AGENDA

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
+ MONROE NORTH TIFA

Board Members:

Kayem Dunn • Dr. Wendy Falb • Jane Gietzen • Brian Harris • Mayor George Heartwell • Elissa Hillary • Diana Sieger • Jim Talen • Rick Winn • Shaun Biel • Jane Gietzen • Howard Hansen • Carl Kelly • Mark Roys

Wednesday, November 11, 2015
9:00 a.m. SPECIAL MEETING
29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

1. Calls to Order
   Motion Harris / Hansen

2. Approve and Recommend GR Forward Strategic Plan
   Motion Kelly / Larson

3. President & CEO Report
   Info Item Larson

4. Board Discussion

5. Old Business

6. New Business

7. Public Comment

8. Adjourn
DATE: November 6, 2015

TO: DDA Board

FROM: Tim Kelly, AICP
Planning Manager

SUBJECT: GR Forward Approval and Recommendation

In April 2014, the Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. (DGRI) Board, Grand Rapids City Commission, and Grand Rapids Public School (GRPS) Board executed agreements to initiate work on an update to the Downtown Plan, a River Corridor Plan, and master planning efforts for Innovation Central High and the recently opened Museum School. Those combined efforts, branded GR Forward, were undertaken to envision the future of Downtown and the Grand River.

The work of GR Forward builds upon previous planning efforts, and helps to clarify our collective community goals for the future. When the process launched, it set a goal of creating a community-driven plan fueled by a robust public outreach initiative. All members of the community – those who live, work, learn and play in and near Downtown and the River – were welcomed participants, invited to help craft a collective vision for the future through community surveys, focus groups, neighborhood meetings, an active online presence, public forums and an open house that repurposed a vacant storefront. Over 4,400 Grand Rapidians offered their goals and ideas, and their input is reflected in every recommendation and strategy in GR Forward. Those goals and strategies will enable coordinated budgeting decisions and will guide the revitalization activities and investments of DGRI, the City, GRPS and their many partners over the next 10 years. They will also help leverage private and philanthropic dollars by clearly signaling where improvements will be made Downtown and along the River.

The final plan of action, developed through the most inclusive community engagement process in the City’s history, envisions Downtown Grand Rapids as the civic heart of West Michigan and outlines the following six broad goals:

- Restore the Grand River as the Draw & Create a Connected and Equitable River Corridor
- Create a True Downtown Neighborhood Home to a Diverse Population
- Implement a 21st Century Mobility Strategy
- Expand Job Opportunities & Ensure Continued Vitality of the Local Economy
- Reinvest in Public Space, Culture & Inclusive Programming
- Retain & Attract Families, Talent & Job Providers with High Quality Public Schools

The project partners – Downtown Grand Rapids Inc, the City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Public Schools – presented the preliminary draft of GR Forward for community feedback starting in July 2015, and did not end the review process until October 23, 2015. In that time, more than 50 events and presentation were scheduled (Attachment), including, but not limited to:
• A fourth round of neighborhood meetings with the Black Hills, Roosevelt Park, Westside Collaborative, Creston, Belknap, and Heritage Hill;
• More than 30 meetings with organizational and community leaders, including local business associations, real estate developers and professionals, mobility advocates, civic boards and commissions, and those groups devoted to promoting diversity, inclusion and equity in Grand Rapids and throughout West Michigan, among them LINC, NAACP, Endless Opportunities, Convention and Arena Authority’s Community Inclusion Group, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses, Black Women Connect and Outpro;
• A second Open House staged at the Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. offices with copies of the draft plan available for review and comment;
• Copies of the plan posted at all Grand Rapids public library branches, City Hall, Development Center and MadCap Coffee;
• Media appearances on WGVU-TV’s West Michigan Week, Bliss for GR, Robert S’ “Pulse of the City”, and La Mejor Radio with Chuy Morales;
• Electronic versions of the plan on the Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., City of Grand Rapids, and GR Forward websites.

The public review process generated more than 750 comments and ideas on a wide range of topics. Comments generally centered on the themes of document formatting, inclusion and equity, river restoration and recreation, housing and transportation, and drove several important and substantive revisions, including:
• Positioning diversity, inclusion and equity as a fundamental economic development opportunity.
• Advancing an inclusive growth agenda for Downtown Grand Rapids.
• Further defining “affordable” housing and revising Downtown’s affordable housing goal upward to 30 percent of total housing supply.
• Clarifying building height recommendations to ensure appropriate transition from the city center to near neighborhoods.
• Adding a recommendation to build on the Grandville Avenue corridor as a Latino business corridor.
• Expanding the list of implementation partners.

These and other comments strengthened a final document that will amend the City Master Plan and give local leaders the citizen-driven guidance and tools required to continue building a great waterfront city. In addition to meeting with the DGRI Board, the final approval schedule will include presentations to the Downtown Development Authority Board, Monroe North Tax Increment Finance Authority Board, the City Planning Commission, and finally the City Commission on December 15, 2015.

The approval of GR Forward by the City Commission will be a significant achievement, and will mark the conclusion of an intensive community planning effort. However, it is just the beginning in realizing the community’s goals. Above all, GR Forward is about taking action. Some recommendations can be accomplished very quickly and are already taking shape. Others will take time due to many factors including the availability of resources. Whatever the opportunity, achieving the ambitious goals of GR Forward will require public, private, and philanthropic support throughout the Grand Rapids community. By recognizing our shared vision, and working collaboratively to achieve it, Downtown Grand Rapids will be further cemented as the region’s downtown, the civic heart of West Michigan, and a place welcoming to all residents, nearby neighbors, and visitors.

Recommendation Approve GR Forward and recommend adoption by the City of Grand Rapids as an amendment to the City Master Plan.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Tim Kelly, DGRI Planning Manager
DATE: Updated October 2015
SUBJECT: GR Forward Public Engagement Summary Facts

GR Forward is driven by a robust public consultation initiative. Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc (DGRI) – along with the City of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Schools and other project partners – designed and continues to advance a significant public information and engagement effort that’s directly involving citizens, developers, businesses, non-profit and institutional partners, decision makers, and other stakeholders. The strategy broadens the reach of traditional public engagement efforts by deploying innovative methods and technologies.

This memo summarizes the community engagement action from project startup in April 2014 thru September 2015, during which time over 4,400 citizens have participated in the GR Forward process.

- **Consultant Selection:** 2 committee meetings with a group comprised of 12 citizen members representing the following organizations:
  - City of Grand Rapids Planning Commission
  - CWD Real Estate
  - Windquest Group
  - Grand Valley State University
  - City of Grand Rapids City Commission
  - 616 Development
  - Grand Rapids Whitewater
  - Friends of Grand Rapids Parks
  - Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority
  - Essence Restaurant Group
  - The Rapid
  - Grand Rapids Public School Board

- **GR Forward project steering committees:** 4 comprised of 145 citizen members.
  - Downtown Plan Steering Committee (32 members): 12 meetings
  - River Corridor Plan Steering Committee (78 members): 12 meetings
  - River Restoration Plan Steering Committee (22 members): 11 meetings
  - GRPS Museum School and Innovation Central High (13 members): 8 meetings
- **DGRI leadership network:** reports to and roundtable discussions with the following groups:
  - DGRI Board of Advisors (12 members): 4 meetings
  - Downtown Development Authority (9 members): 5 meetings
  - Downtown Improvement District (members): 2 meetings
  - Monroe North Tax Increment Finance Authority (9 members): 3 meetings
  - Alliance for Investment (23 members): 5 meetings
  - Alliance for Vibrancy (19 members): 4 meetings
  - Alliance for Livability (22 members): 5 meetings

- **Briefing City of Grand Rapids Commissions, Councils, and Advisory Boards:**
  - City Commission: 3 meetings
  - Planning Commission: 3 meetings
  - Parking Commission: 5 meetings
  - Parks Advisory Board: 3 meetings
  - Smart Zone Board: 2 meetings
  - Building and Brownfield Authority: 1 meeting
  - Urban Forestry Committee: 1 meeting

- **Mini-grants:** $30,000 to 12 neighborhoods voluntarily applying to support public outreach and participation.
  - Black Hills Neighborhood Association
  - Cook Library
  - Creston Neighborhood Association
  - Disability Advocates of Kent County
  - Grand Rapids Initiative for Leaders
  - Grandville Avenue Arts Center
  - Heritage Hill Neighborhood Association
  - John Ball Neighbors dba SWAN
  - LINC Community Revitalization, Inc.
  - Neighbors of Belknap Lookout
  - Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association
  - West Grand Neighborhood Association

- **Neighborhood consultations:** 26 total citywide drawing ~450 sign-ins.
  - 3 each with Belknap, Black Hills, Creston, Downtown, Heritage Hill, Roosevelt Park, SWAN/ JBAN, West Grand
  - 1 Regional meeting each with neighbors in: Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, Southwest Grand Rapids

- **Stakeholder Interviews:** 30+ with representatives from such organizations as:
- WMEAC
- SMG Group
- Frey Foundation
- City of Grand Rapids City Commissioners
- Huntington Bank
- DDA Board of Advisors
- DGRI Board of Advisors
- Celebration Cinema
- Orion
- The Rapid
- Grand Rapids Public Schools Staff
- Grand Rapids City Staff
- Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- Experience Grand Rapids
- Ellis Parking
- Spectrum Health
- Rockford Construction
- Grand Rapids Whitewater
- Colliers International
- Start Garden
- Attico Ventures
- The Right Place
- Greater Grand Rapids Bike Coalition
- CWD Real Estate
- 616 Development
- Monroe North TIFA / Business Association
- The Geek Group
- Urban League

- **Focus groups:** 13 to date on housing, diversity and inclusion, student life, and other key issues with representatives from the following organizations:
  - **University Students:** MSU, KCAD, GVSU, WMU/Cooley
  - **Merchants:** Downtown Market, Bartertown, Central District Cyclery, Barfly, Mayan Buzz, Autofixit
  - **Social Service:** Mel Trotter, Heartside Neighbors Collaborative Project, Degage, Catholic Charities of WM, Coalition to End Homelessness, HQ
  - **Diversity and Inclusion (3 meetings):** LINC, GR Community Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Kent County, Kellogg Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, Urban League, SMG, Experience GR, City of GR, Dyer Ives
  - **River Art:** GRAM, Huntington Bank, Meijer Gardens
  - **Economic Development:** LINC, GR Current, Neighborhood Ventures, City of GR
- **DASH (2 meetings):** 616 Development, Downtown Market, Art Prize, SMG, Community Foundation, Dyer Ives, The Rapid, Spectrum, Monroe North BA, GVSU, MSU, WMU/Cooley, GRCC, Ellis Parking, NOBL
- **Parking (2 meetings):** Bank of Holland, GVSU, Rockford Construction, Community Foundation, DT Residents, Ellis Parking, Planning Commission, 616 Development, MSU, Spectrum, Parking Commission, GRCC, NOBL
- **Housing:** SVG Real Estate, Dwelling Place, Rockford Construction, Orion, Downtown Residents, 616 Development, City Commissioner, Huntington Bank

- **Public open house:** 450+ visitors to a storefront space dedicated to GR Forward at 50 Louis Street from October – December 2014.

- **Public forums: 225 attendees.**
  - January 15, 2015: 150 participants
  - April 16, 2015: 75 participants

- **Survey of downtown residents, workers, and businesses:** 376 respondents.

- **Downtown resident event: 170 attendees.**
  - April 15, 2015

- **Collaborative mapping exercise:** Received 991 community-generated ideas, insights and comments on barriers.

- **Invited Organizational 75+ consultations:**
  - Business Representatives / Private Sector
  - Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Board
  - Chamber of Commerce’s Inside Grand Rapids Program (x3)
  - West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
  - Heartside Business Association (x2)
  - Leadership Grand Rapids
  - Creston Business Association
  - Inside GR
  - Varnum LLP
  - Amway
  - Chamber of Commerce Moving GR Forward Event
  - What’s Next
  - BLEND
  - Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders Program
  - Hello WM Intern Connect Program
  - JW Marriot Management Team
o Spectrum Health Recruiting Managers
o GR Business Breakfast
o Downtown Market Staff
o Rockford Construction (x2)
o Grand Action Executive Committee

Education
o Stepping Stones Montessori School (x2)
o GRPS Center for Economicology
o Grand Rapids Public School Board (x2)
o GVSU Environmental Planning Class
o Michigan Association of Planning Student Conference
o GVSU Master of Public Administration Class

Civic Organizations
o Grandville Avenue of the Arts
o Experience Grand Rapids Board of Directors
o Convention and Arena Authority Leadership Breakfast
o Convention and Arena Authority Community Inclusion Group
o Grand Rapids Initiatives for Leaders (GRIL)
o GR Rotary Club
o Grand Rapids Kiwanis Club (x2)
o Mayflower Explorers Group
o Greater Grand Rapids National Pan-Hellenic Council
o West Michigan Environmental Action Council
o West Michigan Environmental Leadership Luncheon
o Friends of Grand Rapids Parks Board
o West Michigan Steelheaders
o SWAN/JBAN Annual Membership Meeting
o Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association Board
o LINC First Thursday
o LINC First Friday (x2)
o Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Board
o Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association Seniors Meeting
o Creston Neighborhood Monthly Board Meeting
o 616 Community Conversations

State Agencies
o Michigan Economic Development Commission
o Michigan State Housing Development Authority Managers Meeting
o Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Foundation / Philanthropy
- Dyer-Ives Foundation
- Frey Foundation
- Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- Sebastian Foundation
- Wege Foundation
- WK Kellogg Foundation

Accessibility and Transportation
- The Rapid Board of Directors
- Greater Grand Rapids Bike Coalition
- Disability Advocates of Kent County (x2)

Adjacent Communities
- City of Walker
- City of Kentwood
- City of Lowell City Council
- Alpine Township Board of Advisors
- Downtown Kalamazoo Inc.

- **Leadership Luncheons**: 4 round table discussions involving approximately 100 civic leaders:
  - November 20, 2015: Planning with Bold Vision
  - December 4, 2014: Economic Development and Equity
  - January 15, 2015: Performance Based Governance
  - February 12, 2015: Welcoming Civic Love Through Open Engagement

- **Public Speaker Series**: 4 events featuring leaders on:
  - November 20, 2015: Planning with Bold Vision
  - December 4, 2014: Economic Development and Equity
  - January 15, 2015: Performance Based Governance
  - February 12, 2015: Welcoming Civic Love Through Open Engagement

- **Internet**: ~3,250 views/month on a project specific website supported by Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.

- **Planners in public spaces**: ~150 people engaged at ArtPrize, Movies in the Park, and other events.

- **E-Newsletter of updates and insights**: 77 distributed with a weekly reach of approximately 300 people.
- Media: Dozens of print/radio/web/TV clips generated by a concerted earned/paid/ethnic media strategy.

4,400+ total participating residents, businesses, community leaders and organizations leading up to start of the formal public comment period in July 2015.


July
- July 2, 2015: DRAFT GR Forward Plan Submitted
- July 8, 2015: DDA Board
- July 9, 2015: DGRI Board of Advisors
- July 9, 2015: Windquest Group
- July 15, 2015: Social Service Executive Committee
- July 15, 2015: River Restoration Steering Committee
- July 23, 2015: Planning Commission
- July 23, 2015: Diversity and Inclusion Meeting at Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- July 27, 2015: Alliance for Livability
- July 29, 2015: Rockford Construction

August
- August 12, 2015: Public Comment Period Begins
- August 11, 2015: Alliance for Investment
- August 12, 2015: MNTIFA Update
- August 17, 2015: Open House #2 @ DGRI
- August 17, 2015: Library Exhibits
- August 26, 2015: Disability Advocates of Kent County
- August 27, 2015: Heartside Business Association Update

September
- September 1, 2015: NAI Wisinski
- September 8, 2015: Alliance for Investment
- September 8, 2015: Neighbors of Belknap Lookout
- September 10, 2015: Parking Commission
- September 11, 2015: GVSU Administrators
- September 16, 2015: Alliance for Vibrancy
- September 17, 2015: Experience GR Staff
September 17, 2015: Heritage Hill
September 21, 2015: GVSU Old Learners

**September 22, 2015: 42 Day Comment Period Ends**

September 22, 2015: Creston Neighborhood
September 23, 2015: SWAN/JBAN
September 23, 2015 – October 11, 2015: ArtPrize Video
September 23, 2015: Mobility Tour with Downtown Stakeholders
September 24, 2015: Bliss for GR
September 28, 2015: Alliance for Livability
September 29, 2015: Black Hills
September 29, 2015: DAKC Accessibility Tour
September 30, 2015: Amway Corp
September 30, 2015: WGVU West Michigan Week

October

- October 1, 2015: GR Rowers
- October 1, 2015: DAKC Accessibility Tour
- October 2, 2015: LINC First Friday
- October 3, 2015: Ferris State University Faculty
- October 5, 2015: East Grand Rapids City Commission Update
  - October 6, 2015: Robert S’ Radio Show “Pulse of the City” on 94.9 WYGR
  - October 6, 2015: Grandville Art Academy / Roosevelt Park
  - October 7, 2015: Disability Advocates of Kent County
- October 9, 2015: Monroe North Business Association
- October 15, 2015: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- October 16, 2015: Chamber of Commerce Event with Outpro and Black Women Connect
- October 20, 2015: 3rd Ward Event hosted by Commissioner Lenear and Commissioner Lumpkins
- October 20, 2015: Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses
- October 21, 2015: NAACP
- October 21, 2015: Endless Opportunities
- October 22, 2015: Grand Rapids Association of Realtors
- October 22, 2015: Planning Commission
  - October 22, 2015: Convention and Arena Authority Community Inclusion Group Event

**October 23, 2015: 73 Day Comment Period Ends**
November
- November 3, 2015: Downtown and River Corridor Steering Committees meet to recommend the plan with edits incorporated from public comment
- November 9, 2015: DGRI Board of Advisors
- November 11, 2015: DDA Board
- November 11, 2015: MNTIFA Board
- November 12, 2015: Planning Commission and Public Hearing

December
- December 15, 2015: City Commission
I am a board member at the Grand Rapids Alliance of cooperative Communities (GRACC). We are actively developing cooperative housing options in Grand Rapids. A solution to filling the gap between subsidized housing and market rate developments. Offers diverse option without outside incentives—well with “micro-unit” model. Promotes community empowerment and personal investment. I could be a resource for envisioning and implementing this alternative housing model and bringing to downtown culture—will make us truly progressive.

Throughout the document, the term Alternatives and Options are used interchangeably. Please consider the use of either or, rather than both to alleviate confusion. Planning Department Memo

As the Executive Director of Hello West Michigan, a local non-profit that actually talks to prospective new residents everyday, I have a handle on what candidates feel are the attractors and barriers to relocating to West Michigan. Reading through the entire plan, it sounds like many of the goals will be addressed by collaboration with new and existing organizations to tackle them. Hello West Michigan welcomes the opportunity to further discuss ways of leveraging our programs currently in place to address the goals of GR Forward.

None of the graphics have north arrows. They all need them, and they all should be oriented the same way. North arrows missing from graphics; so some graphics face north, other face south, all should face north. Email Comment Interface to correct and insure consistency. Corrected - all references are now “Westside.”

No community meeting voices are missing; did these meetings tell us anything different? Where are the results of these dozens of meetings with the NAs? Email Comment Interface to correct. Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary

All concept plans…start with existing conditions then proceed to the concept, make sure all the maps/plans face the same direction to make it more user-friendly.

The summaries of key exercises and findings in the introduction specifically includes not just the open house, etc but also the community meetings. A summary of the last round of community meetings are also provided.

Recommendation 4 - Initial Action Steps: “Encourage local policies and incentives that favor low impact development; add “regional and state” to meet. Encourage local, regional, and state policies and incentives that favor low impact development.”

Recommendation 5 - Add the following to the list of initial action steps under the section “Focus on improving water quality.” “Recruit a leadership team and embed the team in the GPRC’s work and river restoration processes to achieve the water quality agenda with the region and state.”
Recommendation 6 - Add the following to the list of initial action steps under the section: “Focus on improving water quality.” “Prioritize addressing pathogen pollutants contributed to the Grand River watershed by failing septic systems.” WMEAC suggests this should be highlighted as a specific recommendation to be specifically highlighted to the initial goals, because its particular timeline, following the new data on septic contributions to water quality by Michigan State University, as well as current interest in the issue in the Snyder administration and current legislature.

61 Recommendation 7 - Elevate the foundational priority of water quality for healthy use and access to its own section (ie: Section 1.2) to ensure that this fundamental set of goals and objectives is given proper attention and priority.

62 Recommendation 6 - Add the following to the list of initial action steps: “Focus on improving water quality.” WMEAC suggests this should be highlighted as a specific recommendation to be specifically highlighted to the initial goals, because its particular timeline, following the new data on septic contributions to water quality by Michigan State University, as well as current interest in the issue in the Snyder administration and current legislature.

Goal 1.2 - Add: Provide ingress/egress to the river for all types of river users (vehicular access ramps, step access). Provide safety and signage for all types of river users. River Restoration

59 Figure 1.68 is too small Email Comment Interface to review.

Copyright 2019 Great River Restoration. All rights reserved.
It is unclear how the “character map” is to be used. Please clarify. Addressed.

Planning Department Memo Interface to provide additional language clarifying the use of Fig 2.7 (p. 9), specifically how the character map helps to inform the proposed height change recommendations. Addressed.

Planning Department Memo Planning to provide clarification and language. Added - “In accordance with City goals and policies” - to final sentence.

How do you (DGRI and the City) define “affordable” housing
Belknap Neighborhood Meeting Interface to add language to clarify how affordability is defined and, clarifying what AMI and other terms mean for Downtown and GR residents. pg. 83 (see Great Housing Strategies). Also clarify that we are not advocating for the removal of income restricted housing. 2.3 introduction re-written.

Concern about lowering 35% of downtown housing as income restricted to 25%
Creation Neighborhood Meeting Interface to add graphic showing that we are adding affordable housing, not eliminating. 2.3 introduction re-written.

Preserving affordable housing past 20 or 30 years
Grandville Ave / Cook Library Interface to add strategy recommending a group convene to address this item. Addressed page 5 - recommendation already addresses long term preservation of affordable housing, but added a closing paragraph to reiterate the importance of long-term housing and social services.

How are we defining affordable housing? A list of what is deemed affordable is not really affordable
Written Comment Interface to add graphic (see above). 2.3 introduction re-written.

Written Comment Interface to add graphic (see above). 2.3 introduction re-written.

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The plan references an initiative in Philadelphia called the Philadelphia Citizen Planning Institute as one approach to engage downtown residents in comprehensive planning efforts. Consistent with the stated interest in maintaining diversity in downtown housing options and incomes, it is incumbent on DGRI, Dwelling Place and all other participants in the implementation of the GR Forward plan to identify and address any barriers that may exist which will deter participation by lower income residents in civic planning groups or downtown resident organizations. For example, because inflexible employment schedules, limited incomes to pay for transportation and parking, health problems and basic needs may sometimes take priority for low income residents over participation in civic engagement activities, accommodations and incentives may be needed to ensure the broadest possible participation across all income groups. It may also be necessary to offer training and mentoring opportunities for residents who request this assistance, regardless of income. To ensure that this objective can be achieved and monitored, we recommend the creation of metrics for participation that call for a reasonable level of participation and tracking of that participation across all income levels and all housing types.

Email Comment Interface to add strategy recommending a group convene to address this item. 2.3 introduction re-written.

48

The plan makes the following statement; “In Downtown, there are very low incomes, particularly compared with other cities, which further frustrate the ability to attract the kinds of stores and service residents say they would like.” This statement is conveyed in a manner that seems to blame the lack of retail in Downtown on low income people. The median income for downtown Grand Rapids presented earlier in this report was $18,887. That does not seem to support an assessment that the lack of retail downtown can be blamed on low incomes. Rather, it would probably be more accurate and less divisive to state this sentence more affirmatively and in a manner which highlights the need for more density in the downtown area, even calling for development incentives to increase the percentage of households with higher disposable incomes. There is no reason to make a direct reference to low income households which can sometimes reinforce stereotypes that are already present. For many years I have repeatedly said that our problem in downtown is not that there are too many low income households but rather that there was a need for increasing the total number of higher income households. The real focus should be on emphasizing density as a cure and the need to attract and incentivize housing development for middle income households; not blaming the retail desert on too many low income households. They purchase goods and services too.

Dwelling Place Memo Interface to add clarifying language to clarify that we are less focused on income, more on density. 2.3 introduction re-written.

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Incomes in the future, this plan recommends that 25% of Downtown housing units be available for those earning below 120% of the area median income. The plan further states that “This target should serve as a guide for regulating and encouraging new development.” We believe the percentages and income floors being suggested have some inherent problems. First, using 120% of the area median income as the measure for what qualifies as lower income housing is problematic. There is much confusion in the general public about what terms like “affordable”, “missing middle”, “low income” and “subsidized” housing mean. Rent and income restricted housing typically creates maximum eligibility at 60% or 80% of the area median income for rental housing and 120% for home ownership only. Income for a single person at 120% of the area median income is $35,760 in Kent County. Further, the average incomes for many of the millennials the report indicates is our primary potential in Downtown. Similarly, 120% of the area median income for a 2 person household is $61,440. For a 3 person it increases to $79,070 and for a family of four it is $97,690. It is not clear whether the report is suggesting a cap of 25% for this type of housing or a maximum floor of 25% of this type of housing. Whichever the intent is, it should be clearer. The intent is to the former; however, suggesting a cap of 25% for households under 120% of the area median income, I believe we may be severely limiting downtown growth, especially when one considers the fact that students, millennials and many of single earner households without children earn incomes below 120% of the area median income. Further, the suggestion that a 25% cap on housing serving households below 120% of the area median income might be regulated, places this idea in stark contrast to the numerous other statements throughout this section which imply that affordable housing in the Downtown must be preserved and that Downtown must have housing that is accessible to everyone. The implication in this idea, assuming that a cap will be regulated, is that 75% of all of the housing in Downtown will be for residents with incomes over $60,000 a year. I do not think that this was the message intended in this section but this is how it reads. We recommend that this section be reworked by a committee of individuals who have expertise in the meanings of these terms with further review of where the natural income splits might make sense. For example, if we take the average household income is $69,120 and $76,800 for a family of four and $61,440 for a 3 person household it seems that the cap of 25% is a bit generous. Alternatively, if we compare with other cities, which further frustrate the ability to attract the kinds of stores and service residents say they would like.” This statement is conveyed in a manner that seems to blame the lack of retail in Downtown on low income people. The median income for downtown Grand Rapids presented earlier in this report was $18,887. That does not seem to support an assessment that the lack of retail downtown can be blamed on low incomes. Rather, it would probably be more accurate and less divisive to state this sentence more affirmatively and in a manner which highlights the need for more density in the downtown area, even calling for development incentives to increase the percentage of households with higher disposable incomes. There is no reason to make a direct reference to low income households which can sometimes reinforce stereotypes that are already present. For many years I have repeatedly said that our problem in downtown is not that there are too many low income households but rather that there was a need for increasing the total number of higher income households. The real focus should be on emphasizing density as a cure and the need to attract and incentivize housing development for middle income households; not blaming the retail desert on too many low income households. They purchase goods and services too.

Dwelling Place Memo Interface to add clarifying language to clarify that we are less focused on income, more on density. 2.3 introduction re-written.

52

- The 25% (now 30%) is a goal not a cap. The following was also added: “The first step is to recruit a housing affordability task force comprised of City representatives, local providers of affordable housing and social services, and other advocates, to explore models and policies to preserve Downtown’s access to affordable housing in the long-term.”

Dwelling Place Memo Interface to add clarifying language to clarify that we are less focused on income, more on density. 2.3 introduction re-written.
The plan states that "Significant subsidies are required to enable households with incomes below already has a strong base of these types of housing. " The report further states that "With 1,179 income restricted units, Downtown comprises about 20% of the City-wide total—an important share To the best of my knowledge, neither LINC nor ICCF have any housing of Wealthy Street is generally targeting households at or below 60% of the area median income, not 30% of the area median income. It would be misleading to leave the impression that most of the rent and income restricted housing in the Heartside or near downtown area is targeting households with incomes below 30% of the area median income. In fact, most of the income and rent restricted housing in the downtown area, including that operated by for profit developers, is actually targeting households at or below 60% of the area median income. Dwelling Place is the only housing provider offering rent-subsidized housing in the Heartside Neighborhood with 437 of these types of units. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission operates Ransom Towers, a senior project with 153 rent subsidiaized housing units but it is located north of Fulton Street, not in the Heartside Neighborhood. It may also be important here to note that the total number of rent subsidized units has actually been reduced by nearly 300 units since the Morton House and the YMCA closed several years ago. There has not been a net addition of any subsidized units in the downtown area since 2007 when Dwelling Place added 30 additional rent subsidized units at Verne Barry Place, shortly after the YMCA closed. Finally, it may be worth a second look to examine the sources for data used to determine that 20% of all the income and rent restricted housing in the City is located downtown. Although it may be correct it seems a little high to me based on my knowledge of all the various ways that income and rent restricted housing can be created and regulated. The City would have a list of properties that are subject to PILOT but this may not include all income and rent restricted housing in the City. HUD Section 202 properties, for example, pay ad valorem taxes but the state of Michigan reimburses the owners with rent subsidies in their declarations ion every year, but I do not see the breakdown. As such these would not be on the PIOT list. More passionate.

**GOAL #3: Implement a 21st Century Mobility Strategy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation 2</th>
<th>Add WMEAC as a partner to the recommendation - Manage consequences of the micro level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- "Establish a document outlining guidelines for site development that includes Low Impact Development, native habitat for ecosystem benefits (see goal 1.1, recommendation 7)

**Recommendation 2**

Email Comment Interface to add WMEAC as a partner in the implementation matrix. Addressed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On the map, if the green open space denotes public parks Heartside and Pekich Park should be added</th>
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</table>

- The process of translating Downtown is interesting yet no accompanying text is provided to clarify the purpose of this information or its relevance. It is a technical energy efficiency, green building practices and universal design principles in projects with load subsidy. Some of the recommendations are currently provided for in the Planning Ordinance. In addition, it is unclear what document the "Grand River Edges Guidelines" is referring to. Updated in goal 2, still needs to be updated in exec summary and spanish exec summary. (looked for editing)

**Email Comment Interface to amend map.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People = 80. People = 3. Be sure commerce with spaces to build community.</th>
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- 10 1 |

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### GOAL #5: Reinvest in Public Space, Culture, and Inclusive Programming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAGE #</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
<th>RECEIVED FROM</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>RESOLUTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>More recycling and trash bins are needed. Also more public restrooms</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Send to DGRI Alliance for Livability</td>
<td>Complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Compost bins. Yes.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Send to DGRI Alliance for Livability</td>
<td>Complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fix public restrooms and add signage at neighborhood/city parks</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>City to send to Marquardt.</td>
<td>Information sent to City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Many people with disabilities need more assistance at events. I live alone and am rarely at events and rely on the assistance of my own, but need assistance paying and taking food from the vendors. Inviting help from strangers opens me up to security risk and sends the wrong message. A disability support station at downtown facilities and a couple of well marked floating assistance assistants would be very helpful.</td>
<td>DanC/DGR</td>
<td>DGRI to send to OSIE.</td>
<td>Information sent to City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The park should be called Vandenberg Plaza in all of the text, or explain why you were calling it Calder Plaza. Let's imagine a better location for bike polo in the summer? If Heartside park is redesigned as an active outdoor space why not use it as a event space for winter events? The event space is discussed later in the document.</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Send to DGRI Alliance for Livability</td>
<td>Complete.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The park should be called Vandenberg Plaza in all of the text, or explain why you were calling it Calder Plaza. Let’s imagine a better location for bike polo in the summer? If Heartside park is redesigned as an active outdoor space why not use it as a event space for winter events? The event space is discussed later in the document.</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>DGRI to send to Marquardt.</td>
<td>Information sent to City.</td>
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</tbody>
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**NOTE:**

- In the 3rd Ward Event interface, the Source is to be identified as implementation partners. Addressed: see page IV-23
- Need public restrooms: single-unit unisex and handicapped accessible. Bathrooms need to be unisex so everybody can be comfortable using them. I really like the linear parks. And landscaping pictures. Need protected species signs with pictures for the uninformed about the sturgeon and the mussels.
- We suggest a Patronicity type crowd sourced campaign for events in public space might be a great way to leverage awareness and support. The event could receive one half of their funding from DGRI which could match half raised by crowd funding. This could maximize donations, civic support, awareness and leverage finances for staff support (through the crowd funded income!)
- Go to Goal 3 where imagery exists.
32. Solar walkways. Full power? What about?

Written Comment
DGRI to send to City of GR
Information sent to City.

33. LED & Solar Powered Lighting for all city/DGRI-owned lights.

Written Comment
DGRI to send to City of GR
Information sent to City.

34. Can the Alliance for Livability be used to help identify priority sites for public art? Should that be included in the plan?

Email Comment
DGRI to send to Alliance of Livability
Complete.

The placement of Figure 5.23, inactive street frontage downtown, seems awkward as it does not relate to any text within this goal.

Planning Department Memo
DGRI to send new language to Interface
Complete. See revision to Goal #5 pg. 26.

The concept of LED lighting on building facades should be further explored/discussed to understand the intent of this recommendation. The City has had recent enforcement matters relative to building lighting which has been used to attract attention versus provide safety.

Planning Department Memo
DGRI to send to new language to Interface
Clarify language to speak to the impact of lighting on public safety as opposed to a promotional tool

Added page 5 - In expanding a calendar of events, it is essential that

热烈的讨论继续进行。即使政府同意将停车场现有的租赁合同延长至2015年，但该问题仍继续成为公众关注的焦点。为了解决这一问题，政府需要做出更大的努力。

As the vision for GR Forward states, Downtown must be welcoming to all Grand Rapidians.

More marketing to communities of color is needed 1 on 1 Interface to add language.

Within the Performing Arts District, perhaps along Jefferson Ave SE, establish a POP-UP MUSEUM to attract walkers, diners, visitors and the advertisers. DGRI could lease the space and cover utilities for a test period. The SITE LAB people, their peers or wannabes could be invited to fill the space. The space could be used to train or inspire future museum professionals. If an area college offers a degree program for museum professionals, this could serve as a training ground or an independent study project for them. Perhaps the Grand Rapids Community Foundation could come up with a grant to cover expenses.

Alternatively, establish an ART STUDIO space that enables spectators to watch a variety of artists create art (painting, sculpting, photography, etc.). This might be part of or a complement to the efforts of the Avenue for the Arts group. Funding for a test period is as that suggested for the pop-up museum.
INSTALL a giant screen videoboard in Heartside Park near the Downtown Market or near GVSU’s Pew Campus on the West Side. The video content would support new initiatives, supplying needed information and education to the skeptics and positive reinforcement for the true believers. It might be images of: A) BIKING IN URBAN AREAS in support of new bike lanes. Use scenes from Portland OR, Amsterdam Holland, Cambridge or Oxford England that show streets filled with adults on bikes. Several PBS travel shows (eg Rick Steves, Rudy Maxa) often have these scenes. Include scenes of bikers on Mackinac Island or on trails. Mix these images with traffic jam images to contrast the realities. If these video scenes can not be purchased, hire a filmmaker to travel and create original video. B) HEALTHY LIFESTYLES OF TRANSIT USERS in support of good health habits. Display images of healthy happy transit users of all ages and backgrounds. Feature the personal stories of riders. Use images of transit users from around the world: London England’s red double decker buses, Chicago’s buses in Lincoln Park, New Orleans’ famed streetcars, the San Francisco Bay Area’s BART system and the high speed Acela train in the East Coast Corridor. C) WATER. Show images of the 5 Great Lakes, scenes from Michigan’s shoreline and riverbanks and images of Maya Lin’s Ecliptic. Add short poems and axioms on the subject of water. D) GRAND RAPIDS AS THE COLLEGE TOWN IT IS: Display videos that feature students signing the school song while the words scroll along at the bottom of the screen, with the school colors, team nicknames, mascot and more for each school with a local campus: MSU, GVSU, Calvin College, Kuyper College, Aquinas College, Cornerstone University, Ferris State, Davenport, Baker College, and anyone else I may have overlooked. E) NEIGHBORHOOD REINVENTION. Showcase the successes and the challenges in turning around a neighborhood. Spotlight the organizations (City staff, ICF, Habitat for Humanity), volunteers and others who make it happen. F) COMMUNITY EVENTS. Feature video of Laughfest events, the Rivertown Run, Festival of the Arts, ArtPrize, the Cottage Bar’s Chili Cookoff, Martin Luther King Jr. Day processions and events, Pulaski Day parade, July 4th parades, Santa Claus parade and tree lighting events, ice skating at Rosa Parks Circle, and the like. G) PURE MICHIGAN ADS. H) OTHER THEMES (As selected by those who maintain the video board). The possibilities seem endless.

While the Chamber applauds the goals of minimizing waste and promoting energy efficiency, we have concerns over the impact of creating onerous demolition policies, forcing the use of renewable sources of energy and mandating specific building techniques. The private sector is the leader in green building practices. Restrictive policies will only diminish flexibility and growth within municipal boundaries. Also included in this section is the identification and promotion of “green contractors;” we do not believe it is a function of city government to promote one business over another under a seemingly obscure pretense.

Written Comment Interface to review and determine if additional recommendation to be added.

Note - this is a very specific form of public art that could be addressed through the work discussed on pages 28-29 of the chapter. There is room to explore these ideas as conversations about public art further progress.

Chamber of Commerce Memo Interface to amend recommendation/narrative to be less restrictive.

Note - this is a comment for Goal 2: Not addressed. The language only suggests “considering” these activities and the City is already engaged in many green building practices as outlined in the text.
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<th>ACTION</th>
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<td>49509</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Formatting</td>
<td>Where can I find the goals?</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>A list of the goals can be found on pg 31</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>49503</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Idea</td>
<td>Destroy all the downtown condemned houses. Change the residential land into commercial land and sell it to Meijers.</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49424</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>Love this library. I'm from Holland, MI and I wish the Herrick District Library was awesome like this one. I miss it!</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>49506</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>I am a member of the LGBTQI community here in Grand Rapids. I also am the co-chair for an LGBTQI affinity group here at Spectrum Health, and also an advisor to a transgender inclusion workgroup. I would be happy to work in an advisory role with your group to make sure that your goals, strategy, and plans are inclusive toward our burgeoning LGBTQI community.</td>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Clean &amp; Safe</td>
<td>What about all those people standing on corners with cardboard signs?</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments. Issues involving constitutional rights, including free speech, are beyond GR Forward purview.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49428</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>Why are the fireworks always skewed to be the kind that are booming loud instead of the ones that are just colorful?</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Issues involving constitutional rights, including free speech, are beyond GR Forward purview.</td>
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<td>D&amp;I</td>
<td>Something bothering me as of late are panhandlers. I absolutely feel empathetic for the downtrodden, however, having to have '15' grown men and women give me all sorts of negative looks on the corners of all the streets I drive is wearing. I don't believe panhandling should be legal, and more effort should be given to helping those with mental, physical disabilities which prevent them from having a fulfilling life. It would contribute to a cleaner, happier city.</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments. Issues involving constitutional rights, including free speech, are beyond GR Forward purview.</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Didn't exactly understand if this is the plan or if it is the stuff that the plan is supposed to solve. It kind of looks just like the state right now. For 15 years or so everything is focused on businesses and creating the 1%. Is everything going to cost something to do?</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Some of the recommendations in GR Forward will have costs associated with them. Others, such as policy changes, will not.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>49506</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>How is the GR Forward process funded?</td>
<td>Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>GR Forward is funded by the Downtown Development Authority, City of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Schools, and local philanthropic organizations, including Dyer-Ives, Wege, GR Community Foundation, and Frey Foundations.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>I am a board member at the Grand Rapids Alliance of cooperative Communities (GRACC). We are actively developing cooperative housing option in Grand Rapids. A solution to filling the gap between subsidized housing and market rate developments. Offers diverse option without outside incentive - fits well with “micro-unit” model. Promotes community empowerment and personal investment. I could be a resource for visioning and implementing this alternative housing model and bringing to downtown culture will make us truly progressive.</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Interface to add GRACC to matrix.</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Idea</td>
<td>It would be helpful to make a presentation that specifically focuses on changes in our N. Monroe neighborhood so our businesses can plan ahead.</td>
<td>Monroe North Business Association</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. A follow up presentation to the MNBA will be scheduled.</td>
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<tr>
<td>49506</td>
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<td>Cover</td>
<td>Page/Formatting needs to be re-bose. Page numbers repeat in multiple sections. Very Hard to Follow.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised document will include revisions to the numbering system.</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>The document contains a number of spelling errors that should be corrected prior to adoption.</td>
<td>Planning Department Memo</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised document will address typos and spelling errors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>The numbers located on the summary page of each goal are confusing. It is not immediately clear what these numbers represent.</td>
<td>Planning Department Memo</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The numbers on the summary page identify the page in each section where content can be found.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>Throughout the document, the term Alternatives and Options are used interchangeably. Please consider the use of either or rather than both to alleviate confusion.</td>
<td>Planning Department Memo</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>How can the plan balance the competing recommendations?</td>
<td>SWAN/West Grand/URAN Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Recommendations in GR Forward are designed to achieve the vision statement, and thus seen as supportive, rather than competing.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>As the Executive Director of Hello West Michigan, a local non-profit that actually talks to prospective new residents everyday. I have a handle on what candidates feel are the attractions and barriers to relocating to West Michigan. Reading through the entire plan, it sounds like many of the goals will be addressed by collaboration with new and existing organizations to tackle them. Hello West Michigan welcomes the opportunity to further discuss ways of leveraging our programs currently in place to address the goals of GR Forward.</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. DGRI will follow up with HWWM to further discuss implementation of GR Forward recommendations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>How is this Plan going to be implemented?</td>
<td>Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. GR Forward will be implemented in a variety of ways, many of which will include collaborations between the public and private sector, and between a variety of written and organizations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>How do we engage the disenchanted/ Those that don't care?</td>
<td>Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Continuous engagement with businesses and community members to educate and inform about Downtown related activities is a stated mission of DGRI. It is the organizations hope that through these efforts, stakeholders and residents will better understand how to be involved and will have assurance that their efforts translate into improvements.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Formatting</td>
<td>No edits are made to the drafts, on people with disabilities be added to the reference and an image photo get swapped out with ones that include people with disabilities? Is the full page on page 35 of the PDF there is one person using a power wheelchair in the crowd. In all of the other photos I did not notice any other representation of disability. In the Four Symbolic Domains page</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue. DGRI to provide Interface language.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Idea</td>
<td>One more minor note--my last name has two T’s so it appears with only one now.</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will make this correction. Interface to correct spelling of “Chelifest” in the Steering Committee list.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D&amp;I</td>
<td>Community meetings are missing; did these meetings tell us anything different? Where are the voices from community members to educate and inform about Downtown related activities is a stated mission of DGRI.</td>
<td>3rd Ward Event</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue. DGRI to provide Interface language.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>D&amp;I paradigms &amp; access to capital, work with local lending institutions</td>
<td>3rd Ward Event</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue. DGRI to provide Interface language.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>DGRI to send Interface language.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D&amp;I</td>
<td>Need diversity decision-making levels</td>
<td>3rd Ward Event</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue. DGRI to provide Interface language.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D&amp;I</td>
<td>Need diversity and inclusiveness. Eventually catch up to us if we accommodate them or not (Implementation level in D&amp;I Alliances)</td>
<td>3rd Ward Event</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue. DGRI to provide Interface language.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D&amp;I</td>
<td>Valuing diversity is just as important as having diversity</td>
<td>3rd Ward Event</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue. DGRI to provide Interface language.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>No issues</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>Difficult to locate link through DGRI website/City of GR website</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>Footer should have the color and section name/number and page number on the outside edge of each page; assume single sided printing</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>Chapter header page with the Goal statement/plan/page numbers is VERY confusing since there is no reference as to what those numbers mean and why they are not chronological</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include additional pages related to this issue. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>On-line pagination does not match printed pagination making it difficult to reference</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include a new numbering system. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>Need a copy editor (Matt Kushinka is quite good). Westside is spelled differently throughout; crosswalk signs are inconsistent, north arrows missing from graphics; some graphics face north, other face south, all should face north</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will address this formatting issue. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>All concept plans...start with existing conditions then proceed to the concept, make sure all the hoppiness face the same direction to make it more user-friendly</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will address this formatting issue. DGRI to send Interface language.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>There is a missed opportunity by not assigning roles and responsibilities to Alliances or the DGRI Board, this should be a part of the implementation</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue in the Preamble and Vision chapter. DGRI to send Interface language.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>The time lines are too long. We need to push ourselves to move faster and not adopt a piloting or trial error approach.</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The implementation timelines are reflective of existing funding cycles and experience working with the City. Realignment of priorities and funding will help to accelerate.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>There needs to be written in here a culture shift that allows for trial and error of these projects, that takes a design thinking approach that celebrates failure as a tool towards better planning and design, that from failure, we learn, innovate, and enhance our city.</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Goals #4 and #6 discuss the importance of pilot projects that can be used as opportunities to test concept to test concept to understand if they work, if not, to get a better sense for why.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>DGRI was in the community; people knew about the planning process</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Interface to include additional narrative on community meetings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>There was plenty of opportunity</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Interface to include additional narrative on community meetings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>Re-summary of the community meetings, only a summary of the storefront/survey/open house</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Additional information on the community meetings will be included in the revised draft. Interface to include additional narrative on community meetings.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Process</td>
<td>Community meeting voices are missing, did these meetings tell us anything different? Where are the results of these dozens of meetings with the NAs?</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue in the Preamble and Vision chapter. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>Diversity and inclusion needs to be improved (everything from the plan format/accessibility to the missing faces to the implementation)</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will address this formatting issue. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>Throughout the plan the Westside is either hyper-intensified, not hyper-intensified, etc. Need consistency</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will address this formatting issue. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>More of the graphics have north arrows. They all need them, and they all should be oriented the same way. North is typically up.</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>Some of the fonts are italic in the final recommendations made in Voices and Visions. Community Planning for Downtown, sponsored by GR Downtown Development Authority (July 2010). This, we build on desk.</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language / Formatting</td>
<td>For will notice no references to beer or beer culture. I don't envision Dulmies or Milwaukee on the first list of Lakefront.</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Interface to correct.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Hope that the planning exercise leads to tangible results in an amazing blend of style, tradition, creativity and opportunity found nowhere else in the Great Lakes.</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Email Comment Thank you for your comment.

Chamber of Commerce Memo Thank you for your comment.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. Additional activities and programs for youth are discussed in Goal #4.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. Additional marketing, specifically to communities not traditionally involved in Downtown development, is addressed in Goal #4.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. Diversity strategies (See Vision and Goal #1), as well as Race share are a recommendation of GR Forward (see Goal #5).

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. You’ll Run into a lot of red tape

Written Comment Thank you for your comment.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. Additional marketing, specifically to communities not traditionally involved in Downtown development, is addressed in Goal #4.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. A light rail study was conducted by the Rapid and they are carrying forward the possible implementation.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. The budget for implementation from the public sector will be determined during the regular budgeting. For the private sector, the goal is to create conditions & marketplace for private sector to act.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. A primary focus of GR Forward is Downtown; however there is certainly development occurring in neighborhoods around Grand Rapids, and it is hoped that growth in Downtown will improve the City as whole.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. Additional

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. The budget for implementation from the public sector will be determined during the regular budgeting. For the private sector, the goals to create conditions & marketplace for private sector to act.

Written Comment Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.

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Written Comment Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.
**GOAL #1: Restore the River and Create a Connected and Equitable River Corridor**

#### Art and Culture
- Use Art and Natural Environment tool to "brand" these eay gateways.

#### D & I
- Incorporate native people in the conversation and decision making

#### Infrastructure
- Goal 12 is lacking sub-goals.

#### Implementation
- Recommendation 1: Add partners at the state of Michigan to the list of responsible partners in water quality (Governor’s Administration, Office of the Great Lakes, MDEQ, MDNR).
- Recommendation 2: Add partners to implementation matrix, including MDARD.

#### Open / Public Space
- Footprint of river-how does it change as we add all these activities?
- Parks should remain free to encourage and preserve access
- Open / Public Space

#### Recommendations
- Interface to add strategy to recruit and create a leadership team. Implementation partners to be identified.
- Interface to add sub-goals for Goal 1.2. Planning to identify language in partnership with GRWW.
- Interface to add partners to implementation matrix, including GRWW.
- Interface to add partners to implementation matrix, including MDEQ.

#### Implementation Recommendations
- Interface to add more descriptive labelling.
- Interface to add strategy. Implementation partners TBD. Additionally, add strategy to address regional water quality agenda. Interface to add areas of alignment with existing State strategies.
- Interface to anned and add WMEAC as a partner.
- Interface to add WRAC / WMEAC as a partner. DORI will clarify with comment which recommendation to add them to.
- Interface to add partners to implementation matrix, including GRWW.
- Interface to add to WRAC / WMEAC as a partner. DORI will clarify with comment which recommendation to add them to.
- Interface to add WRAC / WMEAC as a partner. DORI will clarify with comment which recommendation to add them to.
- Interface to add WRAC / WMEAC as a partner. DORI will clarify with comment which recommendation to add them to.
Open / Public Space

River restoration is not restoration, it is special purpose re-engineering. Let's be informed by history, not today. Transportation diversity includes automobiles and parking. This is being ignored. The auto industry helped build this city. We also need motorstyle and scooter parking. After start-up, public transportation needs to be self-sustaining. Do not remove existing piers, greenways and set means. S/just manufacturing is a part of the economy. Do not limit business to retail and service. How about an outdoor concert venue? Flexible space. A grass amphitheater would be beautiful (Magie Gardens) One that can be open or closed as needed. Neighborhood schools that are also community centers.

Rowing

Rowing is not just the "rowing pool" along Riverside Park - the rowing community uses the rivers for 10+ miles upstream from Grand Rapids.

Water Quality

How do we manage river pollution?
Thank you for your comment. Implementation and development of the river may include River Restoration Org. Thank you for comment. This language will be added to goal 1.2. Include this in goal 1.2 along with reference to rowing.

Institutionalize and prioritize the use of native plants. Native plants are an important component to “Enhance Ecological Systems.” While native plants may be mentioned in the GR Forward document, it is not readily visible. WMEAC suggests adding a phrase about native plants to Goal 1.1, Page 15. In addition, we suggest adding and/or refining an initial action step under “Enhance ecological systems” on pg 11 that reads, “Outline guidelines for trail development, including riparian buffer zone recommendations, native plant recommendations, and habitat restoration at these locations. Finally, we suggest liking incentives for the use of native plants into related efforts to incentivize the use of low impact development practices throughout downtown.”

Several pages are dedicated to a regional discussion about the Grand River, but regionalism does not appear to be incorporated into the actual goals.

Thank you for your comment. The figure is conceptual and envisions activation of the underpass should be activated. The City’s Parking Commission recently detailed plans to upgrade the existing parking lot for that occupies this site. Has there been communication with the Parking Commission about this proposed plan?

The proposals for the Grand Rapids Whitewater project are interesting but require for technical expertise than I possess for assessing whether they are achievable and/or achievable. I leave it to the experts. Logic suggests that the idea of the Outdoors Adventure City is likely to be limited by weather conditions whereas the Waterfront City idea is more realistic and achievable.

Water Quality

Make the river REFLECTIVE of clouds, tree color, lights and shadows to a much greater degree than it is today. ENHANCE is visually. IMPROVE how light plays on the surface. TEST the water and needed to learn why it is inevitably non-reflective now. I suggest that quality has an impact on the river’s reflective capacity. Set a HIGH GOAL, such as that seen in the attached photo of Strasbourg from the Oct 11, 2015 GR Press. This high level of reflectivity will draw artists to paint, everyday folks seeking scenic lights, and active users to the river.

Access / Mobility

Make the river ACCESSIBLE for human activity, not cars. REMOVE the parking spaces in the Sixth Street and Grand Peds in the North Monroe neighborhood. Replace those spaces with a NEW large 4-way parking ramp nearby, available for neighborhood residents and visitors. THINK LONG TERM, 100 years or more. There will always be more people and more cars, but NOT more park space along the river. Get people used to the idea of parking and walking. Start now. Don’t wait 20 or 50 years (like we did in the 20th century).

The plan’s goals for activation of the Grand River are exciting. The river is one of our defining assets and unleashing its potential is long overdue. Many of the recommended projects and designs are good in scale and will alter the downtown environment greatly. If adopted, we urge the City to carefully consider the long-term maintenance costs associated with these projects in order to execute them in a sustainable and responsible manner.

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The plan’s goals for activation of the Grand River are exciting. The river is one of our defining assets and unleashing its potential is long overdue. Many of the recommended projects and designs are good in scale and will alter the downtown environment greatly. If adopted, we urge the City to carefully consider the long-term maintenance costs associated with these projects in order to execute them in a sustainable and responsible manner.

Provide safety and signage for all types of river users. (vehicular access ramps, step access)
10 River Restoration Page 10, first paragraph - Add: The proposed river work of GRWW such as the removal of the dams in the Grand River through the City, will help to improve the flood conveyance. The River Restoration is the initial step in the improvement of flood conveyance.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This language will be added into paragraph one on page 10.

Add this language to page 10.

18 River Restoration Page 18, second paragraph - Add: A new restoration will create a diversity of substrate size and currents that will increase hyporheic exchange. Hyporheic exchange occurs when shallow and subsurface water flows through porous sediments. It can greatly improve water quality. The River restoration should be implemented first so the map is in addressing water quality.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This language will be added into the second paragraph on page 18.

Add this language to page 18.

20 River Restoration Page 20, comment on figure 1.17 - No piers in the river at this location due to high navigational hazard and would not recomnd the flood improvement.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for the comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a walkway. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future walkway.

20 River Restoration Page 20, comment on figure 1.17 - The island will be made up entirely of boulder and cobble. Vegetation is not recommended on this island.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for the comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a future walkway. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future walkway.

21 River Restoration Page 21, top of text - A portion of the dam will not remain.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a future walkway. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future walkway.

21 River Restoration Page 21, comment on figure 1.18 - Same comments on piers or floating structures as previous page. Any floating structures create extreme safety concerns, ice issues, stability issues, and difficulty moving in case of high water events. All concerns would need to be addressed.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a future walkway. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future walkway.

21 River Restoration Page 21, comment on figure 1.18 - Swimming opportunities are more likely to be near shore.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a future walkway. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future walkway.

24 River Restoration Page 24, at the end of the paragraph headed Trail Type 2 - Piers or floating structures pose an extreme safety hazard in moderate to high velocity areas.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a future walkway. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future walkway.

28 River Restoration Page 26, figure 1.27 key - comment on "New Trail on Structure" - Additional piers are not recommended to be put in the river.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a future walkway. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future walkway.

31 River Restoration Page 31, second paragraph - Hypothetical river restoration, planning and construction. The River restoration is designed based on existing bedrock, historic boulder rapid (according to historic accounts and engineering) and hydraulic gradient.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This language will be changed to reflect your comments.

Change language.

31 River Restoration Page 31, page 31, 150, comment on title "Construction Access" - It is this show construction access for whitewater activities.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. We believe that figure 1.30 was mis-labeled and should have read "Existing and Potential Access Sites".

Change Figure label.

32 River Restoration Page 32, figure 1.32 comment under "Class 1 Program: Slow Water - Drift boat fishing

River Restoration Org. Thank you for the comment. The label will be changed to say "Drift Boat Fishing"

Change label.

32 River Restoration Page 32, figure 1.32 comment on figure 1.32 - Riverbend Park - Riverside ramp #1 is existing. It currently accommodates vehicle boat launch and free-trolley parking.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for the comment. The ramp is existing and can be used for emergency access. The word "proposed" should be deleted.

Remove the word "proposed".

34 River Restoration Page 34, figure 1.34, comment on boardwalk extending into the river - Additional piers in the river are not recommended.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for the comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a future walkway. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future walkway.

34 River Restoration Page 34, figure 1.34, comment on boardwalk extending into the river - Provide river access for construction and programming.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. The language at the end of paragraph one will be revised to read: "This requires that when planning sites, it is assumed in certain locations that accommodations need to be provided for construction access and potential maintenance needs." River Restoration Org.

Thank you the comment. The first line of the second paragraph will be revised to read: "Recent efforts such as the catalytic GRWW rapids restoration are looking to capitalize on the river as a central recreational asset for the City."

Review text.

45 River Restoration Page 45, last paragraph - Remove "it will also separate types of uses given the density in rapid configuration and velocity.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a future walkway. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future walkway.

Review text.

46 River Restoration Page 46, correct text and typo... - The potential use of these sites as construction areas....

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. The second paragraph will be revised to read: "In this process, the potential use of these sites as construction areas for the GRWW initiative..."

Review text.

48 River Restoration Page 48, boardwalks - comment on implement test supplied.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. The boardwalk will be a consideration in the new design.

Review text.

50 River Restoration Page 50 - the existing boardwalk will be maintained more often with the whitewater project. The preferred to raise the boardwalk.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for the comment. The Lynn Plaza is being redesigned and the boardwalk will be a consideration in the new design.

Review text.

10 Appendix 1A Page 10, 5, 13, 12 - Trees will most likely not be raised on the raised side and would pose flood concerns. It will be constructed of readily buildable and moveable completely every run season.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for the comment. The City will be raised on the raised side and local will be added.

Add text to Source of Funds Column.

18 Appendix 1A Page 18, figure 1.21 titled Proposed Coldbrook site sections - Fulton + Market

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. Figure 1.31 is labeled incorrectly it should be labeled Proposed Fulton and Market Site sections.

Change Figure title.

25 Appendix 1A Page 25, 1.30 - Piers or floating structures pose an extreme safety hazard in moderate to high velocity areas.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a future walkway. All piers and floating structure concerns will need to be addressed in future designs.

26 Appendix 1A Page 26, figure 1.31 comment on low boardwalk depicted - Combined elements at low elevations for the most dangerous obstacles for river users.

River Restoration Org. Thank you for this comment. This language will be changed to reflect your comments.

Change language.
Thank you for pointing out this information. Construction phasing and access points will be an important consideration in project implementation.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for bringing the wetlands to our attention.

River Restoration Org.

Discussion related to a dog park have been referred to the City of Grand Rapids for consideration during the Parks Master Planning process.

River Restoration Org.

This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44 and to implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

Dustin Osborne/rowing community

Thank you for your comment. Additional recreation opportunities, including fishing are explored extensively throughout Goal #1. Discussions related to a dog park have been referred to the City of Grand Rapids for consideration during the Parks Master Planning process.

Rowing

The River Plan can assist these community efforts and serve the public by working with GRWA and the other rowing organizations in the area to develop and implement plans for a boathouse in Riverside Park where feasible locations have been identified. This facility would not only support community rowing and enhance the hosting of regattas, but could also support other sports, including canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddle-boarding, and the use of dragon-boats, as well as support for White Pine Trail activities such as cycling and a country hike. I understand that the National Rowing Hall of Fame has even expressed interest in locating to a new Grand Rapids facility, which would increase further the tourism potential associated with rowing in Grand Rapids.

Dustin Osborne/rowing community

Thank you for your comment. The language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44 and to implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

Rowing

The report should acknowledge and describe the fact that rowers and rowing organizations in the Greater Grand Rapids area have been living the goal of this plan for many years. The River Plan should highlight the achievements of the rowing community, as an example of what this plan is about - empowering the community to get out on the river and enjoy it as a public amenity with great natural beauty and resources to offer the community.

Dustin Osborne/rowing community

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44.

Rowing

The proposed boat ramp at Canal Street Park is proposed next to the existing.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for the comment. The final design for the park will need to take into consideration the need or lack thereof for two ramps. And whether the ramp or ramps will be for emergency access only or whether one or both will be open to the public.

River Restoration Org.

The words “Water Skiing” should be removed from this graphic.

River Restoration Org.

Appendix 1A

Remove flood wall where possible and implement berms, slopes, and setbacks.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for your comment. These approaches to multi-functional and green infrastructure are explored throughout Goal #1.

Appendix 1A

Revise graphic accordingly.

Appendix 1A

This report should acknowledge and describe the fact that rowers and rowing organizations in the Greater Grand Rapids area have been living the goal of this plan for many years. The River Plan should highlight the achievements of the rowing community, as an example of what this plan is about - empowering the community to get out on the river and enjoy it as a public amenity with great natural beauty and resources to offer the community.

Dustin Osborne/rowing community

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44.

Rowing

The River Plan can assist these community efforts and serve the public by working with GRWA and the other rowing organizations in the area to develop and implement plans for a boathouse in Riverside Park where feasible locations have been identified multiple times. This facility would not only support community rowing and enhance the hosting of regattas, but could also support other sports, including canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddle-boarding, and the use of dragon-boats, as well as support for White Pine Trail activities such as cycling and a country hike. I understand that the National Rowing Hall of Fame has even expressed interest in locating to a new Grand Rapids facility, which would increase further the tourism potential associated with rowing in Grand Rapids.

Dustin Osborne/rowing community

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44 and to implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

Rowing

The proposed boat ramp at Canal Street Park is proposed next to the existing.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for the comment. The plan will be changed.

River Restoration Org.

Proposed boat ramp/ emergency access at Canal Street Park is proposed next to the existing.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for the comment. The plan will be changed.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for bringing the wetlands to our attention.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for bringing the wetlands to our attention.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for bringing the wetlands to our attention.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for bringing the wetlands to our attention.

River Restoration Org.

Thank you for bringing the wetlands to our attention.

River Restoration Org.

Appendix 1A

Remove "Water Skiing" 
Revise graphic accordingly.

Appendix 1A
Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to the implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

**Rowing**

The plans to have a variable dam with a committee managing it involves difficult challenges that should be considered in detail before taking any action. Other dams can be adjusted and the management of those dams have led to mitigation in Michigan, even when there are less challenging conditions. It is critical to evaluate all competing interests that could be affected by a variable dam. The planning process to assess the potential for problems and to resolve them in a manner to avoid creating a new and challenging conflict that will place barriers on the city and users of the river. The needs of various vested river neighbors and users did not necessarily lend themselves to a readily managed plan. The ability to protect any serves all-faiths should not be assumed.

**Dustin Ordway/rowing community**

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to the implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

**Rowing**

Please add a boathouse at Riverside Park

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to the implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

**Rowing**

Include rowing as a part of the Parks and Rec master plan

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44. Amend language as suggested above in comment #1

**Rowing**

Would like to see a parks and rec master plan which includes a boathouse at Riverside Park which would include rowing as well as other water sports

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44. Amend language as suggested above in comment #2

**Rowing**

Include a boathouse at boat launch #3 to bring rowing closer to downtown, include other sports out of the boathouse – paddle boarding, canoeing, boating

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to the implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

**Rowing**

Include rowing in parks and rec master plan

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44. Amend language as suggested above in comment #1

**Rowing**

Would like to see boathouse at Riverside park with potential to expand to other sports

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44. Amend language as suggested above in comment #2

**Rowing**

Rowing

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44. Amend language as suggested above in comment #2

**Rowing**

Boathouse at Riverside Park

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to the implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

**Rowing**

Would like to see a boathouse at Riverside Park

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to the implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

**Rowing**

Include rowing in the 5 year parks and rec master plan - boathouse at Riverside Park

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44. Amend language as suggested above in comment #2

**Rowing**

GRRA's regattas draw national visitors 4 times in the last two years and continue to draw in rowers and spectators. Long time rowers from all over the country rattle the top venue

Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language acknowledging the importance of rowing will be added to the paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 67.
Rowing

GRRA would like to be included in the 5 years parks and recreation master plan development.
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

Amend language as suggested above in comment #2.

Rowing

Please include GR Rowing Association in the presentation of the plan.
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

Rowing

Michael Witten says he would like to participate in the oversight committee and help GRRA and Parks and Recreation in the selection of a future boathouse in Riverfront Park. This "opportunity site" will be a "demonstration project" for recreational use in a semi-public community at large.
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

Amend language as suggested above in comment #2.

Rowing

Please be sure to include the rowing community in discussions with the parks regarding potential boathouse at Riverfront Park.
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

Rowing

Please include the sport of rowing and its economic impact in marketing materials and keep it as a priority when making decisions about the river.
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

Rowing

Rowing club representation on highest implementation committee (and on conservancy board)
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. The specifics of the river revitalization and rapid restoration project are not a part of the GR Forward plan. The management of a new barrier is being considered by the City and partners as a part of a larger discussion about long-term management of the river and riverfront following the completion of the project.

Rowing

We need to get a multi-sport boathouse in Riverfront Park
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

Amend language as suggested above in comment #2.

Rowing

Include rowing (OCD) in the area, 4 rowing clubs in the plan
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the paragraph under "Provide river access for construction and programming" on page 45 and to implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.

Amend language as suggested above in comment #1.

Rowing

Include economic impact of rowing and rowing regattas in plan - 2014 Masters National Championship brought in $2 million over 4 days - likely record event in 2014.
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. We will ensure rowing is not referenced as an activity below the new barrier or railroad bridge south of Ann Street. Ensure that rowing activity is only depicted north of the new barrier/adventure park area or Ann Street.

Rowing

Water levels accentuate at north of Ave Street
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. We will ensure rowing is not referenced as an activity below the new barrier or railroad bridge south of Ann Street. Ensure that rowing activity is only depicted north of the new barrier/adventure park area or Ann Street.

Rowing

Rowers need to be involved in decisions about movable dam operations.
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. The specifics of the river revitalization and rapid restoration project are not a part of the GR Forward plan. The management of a new barrier is being considered by the City and partners as a part of a larger discussion about long-term management of the river and riverfront following the completion of the project.

Rowing

Rowing cannot happen south of barrier or north of Millennium Park
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. We will ensure rowing is not referenced as an activity below the new barrier or railroad bridge south of Ann Street. Ensure that rowing activity is only depicted north of the new barrier/adventure park area or Ann Street.

Rowing

Public and private 5 year master plan - include GRRA and a boathouse to serve the community.
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. Boathouse language has been added on page 45 and the Parks Department has been made aware of the desire to be included in Parks and Rec Master plan.

Rowing

How do we assure water levels upstream are deep enough and wide enough to sustain rowing.
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. We will ensure rowing is not referenced as an activity below the new barrier or railroad bridge south of Ann Street. Ensure that rowing activity is only depicted north of the new barrier/adventure park area or Ann Street.

Rowing

How much will it cost to operate the new barrier?
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. The specifics of the river revitalization and rapid restoration project are not a part of the GR Forward plan. The management of a new barrier is being considered by the City and partners as a part of a larger discussion about long-term management of the river and riverfront following the completion of the project.

Rowing

What would be the ambient level in the area around Riverside Park?
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. Hydrologic studies of the upstream and downstream segments have been and will continue to be done as the project progresses. The project is designed to have no negative impact on rowing.

Rowing

Are there barriers like this in other rivers?
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. Yes, other cities such as Boise, ID have similar adjustable structures.

Rowing

Who will operate the new barrier?
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. Hydrologic studies of the upstream and downstream segments have been and will continue to be done as the project progresses. The project is designed to have no negative impact on rowing.

Rowing

What is the sequence of construction for the river improvements (dam, etc.)
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. The construction sequencing is still being designed by the GRWW engineering team.

Rowing

Are there barriers like the others on the other rivers?
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your comment. Yes, other cities such as Boise, ID have similar adjustable structures.

Rowing

Why was the decrease in water levels so great?
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your question. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. The construction sequencing is still being designed by the GRWW engineering team.

Rowing

What was the assumption for water levels in the area around the new barrier?
Rowers Meeting

Thank you for your question. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. Hydrologic studies of the upstream and downstream segments have been and will continue to be done as the project progresses. The project is designed to have no negative impact on rowing.
| Rowing | What happens when trees come down the river? | Rowers Meeting | Thank you for your question. GRForward does not address specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater Plan. Operations and maintenance requirements of the adjustable barrier are being considered and evaluated by the City and partners as part of discussions about long-term management of the river and waterfront.

| Rowing | Where is the 18 inches of water necessary to keep lamprey back? | Rowers Meeting | Thank you for your comment. We are interpreting your question about 18 inches of water to mean the separation of tail water and head water necessary to prevent lamprey from swimming upstream. In answer to your question, the separation would be provided in the proposed fish ladder and boat passage on the east side of the proposed adjustable barrier.

| Rowing | Only a "whitewater" plan | Rowers Meeting | Thank you for your comment. Originally designed as a WhiteWater park, the results of the scientific studies conducted by Grand Rapids Whitewater revealed many other opportunities to improve the Grand River experience for a variety of user groups including Rowers, Anglers, Floaters, Whitewater Enthusiasts and the General Public. The project also seeks to improve river habitat and connectivity for a variety of fish and other creatures. The vision of converting the narrows rapids has evolved into a 2.5 mile stretch of the Grand River through Downtown Grand Rapids that will have significant social, economic, and environmental impacts.
GOAL #2: Create a True Downtown Neighborhood Home to a Diverse Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>CASE CODE</th>
<th>PAGE #</th>
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<th>COMMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
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<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Why have bike lanes AND trails going along same corridor</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>What will the perceptions of diversity? Especially by the distinct groups that make up “diverse” (people of color, people of lower income, people with disabilities)?</td>
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<td>What will all new development be? How will the post-2019 construction, developer of color be integrated with all the development? How will the business, GVSU, Subcontractors involved?</td>
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<td>4956</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>New more structural input from residents. They should have a role that voice on DGR Board and have a view on decision making tables. Plot some RS communication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4956</td>
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<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Let relative planning initiative. Should be implemented ASAP.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4956</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Youth internships, mentorships, esp. w/ children and young adults of color paired w/ downtown businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Youth art &amp; creative ventures. Eng bed w/ ArtHouse, include college &amp; high school students too.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Youth could help design public spaces, help w/ public art, have youth art competitions, be a rating board on real solutions for youth in downtown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>If you want to make downtown a diverse place that is inviting to all, try targeting boomerang of downtown residents. These new younger Multihygroen at historically black colleges is a great audience to plug in to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
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<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Bikes and trails. Pedestrian is walking for why inclusion is important to the city being built with this plan. It shows through in transportation section, but absent in the section.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>For/Art</td>
<td>Data driven. Passion is telling for why inclusion is important to the city being built with this plan. It shows through in transportation section, but absent in the section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>For/Art</td>
<td>What does “Income Density” mean?</td>
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<td>For/Art</td>
<td>It is unclear how the “character map” is to be used. Please clarify.</td>
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<td>It is unclear how the “character map” is to be used. Please clarify.</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>Historic Prec</td>
<td>Historic Pres - e.g. Peacock Building. Keep historic buildings. Should not be torn down for density only. Must be careful about density and it being balanced with historic buildings.</td>
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<td>The language used on the “preserve historic character while accommodating growth” section is inaccurate and contrary to federal law. This section should be revised in consultation with the City’s Historic Preservation Planner.</td>
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<td>Historic Prec</td>
<td>This section is intended to establish the “character map” to be used. Please clarify.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>Historic Prec</td>
<td>This section is intended to establish the “character map” to be used. Please clarify.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Housing</td>
<td>Make sure 45%/60% and 60%/100% income restricted housing is always available possibly have 100%.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>It would be expensive if concentration was given to temporary housing for transient students and visitors guests from the country and afar. See holidaybarnhills.com</td>
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<td>4956</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
<td>How do you (DGR) and the City “define” affordable housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
<td>What are you going to do about displacement as you build up downtown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
<td>Concern about lowering 35% of downtown housing as income restricted to 35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>How would you see more student housing in downtown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4956</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Really like mention for “workforce housing” very important for diversity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Bike Share: Initiatives aimed at ensuring a diverse downtown are weak.

Thank you for your comment, please see revised draft.

DGRI to provide language.

DGRI to provide language.

DGRI to provide language.

DGRI to provide language.

DGRI to provide language.

DGRI to provide language.

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DGRI to provide language.

DGRI to provide language.

DGRI to provide language.

DGRI to provide language.

DGRI to provide language.
The mix of housing opportunities downtown is limited, removing barriers to that mix will be crucial to make downtown successful.

How are we defining affordable housing? A lot of what is deemed affordable is not really affordable.

POC and/or families with lower incomes have also had to move to suburbs. (Suburbanization of poverty) due to rising costs of housing in cities. They likely would not move out of the city/downtown areas if the cost were not prohibitive. Can’t only rely on existing hard data to drive these focus areas. Need soft data too.

How many units for: 50-80% AMI? 80-120% AMI? Rent or own? How will DGRI and your landholdings either gain MH with lower incomes or help them?

25% of housing units are ≤120% AMI. Presence is not enough. Need more affordable units. Market rate is right now almost double of afford. Proposing 14% of units to be affordable? Where?

Who would own the land? (CLT) What kind of contract would be developed with City of GR? Where? How many units?

Jersey City, NJ and Seattle housing models are great examples of progressive housing strategies we could adopt.

Who would own the land? (CLT) What kind of contract would be developed with City of GR? Where? How many units?

Why are income restricted units split as unique housing type but not defined according to HUD/MSHDA standards? It seems arbitrary to not roll down/how different groups are using the term, and then establish a norm for the document. I also think it is important to talk about the use of those affordable rate units and the demand/waiting lists. We have buildings that serve specific populations that have 5 year wait lists, it seems to me as though there is a need to expand that housing.

The statement is made that “Grand Rapids lags peer city in the numbers of people living Downtown and in the median incomes of Downtown residents.” This statement seems to suggest conclusions that may not be fairly drawn from the information being presented. First, the peer cities being referenced are significantly larger than the City of Grand Rapids. Indianapolis has a population of nearly 850,000 while Milwaukee has a population of nearly 600,000. It seems natural that Grand Rapids should lag behind cities with 3 and 4 times the population of Grand Rapids in the total number of housing units downtown. The downtowns in these ‘peer’ cities are also geographically larger which should also allow for a higher number of units than Grand Rapids in the downtown area. It would make more sense to compare our relative status for total units with cities in the Midwest that are closer in total population and where our geographic area in the downtown area is more comparable. I also believe that a closer look at the income disparity being reported between these ‘peer’ cities and Grand Rapids, relative to downtown residents, is likely to show that Grand Rapids has had more success in preventing gentrification and displacement of lower income populations, resulting in a lower median income. If this is true, it should be explained and backed rather than using the data to create an impression that these other cities have been more successful than Grand Rapids, especially if we are committed to maintaining a variety of housing options in downtown. Indianapolis and Milwaukee appear to have failed in the effort from some reports I have seen so I am not sure we want to look exactly like them.

The plan references an initiative in Philadelphia called the Philadelphia Citizen Planning Institute as one approach to engage downtown residents in comprehensive planning efforts. Consistent with the stated interest in maintaining diversity in downtown housing options and incomes, it is incumbent on DGRI, Dwelling Place and all other participants in the implementation of the GR Forward plan to identify and address any barriers that may exist which would deter participation by lower income residents in downtown planning groups or downtown resident organizations. For example, because inflexible employment schedules; limited income to pay for transportation and parking, health problems and busy needs may sometimes take priority for low income residents over participation in civic engagement activities, accommodations and incentives may be needed to ensure the broadest possible participation across all income groups. It may also be necessary to offer training and mentoring opportunities for residents who request this assistance, regardless of income. To ensure that this objective can be achieved and monitored, we recommend the creation of metrics for participation that call for a reasonable level of participation and tracking of that participation across all income levels and all housing types.
The plan makes the following statement: “To ensure that there are housing options for a range of incomes in the future, this plan recommends that 25% of Downtown housing units be available for those earning below 120% of the area median income.” The report further states that “This target should serve as a guide for regulating and encouraging new development.” We believe the percentages and income floors being suggested here are coherent problems: First, using 120% of the area median income as the measure for what qualifies as lower income housing is problematic. There is much confusion in the public about what terms like “affordable,” “housing middle-income,” “low-income,” and “subsidized housing” mean. Rent and income restricted housing typically create maximum eligibility at 60% or 80% of the area median income for rental housing and 120% for home ownership only. Income for a single person at 120% of the area median income is $37,740 in Kent County, higher than the average incomes for many of the millennials the report indicates is our primary market in Downtown. Similarly, 10% of the area median income for a 2-person household is $61,440. For a family of 4 it increases to $84,120 and $104,400 for a family of 4. It is not clear whether the report is suggesting a cap of 25% for this type of housing or a minimum floor of 25% of this type of housing. Whichever the intent is, it should be noted. If the intent is the former, however suggesting a cap of 25% for households under 120% of the area median income, I believe we may severely limit downtown growth, especially when one considers the fact that students, millennials and many of single earner households without children earn incomes below 100% of the area median income. Further, the suggestion that a 25% cap on housing serving households below 120% of the area median income might be regulated, places this idea in stark contrast to the numerous other statements throughout this section which imply that affordable housing in the Downtown must be preserved and that Downtown must have housing that is accessible to everyone. The implication in this idea, assuming that a cap will be regulated, is that 75% of all the housing in Downtown will be for residents with incomes over $60,000 a year. I do not think that this was the message intended in this section but the how it reads. We recommend that this section be revisited by a committee of individuals who have expertise in the meanings of these terms with further review of where the natural income splits might make sense. For example, if we can determine that the current number of rent and income restricted housing units in the Downtown is X and agree to that as a minimum floor of total units with a strong base of these types of housing. The report further states that “With 1,179 income restricted units, Downtown comprises about 30% of the City-wide total as important share of affordable housing to maintain.” The report also references LINC, ICCF and Dwelling Place in the Hearside area. To the best of my knowledge, neither LINC nor ICCF have any housing units in the Hearside Neighborhood as this section seems to imply. Further, what ICCF has built just south of Wealthy Street is generally targeting households at or below 60% of the area median income, not 30% of the area median income. It would be misleading to have the impression that most of the rent and income restricted housing in the Hearside or in newer downtown area is targeting households with incomes below 30% of the area median income. In fact, most of the income and rent restricted housing in the downtown area, including that operated by for-profit developers, is actually targeting households at or below 60% of the area median income. Dwelling Place is the only housing provider offering rent subsidized housing in the Hearside Neighborhood with 147 of these types of units. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission operates Plummer Towers, a senior project with 163 rent subsidized housing units but it is located north of Fulton Street, not in the Hearside Neighborhood. It may also be important here to note that the total number of rent subsidized units has actually been reduced by nearly 500 units since the Morton House and the YMCA closed several years ago. There has not been a net addition of any subsidized rental units in the downtown area since 2007 when Dwelling Place added 40 additional rent subsidized units at 200 Bella Pecora, shorty after the YMCA closed. Finally, it may be worth a second look to examine the sources for data used to determine that 20% of all of the income and rent restricted housing in the City is downtown. Although it may be correct it seems a little high to me based on my knowledge of all of the various way that income and rent restricted housing can be counted and regulated. The City would have a list of properties that are subject to PILOT but this may not include all income and rent restricted housing in the City. HUD Section 202 properties, for example, pay al the state computes but the state of Michigan reimburses the owners with rent subsidies in their operating budgets to cover these costs. Any such values would not be on the PILOT list. More private property owners allow portable vouchers for

Although Planning Staff supports need to diversify housing types available in downtown, I’m大使国 on how this goal should be achieved.

Planning Department Memo: Thank you for your comment. We will clarify the LINC and ICCF areas of activity and also provide sources identifying that 25% of affordable housing in the City is located Downtown.

Interface to change text on pg. 53. DGRI to confirm sources.

The plan makes the following statement: “In Downtown, there are very low incomes, particularly compared with other cities, which further frustrate the ability to attract the kinds of stores and services residents say they would like.” This statement is conveyed in a manner that seems to blame the lack of retail in Downtown on low income people. The median income for downtown Grand Rapids presented earlier in this report was $31,187. This does not seem to support an assumption that the lack of retail downtown can be blamed on low incomes. Rather, it would probably be more accurate and less divisive to restate this sentence more affirmatively and in a manner which highlights the need for more density in the downtown area, even calling for development incentives to increase the percentage of households with higher disposable incomes. There is no reason to make a direct reference to low income households which can sometimes reinforce stereotypes that are already present. For many years I have repeatedly said that our problem in downtown is not that there are too many low income households but rather that there was a need for increasing the total number of higher income households. The real focus should be on emphasizing density as a cure and the need to attract and incentivize housing development for middle income households, not blaming the retail desert on too many low income households. They purchase goods and services too.

Dwelling Place Memo: Thank you for your comment, a strategy will be added recommending a group convene to address this item.

Interface to add strategy.

The $181,887 is a measure of income density / acre, not the Area Median Income for Downtown. The income density measure is meant to highlight the need to grow density. This section will be re-written to clarify that we are less focused on income, more on density.

Interface to add clarifying language.

Interface to add clarifying language.

Dwelling Place Memo: Thank you for your comment. A strategy will be added recommending a group convene to address this item.

Interface to add strategy.

Dwelling Place Memo Thank you for your comment, a strategy will be added recommending a group convene to address this item. Interface to add strategy.

Thank you for your comment, a strategy will be added recommending a group convene to address this item.

Interface to add strategy.

Thank you for your comment. We will clarify the LINC and ICCF areas of activity and also provide sources identifying that 25% of affordable housing in the City is located Downtown.

Web (Hello WM) Thank you for your comment, GR Forward advocates for additional student housing in Downtown.

Thank you for your comment. DGRI will address this issue.

Thank you for your comment. We will address this through zoning changes and realignment of incentive programs.

Thank you for your comment. We will address this through zoning changes and realignment of incentive programs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Needed use &amp; income based housing has to be in attractive areas, not just for one demographic to create more parking.</th>
<th>Chamber</th>
<th>Thank you for your comment. GR Forward supports scatter based housing approached.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>62 Implementation</td>
<td>Recommendation 3 - Add WMEAC, as a responsible partner to the recommendation “Manage Stormwater at its source level”.</td>
<td>WMEAC Memo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62 Implementation</td>
<td>Recommendation 1 - Add an additional action step under “Enhance sustainable site design principles. Establish a document outlining guidelines for site development that includes Live impact Development, native habitat for ecosystems benefits (see goal 4, recommendation 1).”</td>
<td>WMEAC Memo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Will infrastructure need to be added/improved in order to support plan recommendations? If so, how much will it cost and who will pay for it?</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Building and maintaining adequate infrastructure is an ongoing responsibility of the public sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>51 Marketing</td>
<td>Don’t need to market if it’s cool. Seriously- focus on the right things &amp; marketing is unnecessary.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Open Space</td>
<td>On the map, if the green open space denotes public parks Heartside and Polk Park should be added</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment, map to be revised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has a better defined park space but why is park space labeled “potential park space/development opportunity”? Perhaps “existing park space” would be a better green label as “development opportunity” is already represented with crosshatched lines. The same differentiation needs to be made on page 26.</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The map legibility will be reviewed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Concern about removing existing minimums for parking</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Don’t have developers speak their own judgment because they don’t know best</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concern about the number of parking spaces available for downtown cultural events</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>New parking concerns</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concern over the current amount of parking on West side within the study area</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is eliminating the minimum wise?</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Can there be incentives for parking?</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Technology parking solutions</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Ability of paying for parking using smart phone-app for showing lot/ramp capacities</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Motion Brewery and others causing parking problems</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Proposed use/tenant jobs are parking intensive (space time)</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>More angle parking</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Wasted by loss of on-street parking taken up by bike lanes</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>WSU’s unwillingness to lower parking rates for their lots, drives students to parks in the neighborhood which causes congestion and parking shortages</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Is the Belknap parking pilot project working?</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>How about underground parking lots as well?</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Concern over parking rates. Example: Elks</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Parking incentive for affordable housing?</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>Instead of eliminating minimum parking requirements, could we waive them provided mixed-income housing is included?</td>
<td>DAKC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>A developer wants to eliminate or provide less than required parking, they must provide at least 15% housing units for HH under 80% AMI</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>See note under in-scope housing- waive parking requirements if developers include at least 15% of units that are affordable for HH @ 80% AMI or less.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Diversity</td>
<td>No diversity/cultural acceptance in residential areas</td>
<td>Chamber</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Factors impacting diversity in our Downtown area is a central goal of GR Forward. Currently, 54% of the Downtown population is non-white.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49524</td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>A mid-sized grocery store would be nice</td>
<td>Web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>A grocery really feasible?</td>
<td>Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you for your comment. GR Forward promotes a mixture of retail in Downtown. No more high end downtown market food. Real food, better prices. Local.

Concern about recommendations for changes in zoning related to building heights, particularly around residential areas. The recommendations in GR Forward support this notion.

It is unclear how the proposed height bonuses relative to the targeted commercial corridors will work with the proposed changes to the existing Height Overlay Districts (pg. 10). Additional conversation with Planning Staff relative to height bonuses and overlay districts is necessary.

Interface to add text.

Written Comment

Interface to review and amend map as needed.

Planning Department Memo
Thank you for your comment.

Development
Target too long? Not dense… Could be better connected? Require retail/ent @ ground floor?

Written Comment

Retail
Written Comment

Energy
Written Comment

Zoning
Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. GR Forward promotes strategies to address energy efficiency in office buildings.

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. This recommendation will be forwarded to the City of Grand Rapids for further review.

Written Comment

Zoning

The recommendations for the MSU, City, Kent County Sites seem to contrast the requirements of the grant used to obtain the property.

Email Comment

Parking

Concern over the conversion of West side lots to other use

Email Comment

Vision

Retail

Thank you for your comment. The recommendations in GR Forward support this notion.

Email Comment

Development

GR Forward seems very focused on downtown, need to make sure we aren’t neglecting to develop or give attention to the outer boundaries of the city.

Email Comment

Retail

Target too long? Not dense… Could be better connected? Require retail/ent @ ground floor?

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. See Goal #5

Written Comment

D & I

Valuing diversity is just as important as having diversity

Email Comment

Thank you for your comment. The revised draft reflects in the Preamble, as well as the Vision chapter.

Email Comment

Entertainment

We need more than just clubs – but need clubs too

Email Comment

Thank you for your comment. Additional entertainment venues, events, and retail spaces are addressed in Goals 2 and 5.

Email Comment

D & I

Valuing diversity is just as important as having diversity

Email Comment

Thank you for your comment. The revised draft reflects in the Preamble, as well as the Vision chapter.

Email Comment

Zoning

Is city-owned synonymous with DGRI/DDA owned?

Email Comment

Exactly. Walk to work incentive programs by biz. Encourage corps to do something!

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment.

Written Comment

Increasing diversity of promotional materials. If you have to, make them.

Email Comment

Thank you for your comment. Additional language will be added to discuss the importance of people to the future of Downtown.

Email Comment

Zoning

No idling ordinance. Less than 2 min for loading/unloading only or services vehicles. Otherwise turn that shit off!!

Email Comment

D & I

Housing

Some of the barriers to housing are the affordability issue, as well as application discrimination

Email Comment

Thank you for your comment. GR Forward provides a number of recommendations to preserve and expand affordable housing options in Downtown. DGR currently has outreach specialists to help educate businesses owners, and believes that as diversity grows in Downtown, business and housing owners will grow in their cultural competency.

Email Comment

Zoning

Can retail spaces along Bridge Street be 5 stories max?

Email Comment

What does West Side ASP have for max building heights?

Email Comment

D & I

D & I

The recommendations in GR Forward support this notion.

Email Comment

Entertainment

Why is library targeted as an active commercial Corridor with no storefront space while Jefferson isn’t? Is there a height bonus for development of the St. Cecilia’s parking lot?

Email Comment

Thank you for your comment. The portion of E.F. Park shown as an active commercial corridor will be removed. St. Cecilia’s is located with the TCC Zone, therefore the parking lot is not eligible for bonuses under the current zoning.

Email Comment

Zoning

Are there commercial spaces in the bottom of the Herkimer building in the 300 block the addresses run from 313 to 327 South Division.

Email Comment

Thank you for your comment. The additional spaces will be added.

Email Comment

Retail

Zoning

Are there commercial spaces in the bottom of the Herkimer building in the 300 block the addresses run from 313 to 327 South Division.

Email Comment

Thank you for your comment. The additional spaces will be added.

Email Comment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zoning</th>
<th>Custom about transition from CL to adjacent areas lies with the coherence with existing heights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Use the district character map to inform the height strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>All implementation sections are weak/wishy-washy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. This will be addressed in the revised plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Interface to add text pg. 4-9 in Goal 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Pres</td>
<td>Suggested bonuses (or requirements): Affordable/accessibly /attainable/force housing provisions. Quality of materials (are we building the next historic buildings or just disposable building) Use minority owned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Pres</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does recommend bonuses for the inclusion of &quot;affordable housing&quot; in new development. It also includes discussion on the importance of context and transitions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Pres</td>
<td>Need to preserve the mid-century modern buildings, esp. near St. Mary’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Pres</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Districts of historic significance are protected via the inclusion in a &quot;historic district,&quot; or by being designated a historic landmark by the City’s Historic Preservation Commission. GR Forward recommends updating the current inventory of existing landmarks on an ongoing basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Add language about demolition by neglect. How can we make this a civil infraction?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to the City for consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Send to City of GR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>There's a strategy for affordable retail, office and maker spaces, not just housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. See Goal 4 for additional information on this challenge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Add text to pg. 8-9 in Goal 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Item will be forwarded to the City for consideration.</td>
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<td>Retail</td>
<td>A policy for demolition by neglect; how can we make this a civil infraction?</td>
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<td>Retail</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. See Goal 4 for additional information on this challenge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Formatting / Language Figure 2.19 Along Seward, there is a mis-spelling and also there should say &quot;units&quot; and not homes. Panama implies too simple an answer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. This change will be addressed in the revised Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Interface to fix spelling error.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Formatting / Language Why is the business district at Jefferson/Fulton, State Street, and along Cherry missing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Fig 2.13 shows existing zoning, and where recommended changes are proposed. The map does not show designated business districts, simply areas that are zoned Traditional Business Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Formatting / Language Change the name of GVSU and Cathedral neighborhoods. Name it for the place or character, not an entity or a building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Fig. 2.7 is meant to describe the character of an area, not name a neighborhood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Formatting / Language All implementation sections are weak/unity-heavy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Implementation Need: measurable, need to be SMART—specific, reasonable (what are the metrics), achievable, results-oriented, time-bound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Implementation Implementation should ensure how to relate the City to the &quot;agents&quot; with a culture of innovation, the design thinking approach, we need to encourage failure, testing, prototyping, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Land Trust Community land trust concept, explanation, should also be used for office and maker uses not just housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Additional language will be added to the narrative in the revised draft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Implementation All DGRG operational methods for diversity and inclusion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. See revised draft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Retail How are we addressing the retail services gap/incentives?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Retail is addressed by providing incentives on targeted corridors, requiring it on others, and through recognition of the fact that more people living and working Downtown will result in additional retail investment (see Goal 2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Economic Development Provide incentives for business retention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Item will be forwarded to the City for consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Send to Economic Development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Economic Development Revitalize City incentives for home ownership or rental within 1/4 to 1/2 radius of DT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Item will be forwarded to the City for consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Send to Economic Development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Economic Development Recruitment priorities should not be regional share, need to focus on locally-owned and not chain-eyes, have more from-broad-scope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Economic Development The importance of the local economy and the support of local businesses is discussed throughout Goal #4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Urban Design Nothing about urban design in this entire chapter. Add strategy for urban designer to review site plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Urban Design Amend zoning ordinance to reduce allowable min. dwelling area, allow co-housing by amending definitions of families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Zoning code amendments to allow micro-units is a recommendation in GR Forward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Food DT Market is pushing out farmers, need better model for fresh foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Additional access to fresh food is discussed in section 2.2 (pg. 50).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Food Mobile market pop-up is better than a CSA: must have evening hours. Most people work, especially the vulnerable populations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Additional access to fresh food is discussed in section 2.2 (pg. 50).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page</td>
<td>Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-25</td>
<td>Formatting / Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Formatting / Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Historic Pres</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>Historic Pres</td>
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<td>66</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
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<td>Housing</td>
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<td>Food</td>
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<td>69</td>
<td>Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Retail</td>
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<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Retail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
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<td>76</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
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<td>78</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
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<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Energy**

While the Chamber applauds the goals of minimizing waste and promoting energy efficiency, we have concerns over the impact of creating inverse demolition policies, forcing the use of renewable sources of energy and mandating specific building techniques. The private sector is the leader in green building practices. Restrictive policies will only diminish flexibility and growth within our area. Also included in this section is the identification and promotion of "green contractors." We do not believe it is a function of city government to promote one business over another under a seemingly obscure pretense.

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. Development of specific policies related to green building practices will be done in partnership with businesses. The provision to promote "green contractors" will be removed from the revised plan.

Interface to remove text.

**Zoning**

As a corporate resident and landowner within Grand Rapids, the Hinman Company proposes and supports the redefinition of the area delineated as "Downtown Height Overly," to the "limited maximum height overly" to follow Fulton on the south starting from Ottawa and expanding west to Division and then north until it reaches the current proposed delineation. Our suggestion would reduce the transition distance from a six block to four, but still allowing sufficient distance to effect transitions to the intermediate overaly and traditional city center zone before transitioning to the existing single-family residential area to the east, unlike the area along 5th and Michigan Avenue that extends to Lyndale with a six block transition from "Downtown Height Overly" (B) to existing neighborhoods.

This boundary as we have delineated is the peripheral boundary of what is the high density core of Downtown. Our suggestion reinforces the desire to continue to build the 24/7 population in the downtown area and would have a positive effect on the viability and sustainability of projects of the caliber and impact DGR is looking to foster.

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. This will be considered through development of zoning changes and policies with the City Planning Department. DGR / Planning to Follow Up with Hinman.

**Arts & Culture**

Attract what type of people we need (professionals etc.)

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment.

**Retail**

2.4 Concentrate Retail. Promote locally-owned.

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. The importance of the local economy and the support of local businesses is discussed throughout Goal #6.

Interface to review and amended map as needed.

**Formatting**

P15: What is orange hound (towards the N)? P15e: Label a few more roads, especially the edges of the maps. This comment applies to all maps.

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. This will be reviewed and if needed revisions will be reflected in the final draft.

Interface to review and amended map as needed.

P21: Make all trees the same size & color.

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. This will be reviewed and if needed revisions will be reflected in the final draft.

Interface to review and amended map as needed.

P23: It seems like some maps change orientation from Top=N to Top=S. Just keep it the same. As welll as drop a N arrow on every map. Mostly its an issue on "blow up maps" like pg 33 and pg43.

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. This will be reviewed and if needed revisions will be reflected in the final draft.

Interface to review and amended map as needed.

D&I

Love the idea of affordable housing & rain space. Include grocery store & movie theatre in new downtown for those w/o cars.

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment.

Diversify Type of Housing Available Downtown. Incentives to build live/work spaces for new businesses to start… and safe places to live. This would encourage students to live downtown. Lots of students are motivated by GR’s small business plan & incentives and want to stay. Events that minorities want to attend. Music, dance, natural hair movements etc. More public art… Statue?

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. Recommendations and strategies to ensure affordable housing, including options for students, are reflected in section 2.3.

Implementation

Would be interested in collecting research, documentation and cultivating a plan for the implementation and vision - Samara Woolfolk.

Written Comment

Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.

D & I

Want to see a truly multicultural city, wants downtown to help develop/cultivate diversity in city

NAACP Meeting

Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.

D & I

Need diverse events and programming

NAACP Meeting

Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.

Housing

City losing rental housing

NAACP Meeting

Thank you for your comment. Recommendations and strategies to ensure affordable housing, including options for renters, are reflected in section 2.3.

D & I

Downtown needs to ramp up its outreach

NAACP Meeting

Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.

D & I

What are requirements for minority contractors

NAACP Meeting

Thank you for your comment. Discussions about an inclusion module can be found in section 4.1.

D & I

Downtown great for white people, work backwards & make it great for everyone – don’t think too hard

NAACP Meeting

Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.

D & I

More diversity on downtown boards and steering committees

NAACP Meeting

Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.

Energy

Recommendation 1 – Include the addition of zero waste infrastructure and services throughout downtown. Encourage zero waste services at the downtown/neighborhood scale. Incorporate zero waste practices at downtown events and finally, incorporate zero waste infrastructure, planning and implementations in all downtown buildings – residential and commercial

WMFAC Memo

Thank you for your comment.
GOAL #3: Implement a 21st Century Mobility Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parking Scooter parking! Idea for the Rapid: Run smaller buses at night but more frequently and results in less waste in many Downtown parking ramps. Additional parking needs will be considered by the City. Send to Parking Services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Concern about having no min or max parking requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you for your comment. GR Forward recommends only removing the minimum parking requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Concern about new development and parking requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Regulations governing parking requirements are only one determining factor of parking provision. Lending and tenant requirements help round out critical decisions regarding parking provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking People in the suburbs don't understand the parking space issue they see this as reducing availability due to the development of green infrastructure, bike lanes etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Parking is a complex issue, that involves different perspectives and experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Real time information for parking is desirable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you for your comment. GR Forward recommends utilizing technology to better inform existing assets, including parking supply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Is State street included in the plan?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The State Street ASP was consulted to insure consistency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Is Wealthy and US 131 being studied?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you for your comment. MDOT and the City of Grand Rapids are studying the Wealthy and 131 overpass outside of the GR Forward effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking People in the suburbs don't understand the parking space issue they see this as reducing availability due to the development of green infrastructure, bike lanes etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parking Make more parking information available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking bus private and public areas should make more info available about parking and payment options</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Thank you for your comment. DASH routes are currently being analyzed in partnership with The Rapid and City of Grand Rapids. Currently, there is a proposal to extend the service to Outlier Grocers on Bridge Street.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit If you want to get people working, you need to provide them a way to get to work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The recommendations in GR Forward aim to provide a variety of transportation options to allow choice in mobility. Currently, the City is exploring additional commuter lots.</td>
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</tr>
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Thank you for your comment. If additional information is needed, please contact the Planning Department for further review and feedback.

Thank you for your comment. Additional language is going to be included in the introduction and Goal #2.

Thank you for your comment. This refers to the Rapid's study of the Downtown area.

Thank you for your comment. The Rapid has conducted a study of street level in Downtown and this will be included in the revised GR Forward Plan. Further, it is recommended the DASH be repurposed to serve as a true Downtown circulator.

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Thank you for your comment. Additional language is going to be included in the introduction and Goal #2.
Pedestrian

- Custom for high-speed drivers where ped. travel is common. Pedestrian over cross streets. One way - two way and bike lane should help.
- Chamber: Thank you for your comment. The prioritization of pedestrians in Downtown mobility is the cornerstone of Goal #3.

Bus

- Bus system should be easier to use for neighborhoods farther from downtown, frustrating to use currently.
- Chamber: Thank you for your comment. This concern will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration.

Patching

- Why are parking charges changing? How will we increase parking?
- Chamber: Thank you for your comment. Parking rates to change to balance system utilization. Please a new rate to improve demand for parking.

Highway

- Need implementation step about pedestrian connections from the west side to DT
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. The concept of bridges as places comes up in Goal #5.

Bike Access

- Family access to the river at Fulton and Madison is essential, this is the lowest part of the river and therefore the best for bike/hike.
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. This will be corrected in the next draft.

Formatting / Language

- Figures 3.16 and 3.17 The colors on these figures all look similar. Hard to read.
- Thank you for your comment. This will be corrected in the next draft.

Parking

- Page 17, which parking lots and garages should be the priority? Names them... and then name the ones that are on the streets we have identified as Active or Retail streets in previous chapters.
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. The proposed zoning requirements would apply only to newly constructed ramps. The permit and incentive for live buildings on publicly owned lots will only be appropriate for those lots large enough for development, and will need to be identified in partnership with the Mobile GR Department.

Formatting / Language

- Figure 3.16, there is nothing on here for Monroe North. Add designations to it. Also, the graph is too small.
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will identify additional opportunities in Monroe North.

Public Space

- Add text about the Bridges as amenities. They need help, too. Bridges can be places.
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. The concept of bridges as places comes up in Goal #5.

Loading Zones

- We need to include some analysis/implementation strategy where we analyze areas to remove loading zones, consolidate loading zones, add parking at clear sight triangles, etc. We have given away too much on-street parking area for temporary spaces. Parking in clear sight areas can help slow traffic at intersections. Also, we can prevent right on red! AND, we need a pilot program to change all traffic lights in the DT core to flashing red to slow move away from the signalized intersections. Traffic can get to 40 MPH because we have timed the lights through Ottawa and not pedestrian friendly.
- DGR to forward to.

DASH

- DASH: Figure 3.4. We need to have a point on the map where the two lines intersect. We need DASH interfacing with other Rapid Route and the two DASH circulators. They need to interface at the same station, not a block or two away. Also, we need to allow parking on DASH.
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. As proposed, there is a transfer point between DASH routes and the Silver Line at Monroe and Pearl. Customers will walk up a city block for the transfer.

Gateway

- Add Pearl to the gateway streets list.
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. This will be added.

Circulation

- WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE ONE WAYS TO TWO WAYS IN DT AND INTO HERITAGE HILL
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. Whenever possible, two-way conversions are being explored.

Pedestrian

- Page 17 calls for more segregated intersections. I'm not sure that this helps the pedestrians because they are all timed to green and traffic moves pretty fast.
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. There are operational observations to Traffic Safety.

Crosswalks

- In Europe, we move the cross walk away from the corner... we need this in GR. We have put the ramp at the corner, which is very dangerous for people with disabilities and kids. Drivers don't know which way you are crossing when you are at the corner. It is unusual.
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. Pedestrian safety at intersections is discussed at length in Goal #3. See pg. 7 – 9 and 13. Crosswalks to international style crosswalks as a part of any street resurfacing or improvement project in Downtown.

Implementation

- FULTON STREET NEEDS TO BE PRIORITIZED AND NEEDS A MUCH QUICKER TIMELINE. WE CANNOT WAIT!
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. Fulton is an incredibly important corridor, as are the other corridors in Goal #3. The prioritization of implementation will be identified in partnership with the City.

Implementation

- All the comments are good, too.
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. The timeline for implementation is reflective of our discussions with the City and representative of the existing funding cycles. Implementation times may be shortened with the identification of additional resources.

Public Space

- Add the bridges to each of these gateways.
- Email Comment: Thank you for your comment. The concept of bridges as places comes up in Goal #5.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transit</th>
<th>UPGRADE mass transit systems to meet the practices of other regional Great Lakes cities.</th>
<th>Written Comment</th>
<th>Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration.</th>
<th>DGRI to send to the Rapid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>A) ADD service to the 5/3 Ball Park and Meijer Gardens. One can find mass transit to games at Milwaukee's Miller Park, to Chicago's Wrigley and Comiskey Fields, to Cleveland's Progressive Field, to Minneapolis' Metrodome and Target Field and to Cincinnati's Riverfront Park. Why don't we have it?</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration.</td>
<td>DGRI to send to the Rapid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>B) EXPAND service on the weekends. Presently service ends at 9PM on Saturday nights. Other cities that are safety minded and transit friendly offer service to midnight or later. If we are trying to build downtown as an entertainment destination, why are we ending transit service before the fireworks go off and well before the close of cultural events, restaurants, and bars? London, Paris, Toronto, Chicago and many others don’t do it. Why do we?</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration.</td>
<td>DGRI to send to the Rapid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>C) EXPAND service on holidays. Presently there is NO SERVICE on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is limited service on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. In other transit friendly cities, people recognize that the holiday seasons are the times when drivers are more likely to be rushed, under the influence of drink or drugs andprovided to the road and driving responsibilities and that is one reason why service is provided - AND in some places (including Chicago) AT NO COST to the rider on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve. This promotes safe travel throughout the area served for riders and conventional drivers alike. In addition, holiday service would promote public attendance and participation in community events on July 4, Memorial Day and Labor Day.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration.</td>
<td>DGRI to send to the Rapid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>BUILD more tall parking structures around the edges of downtown, the city and metro area. Get people familiar and comfortable with the practice of parking and riding (or walking) to get around. PROVIDE factual medical information on the health benefits associated with walking in all media channels. Perhaps Spectrum Health can supply the content.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>This is an interesting, albeit expensive idea. It will be sent to Parking Services for their consideration.</td>
<td>DGRI to send to Parking Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>IMPLEMENT your recommendation 3.4 (p 51 of your draft) to “Use new technology to improve conditions for transit riders. Work with DGR and businesses to install monitors/screens in the public right of way and in businesses showing real time Rapid/Dash schedule info.” The alone will add much value to the Rapid experience.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>Much of the plan addresses the issue of connectivity. The Chamber supports an “all-of-the-above” approach that promotes a variety of options without unduly discouraging any one mode of transportation. We agree that intentional redevelopment of surface lots will be beneficial and provide a better use of valuable space. Parking lots, however, remain an issue for our members that needs to be planned for long term. We are very interested in the potential re-routing of the DASH service to better meet current needs and enhance connectivity. We also look forward to appropriate enhancements to the walkability of our downtown in ways that promote all modes of transportation to further enhance commerce and support local job creators.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Parking, as well as all transportation modes, will continue to be a vital consideration for the future health of Downtown.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit</td>
<td>1. With regards to the movement of freight in the downtown business district, we agree that optimizing traffic flow and efficiency is important but would suggest that the section not be written into the master plan until the City’s Vital Streets Plan is completed. Prohibiting truck traffic on various routes prior to the conclusion of the city-wide process will provide a more comprehensive, big picture analysis would be premature.</td>
<td>Chamber of Commerce Memo</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Implementation of new policies restricting truck traffic on Downtown streets will be coordinated with the City’s Vital Streets Plan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>2. I’m hoping you’re banning cars or doing something to make the “sidewalk” on 6th Street bridge not so scary for bikes.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formatting/Language</td>
<td>You can hardly read wording on streets on the page. Revert to black type.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The formatting will be reviewed throughout the document for the revised draft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOAL #4: Expand Job Opportunities and Ensure Continued Vitality of the Local Economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIF CODE</th>
<th>PAGE #</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49504</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Biz liscense app.</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Doesn’t do enough to address gaps in education and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Is something in the works concerning Internet speeds?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>This section in line. No real strategy, policy recommendations. Need to either do something real or get rid of it altogether. Ask the community for ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>URBA’s minority contractors &amp; relationships w/largest building developers. Boston?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>D&amp; I</td>
<td>Diversity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>What does inclusion mean? Inclusion= skills training &amp; jobs? WTF? Horrible Assumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Downtown as a “product”? SCARY. Need to reframe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Need Low-Cost space for biz incubation, growth &amp; support. Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>What about sharing/exiting, Manufacturing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>What about sharing/exiting, Manufacturing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Idea</td>
<td>Production &amp; Development &amp; Space Modernization Entity, Good.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Agreed!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Internship, career entry models.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Formatting</td>
<td>FF is Lots?! No. No-No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Is the objective in here. Let’s make it more robust, or get rid of it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Downtown as a “product”? SCARY. Need to reframe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Format/M</td>
<td>Page 26 includes recommendation to support and expand internship opportunities Downtown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Leadership team? Not a goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>No license app. - Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>(Refers to implementation approach section) Lack of depth &amp; teeth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>The language at the beginning of the section, immediately ostracizes a huge portion of the population by using that specific example in that step. Expand the belief that GR has a place for “young entrepreneurs” should be labeled that we are focusing on building for multiple generations and not just those business owners who call themselves entrepreneurs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Formatting</td>
<td>Page 26 make space between nothing----A production, maybe this is just because the text is justified in this paragraph but if it is to be reworded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Page 26 includes recommendation to support internship programs in college age/young/entrepreneur, why help with retention. I’m surprised to not see any mention of the collaborative kitchen space at Walker used as an example and resource.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Also noticed that there isn’t any mention of job training placement programs focusing on recruitment of low-income residents, every time we do a focus group with Heartside residents they focus on how jobs change lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>No license app. - Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Formatting</td>
<td>In the “decision should be capitalized.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4 Promote Inclusion and Equal Participation in the Local Economy

**Recommendation**

WMIEAC recommends adding an action step under the recommendation “Formulate a leadership team among City decision makers and major employers to ensure equal access opportunities.” The additional action step could read: "Create intentional linkages between green infrastructure investments/maintenance and job skill development in the river corridor and downtown Grand Rapids. Establish partnerships to engage local disconnected youth between the ages of 16 and 24, in training and jobs with living wages to ensure the long-term maintenance of new green and blue infrastructure installations.” Link this concept again in section 4.2 “Build partnerships with Grand Rapids institutions to develop a locally rooted workforce.”

**Planning Department Memo**

Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarification on this section. The formatting / reference will be addressed in the final version of the plan.

**DGRI**

To add language related to the GR Jobs initiative.
The report cites Connect 64 and Hello West Michigan as assisting trailing significant others at larger companies in the region. Connect 64 is an employment agency. The name comes from the 64 exits on I-94 between Benton Harbor and Battle Creek. They don't work with Grand Rapids or any employers in Region 4. Hello West Michigan currently has 64 member companies. Only 11 member companies have 500 employees or more. 17% of member companies are "large" companies. 36% of members have 500 employees or less. 54% of member employers are "small" employers. Conversations for HWM were started by the CIO Council in 2007. To all at the table, companies had to have a certain level of sales (in the millions), so the companies that started HWM were large companies. Without the support of these large employers, HWM would not have gotten off the ground to grow into the organization it is today. Over the last 6 years, HWM has worked to expand membership to small and mid-sized companies to help them in their talent attraction efforts. From the statistics mentioned above, HWM is doing a good job to reach and support "smaller firms." Specifically, 1.) In 2011, HWM restructured membership pricing to make it more affordable for small business. In 2010, the lowest membership tier was $1,000 for 16 employees or less. Now it is as little as $250 for companies with 10 employees or less. 2.) Also in 2011, we started our highly successful weekly resume pack program. Originally, we distributed this only to our member companies, but have since allowed any company to be on the distribution list, meaning more companies can tap into our resources for free. Our weekly resume pack reaches 500 HR professionals in the region and has gotten over 410 people hired in the last 2 years. 3.) We help non-profits promote their open job opportunities through our marketing channels for free. In 2014 alone, our out-bound marketing campaign delivered 20 million impressions promoting West Michigan and its companies, large and small alike.

Online Comment
Thank you for your comment. Clarification will be added on the role of Hello WM.

Fig 4.11, pg 249: HR is the only group that influences people about living downtown. The choices for people not choosing to live downtown vary widely and many times the decisions are a subtration of several factors. Things like school options, safety, parking and cost are all various reasons. In particular, individuals from the area who will push people to certain school districts based on reputation, rather than looking at the facts. Educating front lines like bankers and HR professionals about downtown living, including education options, is important. HWM partners with GRPS on many programs so that the message of urban education can be brought to candidates.

Online Comment
Thank you for your comment.

4.2, pg 251: Universities aren't the only stakeholders in the creation and implementation of internship programs. Employers must create internship programs first. In collaboration with colleges and local employers, HWM facilitates Employer Internship Training Sessions throughout the region to assist employers with the development and improvement internship programs. 2. pg 251: West Michigan Tech Talent is a newer group in the region, made up of local employers, who are working on several IT pipeline programs such as Girls Who Code and Bitcamp.

Online Comment
Thank you for your comment. Additional language about the role of employers in creating internships.

DGR and the GR Forward plan are doing a lot to improve the city and the region as a whole. Naturally you would want to tell the nation about it through a marketing campaign to target audiences, such as Top 10 cities. Since 2014, Hello West Michigan has run a multi-channel marketing campaign promoting the West Michigan region to target markets outside of the state. HWM is very direct in its approach, targeting people with West Michigan hometowns or colleges, and targeting people with high demand skills. The HWM out-bound marketing is a proven way to bring top talent into the HWM audience, who are then further assisted by HWM programs and resources. HWM seeks to increase the scope of its marketing campaign through additional funding in 2016.

Online Comment
Thank you for your comment. HWM will be included as an implementation partner.

We shouldn't be promoting "green" companies just because they are green Does this even appear in document anywhere?
<p>| Economic Development - minority-owned businesses | Promote the use of minority-owned contracting. | Suggest modifying DDA / MNTIFA / Brownfield Incentives to create a tax increment rebate bonus for developers that contract with a certain percentage MWBE contractors. | [1.0] Interface to draft text paragraph &amp; accompanying implementation strategy. DGR and City of GR to be identified as implementation partners. |
| Sonya Hughes | Economic Development - minority-owned businesses | Add more detail about targeting and recruiting minority-owned businesses in Downtown. | Add more text to the strategy about allowing the creation of minority-owned businesses in Downtown. DGR to serve as the convener, with partners that would include GRID, Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, GRABB, Black Chamber of Commerce, CORE. Add implementation strategy about developing a collaborative minority-owned business strategy with structured partnerships. Add just one example of a potential use that is currently not represented in Downtown, but could be a target for recruitment efforts. | Interface to add language. |
| Economic Development - Diversity | For Downtown workforce to be 70% white. Add a strategy about the need to compel employers to recognize the benefits of having a diverse workforce. | DGRI to serve as the convener, with partners that would include GRID, Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, GRABB, Black Chamber of Commerce, CORE. Add implementation strategy about developing a collaborative minority-owned business strategy with structured partnerships. Add just one example of a potential use that is currently not represented in Downtown, but could be a target for recruitment efforts. | [1.0] Interface to add language. |
| Sonya Hughes | Economic Development - Diversity | Need to attract an anchor tenant from one of the large local employers to Downtown. | We need to attract an anchor tenant from one of the large local employers to Downtown. DGRI to serve as the convener, with partners that would include GRID, Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, GRABB, Black Chamber of Commerce, CORE. Add implementation strategy about developing a collaborative minority-owned business strategy with structured partnerships. Add just one example of a potential use that is currently not represented in Downtown, but could be a target for recruitment efforts. | Interface to add language. |
| D &amp; I | How can we recruit minority workers to Downtown? | Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | DGR to provide additional language. |
| Housing | Need for more flexible space | Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| D &amp; I | As an African American, I don't feel welcome to own a business Downtown. | Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| D &amp; I | There needs to be more intentional engagement with the African American community. | Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| Economic Development | How do I showcase my skills and make connections to jobs? | Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| D &amp; I | Engage minority community in flexible space development - It needs to be a welcoming environment. | Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| Economic Development | Create a certified kitchen for entrepreneurs to use. | Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| D &amp; I | It is frustrating that there are no places in Downtown that I can go and see people that look like me. | Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| Entertainment | We should continue to explore bringing sports teams (Drive, Whitecaps, etc.) to Downtown. | Endless Opportunities | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| Retail Space | Need for an anchor ground that doesn’t have preconceived notions about minorities who shop there. | Endless Opportunities | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| D &amp; I | Policies that encourage minority hiring are great, but will not work unless there is enforcement. | Endless Opportunities | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| D &amp; I | We need to make sure these conversations about diversity, connections, continue beyond GR Forward. Sometimes the best solution is the simplest, and this is a great first step in changing perceptions / views of Downtown. | Endless Opportunities | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| D &amp; I | Explore youth internship programs in Downtown to help combat violence. Make sure the program is diverse. | Endless Opportunities | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| Arts &amp; Culture | Need a nightlife club / hang out spot for teens. | Endless Opportunities | Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue. | Interface to add language. |
| Technology | For Grand Rapids to continue its status as a high growth region, world class broadband and wireless service infrastructure must be in place, be constantly updated and enhanced. Different than roads or water, outer gray infrastructure that might last for years and decades, the same longevity does not apply to broadband. The deployment of cutting edge technologies to transmit more data, more quickly, and more affordably must be in place for Grand Rapids to continue its competitive economic development status. Already and when compared to some European and Asian cities, our broadband service is slow, dependent upon increasingly obsolete technology systems and this will only decrease our economic development advantages in the future if we do not plan more aggressively new and non-stop continually into the future. | Right Place Email | Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the revised GR Forward Plan. | Interface to add language. |
| D &amp; I | For Grand Rapids to continue its status as a high growth region, world class broadband and wireless service infrastructure must be in place, be constantly updated and enhanced. Different than roads or water, outer gray infrastructure that might last for years and decades, the same longevity does not apply to broadband. The deployment of cutting edge technologies to transmit more data, more quickly, and more affordably must be in place for Grand Rapids to continue its competitive economic development status. Already and when compared to some European and Asian cities, our broadband service is slow, dependent upon increasingly obsolete technology systems and this will only decrease our economic development advantages in the future if we do not plan more aggressively new and non-stop continually into the future. | Right Place Email | Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the revised GR Forward Plan. | Interface to add language. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Connect and utilize The SOURCE as a resource and connector. The SOURCE model will be replicated. Develop and planning work was done in isolation, need to come together to support one another.</th>
<th>NAACP Meeting</th>
<th>Thank you for your comment. The SOURCE will be added to the implementation matrix.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Idea</td>
<td>Donate buildings to business owners at a rate for $1: Create a new culture vs. assimilation.</td>
<td>NAACP Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The development and redevelopment of property is discussed in 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idea</td>
<td>Engage banking, chambers of commerce @ start-up capital</td>
<td>NAACP Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Section 4.1 of the revised draft discusses strategies to provide new capital and access to capital to help business investment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idea</td>
<td>Need to educate real estate brokers re: downtown living as a viable option.</td>
<td>NAACP Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Needed strong relationships between DownTown cultural institutions and multi-cultural neighborhood &amp; events</td>
<td>NAACP Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will additional information on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>We believe the recommendation to “create a new culture vs. assimilation” requires much more research and stakeholder engagement. With the goal of purchasing property to fill the gap that the private sector can’t fill, we have considerable concern over the creation of an authority to compete with expert private sector players who have successfully filled the revitalization of our city.</td>
<td>Chamber of Commerce Memo</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamber of Commerce Memo</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Section 4.3 of the revised plan discusses strategies to provide low-cost loans and access to capital to help business investment.</td>
<td>NAACP Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.</td>
</tr>
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<td>D &amp; I</td>
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<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Need to be intentional about including diverse images in marketing materials (BRAND Rapids).</td>
<td>NAACP Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>Establish strong relationships between DownTown cultural institutions and multi-cultural neighborhood &amp; events</td>
<td>NAACP Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>We do not support the recommendation requiring an inclusion module as part of the business license application process. We believe this process, as currently defined, would amount to more of a regulatory “check the box” that would drive any additional education.</td>
<td>Chamber of Commerce Memo</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamber of Commerce Memo</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.</td>
<td>NAACP Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>A strong urban core with a diverse workforce and business community is key to creating a community where everyone is welcomed and where businesses thrive. The Chamber is leading the business community on the road to creating strong brands and a more diverse and inclusive workforce. As discussed during the meeting with two Chamber talent affinity groups on Friday, Oct. 11, there are still many questions related to various diversity and inclusion goals, as well as the action steps to meet those goals. Where our programming and mission align with the stated goals, we look forward to being a partner in developing more diverse and inclusive workplaces.</td>
<td>Chamber of Commerce Memo</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional information on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D &amp; I</td>
<td>What is DGRI’s strategy to get minority consumers and businesses downtown? Why Black Chamber of Commerce not involved?</td>
<td>NAACP Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>A strong urban core with a diverse workforce and business community is key to creating a community where everyone is welcomed and where businesses thrive. The Chamber is leading the business community on the road to creating strong brands and a more diverse and inclusive workforce. As discussed during the meeting with two Chamber talent affinity groups on Friday, Oct. 11, there are still many questions related to various diversity and inclusion goals, as well as the action steps to meet those goals. Where our programming and mission align with the stated goals, we look forward to being a partner in developing more diverse and inclusive workplaces.</td>
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<td>Chamber of Commerce Memo</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional information on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### GOAL #5: Reinvest in Public Space, Culture, and Inclusive Programming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Clean and Safe</td>
<td>Men’s restroom &amp; trash bins needed. Altir more public restrooms</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Will be reffered to the City of Grand Rapids Parks Department for inclusion in the upcoming Master Planning process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Clean and Safe</td>
<td>Cleaning supplies are not in stock. THE LOT</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Clean and Safe</td>
<td>Yes to Graffiti assist walk. Like in Eastern Market.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Clean and Safe</td>
<td>Compact bins. Yes.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Events**

- Creston Neighborhood Meeting
- DARC
- Marquardt
- OSE
- To be referred to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy
- Written Comment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49516</td>
<td>Events</td>
<td>I attended few of the events other than Artprize. so much of this didn’t appeal to me. Maybe another apritite like event would be good</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49524</td>
<td>Land Use</td>
<td>Restaurants and coffee shops should be built along the river edges on both sides. I’m surprised at how many buildings along the river just ‘spare’ the river’s beauty and possibilities.</td>
<td>Web</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Open Space**

- Creston Neighborhood Meeting
- DARC
- Written Comment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49506</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Double green space/park land</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Arts/Cultural eg. Bryant Park - Makers of local market booths &amp; Calder Plaza in Winter, in mid-December.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Green Ladder Plaza? Can or is restricted by Calder?</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Develop the US Parking lot on Ottawa? YES. Love the skating track &amp; hockey rink. Who will pay for this? DGR or City? Summer- Does the splash pad come out?</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>(Refers to Veteran’s Park section) Ground floor retail? Not really needed. What about more engaging amenities like a large swing or some kind of sculpture or climbing statue?</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Argus with greens Eastern portion of Shadow St.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Love skate park &amp; green under bridge/highway.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Open Space**

- Creston Neighborhood Meeting
- DARC
- Written Comment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>#</th>
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<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>If Calder was Isis in Europe, it would be surrounded by outdoor cafes with alfresco meals!</td>
<td>Creston Neighborhood Meeting</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Language</td>
<td>The park should be called Vanderberg Plaza in all of the text, or explain why you were calling it Calder Plaza. also the Plaza is referred to as Vanderberg in other portions of this document.</td>
<td>Email Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Double green space/park land</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Arts/Cultural eg. Bryant Park - Makers of local market booths &amp; Calder Plaza in Winter, in mid-December.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Green Calder Plaza? Can or is restricted by Calder?</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Develop the US Parking lot on Ottawa? YES. Love the skating track &amp; hockey rink. Who will pay for this? DGR or City? Summer- Does the splash pad come out?</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>(Refers to Veteran’s Park section) Ground floor retail? Not really needed. What about more engaging amenities like a large swing or some kind of sculpture or climbing statue?</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Yes on Peckich</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Like switch-back park ideas</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Argus with greens Eastern portion of Shadow St.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Love skate park &amp; green under bridge/highway.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Open Space**

- Creston Neighborhood Meeting
- DARC
- Written Comment

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<td>29</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Yes to Graffiti assist walk. Like in Eastern Market.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>LED &amp; Solar Powered Lighting for all city/DGRI owned lights.</td>
<td>Written Comment</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
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**Open Space**

- Creston Neighborhood Meeting
- DARC
- Written Comment

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<td>Thank you for your comment.</td>
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The term Parklet as currently used, is not a park. Parks are public space. Our current parklets are privately owned and maintained by property owners, not the City. Although there is a public benefit, it is not a public space.

Email Comment
Thank you for your comment. Additional narrative to be added.

The concept of LED lighting on building facades should be further explored to understand the intent of this recommendation. The City has had recent enforcement actions related to building lighting which has been used to attract attention versus provide safety.

Planning Department Memo
Thank you for your comment. Additional narrative to be added.

716b
The DIA should be more involved in the development of new neighborhoods.

Email Comment
Thank you for your comment. This item will be addressed with Planning and UFC.

DGRi should send Interface language to add DGRI as an implementation partner to “Determine Priority Sites for Public Art”.

49503
Retail Space
More public restrooms & drinking fountains; dog parks city-wide

Chamber
This will be referred to the City of Grand Rapids for inclusion in the upcoming Parks Master Plan.

D&I
There are not enough events that appeal to African Americans.

Endless Opportunities
Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to the DIA Information on Downtown events should be shared with the African American community. This will be addressed in the revised draft for additional information on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter.

Events
Consider hosting more viewing parties for big sporting events (similar to what was done for the World Cup).

Email Comment
Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to the DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy.

Send to the City.

Make the changes our skate park group suggested.

Email Comment
Thank you for your comment. This will be added to the revised plan.

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### Cultural Institutions

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<td>Establish a PERFORMING ARTS DISTRICT for the UICA, Ladies Literary Club, Civic Theater, Spectrum Theater, Dog Story Theater and St. Cecilia Music Center. Brand it as a year-round entertainment destination, an alternative to Detroit, Toronto or Chicago that provides good value. (This is a substitute for the Library District identified on p. 9 of your draft.) Choose a name, a logo or a slogan. Supply identifying written, signage and lighting that create a sense of place. Market it along with the Museum Campus (GRAM, Ford Presidential Museum and Visitors Public Museum) and the Arena District. Assist member organizations to plan year-round programming that inspires visitors to stay overnight for 2 or more events. Prepare programming for each of the 52 weekends in a year.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. This will be added to the revised plan. Interact to add language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within the Performing Arts District, perhaps along Jefferson Ave SE, establish a POP-UP MUSEUM to attract walkers, drivers, visitors and the adventurers. DGRI could lease the space and cover utilities for a test period. The STE LAB people, their peers or members could be invited to fill the space. The space could be used to train or equip future museum professionals. If an area college offers a degree program for museum professionals, this could serve as a training ground or an independent study project for them. Perhaps the Grand Rapids Community Foundation could convene with a grant to cover expenses. Alternatively, establish a free-admission MUSEUM SPACE for performances by area musicians or music students in a wide variety of music genres: Celtic, blues, folk, jazz, Latin, Americana, etc. The idea is to promote live music (inspired partly by New Orleans’ Preservation Hall). Funding for a test period is suggested as that supported for the pop-up museum. Alternatively, establish an ART STUDIO space that enables visitors to watch a variety of artists create art (painting, sculpture, photography, etc.). This might be part of or a complement to the efforts of the Avenue for the Arts group. Funding for a test period is as suggested for the pop-up museum.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. This will be added to the revised plan. Interact to add language</td>
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<tr>
<td>INSTALL a giant screen video-based in Heritage Park near the Downtown Market or near GVSU’s Pew Campus on the West Side. The video content would support new initiatives, supplying needed information and education to the degree and positive reinforcement for the true believers. It might include images of A) RISING IN URBAN AREAS in support of new bike lanes; Use scenes from Portland ORE, Amsterdam Holland, Cambridge or Oxford England that show streets filled with adults on bikes. B) SMART TRAVEL (as in Rick Steves, Rick Mayo, etc.) have seen these scenes. Include scenes ofbikons on bicylces in back; A) A Shepherd’s tale on circular; B) Most images with traffic jam images contrasted to make it clear, C) These videos scenes can not be purchased, downloaded to tablet and create original videos. D) HEALTHY LIFESTYLES OF TRANSIT USERS in support of the new bike lanes. E) Images of healthy happy transit users of all ages and backgrounds. Feature the personal stories of locals. Use images of transit users from around the world. In London England red double decker buses. Chicago’s buses in Jackson Blvd, New Orleans’ threw emotions, the San Francisco Bay Area BART system and the high speed rail in the East Coast Corridor. F) WATER. Streetscapes of the five Great Lakes, scenes from Michigan’s shores and overland and images of Mayo’s Lady Elliot. Add short poems and visuals on the subject of water. G) GRAND RAPIDS AS THE COLLEGE TOWN. T) Display video that features students signing the school song while the words scroll along at the bottom of the screen, with the school colors, team nickname, mascot and for each school, with a local campus. MSU: GOBLUE Coler-Coker, Kuyper College, Aquinas College. Compassion University, Ferris State. Davenport, Baker College and anyone else may have undocumented. H) NEIGHBORHOOD RENOVATION. Show the successes and the challenges in turning around a neighborhood. Spotlight the organizations (City staff, ICCF, Habitat for Humanity), volunteers and others who make it happen. I) COMMUNITY EVENTS. Feature videos of Lafontaine events, the Rivertown Culinary Festival. The Art of the Arts. The Concert at Old Cade’s Market. Luther King Jr. Day processions and events. July 4th parade, Parade, Santa Claus parade and tree-lighting events, etc. Oil painting, jazz. K) PURE MICHIGAN ADS.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. There is room to explore these ideas as conversations about public art further progress</td>
</tr>
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### Parks and Open Space

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<td>ADD as much GREEN as is practical, greenery and plantings as you possibly can to all the cement and asphalt of the manmade environment. Medical science tells us that the color green relieves people. Use this science to help folks into enough to open walkers and pedestrian area businesses. I would like to see the street named “Breathe” (as was the 20th Ave Pave every titled “Breathe” at the BDD) added to the landscape of Sixth St Park, Croswater Park, Veterans Park, and Heritage Park. This would create a visially pleasant non and a cleaner airspace.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comment. Additional tree canopy, park space and green spaces throughout Downtown and the River Corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish a statewide ARTS IN THE PARKS program that invites artists to create sculptures, floral landscaping, bridge art and other that can travel through the state, allowing each community to enjoy them and learn about the art and create more informed audience around the state. Establish a local BIDGE ART program that seasonally decorates downtown bridge portals replicates in an impressive way the bridges of Paris, Prague, Florence, London and other cities. Establish an Outside/Out program of art reproductions in the parks.</td>
<td>Send to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy</td>
</tr>
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<td>ESTABLISH AN ARCHITECTURAL TRAIL that features the best in GR’s urban architecture across its historical styles. Hike distinctive markers at each site. Add始终保持的KIDS CAN paint gestures with icons. This way will complement the series of notable locals statues and might blend them into the trail. Promote the trail with a map brochure and an app.</td>
<td>Send to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy</td>
</tr>
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| Events

- INTEGRATE snow removal needs with a creative and competitive snow building culture. Remove snow from sidewalks and street parking spaces and deliver to it these locations: the Lyon St Amphitheater, the Rockford behind Dick’s Performance High, Holy Name Park, the Bridge Street basins on both sides of the river, Veterans Park, Croswater Park, Sixth St Park, Canal Park. Invite teams from schools, churches, neighborhoods, rally anyone to show up to create snow art, insects, animal banners, snow bears, A North Pole Express train (perhaps inspired by The Pole Express) and the like. Depending on the response, this could be set up as a creative competition with prizes awarded for various categories (technical, size, quantity, the like). It could be marketed as a science-based event (as is the case) for the importance that time plays in creating and destroying snow art. This ideas is consistent with Goal 5.1 (p. 38) and Goal 4.4 (p. 40) of your Draft Recommendations. | Send to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy |
GOAL #6: Retain and Attract Families, Talent, and Job Providers with High Quality Public Schools

6.1. Implementation

- Retain and Attract Families, Talent, and Job Providers with High Quality Public Schools

- Demographic of current public schools: how will this change overtime with plan?

- Additional or improved education options help win over trailing significant others who are very concerned about the educational options for their children.

- More students working in local business/vocational trades will help build our workforce.

- Need housing for college students

- Nepotism à transplants don’t stay because of it

- Need housing for college students

- Student development programs, including job and skills training, and internships are an important recommendation put forth in goal #4.