

## Open House Public Meeting Comments Summary

Thursday, November 2, 2023

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Brentwood Library Community Room

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this public meeting was to update the Brentwood community on the progress of the Implementable Comprehensive Plan and engage everyone in helping to affirm and refine preliminary recommendations.

Jenni Easton, project manager, presented a brief overview of the implementable planning process and project milestone updates. Stations around the room presented draft visions, recommendations, and interactive activities to encourage attendees to provide feedback, including assessments of priority and feasibility for each proposed recommendation.

The following is a summary of the written feedback:

### *Brownsville Road*

- Desire for extensive streetscaping treatments, such as:
  - Benches, more lighting, raised crosswalks with narrowed cartways (this was mentioned twice)
  - Improved safety for pedestrian crossings (also mentioned on multiple boards)
- Residents would like to see more restaurants and eateries along Brownsville Rd.
- One resident explained the congestion caused by buses is often because the bus can't pull up to the curb because of on-street parking in front of or near the bus stops along Brownsville Rd.
- Residents were curious what a "distinct feeling" is supposed to feel like for Brownsville Rd.

### *Physical Connectivity*

- A trail from Brentwood Ave to Willock Rd would get used a lot. One resident commented that there seems to be an existing, but unused, road along the route.
- Another path begins at the intersection of Garden and Jacobson and then goes down a hill into the woods along Garden and Jacobson.
- A few of the notes mention that people walk in the wooded areas in the Borough (referred to as "the hollow").
- There is some desire to make crossing Route 51 easier for the residents who live on the other side of the road.

### *Development and Redevelopment*

- Curiosity about the main street manager position, specifically what this position's job description would be.
- Overwhelming support for a façade improvement program.
- Outstanding questions about the future of both the old Borough building and the old school sites.
- Several residents were interested in new business activities, especially restaurants, throughout the Borough to support the local tax base.

### *Marketing and Communications*

- Out of the four “heartbeat” statements that were developed by Pashek+MTR, the themes of “Assets” and “Congenial” received the most support.
  - Assets: Enjoyable places to go and things to do-with other or alone- all in our borough.
  - Congenial: You have a place in Brentwood Borough.
- There was also a desire to have more “third spaces” or other places to gather.
- Residents are extremely supportive of Brentwood's “Take It To The Streets” events. One attendee suggested that the Borough have a “carless Sundays” event.
- Other ideas included:
  - More broadly advertising local events
  - Making space for local artists at events
  - Changing/adding vendors

### *Parking*

- Adding paint/stripping to delineate on-street parking was supported, with many noting it seemed highly feasible and rated as a high priority.
- Residents were mixed on the feasibility and priority ranking of a residential permit parking system.
- Residents found the parking recommendations were all high priorities.
- Additional painting and delineation in residential areas, as well as around intersections to help identify curb areas, was supported.
- Residents were also supportive of increasing existing parking enforcement regulations, including updated signage, and enforcing violations.
- Other comments included:
  - Considering raised curbs or protected sidewalks to prevent cars from parking over them
  - Banning vehicles that are not “supposed to be in the borough” (large trucks, trailers, unregistered vehicles).