

Public Meeting

VIRTUAL PUBLIC KICK-OFF MEETING

The Public Kick-off Meeting occurred on Wednesday, February 24, at 6:00 PM via video conference. The TSW Team presented analysis, feedback to-date, urban design inspiration, the goals of the project, and ideas for design standards. Approximately 65 people registered and 45 people attended the meeting. Polls were asked throughout the meeting for feedback on goals, urban design features, and ideas for design standards. After the meeting, the recording was posted on the project's online activities website and project page hosted on the City of Bloomington's website.



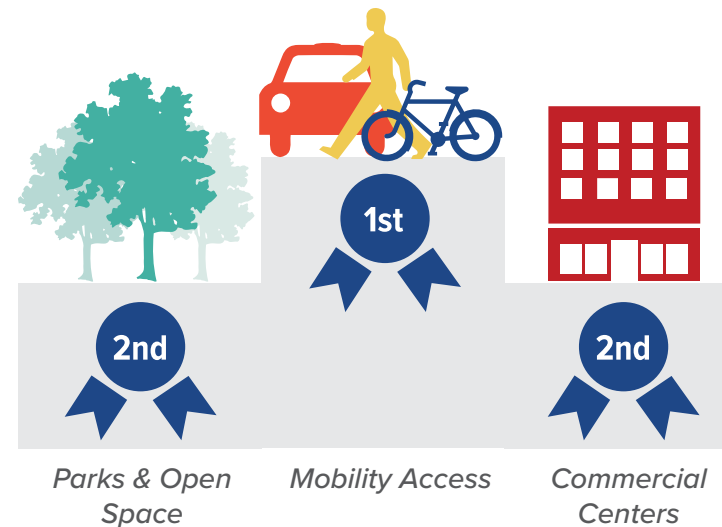
POLL RESULTS

The infographics on this page illustrate the major themes of the feedback received during the meeting. The most popular items to consider are business retention and safe, pleasant mobility access for all users.

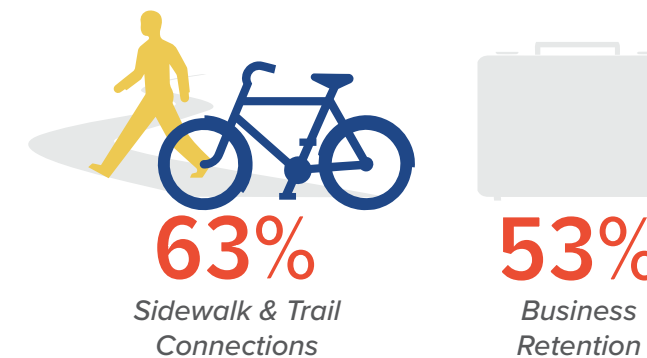
The four poll questions were:

1. Do you agree with what we've heard to date?
2. What are the most important goals to you (please limit your answers to 3 max)?
3. What are the most important topics to consider for redevelopment criteria (please limit your responses to 3 max)?
4. What are the most important items to include in general design standards?

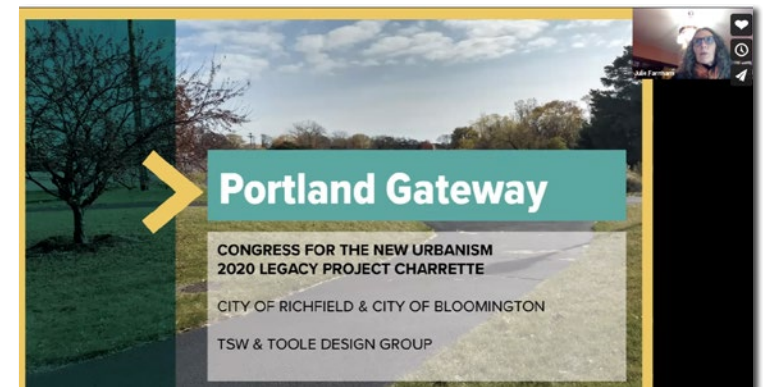
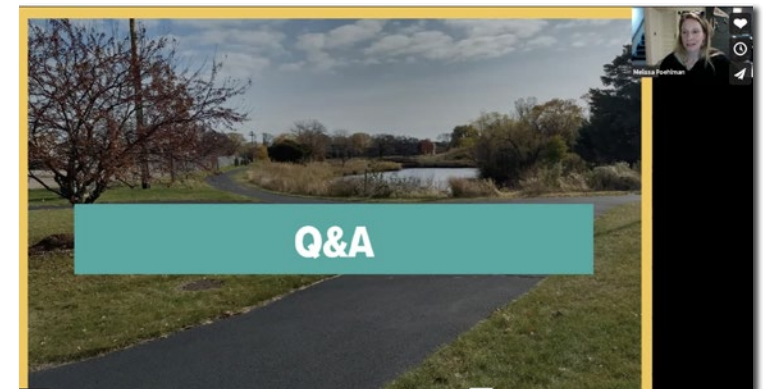
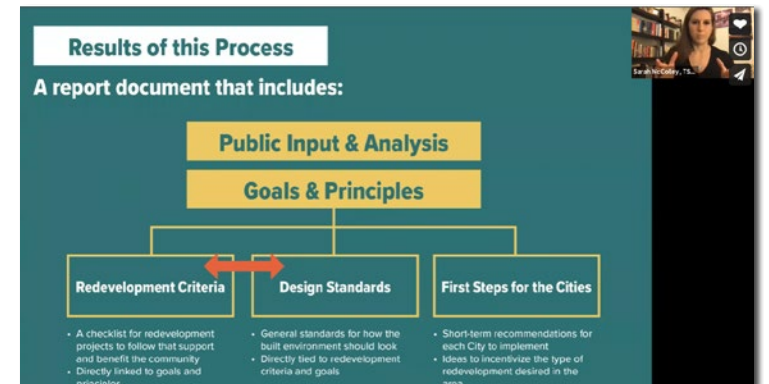
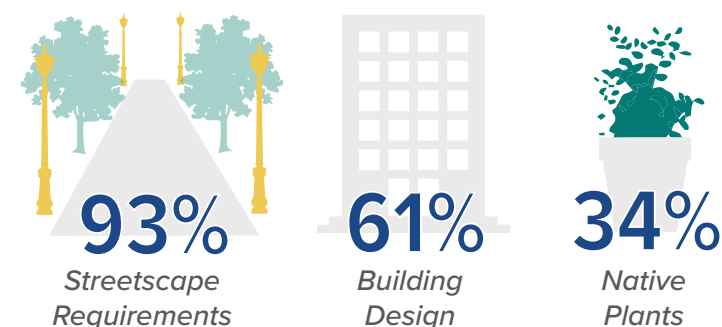
MOST IMPORTANT GOALS



MOST IMPORTANT REDEVELOPMENT CRITERIA



WHAT TO INCLUDE IN DESIGN STANDARDS



Screenshots from the Public Meeting hosted on February 24, 2021.

Online Engagement

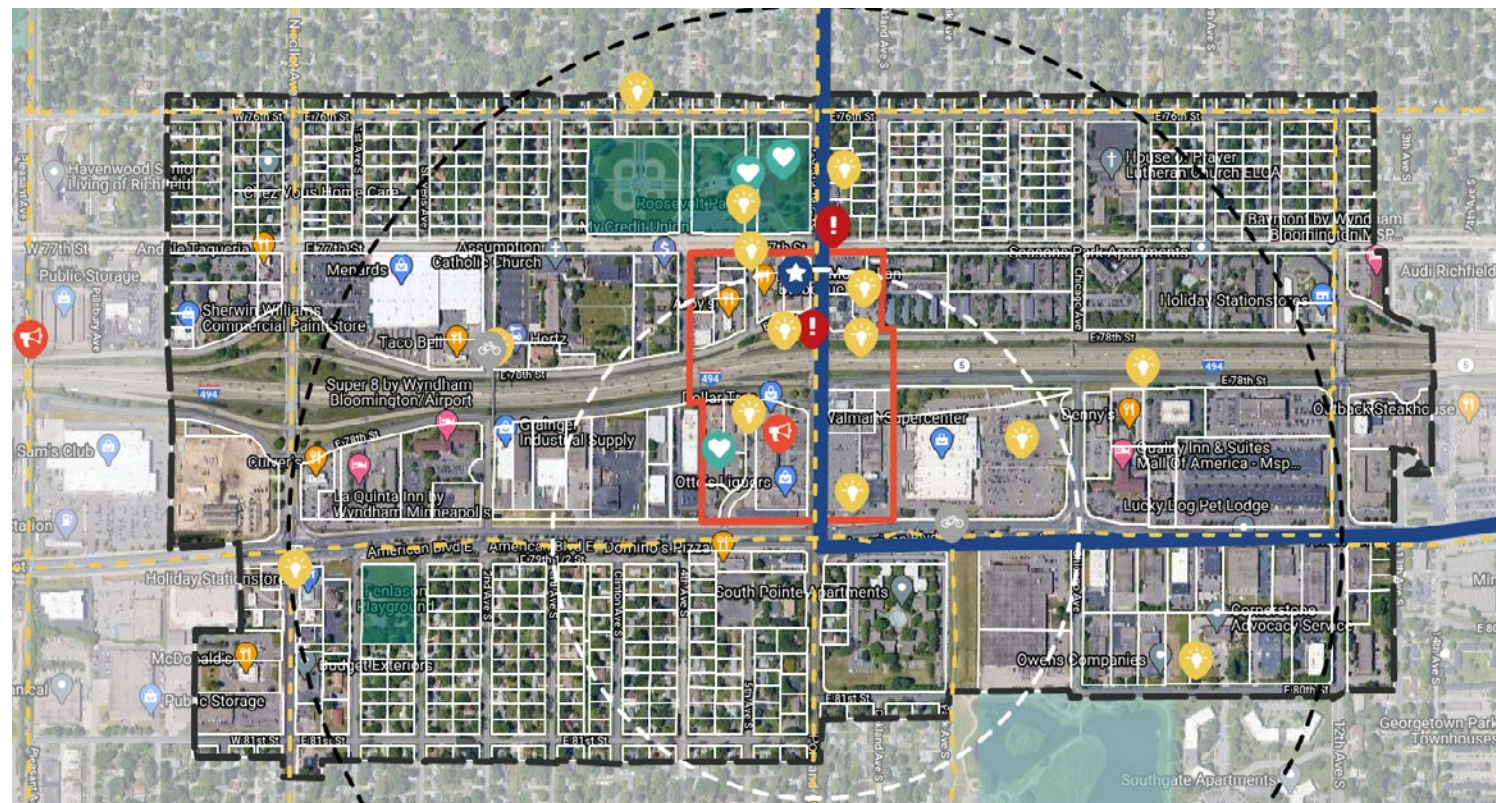
SUMMARY

The online activities were available for four weeks (February 24 to March 24, 2021) after the public meeting. An interactive map allowed participants to comment directly on the map with their ideas; surveys were directed to property owners, business owners, and residents; and, a discussion forum asked about the draft goals and principles for the plan. 81 unique users visited the site, but 38 people participated in the activities.

INTERACTIVE MAP

Comments on the interactive map provided insights about specific locations and businesses participants would like to see preserved. Some of the comments are summarized to the right, based on the type of comment received.

<p>★ PLACES TO PRESERVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area needs to be upgraded, but Elsen's Garage needs to stay. 	<p>💡 IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect sidewalks for increased walkability. Add more housing facing the park. Pedestrian bridge.
<p>♥ PLACES THAT ARE LOVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denny's Bakery. The dog park. 	<p>! SAFETY CONCERNS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corner of E. 77th Street and Portland Avenue feels unsafe sometimes. I-494 project doesn't focus on bicycle or pedestrian needs enough.
<p>📣 PLACES THAT NEED TO CHANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strip and infrastructure needs improvement. The area needs to be more attractive but accessible. 	<p>🚲 POTENTIAL BIKE ROUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A biking connection between Nine Mile Creek trail and other trails Separate bikes from vehicular traffic when possible.



Online Engagement

SURVEYS

The online forum included three separate surveys: a general one for all participants, one directed to area property owners, and one directed to area business owners. The property and business owner surveys received minimal responses (1-2 each). The general survey received 32 responses. More than one-third of respondents live inside or within walking distance of the study area.

Similar to the results of the public meeting, safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure came out as the highest priority. Participants noted that current conditions on the Portland and Nicollet bridges are not safe. In addition, many comments stressed the importance of helping local businesses.

Comments on the map and given in the free-response questions tied these concerns directly to the new interchange design at Portland Avenue and I-494, meaning that they were concerned the new design will worsen conditions for pedestrians. Many expressed that the best part of living in this area is the convenient access to many places, including the airport, interstate, and places they frequent.

GOALS & PRINCIPLES FORUMS

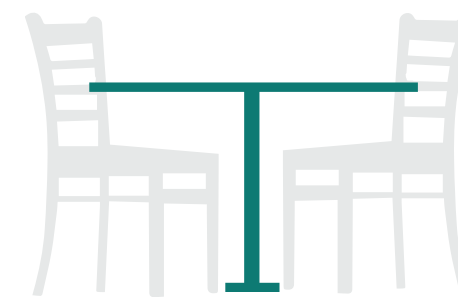
The discussion forums for the goals and principles allowed participants to share their thoughts on the draft goals and principles presented at the public meeting. A few participants commented and agreed with the statements.

32
responses



- 2 live in the redevelopment zone
- 2 live within walking distance in Bloomington
- 6 live at least a mile away in Bloomington
- 9 live within walking distance in Richfield

WHAT KINDS OF USES ARE MOST DESIRED?



80%

Restaurants & Cafes



76%

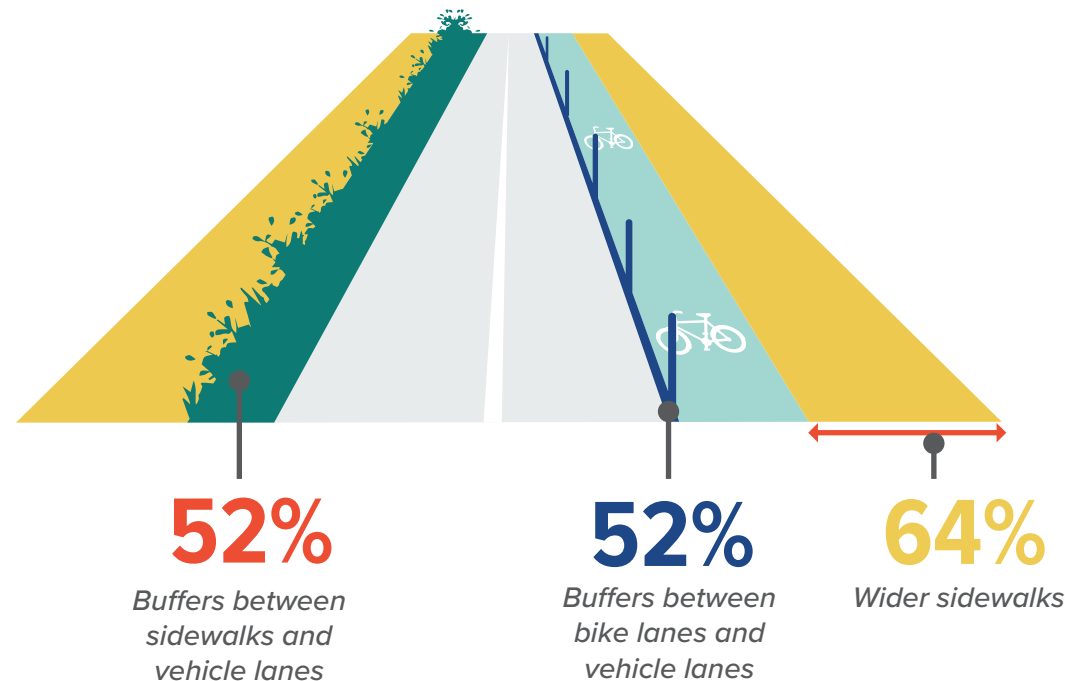
Retail Services



40%

Personal Services

WHAT WOULD MAKE THE AREA SAFER TO WALK AND BIKE?



WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS TO CONSIDER TO MEET THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS?

- 1** Providing pedestrian or bicycle crossings over I-494
- 2** Adding sidewalks, bike lanes, and better access to bus stops
- 3** Preserving and supporting existing businesses
- 4** Environmental sustainability
- 5** Attracting new local businesses

WHAT ELSE DID RESPONDENTS SHARE?

"Affordable housing" needs to actually be affordable.

Don't "redevelop" this area so small businesses can't afford to stay. Replace concrete with green space.

It's important to preserve existing businesses.