officials of Bordentown Township. We should work together!
- Parking for residents (Valet may be taking these spots) and parking for people to visit the businesses, safety for walkers, how will construction on the Farnsworth ave bridge impact the Veterans monument and small businesses between the bridge and Park St once construction starts, how will that construction impact the bus lines and parking for both residents and people coming to shop/eat?
- Do something with ocean spray! Make it like our own little reading market
- You put an elevator in old city hall, but the door was consistently locked during the train show! Why? Fix the clock at old city hall. Rent out old city hall or make it available for more than just the train show!
- Parking access to the D&R canal path
- Theatre
- Taxes
- More joined up working between various community groups
- Continue efforts to make Bordentown City a "destination" for visitors to area
- Good spread of community events
- Beautification
- There needs to be more police presence at the beach and the hiking path past the yacht club. I enjoy taking walks and on two occasions I ran into scary people and I probably will never take walks there again. I see police constantly driving around, which is much appreciated, but I would also like to see police on the walking paths as they go right to Trenton
- The ocean spray property development
- Parking, increase foot traffic of paying customers, more parks and green space, bike paths or pedestrian crossings
- Affordable housing and enforcement of any property maintenance ordinances.
- Kid friendly, maybe 4th of July or Memorial Day parade
- Commitment to green infrastructure, creating development opportunities for more public parks and further development of the beach/waterfront
- Make it safe for pedestrians to cross rte 130 & 206. Also improve all 4 intersections.
- keep parks in good condition and inviting
- Add electric car charging stations, preferably solar powered. Need a place on Farnsworth with affordable & good tasting coffee.
- More diversity in restaurant cuisine!

- More community events
- Street signs needed for Willow(none that say Willow St.)and Federal. Allow ways to make having a business on your property not be taxed to death and so expensive. Many city streets are really dark. We need more for kids-teens to do to help out more in the community, keep them busy.
- Property upkeep. Parking
- No more development of property that would increase traffic. Improve pedestrian safety (sidewalks, lighting, crosswalks)
- Building code enforcement on absentee landlord properties
- Rethinking the ocean spray facility plan and going with something cooler than more luxury apartments!
- Bringing in more businesses and retail that will actually stay open at night past 5PM.
- Get a local coffee shop to open.
- Need more public parking
- More lighting on Farnsworth Ave
- Adding to bordertown beach... I have seen communities that have small business set up in parks... it would be great to have an area at beach for vendors... game/recreation area...
- The parking lot directly behind my house has been due for repaving since we bought our home 13 years ago. 3 Mayors have assured me it was on the agenda. Come to find out, it has yet again been bumped from the schedule to redo the parking lot along Railroad Avenue AGAIN! Fine to put in electric charging stations, but my lot has been a giant pothole for over two decades. Some city officials weren't even aware that it WAS in fact a city lot. This is the lot directly behind Bonaparte Arms in between Farnsworth and 2nd Street. I cannot tell you how frustrating it is to be lied to by so many. There are islands of concrete that serve NO purpose and could be removed. Lines painted would help tremendously as well. Overall, at least 4-5 new spots could be obtained with paint and asphalt. But instead of taking care of residents who have been there for years patiently waiting, and even filling in pot holes ourselves just to prevent damage to our cars, you are once again choosing to play to the out-of-towners and not the tax payers. I would not vote for any of the current commissioners again based on this slap in the face from them.
- Keeping the trail system to Trenton cleaned and patrolled by police. Kids should be able to use that great space without encountering the sort of thing the 295 rest area has coming to it. It's a great outdoor space ruined
- Please stop taking every open piece of land and putting crap apartments or warehouses on it!!!!
- Protection from road noise (295, 130, 206).
- more interaction with volunteer groups
- I would like to see more options for senior housing. Single family home community with cottage type homes that are affordable with reduced taxes. Close to the center of town so active seniors are in walking distance to town.
- This is my dream because I never want to leave this wonderful town. However, the things I need in my senior years cannot be found here. It's a shame because I wanted Bordertown to be my 'Forever' Home.
- Better regulation of property maintenance; both owner and landlord, and active enforcement of same.
- my entries to the numbered question were not accepted
- Better signs and street painting at crosswalks to alert to STOP for pedestrians

- More public festivals and street fairs
- Pedestrian safety during school hours, including the local preschools too and not just the public schools.
- Landscape public spaces like at the corner of Burlington & Prince. Road going down to the beach on Park. Anyplace there is an opportunity to show the City of Bordentown stands out and that we are not striving to be another Hamilton or Lawrence. Even a cow or two would strike a chord! Lol
- Since so many changes affect Fieldsboro from the township and city it would be nice to work together
- Please consider a community compost and painting marking markers throughout the city.
- Beach and boat launch area needs major improvement. Use the launch fees for improvements.
- Beautification; safety/cleanliness of public spaces such as parks/playgrounds; support for businesses; continued focus on strengthening the community
- Electric vehicle charging and sustainable energy
- Preservation of Divine Word Missionaries property
- See what Bristol does and get with the times.
- it would be nice to be able to drop off trash or recycling at Carlslake other than Sat mornings
- I live in the tree streets section of Bordentown. My husband and I love visiting the city but often find ourselves doing take out instead of dining at restaurants because of parking. I would love to see more clothing stores and different shops and not just food related stores. There are a good amount of empty buildings in the area (ex. shop rite on 206) so I would encourage the city and the township to invest in fixing up the old empty buildings instead of knocking down trees and make space for brand new buildings.
- Privatization of Public Land without permits or discussion.
- The DBA prevents a lot of great things from happening in town. I feel as though some control should be released and allow for some new ideas to help promote the downtown businesses.
- Obtaining space for the police department to move to.
- We have a lot a of children in this small town. But there is not very much for them to do. We need cheaper sport for the kids again. Like the PAL baseball. Children need things to do along with adults. Right now the city is more for adults and the children that already live here. Add stuff for them to do. Kids turn into junkies and gamers because they don't have things to do in their towns. The sport that are for both township and city are expensive and most parents can not afford to let their children play. So I say affordable sports and other things for children to do.
- That Would make our city a great city.
- Effective communication is difficult with so much happening online and residents being so busy. I'd love to be able to have public meetings live streamed or recorded so that interested residents could know what is happening on a municipal level and have more participation - even if they can't attend the meetings in person.
- high rent in the business district turns away prospected stores and up and coming businesses.
- Bordentown has much of what younger people are looking for in urban areas but in a smaller, more affordable scale. We can't afford to lose our history, walkability, and bikeability and shouldn't allow development that threatens those things. Maintain the historic and architectural character of the neighborhoods, while allowing development of the spaces people want.
- public works

- Sensible planning and development, LOWER TAXES !
- Bringing in small businesses making Christmas holiday celebration much much better, use of old city hall better, not trains taking up the whole building for many many months and having events there again, bringing a coffee shop or bakery to the city
- No idea if this is feasible or relevant for your purposes but that area of ann/3rd st is just begging for a makeover. There's a warehouse that's been for sale forever, an overgrown lot and then the old lumber mill. Is it possible to make the warehouse or lot into public parking? That lumber mill space is so unique and would be so great if it was cleaned up - which would possibly (hopefully) lead to some innovative small businesses opening up shop there!
- Designated parking for residents
- -Improved streetscape (street lights LED, Street trees)
- -Waterfront businesses (restaurants, cafes and boat rentals)
- Reducing taxes, Dog Park, Parks,
- Preserve our local wildlife and open space. Please dont knock down anymore trees. Focus more on restoring old buildings instead of tearing down trees to build new buildings.
- Plant more native plants (most of them will come back every yr so no need to replant) and you dont need to water them (they're native so they adapt to New Jersey's temperatures)
- No bike paths. Can't have them with horse and cart width streets.
- Beautification of the biz district
- Fine absentee landlords
- Pump track/skate park options
- Parking parking parking
- No more Multiunit rental complexes, no more development like warehouse and hotels
- set-backs- the 20ft set-back makes no sense on some streets, each street should have its own requirements
- Pressuring banks (on foreclosed homes) and neglectful landlords or home owners to maintain respectable
- Upkeep of properties in the City
- Parking, and safety while walking in the City.
- Making sure to protect the environment
- Just don't make everything about parking, there is enough and you will never satisfy the parking nay sayers
- Improvement of intersection at Farnsworth and Rte 130.



Bordentown Comprehensive Plan - Update, June 14 2021

As you are keenly aware, this 2020-2021 Bordentown City Master Plan process has employed several techniques to garner community input. Primarily because past City planning and zoning efforts developed a level of data and analysis, the Master Plan Team was able to directly engage in discussions with the community and its leadership that was extremely well-informed. While Covid-19 has presented challenges to the process that reduced our ability to have workshops and public meetings, on-line meeting platforms have been effective in establishing dialogue that has been invaluable in supporting the Team's independent analysis.

To recap the public's involvement thus far:

1. A Steering Committee consisting of residents and business owners was established and consulted throughout development of the plan
2. A preliminary survey was hosted by Burlington County January to April 2020. **(251 Residents and 102 Visitors)**
3. Updates presented at various Planning Boards.
4. Interviews with various stakeholder groups throughout the City. (~50 residents and vols)
5. Input from prior planning initiatives, vetted, with some being carried over into the draft

The Stakeholder outreach encompassed a number of community groups with nearly 50 individual residents and business owners participating. For the purposes of having a fruitful dialogue we folded individual commentary into a collective analysis as stakeholder meetings were targeted in order to gain honest unfiltered input. Combined however, the interviews and Community Survey have been insightful and useful. Groups we met with formally and informally include;

HOPE HOSE; CONSOLIDATED; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION; ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION; CHRIST CHURCH; RESTAURANTS AND DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES; LOCAL DEVELOPERS AND PROPERTY MANAGERS; RE AGENTS; BORDENTOWN CITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; CITY STAFF; HISTORIC SOCIETY; BOTH YACHT CLUBS; DBA LEADERSHIP

Meetings with these groups were informative. Together we reviewed the preliminary survey, past planning efforts, and their local experiences. It is anticipated that the Board will hear from a number of them at the next hearing on the 29th.

The Process Moving Forward

The public process remained open until June 13th. We have received addition written comments from several residents. **(Attached hereto)**. They are broken down under Comments Submitted between June 7th - 13th and those Previously Submitted. While we will take additional comments, at the June 29th Hearing, the process has yielded some good suggestions, but mostly clarifications.

The meeting scheduled for the 29th will be formally advertised tomorrow. Plan edits will come by weeks end. You will find that we are being extremely responsive to the comments and concerns of the public. There have also been a few suggestions that fall within the Plan's current direction we will incorporate as well. A summary of these changes will also be forthcoming with the Plan itself.

We believe that the next stages of planning will be well supported through the efforts of this Plan.

Comments Submitted On-line (June 7th to June 13th, 2021)



comments to master plan

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 2:41 PM

To: Kristin <snowbird529@gmail.com>

Cc: Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, jsmith@cityofbordentown.com, "Margaret M.Peak"

<mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>, Jennifer Sciortino <jsciortino@cityofbordentown.com>, duncan@primelaw.com

Thank you for you comments. We love it too!

On Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 2:24 PM Kristin <snowbird529@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

Thank you so much for inviting us (the public) to review and provide input to the master plan. I would like to share a few comments, and also share why I became a new resident in Bordentown City last August 2020, and purchased a home built in 1920 on Willow Street

I work locally for Richard and Heidi Hesselein at Pleasant Run Nursery in Allentown, NJ -- a multi-generation wholesale plant nursery. Aside from many recommendations from my peers who are long term local residents, there are two main reasons I decided to invest in Bordentown City.

The first is largely due to all efforts nurturing, maintaining and preserving the existing historical charm of the town, along with the sense of community and purpose supporting this. There is a HUGE sense of community along with historical imagery which make Bordentown City unique. So I encourage continued historical environmental stewardship so that any construction, design, repair and materials fall within historical parameters and meet certain approvals so that the City remains unified and unique. This will continue to preserve Bordentown's charm and lure as a destination.

The second reason I felt Bordentown City was a wise investment is due to all of the greening efforts throughout. I have been impressed with continual tree plantings, garden tours and preservation of any remaining open green space partnered with D&R Greenway. These efforts are HUGE wins and I strongly urge for these efforts to continue. I would like to see more efforts to preserve and protect the tree canopy which provides important shade, beauty and benefits to all of the wildlife that is already present.

I am very happy to see and hear of the talks to use existing spaces, recycling and more greening efforts. I also was happy to see comments about improving and preserving our unique alleyways, and pedestrian pathways.

I also felt that improving the Bordentown Beach front was an excellent idea! The beach has lots of potential and is great for river access, but it isn't too inviting for foot traffic or picnicking.

Thank you,
Kristin Grover
533 Willow Street



comments on draft Comprehensive Master Plan

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 2:31 PM

To: CATHY SHAW <rcgls01@comcast.net>

Cc: "dmk107@gmail.com" <dmk107@gmail.com>, duncan@primelaw.com, Jennifer Smith <jsmith@cityofbordentown.com>, Jennifer Sciortino <jsciortino@cityofbordentown.com>, "Margaret M.Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>

Thank you Cathy.
Hopefully we will see you on the 29th

On Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 11:27 PM CATHY SHAW <rcgls01@comcast.net> wrote:

Dear Chairman Kennedy,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Comprehensive Master Plan.

For well over a decade I have been concerned that an updated master plan has been long overdue, and that situation has put our community at risk for inappropriate development. At minimum, new development and redevelopment has often been inconsistent with the existing streetscape. At larger risk have been the Ocean Spray and Divine Word properties. We are extremely fortunate that Divine Word was preserved; the alternative would have a terrible loss on many fronts. While I feel that the housing density of the Ocean Spray property was too high, that too, could have been a less palatable outcome. Finally, lack of an updated master plan has stifled opportunities for the city to reach it's full potential.

I appreciate the thoughtful and comprehensive approach that is reflected in the draft Master Plan, that beautifully addresses quality of life issues that will shape the future of the City for the next decade. In particular, celebration of our waterfront, elevating the importance of open space, green infrastructure, climate resiliency, celebration of the City's history, enhancing the downtown, and recognizing the value of art in the community are a few of the planning goals that I consider critical to the well being of our community.

Thank you again for this valuable work. I look forward to providing further input as the adoption process continues.

Regards,
Cathy Elliott-Shaw
3 East Union Street.

Re: Fw: City Planning Board meeting

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 2:45 PM

To: "Georgette E. Chalker" <gchalker@princeton.edu>

Cc: Charles Latini Jr <cwl@latinigleitz.com>, Jennifer Smith <jsmith@cityofbordentown.com>, Fallon Burress <fburress@cityofbordentown.com>, Jennifer Sciortino <jsciortino@cityofbordentown.com>, Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, "Margaret M. Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>

Thank you for your comments. We will pass them along the Board.

On Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 2:10 PM Georgette E. Chalker <gchalker@princeton.edu> wrote:

Hello Charles,

I really do appreciate the city providing the recording even though there were some technical difficulties. It is commendable the efforts to keep Bordentown residences informed and involved.

Our comments:

I personally appreciate your efforts to keep Bordentown a walkable city. We moved to Bordentown from Lambertville to utilize the trainline to Philadelphia where my husband works. He was biking 12 miles to Yardley otherwise. We have lived in New York City, Philadelphia and in Amsterdam, NL. I do hope we bring a unique perspective to your planning committee.

We moved because of a viability to retire here. We like having a walkable town that we can enjoy, as we age and are unable to drive. We continue to bike here. My husband enjoys the option to walk to the grocery shop at Aldi's, the drugstore, the shops, etc. He does not drive and has no plans to own a car. It's unfortunate that Capital Health moved out to the highway. I was looking forward to walking to their office as I aged. I do want to mention that Capital Health does offer a shuttle service. Perhaps that needs to be advertised more? Anything to encourage less cars, less driving, less carbon footprints. We both see opportunities in inviting more grocery, medical, and biking options for Bordentown's businesses. A place to get fresh vegetables and bakery items would be awesome.

More open spaces where residences can interact, such as the dog parks in the works, connecting the walkways, etc., is always beneficial. Coming from Lambertville, we have seen firsthand what river front walkways can do for healthier living and business opportunities. Perhaps more businesses can take advantage of the river's view? It certainly is a good direction.

We are enjoying the Community Garden run by Maxine. She is doing a wonderful job! We both encourage the walkways along the river. More interesting places to get people out and about.

Please consult with our new mayor on her ideas for a green solution to cut down on the noise and fumes coming from the overpass on Rt. 295, particularly at Hilltop park. All serenity or solitude at the park has been lost due to the highway, not to mention the rest of the streets

that are close by. The sound from the highway ricochets off the buildings on Farnworth, it is noticeable at the Tindel Road brewery in the evenings.

My husband's comments are that we need to encourage people to buy cars less. One household on our block has three cars. One for each adult and now one for a teenager. Does that mean that each of their other two kids will need a car? Our senior neighbors have two cars. They are retired. The cars just sit there. We have been living with one car and enjoy the benefits of supporting our local vendors with the extra cash. You have mentioned *innovations*. *Thinking of ways to reduce the car population is always a win-win situation in any city.*

Preserving the history, particularly how the town provided education to African Americans early on, was part of the Underground River Railroad and gave birth to the American Revolution are just some of the highlights. Getting the historical society involved with the realtors was what revitalized Lambertville. I do agree with the one woman who gave her comments about history and education.

So glad you warned-off the commercial business at the Bonaparte location and are trying to preserve it. You will need a walkway or shuttle for those that cannot drive. They need to have access to government. I understand that is being discussed. I know why the city is utilizing that location now.

Once again, thanks for recording and the opportunity to give comments. I am looking forward to attending your next meeting in July.

Regards, Georgette and James Chalker, 39 Mary Street

Georgette Chalker

Comm. Mgr. & Web Dev.

Department of Geosciences

Princeton University

Guyot Hall, Room 114

Jabber: 609-258-3905

Contact: gchalker@princeton.edu

Currently working from home

In an Emergency Text: 646-833-5566

Open Hrs: M-T, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

From: Charles Latini Jr <cwl@latinigleitz.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 5:21 PM

To: Jennifer Smith <jsmith@cityofbordentown.com>; Fallon Burress <fburress@cityofbordentown.com>

Cc: Georgette E. Chalker <gchalker@princeton.edu>

Subject: Re: Fw: City Planning Board meeting

Here is a link to YouTube. You can find the meeting there.

<https://youtu.be/r6138nth3ls>

Jabber: 609-258-3905
Contact: gchalker@princeton.edu

Currently working from home
In an Emergency Text: 646-833-5566
Open Hrs: M-T, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

From: Kristin Antonello <kantonello@tapinto.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Georgette E. Chalker <gchalker@princeton.edu>
Subject: City Planning Board meeting

Hi Georgette,

I was forwarded your e-mail about the Bordentown City Planning Board meeting on Monday night.

It was on Zoom but I am not sure if it was recorded- there were some audio issues. You can reach out to Jennifer Smith, the Planning Board Secretary, at jsmith@cityofbordentown.com to ask, as she would probably know.

The Power Point presentation that was given by the City Planner can be viewed on Youtube here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xzjy_TBS6xs

Kristin

--



Kristin Antonello
Publisher/Editor, TAPinto Bordentown
KAntonello@tapinto.net
(732) 986-3250

www.TAPintoBordentown.net
Facebook: @TAPintoBordentown
Twitter: @TAPintoBtown

Comments re. Bordentown City Comprehensive Plan

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 11:43 AM

To: ROGER HOEH <rogar.5.s.h@gmail.com>

Cc: Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, jsmith@cityofbordentown.com, "Margaret M.Peak"

<mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>, duncan@primelaw.com

Thank you Roger. We crossed paths at the NJDCA. Been a long while - probably when I worked for Ewing Twp. Some really great suggestions that we will incorporate/ put a finer point on in those sections.

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 1:25 PM ROGER HOEH <rogar.5.s.h@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Latini,

I own property on Landon Drive which alas gains little notice in the Draft Plan about which I heard much last evening. The Lucas-Landon Enclave is a throw back to days when planning was rarely practiced in any meaningful sense. When my young family moved in the backyard was BMI's athletic field -- 40-some acres of open space. We enjoyed it long enough to launch both boys into better places before Ocean Spray turned it into what it is today.

Yet the Enclave continues to exist. It is fairly stable despite the very transitional population inhabiting the low-rise apartment complex which some less than enlightened City government included among the single-family-detached houses that comprise the neighborhood.

Over the years, the Enclave has suffered from the effects of intensified highway/commercial development on one side and very active (despite the departure of Ocean Spray) warehouse and truck traffic on the other. The only way in or out is via Lucas Drive to Elizabeth Street.

I am hopeful that efforts will be made in both the Comprehensive Plan and the Ocean Spray Redevelopment Plan to encourage the development of pedestrian and bike access from Landon Drive across the railroad tracks and Park Street to the exciting things now possible as the City assumes control of the Divine Word tract. Further walling off the Enclave from the rest of the City should be discouraged. No less important would be the development of improved access from Lucas Drive to Gilder Field. A public easement may be obtained

and appropriately maintained for this purpose.

I also suggest that a major objective of City planning efforts should include improving those points of access to the downtown -- Park Street in particular. First impressions are important.

Finally, as a planner in my past life I understand the frustration when confronted with those who feel there was insufficient public/stakeholder input. It appears you and others reached out and considered comments from the "public." In my experience people who have really thought about the direction the City is taking and should take are usually involved. They go to and/or serve on planning boards, commissions, organizations. There is no shortage of opportunities to participate; just a shortage of participants. That no one from the Enclave was at the hearing last night is not because they didn't know about the meeting, but for whatever reason had a better idea of how to spend the evening. I doubt they would take issue with what you presented.

Finally, and not for the record, but your name does sound familiar.

Roger S. Hoeh
6 Landon Drive



City of Bordentown Master Plan

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 2:28 PM

To: Joanne Aguilar <josiepc55@gmail.com>

Cc: Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, Jennifer Sciortino <jsciortino@cityofbordentown.com>, "Margaret M. Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>, duncan@primelaw.com, Jennifer Smith <jsmith@cityofbordentown.com>

Thank you for your comments. B&B are still in the plan. We agree, although we are not committed as yet, the idea of B&B should continue to be an option to explore.

The next hearing is the 29th 7pm at Carslake. Hope you can join us.

On Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 5:27 PM Joanne Aguilar <josiepc55@gmail.com> wrote:

I attended the meeting Monday June 7th but had to leave shortly after 8. I was not able to stay for the entire meeting so I am not sure if this subject matter was discussed further. Before I left I believe it was mentioned that Bordentown was still not considering B&B's in town. I was very sorry to hear that this is still the position and that the push back regarding the idea remains. I feel it's a mistake not to investigate the ways the town could benefit from them. As someone who has lived in Bordentown for over 40 years and been involved with trying to promote the town for many of those years (my husband actually coined the phrase "A Little City with a Lot of Charm which is now used in the city's promotions) its success is very near and dear to my heart. I've also stayed at B&B's on many occasions so have first hand experience as to how much money is generally spent in the town you are staying in. Hotels on the highway do not necessarily afford the city that same benefit. People who stay in B&B's generally prefer to be in town so that they can dine there, shop there, and immerse themselves in the area. Even people coming to the area for business will have a certain percentage of attendees who would prefer to stay in a B&B rather than a chain hotel. I believe B&B's are required by the state to follow certain guidelines so I would say the benefits would greatly outweigh any downsides, which personally I am hard-pressed to find. I think the idea is something the city should definitely keep in mind and be open to.

Thank you for your time,
Joanne Aguilar

Sent from my iPhone



Follow up to Public Discussion of Master Plan

Joan Barlow <barlowsmith@verizon.net>
To: Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 3:21 PM

Thank you Mr. Latini for responding to our additional comments.

We look forward to further discussions.

Joan Barlow and Philip Smith

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 10, 2021, at 9:18 PM, Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com> wrote:

Joan and Philip, Thank you!

The dates of the survey are noted in the drafted plan - January 15 to April 20, 2020. A link to the survey was shared on 5 separate occasions throughout the month of March 2020 and posted on the City's webpage Notice Board.

The full survey and its results will be appended to the revised draft plan as we mentioned and available to review online prior to the next hearing. Note that the language in the draft plan is being revised to reflect the survey's limitations. Please understand that it was an attempt to reach further into the community than we would have without any survey at all. We do not believe it is worth throwing the results away or extending this process further than necessary. However, your concerns will certainly be influential going forward.

Residents had the opportunity to speak at the June 7th hearing, and they will have the next meeting to respond to our revisions. We collected some great comments and we will continue to log and integrate them into the revised draft.

We are preparing a record and summary of the comments we have received at the meeting and through this email, which will be available.

Thank you and we hope to see you at the next hearing.

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 11:59 AM Joan Barlow <barlowsmith@verizon.net> wrote:

June 8, 2021

To: Mr. Latini, PP, AICP

Cc: Bordentown City Mayor and Commissioners

Re: Additional Comments to Bordentown City Master Plan

Mr. Latini, first, thank you for responding to the earlier comments sent by my husband and myself. We appreciated the responsiveness and prompt reply. We also look forward to further assessment and discussions around accessibility and

ADA compliance. This note is a follow up of some of the issues that continue to be discussed.

After witnessing most of last night's public meeting, the issue of the residents' voices not being well reflected in the survey—or in other capacities—still does not sit right with us. One resident clearly noted that the data was not accurate, comprehensive nor transparent in reflecting the majority of city resident's views. In your response to us, and also as noted at the meeting, the survey was basically a “snapshot of community interests”—yet no mention of that was indicated in the Master Plan, which we find quite misleading. The Master Plan seemed to weight that survey more as indicator of majority city perspectives and preferences. That now appears to not be the case. It also looks as if other “research” noted in the plan is not well backed up either.

While you addressed our question about how the survey was distributed, you did not, as promised, share the full survey, nor confirm the date it went out and was closed. We've been on the City's email list since 2018 and I have NO record or receiving this at all. We also strongly suspect the issues surrounding COVID took away attention from this communication.

This, in our opinions, shows a lack of rigor and transparency in this process—and more importantly, a serious oversight of equitable practices and protocols that it seems most city residents want and deserve—their voices to be heard and a place at the table where relevant.

Because we've heard in our conversations within our community, as well as last night, that residents did not have an opportunity to present their views, we respectfully ask that the Mayor and Commissioners, do the following to promote greater good will among our community and show that they support diversity, equity and inclusion in our city processes—particularly something as important as a plan to set forth future goals for our city.

1. Reconduct a new survey that all community members have access to and can participate in—to better reflect the current (i.e., “hopefully” post-COVID) perspectives.
2. Publish all of the submitted comments received by the city in response to the Master Plan as well as transcripts of the questions and comments submitted at last night's meeting.

Our hope is that these critical next steps—before further discussions of the Master Plan are held—will better reflect the current perspectives and dynamics in our community so that we can successfully, all work together to achieve our goals.

We hope you will take these thoughts and comments into careful consideration.

Sincerely, Joan Barlow and Philip Smith

Joan Barlow
E-mail: barlowsmith@verizon.net



Comments Bordentown City Master Plan

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 2:40 PM

To: Carl Grala <cpgrala@icloud.com>

Cc: Carl Grala <cpgrala@icloud.com>, Tristan Harrison <tharrison@latinigleitz.com>, Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, Jennifer Smith <jsmith@cityofbordentown.com>, Jennifer Sciortino <jsciortino@cityofbordentown.com>, "Margaret M.Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>, duncan@primelaw.com

Thank you! Some very thoughtful comments!!!
We will share this with the Board. My responses below.

On Sat, Jun 12, 2021 at 8:11 AM Carl Grala <cpgrala@icloud.com> wrote:

11 June 2021

Comments to Bordentown City Master Plan

Overall, I feel it is an excellent plan that accurately reflects the character, challenges, and goals for the future of Bordentown City. There are a few areas which I feel were either overlooked or require clarification, as follows:

Parking:

Currently master plan only identifies establishing additional parking to address inadequate parking on Farnsworth commercial strip.

This does not recognize that parking shortage is also due to inadequate management of current parking spaces which are being used by residents or local employees (many of which park their cars all weekend long in prime spots in front of commercial establishments), which is impeding access to downtown customers during busy commercial times on weekends.

AGREE

1-Recommend implementing paid parking, or at minimum 2-hr parking on Farnsworth Ave commercial strip Friday night through Saturday night. Many cities have implemented App-based parking model which does not require meters.

2-If additional parking is warranted then recommend consider downtown parking garage in the lot behind Jesters restaurant (corner of Farnsworth and Crosswicks). This large location, which is tucked behind the buildings on Farnsworth and Crosswicks, could provide ample parking without detracting from the aesthetics of the downtown. There is a similar downtown parking deck in Annapolis MD which is not visible from main street and which supports a vibrant downtown.

WILL KEEP FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN A CIRCULATION AND PARKING PLAN THAT WILL FOLLOW THIS PLAN.

Plan for Point Breeze

Currently master plan identifies the redevelopment of the Point Breeze estate as an area of focus. Agree this is a significant site for Bordentown City to improve quality of life.

1-Recommend Point Breeze redevelopment plan focuses on passive recreation vice active recreation (ie Ball Fields). There are ample ball fields in the City and installation of additional ballfields, or maintenance of current ballfields at the site, detracts from the picturesque nature of the area.

WILL KEEP FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN AN OPEN SPACE AND REC PLAN THAT WILL

FOLLOW THIS PLAN.

Historic Preservation

Currently master plan identifies historical preservation as an objective but inadequately identifies specific steps to achieve and enhance historical preservation.

1- Recommend all homes over 100 years old should be deemed historically significant. Just because a home has been “re-muddled” does not mean it shouldn’t be designated historic. Rather, historic designation will encourage restoration throughout the city.

2- Recommend City actively discourage haphazard renovations that remove architectural details from buildings including decorative corbels and installation of vinyl and aluminum siding not in kind with original details and features, and encourage historical restorations. The corbels have significant visual impact and removal of them distorts the house architecturally. Although vinyl and aluminum siding is a cost effective way to improve and preserve an older home, to often, the installations are poorly executed resulting in loss of historical character of the home. A significant example of this deterioration of historical features can be seen on Thompson Street where although the street has been named a historical district, there is no encouragement or enforcement of historical standards and as a consequence the historic feel of the street is limited.

WILL KEEP FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN AN UPDATE TO THE 2021 HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN THAT WILL FOLLOW THIS PLAN.

Anti-Blight

Currently the master plan does not adequately address the existence of blight or the steps to remove it. Several properties in the city are blighted and have been for many years, most notably the Magic Finish Auto Body site on corner of Park St and Second St. This is prominent location in the city and looks like an industrial wasteland, and has for 20 years.

1- Recommend City master plan state concrete steps to establish and enforce anti-blight measures within the City.

AGREE.

Highway Corridor and Pedestrian Access

This is a primary area of collaboration with Bordentown Township. Currently master plan identifies improving appearance of highway corridor and general access improvements in City for pedestrians and bicycles. Agree this is needed.

Unfortunately, the master plan does not adequately identify specific characteristics to improve highway corridors and gateways into Bordentown City, and the master plan fails to recognize that aggressive action is required on highway development because Bordentown and the surrounding area is under an assault of sorts by tractor trailer traffic due to the connection of the PA Turnpike to the NJ Turnpike and the warehousing and truck stop type development which it has brought.

AGREE

1- Recommend businesses within City, and Township, boundaries on the Routes 130/206 highway corridor need to reflect the City’s character as a whole (get rid of adult book store, used car lots, gas stations, and truck towing and storage businesses). Gateways to the city include the corners of Crosswicks and Rt130, and the corner of Farnsworth and Rt130.

The gas station on the corner of Rt130 and Crosswicks has over 100 used cars on the lot with car sale activity eclipsing gas station. The gas station on the corner of Farnsworth and Rt130 is a gateway to the city and is in a state of disrepair and a prime candidate for redevelopment.

GREAT SUGGESTION

2- Recommend City work with Twp to ban billboards, limiting number of gas stations and conversion of gas stations to used

car lots on highway corridors. Recommend removing existing at-grade billboards on Rt130/206. The recent AutoWash billboard located on 206 at the Former Bob McGuire Chevrolet Site, which is within Bordentown City boundary, is horrible and visually detracts from the city, especially in the Lucas street neighborhood.

AGREE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY ALL WE CAN DO IS PROHIBIT MORE OF THEM.

3- Major entry points to City from Rt 130 and Rt 206 needs to be improved. This can be done by opening up highway to pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths along highway and enhance crossings at major intersections . Rt 206 should be downscaled to a boulevard.

THAT WOULD BE AWESOME

4- The railroad crossing at Rt 206 and Park Street should be jointly addressed by the City and Township with new Bordentown-themed painting and pursued as a pedestrian crossing through a Rails to Trails initiative with the County. These tracks have already been converted to trails in Robbinsville area north of Bordentown (railroad track is effectively a dead end).

GREAT SUGGESTION

5- Rt 130 tractor trailer traffic should be discouraged from taking shortcut by making right hand turn on Farnsworth by McDonalds (There is no reason a tractor trailer needs to go through a residential area to get from one highway to another).

WILL KEEP FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN A CIRCULATION AND PARKING PLAN THAT WILL FOLLOW THIS PLAN

[Quoted text hidden]

Follow up on the Master Plan Public Forum

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 8:53 PM

To: Lucas Kelly <lucaskelly77@gmail.com>

Cc: Jennifer Sciortino <jsciortino@cityofbordentown.com>, jsmith@cityofbordentown.com, Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, "Margaret M. Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>, duncan@primelaw.com

Thank you for your comments. They will be reviewed by the board.

The survey is one tool, yet still valuable. Not a single soul has used language insinuating it was statistically valid.

The Stakeholders and Steering Committee are another. Stakeholders, I will not answer this beyond the following, mostly because when people keep pushing me for names it makes me uncomfortable in how they will be utilized based on the emails and social media commentary. Specifically, they were; Hope Hose; Consolidated; Economic Development Commission; Environmental Commission; Christ Church; Restaurants and Downtown businesses; Local developers and property managers; RE Agents; Bordentown City Board of Commissioners; City staff; Historic Society; both Yacht Clubs; DBA leadership - Most of whom are residents.

The public feedback during the review over the past several meetings yet another, so we appreciate your input for sure. All I can say is please stay engaged. Your input matters. But a Land Use Plan Element is not a vehicle for diving deep into every issue. We will certainly dive deeper during any ordinance work and any specific projects that might move forward because of many reasons related to the details necessary to design and draft as well as understanding any unintended consequences.

The interplay with the mixed nature of the Downtown is of course an issue for sure - one that as a resident on West Church, I share. Parking is a concern and an integral part of the Circulation and Parking Plan to come. As is any further study of ensuring the downtown remains economically viable, and respectful of those living within it. What happened during the summer with some businesses thumbing their nose at everyone was terrible. Further, I wouldn't give carte blanche to anyone without thorough review and likely limiting any such area to between, for instance, Crosswicks and Railroad. And we likely will need to gain parking from a church or two.

A lot more to think about for sure!

Thanks for your comments....

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 4:39 PM Lucas Kelly <lucaskelly77@gmail.com> wrote:

Mr Latini, et al.

First thank you for the open forum. While I was on zoom and most of the comments were incoherent due to technical issues, the presentation of the master plan was important to see. Mr Kennedy pointed out the number of public forums that had been available for master plan discussion, but Bordentown City is noted as being very bad at communicating efficiently with the residents. I was happy to see a new effort behind promoting this event.

Speaking of communication with residents, I do echo the concerns about the lack of power, using research terminology, in the survey that was conducted. I realize that the survey is just one portion of outreach, but it is one that seems to be weighted heavily. Working in research at the UPenn Center for Neuroaesthetics, I am familiar with the need to maintain viable sampling so that one can identify a significant effect. Having the demographics mixed in the survey and only a 7% response from residents in a survey that is being weighed for a civic master plan seems to, at least on the surface, devalue the input of the resident. If your intent is not to devalue our input I would implore you to conduct another survey as a gesture to make that intent known.

A second category was also discussed. The sampling of volunteer anonymous stakeholders representing the city residents. This also, on the face, seems to lack transparency of a broad sampling of residents. The request to make those who have volunteered their services to be the representative voice of the residents in this master plan seems fair. It brings to mind the need for transparency in their selection, as well as demographic, geographic

location in the city, and more. I find it interesting that when asked for the names of the residents, my neighbors have received pushback. On May 20th a member of the planning board demanded that an account, Bordentown_accountability, provide their identity. It's unsettling to me that the residents' request for identities of those who volunteered to work on the city master plan can remain anonymous but a private account who is just putting opinions online in social media should be called out by a planning board member.

I echo many of the concerns that have been put forth in the meeting and in writing about zoning, B&B, parking, ADA compliance, and building by Dan Aubrey, George Gonzales, Kathy Dawson, Gary Adams, Joan Barlow, Phillip Smith and more. And I understand that there are many good things in this plan as well, there is no denying that, but my primary concern is embedding into the master plan devices that would promote a further deterioration of the quality of life of those living on Farnsworth Ave.

I live at 109 Farnsworth Ave. I am familiar with and enjoy the few times that we have a street fair and it is packed up by 6pm. That is the community, and family, first environment that I think makes Bordentown strong. It's what makes our community a great place to live. That we can bring people in to visit and still end the day with options. Options to continue to enjoy our establishments, or options to go home and read to your child before bed. That vision has changed dramatically and the options for residents have been reduced to zero at times.

The restaurant weekends for many of the families in our neighborhood were a nightmare. Only increasing the anxiety of the pandemic was our inability to put our children to bed because of music and vagrant noise. Trash, including bottles of urine, in front of our homes, people sleeping off being over served in front of our houses were a regular occurrence last summer and we have seen it coming back this summer as well. We bought a house on a quiet block of a quiet historic town. The last year plus we have seen our neighborhood be dramatically transformed. While everyone not living in it talks about how great it is to dine al fresco, we have had our lives turned upside down. The historic nature of our homes is beautiful aesthetically, but also allows for the transmission of sound easily. This creates a significant problem when mixed with a disregard for people's lives in their homes, disregard for level of volume, disregard for the hour at which that volume is turned down, and drunken visitors. But to be clear this was not just a volume issue. It was very much an issue of the devaluation of the residents' ability to maintain autonomy in their own homes.

One of everyone's main concerns has been parking. We have taken multiple parking spots away to continue outdoor dining and just seem to expect to deal with it. We were even told, regularly, that if we don't like it to move out. Some of us did. Some of us will. The master plan embeds more of this into a public vision. This is concerning because what the city seems to forget is that you are restricting people's access to their homes. Read that again. These events stop families from being able to access their homes safely and with ease. In fact because the city has still yet to resolve the loss of access to the rear of my property, when the pandemic was in full bloom I had to walk through a swath of unmasked, and fairly drunk, party goers during most restaurant weekends. I am in no way a teetotaler, and I want our businesses to thrive. Because a strong community should have successful business opportunities. But remember the quality of life of the residents does not come second to successful business in town. In fact I would say that the businesses are there to serve the quality of life of the residents. This document does not consider the impact of the residents most affected by the business focus of this plan.

The Witherspoon St project was touted in the meeting by a resident and was seconded by you, Mr Latini. I know first hand from Princeton residents, that the implementation of that project has been a nightmare. I have spoken with a number of residents that have said that it has destroyed the aesthetic of the area, while also creating a more than problematic traffic issue. But I have also spoken with downtown Princeton business owners, both on and off of Witherspoon St, and they have echoed those issues. They have also said it has been detrimental to their businesses.

I want the opportunity to retreat to my home, be in peace, and be with my family. But I have had to campaign for my right to have these things. Not only have I had to ask for those rights to be preserved, I (along with my neighbors) have seen a paradigmatic shift in whether or not that matters to our city. In fact it seems as though the city continues to make a feeling of home less accessible to us. This master plan has the opportunity to right the ship and consider the residents, or it could continue what has become a business first community.

For more than a year I have met more and more of my neighbors feeling that the city has abandoned those of us on Farnsworth Ave. in favor of creating a fun place for other people to visit. Much of this plan reads as an extension of that notion. The quality of life of those of us living on Farnsworth Ave. should not be sacrificed to generate tourist dollars. It is unacceptable. I would ask you to consider how we can devise a plan that still creates the location you intend, but also improves the quality of life of all, not some, of its residents. Please consider altering the master plan to combat the continued reduction in safe and easy access to our homes. Help to promote noise policies and

parking solutions that are resident centered, not just business focused. Help to improve our quality of life, as is the charge of local government.

I am happy to discuss this matter further with you individually should you want more input or any clarification.

Thank you

Lucas Kelly

--

Lucas Kelly

[@lucaskelly77](#) on Instagram
www.lucaskelly.com

Tiger Strikes Asteroid
www.tigerstrikesasteroid.com



Master Plan

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 9:14 PM

To: Anne Lyon <aelyon@verizon.net>

Cc: Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, jsmith@cityofbordentown.com, duncan@primelaw.com, "Margaret M.Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>

Anne, thank you for your questions. Our sincere apologies for the audio issues on Monday night. Here is a recording of the meeting. <https://youtu.be/r6138nth3ls>

Currently, the zoning ordinance requires front yard setbacks and large minimum lot dimensions that are not consistent with the historic character and density of properties such as yours and most of your neighbors. If you were to build your house today or make significant alterations, you might need several variances from the planning board which is backwards and complicates the process for everyone. To encourage homes that fit the character of their streets, the zoning would need to be amended to reflect existing characteristics rather than the suburban standards currently in place. Amending the zoning ordinance will require more specific public discussions going forward.

Thanks for your interest!

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 11:02 AM Anne Lyon <aelyon@verizon.net> wrote:

Hello.

Unfortunately, due to the issues with audio the other night, I ended up leaving the Zoom shortly after the presentation. I did have a question that I would have asked.

At one point the presentation talked about efforts to resolve the inconsistencies between the R#3 residential zones and the actual lots. I thought I grasped the point that resolution would ease the process of getting permits for those seeking to make repairs and improvements. Is that correct? Can you clarify this? I happen to live in one of the only 4 tiny houses in the first block of Prince. Obviously we are among those who are out of sync with the zoning. We are concerned about how this resolution will be achieved.

Anne Lyon

11 Prince Street



Residents' Comments: BC Master Plan

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 9:19 PM

To: Robert A Evangelista <r.evangelista@icloud.com>

Cc: duncan@primelaw.com, jsmith@cityofbordertown.com, "Margaret M.Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordertown.com>, Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>

Robert and Mary,

Thank you for your comments! We will review and are revising the plan accordingly, and we hope to see you at the next meeting.

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 10:00 PM Robert A Evangelista <r.evangelista@icloud.com> wrote:

Dear Mr Latini:

The following are our comments on the Bordertown City Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Robert Evangelista and Mary Evangelista

Resident Address: 400 Oliver St, Bordertown City, NJ 08505

Mailing Address: PO Box 344, Bordertown, NJ 08505-0344

phone/text: (732) 713-2007

Bordertown City, NJ Master Plan Comments

On pg 32, the full page image "Potential Future Build-Out" has nine areas of "Potential Future Build-Out." However, the page 33 table titled "Build-out Analysis," shows five of the nine areas of "Potential Future Build-Out" that are not "Buildable" as depicted by the very easy to dismiss symbol, "n". I am suggesting that the non-buildable areas of "Potential Future Build-Out" be shown in a different color or shade from the "Buildable" (y) areas.

On the page 24 image, I do not believe the bus route 409 stops at Oliver and at Willow Streets along W Burlington Street. There are no bus stop signs at these locations and I have never seen the bus stop at these locations.

On pg 35 the topic "Promoting On-Site Renewable Energy" states "the City should continue to encourage public and private investment in solar and other locally renewable energy sources." The Master Plan may want to consider District Heating, where a central heating plant powered by biomass and or solar hot water and or other technologies distributes heat to an area of buildings connected by insulated pipes that provide space heating and domestic hot water. This techniques achieves the economy of scale and pollution control compared to individual boilers. Similarly, the Plan may also consider mentioning and discussing local area Microgrids that distribute renewable electricity among a number of adjacent buildings, with or without battery backup and with or without connection to the regional PJM grid.

On pg 30, the colored areas of the image depicting building and ground coverages are hiding some areas in the 100 and 500 year flood zones. This can be rectified with two images.

The “Economic Development Goals” on pg 38 says nothing about live-work spaces, either as part of any new development or in existing structures. These spaces do not apply to people who work for government that provides them an office, and it does not apply to people who work for existing companies. However, live-work spaces create economic spaces that do apply to table-top entrepreneurs, artists and craftspeople who sell their works at fairs and over the internet, and to professional service providers, such as engineers, architects, lawyers, planners, and others whose main tools are a computer, software, and an internet connection.

Goal 6 hopes to “manage parking and circulation, ” while Goal 22 expects to “manage parking demand.” The Plan has no mention of building parking decks to expand parking spaces and no mention of parking decks integrated into the architecture of the community, like in Princeton, NJ or Santa Monica, CA.

On pg 40, the section “Open Space, Recreation, and Resiliency Goals” has Goal 16 intends to “Treat public streets as public spaces.” Furthermore, pg 57 of the Plan shows an idealized image of pedestrians walking on a traffic-free and parking-free Farnsworth. I encourage the planners to adopt a middle ground, like the Witherspoon Street project in Princeton. This project will turn the two-lane street into a one-way one-lane street with NO loss of parking, access for emergency vehicles, and expanded sidewalks for pedestrian and local business uses.

The pg 39 “Housing and Community Development Goals” does “Promote aging-in-place through ... supportive infrastructure.” The Plan may wish to consider a 10-year strategic plan to create sidewalks where none now exist and to give property owners a period of time to remove property development in the sidewalk right of way. This will keep the elderly walkers out of harms way on the City streets.

Request for public input response!

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 10:09 AM

To: Elise <eweiss0421@gmail.com>

Cc: Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, jsmith@cityofbordentown.com, "Margaret M.Peak"

<mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>, duncan@primelaw.com

Thank you. Very good point to consider in a parking and circulation planning!

On Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 8:50 PM Elise <eweiss0421@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

Better parking options for the elderly. I suggest either designating specific spots for the elderly, if that is possible to do and/or to enforce, or advertise public transportation more to make it a well-known option that is easy to understand and user friendly.

With summer months approaching, our town will become busier. Add the fact that restaurants have expanded their seating outdoors (covering parking spots) and that limits the amount of parking in town. This means that elderly individuals might need to park a good distance from the establishment of their choice and may deter them from visiting. This is a problem if it's an important visit, like the dentist, for example.

This may be a bigger problem for the elderly than

we even realize and I think it's a good opportunity to be proactive with some solutions that would benefit everyone and not just this specific population.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bordentown City resident,

Elise Weiss

609-610-6641

Sent from my iPhone



Comments on Bordentown City Master Plan

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 10:46 AM

To: Bob&Robin Madden <rrpm55@gmail.com>

Cc: duncan@primelaw.com, "Margaret M. Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>, Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, jsmith@cityofbordentown.com

Thank you for your comments! We will certainly share them with the Board!

On Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 8:35 PM Bob&Robin Madden <rrpm55@gmail.com> wrote:

First, excellent work and overall a very thoughtful and creative outline of ideas and proposals for our small town with a lot of charm. We are supportive of re-establishing the local historic preservation commission. We are concerned with less sensitive residential renovations taking place in core areas of the historic district that are changing the character of neighborhoods. In addition, we want to see tighter ordinances that will prevent tear-downs for new construction. And, when new residential construction is allowed, that it be designed to fit in the neighborhood it is built within. Also, there is a new NJ State Tax Credit for historic properties and many of the businesses in the downtown historic district and even future B&B's could take advantage of the tax credit. This is where having a re-established historic preservation commission is beneficial to review and approve projects that could take advantage of the tax credit program. Not to mention it will stimulate more investment into our downtown area. We would like to see more regional planning with our neighbors, Bordentown township, and Fieldsboro. We are not an island - and all three towns should be more closely aligned in zoning decisions as well as making Bordentown look more attractive.

We are not supportive of Bordentown City allowing a Cannabis operation. We cannot support the parking needs now, to add such a business - especially so new for the area - will definitely draw increased visitors to the town. While wonderful if they stay to spend \$ downtown, it could end up being more a nuisance for the residents and others who come to spend the day in the city. Historically, Bordentown was known as a place with lots of bars, and considered a bit seedy - we have moved away from that image and while I would absolutely support more restaurants that provide adult beverages, I do not believe Cannabis is necessary. Allow a more suburban/light industrial area to accommodate that need - which will allow enough parking and away from residential areas and parks.

Finally, agree we need to continue to improve on our diversity and inclusivity, including people with disabilities.

Thank you for this opportunity and again, really impressive work on the master plan.

Robin & Bob Madden
5 W. Chestnut Street
Bordentown City

Bordentown City MP - comment re: 324 Farnsworth

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 10:44 AM

To: Sarah McEwan <sarah@mimosagoods.com>

Cc: Jennifer Sciortino <jsciortino@cityofbordentown.com>, duncan@primelaw.com, Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, jsmith@cityofbordentown.com, "Margaret M. Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>

Sarah. Thank you for your comments. They are much appreciated!

We will share them with the Board and Commissioners.

On Sun, Jun 6, 2021 at 2:49 PM Sarah McEwan <sarah@mimosagoods.com> wrote:

Hi there, I think the ideas presented in the master plan are inspired, and I hope many of them come to pass. I wanted to make a comment pertaining to the future of 324 Farnsworth. It was mentioned at an EDAC meeting that this property could be sold by the city for commercial or private use after the municipal offices and police department relocate.

My suggestion is that before selling, the city might consider the possibility of holding this property for use as a community space with the potential to generate revenue back to the city.

We've spoken previously about the benefits of having an incubator space for local businesses who operate out of their homes. A cooperative space would not only encourage smaller businesses to grow, and hopefully consider Bordentown City first for a permanent brick and mortar location - it would also benefit visitors and residents by offering a variety of programs and opportunities to learn and connect with neighbors.

As a parent of children aged 12 and 14, I've also noticed that we have limited recreational opportunities for older children - middle school aged and up. A community space that featured varied programming for that age group would be invaluable. Prior to the pandemic, many teens already struggled with finding their place in the community, as well as mental health issues. I can only imagine how those challenges have been exacerbated after a year of quarantine and distance learning. How wonderful would it be to have a place that welcomed teens with events geared toward them. Whether it's tutoring, theater groups, D&D or just a spot to pop in and learn what's going on in the surrounding community.

When I offered this sort of space in my business, I found that it not only helped the businesses who used the room(s), it helped residents feel more connected to their town. I was inspired by BankSuey in Michigan (they're currently closed from the pandemic, but you can see some of their past programming here <http://banksuey.com/about>) and I often thought how amazing it would be to have something like this in Bordentown. Perhaps 324 Farnsworth could be that kind of place.

I apologize for such a lengthy email, but hope this is something the commissioners and planning board will consider before placing 324 Farnsworth on the market. Below, I'll list just some of the types of programs I was asked to host, as an example to show there is interest in this kind of place. These are all requests from folks who approached me directly, looking to use a room to provide these programs to our residents.

Thank you for taking the time and thank you for your work on Bordentown City's Master Plan.

- Small group wellness
 - yoga
 - yoga for teens
 - kids yoga
 - prenatal yoga
 - pilates
 - meditation
- Educational classes

- self defense for adults and teens
- educational playgroups for toddlers
- Music Together
- wreath making
- jewelry making
- floral design
- macrame
- calligraphy
- sign making
- support for nursing mothers
- zero waste living
- The arts
 - Dance workshops / learn to samba
 - Summer theater group practice space for teens
 - Pop up gallery / photography exhibit space

Sarah McEwan

Mimosa Goods, LLC

socially responsible shopping

Shop the goods! [MimosaGoods.com](https://mimosagoods.com)

[@mimosagoods](#) [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#)



Thank you/Further comments

George Gonzalez <ggonzalez02143@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 10:15 PM

To: Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Cc: Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, Gary Adams <garyadams6181965@gmail.com>, Joan Barlow <barlowsmith@verizon.net>, Kathryn Dawson <kathystat@gmail.com>, Katie Kelly <katlynbkelly@gmail.com>, Lucas Kelly <lucaskelly77@gmail.com>, "Margaret M.Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>, "brennajobes@gmail.com" <brennajobes@gmail.com>, duncan@primelaw.com, jsmith@cityofbordentown.com

Re: Your Responses:

1. The tax implications should be forthrightly addressed with those who will bear the burden via a transparent process. Why this community is not more concerned about the school system is a matter onto itself.

2. Survey data is framed and used rhetorically. The concern is that people reading the plan will misread and misapprehend the data. Kathy is correct that there is not sufficient and representative input from residents for this document to represent the will of the community.

3. The plan touts Thomas Paine's importance in the development of American political philosophy and representative democracy. Basing important planning and zoning decisions based in some large measure on the input of unarmed persons and entities that might stand to financially gain from proposed changes is a problem. Again, who are the local developers that were consulted?

4. Again, as a definitional matter, letting businesses take over large swaths of public streets represents the privatization of public space.

Best,

George and Gary

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 9:24 PM Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com> wrote:

We want to reiterate that the June 7th hearing was not the first step in this process although it is not the last, either. There has been engagement throughout this process whether you were present or not.

1) While taxes do affect the timing, intensity, and nature of land use, we have very little control from a planning perspective how a City and school system might budget in years to come. If we planned only for the lowering of the tax burden of this community, we could blow the roof off our character and propose massive development or warehouses as many surrounding towns are doing. We could also suggest cutting services. So many things affect your taxes, but the idea behind the Plan is to improve quality of life so that you get value out of them. The property tax issue in this state is something I encourage you all to take up with the governor and legislature. They hold the key and refuse to deal with affordability in this state.

2) We did not admit any such thing. It is not a scientific poll, that's it. It's useful whether you take exception to it or not. Cathy brought up a good point about it and we are amending that section to reflect the survey's limitations. Further, you continue to implicate wrongdoing and it is in this spirit I find your commentary most troubling. Our intentions are to set a course for the future.

I will not answer this beyond the following, mostly because when people keep pushing me for names it makes me uncomfortable in how they will be utilized based on the emails and social media commentary. Specifically, they were; HOPE HOSE; CONSOLIDATED; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION; ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION; CHRIST CHURCH; RESTAURANTS AND DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES; LOCAL DEVELOPERS AND PROPERTY MANAGERS; RE AGENTS; BORDENTOWN CITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; CITY STAFF; HISTORIC SOCIETY; BOTH YACHT CLUBS; DBA LEADERSHIP - MOST OF WHOM ARE RESIDENTS. WE UTILIZE STAKEHOLDER

INTERVIEWS WHEN SPECIFIC GROUPS NEED TO BE HEARD FROM AND OPEN HONEST (WITHOUT POLITICAL OR PERSONAL AGENDAS) DIALOGUE - SIMILAR TO SURVEY WORK.

If the folks in these organization wish to comment beyond the confidence I provided them, its on them. I will ask.

Your comments about gentrification and overall affordability are not lost. I'm originally from Ewing, a blue collar kid, parents scratched and scraped and clawed, I get it...

3) We disagree. Diversity of outdoor uses generates pedestrian activity and makes a main street thrive. We have recommended a balance of public and quasi-public spaces to accomplish this.

On Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 10:01 PM George Gonzalez <ggonzalez02143@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Chuck,

Thank you for hosting the meeting tonight. We found it an important first step.

We a few follow up questions and comments for the record.

1. We need to directly address the possible implications for real estate taxes. Please provide an accounting of the tax implications to homeowners.
2. It was admitted today that the survey did not capture the community interest. It also was suggested that your office might feel uncomfortable divulging the names of the stakeholders consulted. For the public to feel confident that these stakeholders represent a true and accurate swath of community interest, we are going to insist that these names of persons and entities be divulged in the interest of transparency.
3. As a definitional matter: having businesses expand onto the street is not, in fact, about enhancing the public use of streets, it is about privatizing public space to benefit commercial entities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All best,

George and Gary

Online shopping

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Mon, Jun 14, 2021 at 2:47 PM

Draft To: George Gonzalez <ggonzalez02143@gmail.com>

Cc: Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>, Jennifer Sciortino <jsciortino@cityofbordentown.com>, Joan Barlow <barlowsmith@verizon.net>, Lucas Kelly <lucaskelly77@gmail.com>, "Margaret M.Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>, duncan@primelaw.com, Jennifer Smith <jsmith@cityofbordentown.com>

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 10:28 PM George Gonzalez <ggonzalez02143@gmail.com> wrote:

Is that suggestion that a thriving restaurant scene will increase foot traffic that will help retail shops remain competitive? As a household that has literally spent thousands of dollars at downtown retail shops since we arrive in late 2018, I want to suggest this: as much as we also want folks' shops to thrive, it is not the responsibility of residents to make all assortment of sometimes undue accommodations in order to make that happen. Sometimes folks like the Kelly's are told: "you moved to a Main Street, deal with it. You chose this." There is an analogy one can draw respective the businesses and this is it: "This is your business model, live with it. You chose this." What I mean to suggest is that we are all for a thriving urban "ecosystem" and will continue to support local businesses but it is not our responsibility to keep them in business. That is a risk they assume when they go into business. Just like we assumed a risk with our mortgage that the businesses have no responsibility to help us bear.

We have no actual animus towards the businesses— to the contrary some of these folks are friends. But the plan so aggressively puts business interests so front and center that pushback I hope you understand was inevitable.

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 9:16 PM Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com> wrote:

The plan aims to reinforce the city's downtown restaurant and retail scene, which is one of its best assets outside of the great community we are. Recommendations include outdoor shopping and dining as generators for pedestrian activity which in turn further supports on-street interactions, window shopping, natural surveillance, etc. It's about thinking creatively to keep the City's local businesses competitive and resilient to a changing marketplace that is becoming increasingly online and on-demand.

This kind of approach may also be the best bottom-up defense against the warehouse development boom in our area and throughout the state.

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 9:36 AM George Gonzalez <ggonzalez02143@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

We would also like clarification on something that was mentioned at the meeting: the idea that we need all hands on deck due to the pressures placed on small retail by online shopping. A lot of what has been done to support the businesses has targeted the restaurants and bars. How are they being threatened by Amazon? I have seen no evidence that GrubHub etc pose a threat. People go out to eat for more than just the food.

All best,

George and Gary

planning board

Daniel Kennedy <dmk107@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 10:16 PM

To: Kathryn Dawson <kathystat@gmail.com>

Cc: Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>, Jennifer Sciortino <jsciortino@cityofbordentown.com>, George Gonzalez <ggonzalez02143@gmail.com>, Lucas Kelly <lucaskelly77@gmail.com>, Jennifer Smith <jsmith@cityofbordentown.com>, "Margaret M. Peak" <mpeak@cityofbordentown.com>, Duncan Prime <duncan@primelaw.com>

Kathy, good evening. I, along with all Planning Board members, are reserving judgment on next steps until we see all the comments and recommended amendments. We have heard a lot of positive, some negative and a lot of constructive input at the hearing and in written comments.

We had the ability to adopt this "as drafted" and chose not to. I offer than as evidence of good faith. We took written public comment until tomorrow. Didn't have to do that either. More evidence. Further evidence is Chuck's responsiveness and willingness to engage. Engagement doesn't mean we will agree on all matters but my hope is that we agree on more as a result and we have a better path forward on areas of disagreement as details are worked out moving forward.

May I recommend you and others do not prejudge how you and other residents will respond to the amendments we recommend? I interpret your words and tone that you are not even giving us a chance. I would appreciate it if you gave us a chance. I'm sure we will not satisfy every issue you see with this effort but I can guarantee we are listening and will be recommending amendments / clarifications that are responsive.

I know we don't know each other and I can tell you don't trust the process. All I can tell you is that I am in this for the right reasons and so are all the Planning Board members and staff. This next Planning Board meeting will be the 12th meeting we have discussed this effort and we are happy you and others are engaged.

I send this with the very best intentions and good will. I hope it's received in the same spirit.

Dan Kennedy

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021, 9:48 PM Kathryn Dawson <kathystat@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks for the quick reply. I am afraid that many residents are not going to be happy with the planning boards recommendations. I am hoping that at the next planning board meeting voices will be heard before a final vote.....which does not seem to have strong community support. Remember we are the ones paying for all this.....not the planning board. It would be more helpful if the board could explain the overall benefit to the community and not just the businesses of some of these proposals.

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021, 9:11 PM Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com> wrote:

This is great, thank you for the comments! We will forward to the Board.

I have tried to answer some of your questions below... THANK YOU KATHY!

On Thu, Jun 10, 2021 at 6:02 PM Kathryn Dawson <kathystat@gmail.com> wrote:

First I would like to thank all the members of the planning board for their work on this plan. I think it is a good place to start but I hope some of the revisions that are being suggested are considered.

Here are some thoughts.

- My first consideration is that there was no "overall goal" stated. It seems to me that the goal is to increase activity on Farnworth??? **NO, THE OVERALL GOAL IS COMMUNITY, ALL COMPONENTS OF IT.**

- Improve communication with the community. **WE HEAR YOU!**
- As mentioned at the meeting, and also echoed by several people via emails, there should have been a larger, more proactive involvement of the **residents** of this city. The large percent of non-residents in the survey is troublesome. **YOUR HERE PARTICIPATING. KEEP DOING SO. THE SURVEY IS ONE TOOL FOR INPUT AND UNFETTERED INPUT.**
- Asking the people who spoke at the meeting to swear in and give their name and addresses was understandable. However, then it would seem imperative that the stakeholder names should also be made public. This is a total inconsistency. **ITS NOT. I will not answer this beyond the following, mostly because when people keep pushing me for names it makes me uncomfortable in how they will be utilized based on the emails and social media commentary. Specifically, they were; HOPE HOSE; CONSOLIDATED; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION; ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION; CHRIST CHURCH; RESTAURANTS AND DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES; LOCAL DEVELOPERS AND PROPERTY MANAGERS; RE AGENTS; BORDENTOWN CITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; CITY STAFF; HISTORIC SOCIETY; BOTH YACHT CLUBS; DBA LEADERSHIP - MOST OF WHOM ARE RESIDENTS. WE UTILIZE STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS WHEN SPECIFIC GROUPS NEED TO BE HEARD FROM AND OPEN HONEST (WITHOUT POLITICAL OR PERSONAL AGENDAS) DIALOGUE. SIMILAR TO SURVEY WORK. IF THE FOLKS IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS WISH TO COMMENT BEYOND THE CONFIDENCE I PROVIDED THEM, ITS ON THEM. I WILL ASK THEM...**
-
- The ideas in the plan should be prioritized by at least the following: **THANK YOU...**
 - **Cost** (high-line over railroad tracks seems cost prohibitive and of limited value)
 - at probably more reasonable cost would be improving the trails along the creek and river
 - impact on residents (i.e. residents currently living in apartment along Farnsworth)
 - impact on taxes (that affects homeowners and renters)
- I think the planning board should have taken into consideration some of the resources the city currently has. **GREAT IDEAS!!**
 - Old City Hall - small concerts, art shows, lecture series, parties, weddings - all are programs that would bring people into the city. An example is the use of the old city hall in Flemington, NJ (I have been to at least 2 events there and on both occasions also ate at one of the local restaurants).
 - Carslake Community Center - restart and add to senior citizens programs there.
 - Because I ran a weekly sewing group in Carslake for 2 years I have seen this facility rented and used for multiple events such as wedding receptions, church gatherings, retirement parties.
 - Re-decorate the large room to be more appealing to gatherings. I saw on multiple occasions groups covering up some of the stuff hung on the walls.
 - Ginter House????
- It would be great if someone could explain how zoning is determined.....it is a total mystery to me right now. **ZONING LAWS REGULATE THE USE OF LAND WITHIN A MUNICIPALITY. IT CONTROLS THE WAYS IN WHICH THE LAND CAN BE DEVELOPED AND WHAT PURPOSES THE ZONED LAND CAN SERVE. ZONING IS WHAT KEEPS A RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT RESIDENTIAL, A COMMERCIAL DISTRICT COMMERCIAL, AN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT INDUSTRIAL, AND SO ON. THE MASTER PLAN INFORMS HOW A GOVERNING BODY EFFECTUATES IT. AT SOME POINT IN BORDENTOWNS HISTORY, THEY PUSHED BAD STANDARDS ON AN EXISTING DEVELOPMENT PATTERN THUS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE AFFORDABLE RENNOVATIONS WITHOUT BEAUOCRACY.**
- Has anyone thought about the need for dredging the river under the 295 bridge. Two weeks ago at low tide I saw someone literally walk through the water from the sand bar to the yacht club. I am surprised more boats are not affected by the low water levels during low tide. Is this the city's responsibility??? Or who is responsible??? **YES, WE ARE WORKING WITH NJDEP ON SUCH AN EFFORT. IT SORELY NEEDED.**
- Some additional thoughts
 - B&B are probably not practical due to lack of parking and the ultimate impact on the residents in the area of the B&B. Has anyone reviewed the success of B&Bs in cities similar to Bordentown? **YES, BUT WE ARE NOT CONVINCED WE CAN FIT ANY SUCH USE AS OF YET**
 - Not clear what the pop-up shops are.....are they sidewalk vendors independent of the shops on

the street right now. THEY ARE VENDORS THAT RECIEVE SPECIAL PERMIT FOR A SHORT RUN. THEY ARE USUALY NOT SIDEWALK VENDORS BUT SHARE SPACE WITH ANOTHER BUSINESS OR WITHIN A VACANT SPACE. OLD CITY HALL COULD BE A VENUE...

- Tax incentives, rent assistance for businesses that could occupy current empty spots. GOOD IDEAS
- Food vendors at Bordentown beach may not be a good idea. When Olde Town Pub did that last summer it basically created grid lock. WE NEED TO THINK WAY MORE INTENTELY ON HOW WE ALLOW EVENTS AND USE OF STREET.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathy Dawson
kathystat@gmail.com

Previously Submitted Comments (Prior to June 7th Meeting)



Re: Master Plan - Sassaman

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>
To: Charles Latini Jr <cwl@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 5:01 PM

FROM: sassamanv@gmail.com

RESPONSE: On Mon, May 17, 2021 at 5:32 PM Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com> wrote:

Question: A few questions and a couple comments/suggestions in reference to the above.

Answer: Hi and thank you for your comments. Herein is our response to your input and questions raised.

Question: The proposed changes in Residential Zoning. Areas that are now designated as R3 Residential High/Med Density and under the proposed rezoning will fall into a High Density Area. Please explain the difference between the existing & proposed? An area being designated as "High" Density, does that open us up to multi-family units being built? Or allowing a larger home or semi-attached being converted to a multi-family? Define.

Answer: No, the residential zone recommendations reflect current conditions and do not recommend any increases in the actual densities. Single family zones are recommended to remain single-family.

Currently, the zoning is not reflective of the current conditions. The Board seeks to ensure that unnecessary zoning board costs for homeowners seeking a simple addition, a shed, add a simple deck, etc., are eliminated to extent practical. Many variances the Board sees are for homeowners seeking permission to do something that is a common condition in their neighborhood.

Keep in mind, the recommendations of the Plan require a process that will drill-down deeper before the City can codify them as Zoning Ordinance amendments. More extensive analysis is necessary. The Master Plan sets a direction for more work to come post adoption.

Question: Accessory Dwelling Units - pg 68

#4 Provide an off-street parking space per ADU. Suggested that exceptions be made for an ADU that will be used by a person who will not own a car. Many times the addition of an ADU is for an older adult to move in with family and there may not be a need for additional parking. Exceptions.

Answer: Agreed. Same as above, the details of how ADU's may come to be permitted will require more analysis. But your comment is noted.

Question: Area in need of Rehabilitation pg 32

The land North of Mile Hollow Run designation as "in need of rehabilitation" is due to the need of marked trails, signage and parking? Bordentown Bluffs at Stanton Ave. Confirmation of the type of rehabilitations.

Answer: The area you refer to is not recommended for anything. It is already preserved open space. Further, it is located in Bordentown Township and the only opportunity would be to work with the Township as more accessible open space and passive recreational facilities (trails, nature walks, etc.

Question: Pocket Parks pg 61

Suggestion. Corner of Prince and W. Burlington Street. Broken cement/half paved long ago site of a garage - Only small patch of grass exist between the sidewalk and lot that a woman next door will walk over and mow. Adjacent to Consolidated Fire House. It is an eyesore coming into the City of Bordentown. I am sure there

would be environmental issues from pass usage to permit building. This also is an awkward intersection - trimming this corner to allow a right turn lane onto W. Burlington would help with the flow of traffic. A small green space here would make such a difference to the appearance of the neighborhood and add that "establish a sense of arrival" into the City of Bordentown.

Answer: This is something that could easily become a recommendation within an update of the parks and recreational Plan element as Recommendation 1 in the Community Open Space and Recreationa Recommendations is to prepare a comprehensive update. Great idea!

Thanks for the time and effort you put into the review!

Great job! Look forward to your responses. Thank you, Valerie Sassaman

Sent from my iPad



Re: Master Plan - Jobs

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>
To: Charles Latini Jr <cwl@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 4:58 PM

FROM: brennajobs@gmail.com

RESPONSE: On Fri, May 21, 2021 at 4:10 PM Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com> wrote:

Question: I have some confusion about the area behind Marcellos and W Church St. It's zoned residential but the blue house is being zoned "business" now to accommodate outdoor seating for the restaurant? Unless I'm reading that wrong it doesn't make sense to me to change one house for one restaurant owner. If I'm incorrect, I'd like more clarification on that at the meeting

Answer: Thank you for your comment!

We've looked at a number of properties that skirt the "downtown proper" for either the potential for some systematic expansion and/or conditional expansion. Meaning, conditional would limit such expansion to certain criteria ie... availability of parking, continuity with downtown, etc... Perhaps limit the actual uses that skirt the downtown as a means of buffering it from the hoods with uses that transition down in scale or activity.

These are details that a Zoning committee would undertake as a next step to see if these ideas would work or not, and importantly how they might.

L&G Planning



Re: Bordentown Master Plan - Chalker

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>
To: Charles Latini Jr <cwl@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 4:55 PM

FROM: gchalker@princeton.edu

RESPONSE: On Mon, May 31, 2021 at 11:21 AM Office LatiniGleitz office@latinigleitz.com wrote:

Question: Hello Master Plan Committee,
Thanks for contacting us with your door-to-door flyer. That was very helpful. I appreciate the opportunity to give feedback now.

Answer: Hello and thank you for your comments!

Question: I have identified a major omission on your "Identified Goals".... Question asked by the League of Women's Voters at the Candidates Forum on Tuesday, April 27.

What will you do about Noise and Exhaust Pollution in Bordentown?

Answer: Your comments are spot on. We have issues of noise and exhaust from the highway, yes, but also the landfill and other fairless hills/ bristol businesses. We should address this and I will bring up with the Planning Board on the 7th. THANK YOU!

Question: Would the City of Bordentown consider a committee to help people fix up their homes? I noticed that some folks are struggling to do simple things like paint, lawn work, or house/porch repairs. I would see this as an apprenticeship program for young adults to learn the building trade and a way to clean up our town by helping those in need. Would the churches or NPOs co-op?

Answer: As for housing rehab, yes, I believe such a comment is inherent with the section that recommends an affordable housing plan, recommends rehabilitation support.

Question: Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend on June 7 for the community meeting. Will it be recorded? Can you send a link to the recording?

Answer: We will indeed post a link, yes,

Thank you for your thoughtful insights....

On Wed, May 26, 2021 at 2:30 PM Georgette E. Chalker <gchalker@princeton.edu> wrote:

Hello Master Plan Committee,

Thanks for contacting us with your door-to-door flyer. That was very helpful. I appreciate the opportunity to give feedback now.

I have identified a major omission on your "Identified Goals".... Question asked by the League of Women's Voters at the Candidates Forum on Tuesday, April 27.

What will you do about Noise and Exhaust Pollution in Bordentown?

As a resident who has just moved here three years ago from Lambertville, I noticed that there is a considerable

amount of noise and fumes that comes from the overpass on Rt. 295. It is particularly noticeable at Hilltop Park. On a clear day it is unbearable. I know that the businesses on Farnworth must notice the exhaust smell, the dust, and the noise throughout the day. I do know that the property values in and around Hilltop Park, in turn, Bordentown as-a-whole, would skyrocket as we address the noise and fume pollutions.

If elected, would you promise to have a noise and exhaust analysis done from Hilltop Park and request that the Department of Transportation install a noise and exhaust barrier on the overpass? I think the entire town would benefit from such an installation. Hilltop Park is a sacred place that needs to be protected. If you do not have an answer now, can you contact me in the future about this matter? Thank you.

Jennifer Sciortino did answer this question by mentioning a "green option" to the noise. Would that be by way of evergreens tall enough to block out the noise in Winter? I would be interested in hearing more about her thoughts on "green options."

Note, while enjoying a brew at Tindall Road around 10 pm on early May Saturday night, the sound of the highway ricochet off the buildings from the opposite side of Farnsworth. This was way after the band had stopped playing. I understand there are noise complaints for the brewery sounds. It really should be made for the sound of cars that can be heard all day-long not the brewery. To seek solitude anywhere around Hilltop Park was impossible during Covid. If you are interested in open spaces, this one issue needs to be addressed, otherwise, all efforts will not produce results. The sound of traffic simply agitates and makes humans uneasy.

Would the City of Bordentown consider a committee to help people fix up their homes? I noticed that some folks are struggling to do simple things like paint, lawn work, or house/porch repairs. I would see this as an apprenticeship program for young adults to learn the building trade and a way to clean up our town by helping those in need. Would the churches or NPOs co-op?

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend on June 7 for the community meeting. Will it be recorded? Can you send a link to the recording?

Thank you,
Georgette

Georgette Chalker
Comm. Mgr. & Web Dev.
Princeton University
Department of Geosciences
Guyot Hall, Room 114
Jabber: 609-258-3905
Contact: gchalker@princeton.edu

Currently working from home
In an Emergency Text: 646-833-5566
Open Hrs: M-T, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Re: Response to Bordentown City Master Plan - Barlow

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>
To: Charles Latini Jr <cwl@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 4:52 PM

FROM: Jbarlow@rwjf.org

RESPONSE: On Wed, Jun 2, 2021 at 9:27 PM Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com> wrote:

Joan and Phillip, thank you for your time and attention to this. We greatly appreciate the dialogue that continues to shape the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Firstly, we would like to say that the ideas in the plan so far are included for discussion and continual vetting by the community. Ideas have been discussed and vetted by the Steering Committee, various City organizations, and folks we have engaged with throughout the process. Of course, broader discussions and clarification with the wider community will continue and the process is by no means complete - especially when particular ideas meet specific areas of the City. We truly appreciate your input as we move toward the next public meeting. We have done our best to address your comments below and are glad to hear from you!!

Questions:

First, my wife and I were surprised we did not receive notice of this survey and would appreciate more information on its promotion and distribution. The neighbors we asked were also unaware of this survey taking place. We would have welcomed the opportunity to take part in this.

1. Can the full survey instrument be shared publicly?

The full survey and survey results will be appended to the plan.

2. Can you please share how the survey was distributed and promoted and the time period allowed for responses?

The County assisted us with administration of the online survey, which was hosted on SurveyMonkey.com and posted to the City's web page, distributed by the City's email list, and shared multiple times on the City Facebook Page.

3. How were data aggregated for residents who are also business owners?

As a whole, the data does not distinguish responses between residents vs. business-owners. The survey was really an initial step in the engagement process intended to provide a basic snapshot of community interests and an additional frame of reference for the plan's direction. It is by no means scientific and did not dictate our actions, but we did our best to include questions that would be relevant and useful without turning the survey into an inconvenience (otherwise very few would finish it, in our experience).

4. Why was there not a resident stakeholder focus group?

The Steering Committee was established to help guide the process and consisted of community stakeholders who have broad relationships with residents, businesses, and community organizations. While there was no resident-only focus group, we have engaged members of community organizations who are also residents and whom we have encouraged to garner additional enthusiasm and input from friends, family, and neighbors. Additionally,

the public hearing on June 7th will provide the necessary forum for much broader neighborhood- and City-wide concerns that may not have been addressed by the draft or previously held public meetings at the planning board. The Plan is still draft and we are glad you are engaged.

Comments:

- While the plan itself seems to cover a lot of ground, there seemed to be some redundancies in the goals listed (ex. "Improving highway safety and access, treat public streets as public spaces," etc.) and therefore, should be looked at carefully to clarify proper governance and responsibility for these efforts in connection with the strategies outlined and specific committees assigned. And while some recommendations will benefit other areas of focus, it should be clearly noted that those goals are already referenced in other sections of this document.

In our experience, redundancy in language can often help connect the dots between a wide range of issues that may not be obviously related. The draft recommendations are linked to the numbered goals for this purpose and aim to promote actionable items as well as which committees may undertake them.

- I myself have mobility issues and often use a wheelchair or walker. I identify as a person with a disability. We agree we should be promoting "aging in place" but not just in connection with housing. While the city is making significant improvements to sidewalks around town (including in front of our home), there was no mention of ADA compliance or safety improvements that would make our city more accessible to people with disabilities. This seems to be an important oversight as it will affect my quality of life, as well as many residents and visitors with disabilities who use wheelchairs and other mobility devices, and parents and families with strollers. Without an inclusive plan for improved accessibility, you will limit the services and businesses that both aging and/or disabled residents, those with young families, AND visitors have access to.

Thank you. This is a great point that we could be more explicit about in the plan. Addressing ADA and personal mobility needs within the historic fabric of the City continues to be a challenge and should be explicitly linked with the goals and recommendations for safety, connectivity, and a strong downtown. Many of these priorities also align with AARP aging in place guidance, which include items such as enabling ADUs, bolstering a highly pedestrianized and active downtown, and improving infrastructure.

- While having handicapped parking spots are needed, they become useless if there are not safe and accessible walkways and paths to get down the street and into local businesses (let alone finding an accessible bathrooms). While we realize that most businesses only need to be ADA compliant "within reasonable standards" this shows a great disservice to those who want our city to be accessible and inclusive to all—and severely limits what someone like myself is able to experience and enjoy in our small city. More "creative use of the street" (i.e., outdoor dining, pop-up retail, tents, kiosks) may be a boon for our businesses, but will indeed limit what services and businesses people with disabilities can access or navigate around safely without be pushed into the street.

You raise great points, and these are certainly conversations that need to be held also when planning for streetscape improvements that affect safety, quality of life, and also serve economic/recreational purposes. Creative use of the street can include all these priorities including non-vehicular use of the roadway for *people*, not just cars. Incorporating these needs within the historic fabric of the City, where there is limited sidewalk real estate, continues to be a pressing challenge, however.

- Outdoor dining and more "pop-up" venues for retail, festivals, etc. is something that has risen up in discussion as COVID restrictions came into play. While we *do* want our businesses to have the best chances for success, we have *repeatedly* asked for clearer and more transparent guidance so that both business owners and residents can monitor these activities in ways that provide real-time input and feedback, and, if needed, re-adjust the details to benefit all. Without publicly posted guidelines, response mechanisms, and clearer penalties for violations, we cannot strengthen our community.

A lot of issues typically assumed to be inherent to certain uses can often be addressed through management, enforcement, public awareness, etc. Nothing that we have included in the draft should be assumed to be zero-sum or separate from these controls. These issues have been raised at City Commission meetings and Planning Board meetings. The zoning code is also available online at the City's webpage.

- We were pleased to see signage addressed in the Master Plan. Signage is a needed and important aspect of wayfinding, but the manner in which signage is designed and implemented, from both aesthetic and wayfinding perspectives (ex. the new DBA signage with the QR codes) seems random, excessive and haphazard at best. As a historic destination, it would be great to see more guidance on the types of signage allowed (in congruence with the look and feel of a historic community), more intentional application of signage itself and/or a wayfinding plan—to not clutter or create distractions for drivers and pedestrians alike—and management of signage removal (ex. Yard sales, lost pets, etc.) that are no longer relevant.

Agreed! This is something that can be followed up with the historical society, historic commission, and senior citizen advisory committee, and others. The City may be undertaking a Parking and Circulation Plan Element in coming months, which can emphasize and address these points as well.

- In terms of future business development, if we want to attract more visitors to our local retailers and food establishments, considerations should be made to the types and number of businesses and storefronts that will garner walk-in traffic and commerce, or that offer distinct services or products, including businesses that we either do not or no longer have (ex. bakery).

Agreed! Interest in a bakery was something that was interesting to see in the survey. While the zoning code cannot control whether a bakery locates here or not, amendments to the zoning and surgical infrastructure improvements can strengthen pedestrian activity. Having a business liaison as recommended in the plan could assist attract certain businesses in this regard as well. That is the purpose of many of the goals and recommendations pertaining to the downtown. Special care will need to be taken to address the edges of residential neighborhoods as is mentioned in the plan.

- As a resident, points made about bringing more business into residential areas (i.e., bed and breakfasts, ADUs for rentals, etc.) are a cause for concern. Given the fact that recently there are already issues in our community due to issues around noise and disturbance, littering, and parking, this may add to that tension and frustration. It's worth noting again, certain allowances—for example, replacing street parking with tents and retail space retail—DO have a negative impact on others—causing retail traffic to take valuable parking from residents. We hope all the pros and cons will be considered.

You bring up great points that have been present throughout this process. We want to reiterate that the permission of bed and breakfasts and ADUs is not a given of the Plan. They may work under very specific circumstances or not at all, and they certainly will not be allowed without considering the full impacts and holding additional public discussions. In the meantime, the master plan can lay out what they might look like from a high level and what discussions will need to be held prior to any type of action. Similar to our point above, some inherent concerns with these uses may be resolved by applying very strict conditions for planning board approval.

- One major surprise to us was the proposed “vision” for the lot adjacent to our home, currently a vacant lot owned by a respected neighbor. To view this without any notice or input from US, raises concerns for how the city will solicit resident voices and keep us informed about future building proposals. We have worked hard to maintain the integrity of our home (formerly the First Bank of Bordentown), met with the Historical Society to ensure the historic relevance was kept intact through our design decisions, and is maintained with pride for our community. Our main concern is the quality, accessibility and privacy of our current home and outdoor space and the negative impact this type of “infill build” will have on the quality of our life.

The concept for the corner of Prince & Farnsworth was no more than a concept to show what the City could get out of the corner property if it were to be developed by the current or future property owner. The concept was an attempt at injecting a strategic park space near the downtown for public enjoyment and to improve quality of life, not to build for the sake of building. We did not float anything that is not already permitted on that lot. Future public discussions would be necessary of course.

- Lastly, it was noted that this survey was closed in April of 2020. Seeing that at that time, the city was just entering into an unprecedented period of COVID restrictions, quarantines, and disruption to nearly all residents and businesses, it may be worthwhile to send a follow up survey inviting more respondents to see if the proposed ideas in the Master Plan still resonate among our community. It would also be a way to ensure that the posting and distribution are done in a democratic manner, inviting all residents and business owners to respond.

As long-time residents, our hope is that ALL the items noted in the Master Plan will be open for public input and debate, from residents, business owners, and key stakeholders and that all communications are transparent, publicly posted, and decided upon in a democratic manner. We ask that you take our comments and concerns into consideration not just for now but for future residents and visitors. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Thank you again for your comments. They are immensely useful in development of the City's plan. We have worked with the Planning Board and stakeholder groups to go above and beyond what is required by the State during this process despite the unusual circumstances of the pandemic. There are always opportunities to do better, but this process has been open, repeatedly posted publicly, and continues to remain open to input. It has taken quite a concerted effort, on multiple fronts, to get people to pay attention, but we are thrilled to see continued momentum for this plan.

.....



Re: Master Plan - Preston

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>
To: Charles Latini Jr <cwl@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 4:57 PM

FROM: slppab@verizon.net

RESPONSE: On Wed, May 26, 2021 at 1:29 PM <slppab@verizon.net> wrote:

Question: Hi! I know we spoke earlier about the Dog Park need in the City, but i received the flyer today and thought it would be helpful to have on written record. In terms of suggestions for locations walking distance within the city would of course be most helpful and convenient, but there are spots of open land that might be appropriate that I am unaware of. Of course out at the Divine Word area would work as well. Thanks again for being so receptive. So many dog walkers in this town would be appreciative! Take care. Thanks. Susan Preston, 106 Prince Street.

Answer: Thank you Susan!

When we begin parks planning this will definitely be part of the discussion! And needed!!



Re: Master Plan

Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>
To: Charles Latini Jr <cwl@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 4:59 PM

FROM: slppab@verizon.net

RESPONSE: On Mon, May 17, 2021 at 5:45 PM Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com> wrote:

Question: Hi. Has any thought been given to a dog park in the city plan? So many of us own dogs ! Thx. Susan Preston.

Answer: Ms Preston,

Thank you for your comments. Thanks for the time and effort you put into the review!

In response, great suggestion! One of the recommendations of the Plan is to prepare a comprehensive update to the Parks and Open Space Plan. On Page 64 we speak in broad terms about the need for a vision and buildout of each park location. The details of how each park, or new park for that matter (such as Pointe Breeze), may be programmed will require much more work (and public input). Please stay engaged! This is a great idea - and needed!

Thanks Again!



Re: Master Plan Gonzalez/Adam #1

Charles Latini Jr <cwl@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 5:32 PM

To: "Charles Latini, Jr. PP, AICP" <cwl@latinigleitz.com>

FROM: ggonzalez02143@gmail.com

RESPONSE: On Fri, June 4, 2021 at 15:12 Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com> wrote:

Answer: Received. Thank you again for the continued time and interest you've put forth. The Plan is a draft and there is no expectation, in-fact, it was stated that the Board will not take action on Monday night. The Plan presentation will allow the public continued participation while allowing the Board an opportunity to hear the community's feedback, questions and concerns. Additionally, the public will be allowed to digest the presentation and provide more feedback thereafter in addition to participation in subsequent meetings. The Board felt this was important, which is why we went way beyond the notice requirements of the Municipal Land Use Law for Master Plan's. We know COVID has been quite a distraction in addition to many residents (statewide) typically not paying attention to what Planning Board's do. The City has, and continues to seek to change this paradigm. We have and will continue to be open... Its not perfect, we have a ways to go, but your comments are noted...

See you monday.

Mr Gonzalez Response: Thank you. Our responses to your responses to our comments #1.

Original Comment: Hello,

Please find, attached, our first set of responses/concerns viz. the proposed Bordentown City master plan.
All best,

George Gonzalez
Gary Adams

Q:*Has a circulation, traffic, and parking study been done and accounted for in the plan?

A:There have been various studies identified on Page 3 of the plan. In the coming months we will be embarking on a total refresh of traffic, parking and bicycle/pedestrian traffic... We will keep you posted, but it will assuredly be comprehensive and will attempt to deal with the thoughtful concerns you have brought to this process. Such a study will also help us inform the more detailed zoning work that is to come as well.\

Mr Gonzalez Response: Thank you. I think this work should be done before this plan is considered ratified and democratically meaningful.

Original question: Regarding the mentioned expansion of opportunities to use public sidewalks and streets for markets and general dining: given the fact that the current using of sidewalks for outdoor dining has led to inaccessible sidewalks and possible non-compliance with ADA, how can this be done responsibly? We are not saying that it can't but this really needs to be vetted.

Answer:Totally agree!

Mr Gonzalez Response: We have a dear disabled neighbor who has found the streets inaccessible to wheelchairs given the extra outdoor seating for restaurants and bars. A true representative democracy looking to tout its openness to visitors would make sure that something like ADA compliance is not an afterthought or a threat but a principle upon which to build all the rest. Yet increasing accessibility is not prioritized in the report.

Original Question: What has been the fate of Inclusionary Zoning and how is it being incorporated into the Master Plan?

A:Inclusionary zoning has been utilized toward the redevelopment efforts of the Ocean Spray site. Currently, we do not have an inclusion area zoning ordinance on the books. As part of the housing section we recommend taking a comprehensive look at affordable housing and the opportunities for rehabilitation, inclusionary zoning, and accessory dwelling's.

Mr Gonzalez Response: Residents are worried about gentrification and being priced out. I think the plan would do well to combine these concerns.

Q:*Any build-outs on current lots should be based on modern zoning, with necessary set back. Otherwise, the congestion will be made worse.

A:We agree. The plan does however recommend looking at each neighborhood and the streets within them to ensure the character of the neighborhood is preserved and enhanced. As we look at the zoning in the months and years to come, we will of course have to consider modern development practices within the context of community character. Fine line to balance, but a great comment!

Mr Gonzalez Response: There are good reasons why a lot that would have been buildable in certain ways in the 19th century would not be today. Sometimes the right thing to do is not to build.

Re: Masterplan Comments Gonzalez/Adams Response #2

Charles Latini Jr <cwl@latinigleitz.com>
Draft To: Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com>

Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 5:29 PM

FROM: ggonzalez02143@gmail.com

RESPONSE: On Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 3:12 PM Office LatiniGleitz <office@latinigleitz.com> wrote:

Received.. Thank you again for the continued time and interest you've put forth. The Plan is a draft and there is no expectation, in-fact, it was stated that the Board will not take action on Monday night. The Plan presentation will allow the public continued participation while allowing the Board an opportunity to hear the community's feedback, questions and concerns. Additionally, the public will be allowed to digest the presentation and provide more feedback thereafter in addition to participation in subsequent meetings. The Board felt this was important, which is why we went way beyond the notice requirements of the Municipal Land Use Law for Master Plan's. We know COVID has been quite a distraction in addition to many residents (statewide) typically not paying attention to what Planning Board's do. The City has, and continues to seek to change this paradigm. We have and will continue to be open... Its not perfect, we have a ways to go, but your comments are noted...

See you monday.

Original question: There is no indication whatsoever that a representative sample of Bordentown City residents was incorporated in the data. The online survey was not a scientific survey and of the 300+ responses, more than a quarter were from non-residents. Given that, as a practical matter, the document is used to set an agenda regarding zoning and land use issues and to represent the will of the community as important changes are vetted around such matters, the lack of truly representative data should disqualify the current plan from serving as a window into the community's interest. Anecdotally, many residents we know did not even know the survey was being conducted or that discussion with residents was being solicited.

Answer: The survey was an extra step in the process intended to provide a basic snapshot of community interests and an additional frame of reference for the plan's direction. It is by no means scientific and did not dictate our actions, but we did our best to include questions that would be relevant and useful without turning the survey into an inconvenience. In our experience, very few respondents would finish if that were the case.

The input from folks outside of town does offer some perspective as we rely on the region's purchasing power to maintain a sustainable downtown, but that does not mean their opinions are valued over those of local residents.

Mr Gonzalez Response: : The concern is that the survey data will be misread by the public as indicative of citizens' interests.

Original question: The criteria according to which the Steering Committee was selected needs to be transparent and, ideally, should have included some resident oversight.

Creation of the steering committee was an extra thing we chose to do to diversify the input. These are stakeholders, residents and business owners who talk to people and know the town. All these engagement tools were discussed at public meetings. Of course a community could always do more, and better, but I think we have a lot to be proud of in terms of what we did to engage the community - including extending the process now.

Mr Gonzalez Response: Given the fact that the plan touts Thomas Paine's championing of representative democracy, it would seem in the best interests of those who drafted it to seek robust community engagement. Anecdotally, many neighbors we have spoken with did not know of these conversations. Advertising on the City website and fulfilling the requirements of mere statutory compliance a robust conversation do not engender. Yes, citizens have to show up but as citizen interest in engaging the master plan is waxing, it would make sense for the process to be extended and even revised.

Original Question: Who are the developers that were consulted and what are their relationships to members of city boards and committees responsible for overseeing and putting together the master plan? Can we ensure no conflicts of interest?

Answer: We are not sure we understand this question, but L&G Planning are not developers, we are land use planners committed to the public interest. Chuck Latini, one of the firm's principals, is the City Planner and resident of Bordentown living in the downtown.

Mr Gonzalez Response: See page 4 of your document. "Local Developers" are listed as stakeholders the planning team met with. Who are they?

Original Question: There was a residents' association when the data was being gathered. Was it consulted\

Answer: The process has been and continues to be open. Many stakeholders were engaged with the explicit purpose of generating interest and discussion. We are not sure what resident association you are referring to, but we're open to meeting with them too. We are glad the engagement has reached high levels but it has taken quite a concerted effort to get people to pay attention. We continue to value your input and the input that will be garnered by the monday public hearing and thereafter.

Mr Gonzalez Response: Unfortunately, we are now talking after the fact. A residents advisory group should be formed now to review the plan itself.

Original Question: Given that according to plan itself, Bordentown City can expect a growth of less than 500 residents in 20 years, the bulk of economic development (in the vernacular not statutory sense) will happen through a spike in tourism dollars. Much of the plan reads like a plan for rebranding the City as a regional center for historical tourism (think a smaller scale Sleepy Hollow, Salem, or Williamsburg). This seems to overvalue local business interests at the direct expense of residents, who may have important concerns about noise, traffic, and quiet enjoyment of their homes.

Answer: The intention is not to "overvalue" business interests over residents. The City remains an important historical center and continues to be valued as such according to input from residents and business-owners alike. As stated in the plan and throughout this process, our aim has been to reiterate previously adopted goals and recommendations and strengthen the City's vision through the public input we have received and continue to receive.

Mr Gonzalez Response: These previously adopted goals and recommendations should be specified and vetted in front of a residents advisory board. In any event, wishes change. A facet of representative democracy is revisability.

Original Question: Conversely, there is little, in terms of practical ideas, for caring for lower income residents and seniors. It would seem that these should be central to the plan, rather than incidental to developing tourism

downtown.

Answer: We really appreciate this comment, but we have not been engaged during this process to write a Housing Element and Fair Share Housing Plan, which would more directly address these issues. However, we would like to emphasize that many of the drafted goals and recommendations align with guidance and best practices from AARP, the regional planning commission, and many planning advocacy organizations. We have also explicitly incorporated affordable housing into the goals and recommended the City advance its efforts toward its affordable housing obligations.

The plan also emphasizes the benefits of housing rehabilitation, maintaining diverse housing options (including ADUs), infill, bike/pedestrian safety, access to community facilities, transit equity, and open space which are all disproportionately important to disadvantaged populations including seniors and low-income families.

We have also heard concerns about subdivisions of single-family homes for rental units, which is generally good for affordability but not ideal among homeowners and those concerned about parking and noise. It's all a delicate balance...

Mr Gonzalez Response: Housing equity and justice is a concern for many long-term residents who live and even work in town. Connections to fair housing need to be made here given that, conversely, elements of the plan square quite well, structurally, with what we know about gentrification and how it happens.

Original Question: As a whole, the plan, understanding that the City is currently almost fully developed, largely looks to rezone and redesign. There is a proposed change in the zoning of parts of Hilltop (the lot next to Angie's and Borden House). Given the issues with parking and noise in the neighborhood that increased traffic from downtown consumers has caused—issues that the city is already well aware of—these proposals cannot be considered unchallenged. The plan also includes ideas about allowing Bread and Breakfasts (B&B's) in what looks to be the Hilltop neighborhood. ALL the actual residents of the neighborhood should be directly included in discussions of these aspects of the plan.

Answer: The process remains open to all. The zoning recommendations are surgical considerations for fine tuning, not redesign. Mostly, they are meant to ensure that residents are not overburdened by a zoning code that never matched the physical character of most of the neighborhoods they applied to. Many residents have to bear the expense of zoning variances and hiring professionals even if what they seek to do is well within the character of their respective neighborhood and should just be a simple construction permit. Zoning is not supposed to be a burden, it is supposed to protect neighborhoods.

Mr Gonzalez Response: Apply that surgical process on the ground. Meet with neighborhood constituents to discuss the details of what is proposed as it affects them.

Similarly, a bed and breakfast is something that may work under the right circumstances, but it is not a given. We are not creating B&B districts. We agree with past sentiments that the opportunity exists, under very specific conditions such as lot size, parking availability, proximity to the downtown, etc. However, no one is wedded to the idea without significant dialogue during the zoning review which will happen after this plan, and with more public input opportunities.

Obviously there are concerns over noise that we are committed to trying to resolve. But for a few bad actors, we're trying to make adjustments. As you know, the town's tax rateable base depends on a successful downtown, which by its nature will always remain relatively quiet in comparison with other larger towns, but making adjustments that take into account the quality of life for us all remains a concern. Enforcement will surely be part of these discussions as well.

Mr Gonzalez Response: Please be more specific about how a successful downtown plays into the town's tax ratable base. We think you need to make your case in the plan itself and spell this out. Again, as the tax base increases (which hasn't lead to an improvement in the school ratings or more services for seniors, teens, and low income residents), there are concerns of rents going up (including commercial rents) and folks being priced out as renters and eventually homeowners.

Answer: I think we are on the same page about addressing the edges of the downtown. The idea is not to expand the downtown into residential neighborhoods but to use creative zoning and planning approval strategies to buffer the nuisances of commercial uses that you mentioned from nearby residences. Again these are ideas that will need continued discussion and public hearing prior to any actual zoning amendments.

Mr Gonzalez Response: You mentioned noise as an issue but not parking. Keep in mind that nuisances include intoxicated visitors slamming car doors (and urinating and vomiting in yards) in front of residences (on Fridays and Saturdays through last call) because they aren't using the commuter rail lot.

We sincerely thank you again for your comments and look forward to advancing the dialogue next week.