

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 | <i>Motion</i> | <i>Harris / Hansen</i> |
| 2. Approve and Recommend GR Forward Strategic Plan | <i>Motion</i> | <i>Kelly / Larson</i> |
| 3. President & CEO Report | <i>Info Item</i> | <i>Larson</i> |
| 4. Board Discussion | | |
| 5. Old Business | | |
| 6. New Business | | |
| 7. Public Comment | | |
| 8. Adjourn | | |

MEMORANDUM

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS · DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

DATE: November 6, 2015

TO: DDA Board

FROM: Tim Kelly, AICP
Planning Manager

Agenda Item #2
November 11, 2015
DDA Meeting

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



- Spectrum Health Recruiting Managers
- GR Business Breakfast
- Downtown Market Staff
- Rockford Construction (x2)
- Grand Action Executive Committee

Education

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

Civic Organizations

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

State Agencies

- Michigan Economic Development Commission
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority Managers Meeting
- 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/ethic 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.

Formal Public Comment Period Engagement Schedule July – Dec. 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

General Comments				
PAGE #	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	ACTION	RESOLUTION
	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	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Interface to add GRACC to matrix.	
	It would be helpful to make a presentation that specifically focuses on changes in our N. Monroe neighborhood so our businesses can plan ahead.	Monroe North Business Association	DGRI to follow up with MNBA	Complete
Cover	Pages/Formatting needs to be redone. Page numbers repeat in multiple sections. Very Hard to Follow.	Written Comment	Interface to make change to numbering system.	Booked together to have continuous page numbers
	The document contains a number of spelling errors that should be corrected prior to adoption.	Planning Department Memo	Interface to correct spelling errors and typos.	Corrected
	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	Interface to make sure terms are consistent throughout plan.	
	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.	Online	DGRI to follow up with HWM.	Complete
	As edits are made to the drafts, can people with disabilities be added to the renderings and can some photos get swapped out with ones that include people with disabilities? In the full plan on page 30 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 Exec Summary I did not see any.	Email Comment	Interface to add additional images to revised draft.	added to Market Street rendering which appears in both the executive summary and goal 2
	One more minor edit—my last name has two T's in it. It appears with only one now.	Email Comment	Interface to correct spelling of "Dettloff" on the Steering Committee list.	
	Concern re: courts and judicial system and people of color not treated fairly	3rd Ward Event	DGRI to provide Interface language.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary
	Shift paradigms access to capital, work with local lending institutions	3rd Ward Event	DGRI to provide Interface language.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary
	Re: foundations, assistance should not be charitable, more partnerships and collaboration	3rd Ward Event	DGRI to provide Interface language.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary
	Diversify downtown governing boards	3rd Ward Event	DGRI to provide Interface language.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary
	Need diversity at decision-making levels	3rd Ward Event	DGRI to provide Interface language.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary
	Changing demographics "eventually catch up to us" whether we accommodate them or not (Representation level at DGRI Alliances)	3rd Ward Event	DGRI to provide Interface language.	Complete. See Preamble.
	Valuing diversity is just as important as having diversity	3rd Ward Event	DGRI to provide Interface language.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary
	Need a copy editor (Matt Kushinka is quite good); Westside is spelled differently throughout; crosswalk terms are inconsistent, north arrows missing from graphics; 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."
	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	Email Comment	Interface to correct	All maps are properly aligned. Some of the 3D models are turned to enable more information to be conveyed.
	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	Email Comment	DGRI to send Interface language.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary
	No summary of the community meetings, only a summary of the storefront/survey/open house	Email Comment	DGRI to send Interface updated information on community meetings.	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
	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	DGRI to send Interface updated information on community meetings.	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
	Diversity and inclusion needs to be improved (everything from the plan format/accessibility to the missing voices/to the implementation)	Email Comment	DGRI to send Interface language.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary and Preamble
	Throughout the plan the Westside is either hyphenated, not hyphenated, etc. Need consistency	Email Comment	Interface to correct to insure consistency	Corrected - all references are now "Westside."
	None of the graphics have north arrows. They all need them, and they all should be oriented the same way. North is typically up.	Email Comment	Interface to correct.	All maps have north arrows. 3D graphics do not and are oriented to best illustrate the intent of the particular recommendations.
Introduction				
PAGE #	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	ACTION	RESOLUTION
5	Don't need to explain where the quotes come from it's inferred throughout the document	Email Comment	Interface to insure quotes are attributed throughout the document by identifying what events/platform they were gathered from.	
5	I think the example on page 5 of comparing the 100 largest cities in the amount of parks this is <u>a great</u> clear illustration. Providing best practices, comparisons and helping to set goals. I'd like to see more illustrations throughout the document that are that clear	Email Comment	Interface to review to determine if additional graphics can be added.	Different data sets require different approaches to illustrate the takeaway
	All of the D&I Hopes / aspirations / strategies should be summarized in one place, and should be a part of a larger brand.	1 on 1	DGRI to provide language to Interface.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary and Preamble
GOAL #1: Restore the River and Create a Connected and Equitable River Corridor				
PAGE #	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	ACTION	RESOLUTION
37	Use Art and Natural Environment tools to "brand" these e/w gateways.	Written Comment	Interface to add narrative "to work with neighbors to incorporate artistic and aesthetic components to be a part of local placemaking"	
19	Incorporate native people in the conversation and decision making!	Written Comment	Interface to add language / bullet to continue to identify and engage native people	
51	Eliminate this. Map makes no sense. The next few do though.	Written Comment	STOSS to add more descriptive labelling.	
61	Recommendation 4 - Initial Action Steps: "Encourage local policies and incentives that favor low impact development:- add "regional and state" to read: Encourage local, <i>regional</i> , and <i>state</i> policies and incentives that favor low impact development.	WMEAC Memo	Interface to amend and add WMEAC as a partner.	
61	Recommendation 5 - Add the following to the list of initial action steps under the section "Focus on improving water quality..." <i>Recruit a leadership team and embed this team in the GRForward and river restoration processes to achieve the water quality agenda with the region and state."</i>	WMEAC Memo	Interface to add strategy to recruit and create a leadership team. Implementation partners to be identified.	

61	Recommendation 6- Add the following to the list of initial action steps under the section: "Focus on improving water quality..." <i>"Prioritize addressing pathogen pollutants contributed to the Grand River watershed by failing septic systems by advocating for statewide septic rules and improved septic regulation practices in counties (initially prioritizing Kent County) within the Grand River Watershed."</i> WMEAC suggests this discrete water quality recommendation be specifically highlighted to the initial goals, because its particularly timely, following the recent data on septic contribution to water quality by Michigan State University, as well as current interest in the issue in the Snyder administration and current legislature.	WMEAC Memo	Interface to add strategy. Implementation partners TBD. Additionally, add strategy to address regional water quality agenda. Identify areas of alignment with existing State strategies.	
	Goal 1.2 is lacking sub-goals.	Planning Department Memo	Interface to add sub-goals for Goal 1.2. Planning to identify language in partnership with GRWW.	Added one subgoal: "Explore River Island Opportunities."
	Figure 1.27, 1.28 and 1.29 are not readable. In addition, they are labeled as Option 1, 2 and 3 respectively, but appear to be referenced as "scenarios" in the text.	Planning Department Memo	Stoss to reformat extent and legibility.	maps updated
	Legends are needed for Figures 1.44 and 1.45 so to help clarify where 15 opportunity sites and 13 Phase II opportunity sites are located. Additional descriptions of the sites would be helpful for persons who were not involved in the planning process.	Planning Department Memo	Stoss to add legends to figures.	
61	1.1 - Integrate Art, Education, Infrastructure and Ecology. Recommendation 2- Add the WMEAC as a responsible partner in delivering this effort as we have been a key partner in water quality protection and low impact development innovation in West Michigan for over 45 years and plan to continue our role in local and regional watershed protection.	WMEAC Memo	Interface to add WMEAC as a partner. DGRI will clarify with commentor which recommendation to add them to.	added to water quality rec
14	Recommendation 3- 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).	WMEAC Memo	Interface to add partners to implementation matrix, including MDARD.	
	Lyon Square area - currently no ramp access to the riverwalk.	DAKC	Stoss to confirm proposed design is ADA accessible.	Noted in text that Lyon Square redesign does include ADA accessible walkways.
	Dog access to the river; designated dog areas, off-leash perhaps even.	Monroe North Business Association	Stoss to identify opportunity site locations where dog access is feasible.	No change made: Dog access is feasible at any location where people can enter the water and many other location as well. Off lead parks require full closure of the boundaries, which for many sites is not desired or feasible, but and area in the larger parks such as the Adventure Forest could have dog runs integrated into park programming. The specifics as to where this occurs on each site should be a community decisions as this impacts neighborhood users as well as wildlife this level of detail is typically addressed when each site plan moves forward in the design process not at the masterplan scale.
	Study and confirm no river level loss in 10 miles upstream	GR Rowers Association	City to send comment to RR and GRWW.	Information sent to City.
	What will be the upstream impacts (beyond North Park Bridge)	GR Rowers Association	City to send comment to RR and GRWW.	Information sent to City.
	What will be the default level of the new barrier? How will adjusting the barrier for different events upstream and downstream change the water level.	GR Rowers Association	City to send comment to RR and GRWW.	Information sent to City.
	Is there an opportunity to recognize Native American history in the river reconstruction?	Grandville Ave / Cook Library	Interface to add language / bullet to continue to identify and engage native people	same as above reference to native american culture/history
	Rowing boathouse in Riverside Park	GR Rowers Association	City to send to Marquardt.	Information sent to City.
	National Rowing Events such as the 2014 Masters Nationals Regatta in Grand Rapids brings millions of dollars of economic impact to Grand Rapids. A rowing facility, boathouse, close to downtown such as in Riverside Park would continue to support this impact	GR Rowers Association	City to send to Marquardt.	Information sent to City.
22	3.3 Make Grand Rapids a hub in a regional trail system, while creating universal access along the river on both the east and west sides Recommendation 1- "Create a robust trail system on both sides of the river"- Add WMEAC to the list of responsible partners. WMEAC has expertise in water trail development and has recently won a grant from the MDEQ Office of Coastal Zone Management to complete water trail planning in Ottawa County. It is our intention to contribute our leadership to the development of a water trail that extends into Kent and Ionia counties to meet up with the established water trail in the Middle Grand River.	WMEAC Memo	Interface to add WMEAC as a partner.	
18	Coldbrook Creek drains into river- How can we help?	Written Comment	Interface to add strategy. Implementation partners TBD. Additionally, add strategy to address regional water quality agenda. Identify areas of alignment with existing State strategies.	the added recommendation "Recruit a leadership team and embed this team in the GRForward and river restoration processes to achieve the water quality agenda working with the region and state" addresses this
	1.1 Integrate Art, Education, Infrastructure and Ecology Recommendation 1- 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 authority.	WMEAC Memo	Planning to follow up with WMEAC.	Information sent to City.
15	Recommendation 7- 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 GRForward 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 p.61 that reads, "Outline guidelines for trail development, including: riparian buffer zone recommendations, native plant recommendations, and habitat restoration at these locations. Finally, we suggest linking incentives for the use of native plants into related efforts to incentivize the use of low impact development practices throughout downtown.	WMEAC Memo	Stoss to include additional language on pg. 15 related to native plants.	Text revised
	Several pages are dedicated to a regional discussion about the Grand River, but regionalism does not appear to be incorporated into the actual goals.	Planning Department Memo	Planning to send language from guiding principles from the RRSC and RCSC to DGRI for inclusion in preamble.	Complete. Regionalism covered in preamble.
42	Figure 1.40, gateway for Bridge Street, suggests that the underpass should be activated. The City's Parking Commission recently detailed plans to upgrade the existing parking lot that occupies this site. Has there been communication with the Parking Commission about this proposed plan?	Planning Department Memo	Interface to specify on graphic approach is conceptual.	
	Under the implementation approach, bullet 3, part 2, the approach states that the City should "gain access during redevelopment with the use of incentives and/or by acquiring or amending utility easements, to include public access and amenities". This approach is already captured by the Grand River Overlay (Section 5.8.03 of the Zoning Ordinance). Additional detail is needed to distinguish between what is proposed versus what is existing.	Planning Department Memo	Stoss / Interface to add language making distinction between existing and proposed elements of the Grand River Overlay.	bullet is confusing so we removed it
	Identify Grandville Ave. as a latino-owned business corridor	Verbal Comment	Interface to add language.	Grandville is mostly parallel to the river...not really the same classification as these other streets, which are east-west connections to the river. Added latino business reference to goal 5 "Develop streetscape designs to upgrade key streets."
41	Remove the skate park from Bridge and 131. The Committee does not want it there.	Email Comment	DGRI to send Interface language on skate park.	Complete. See revised skate park discussion on Goal #5.
59	Figure 1.68 is too small	Email Comment	Interface to review.	
	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		This is more related to "align access with the water trail and the rapids." Added "The following pages illustrate programmatic opportunities along the Grand River. With these, adequate ingress and egress and other accommodations, including safety and signage, should be tailored to the specific needs of users for each site." to the end of the text for that section.

10	Page 10, first paragraph - Add: The proposed river work of GRWW such as the removal of the dams in the Grand River through towns, will help to improve the flood conveyance. The River Restoration is the initial step in the <i>improvement of flood conveyance</i> .	River Restoration		Text added
18	Page 18, second paragraph - Add: The rapid restoration will create a diversity of substrate size and currents that will increase hyporeic exchange. Hyporeic exchange occurs when shallow and subsurface water flows through porous sediments. It can greatly improve water quality. The River restoration should be implemented first as the <i>initial step in addressing water quality</i> .	River Restoration		Edited down to "Increased water flow as proposed by GRWW will increase the oxigation of the water and sediments thus improving the overall water qauality and habitat potential.
20	Page 20, comment on figure 1.17 - No piers in the river at this location due to high navigational hazard and would reduce the flood improvement.	River Restoration		No change: Improvements need to be considered across all projects in the River, not just in relationship to the dam removal/rapids creation. If the Park Island is desired, then an engineered solution to this issue can be pursued that <i>reduces impact but also allows for public access</i> .
20	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		This will require further study, but this assumption is made purley on the current requirement for the GRWW project. If vegetation is desired then an engineered solution can be found to address this issue and allow for the creation of increased habitat.
21	Page 21, top of text - A portion of the dam will not remain.	River Restoration		Portion of the sentence removed
21	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 dofficulty moving in case of high water events: all concerns would need to be addressed.	River Restoration		This is more a concept and program diagram, but much of this could be accomplished without piles or floating structures.
21	Page 21, comment on figure 1.18 - Swimming opportunities are more likely to be near shore.	River Restoration		This is a swimming pool, with the goal of providing a unique experience.
24	Page 24, at the end of paragraph headed Trail Type 2 - Piers or floating structures will pose an extreme safety hazard in moderate to high velocity areas.	River Restoration		Trail Type 2 has no piles or floating structures
28	Page 28, figure 1.27 key, comment on "New Trail on Structure" - Additional piers are not recommended to be put in the river.	River Restoration		Added a note on the Scenario 1 map: "NOTE: No specific structural condition has been designed for segments requiring a new trail on structure at this point, but the goal would be to create conditions that are not hazardous to rivercraft, or to mitigate the hazard by some means. "
31	Page 31, second paragraph - Replace". ..the initial GRWW...planning and construction" with The river restoration is designed based on existing bedrock shelf, histroic boulder rapid (according to historic accounts and renderings), and hydraulic gradient.	River Restoration		The point of this section is to suggest that the construction planning for GRWW was based on access to existing public sites. Changed to read "The initial GRWW proposal builds off of access to existing sites for planning and construction.
31	Page 31 - Add: Staging areas for the construction of the river restoration are planned to be restored to pre construction conditions in the river restoration project. GR Forward could redesign those sites for implementation during construction restoration.	River Restoration		Text added
31	Page 31, figure 1.30, comment on title "Construction Access" - Is this to show construction access for whitewater project.	River Restoration		New graphic
32	Page 32, figure 1.31, comment under "Class 1 Program: Slow Water: - Drift boat fishing	River Restoration		"Drift boating" label on icon changed to "drift boat fishing"
32	Page 32, figure 1.31, comment under activities in Riverside Park area - Riverside ramp #1 is existing. It currently accomodates vehicular boat launch and has trailer parking.	River Restoration		Labels revised to indicate "existing"
33	Page 33, figure 1.32, comment on Rapids View Park - There is an existing boat ramp used for emergency access only. A proposed ramp is also included in our plans to allow for the boats to be put in at the bottom of the triple drop rapids.	River Restoration		Labels revised to indicate "proposed to accommodate existing use"
34	Page 34, figure 1.33, comment on boatwalk extending into the river - Additional piers in the river are not recommended.	River Restoration		No specific structural condion has been designed at this point, but the goal would be to create conditions that are not hazardous or to mitigate the hazard by some means while providing necessary access and connectivity needed to accomplish the major goals of this plan
44	Page 44, second paragraph - Rewrite "Recent efforts...recreational asset." for clarity, such as: Because of the catalytic GRWW rapid restoration, GRForward is working to expand the river as a central recreational asse for the City.	River Restoration		That is not the intention of the sentence
45	Page 45, at end of paragraph headed "Provide river access for construction and programming" - Add: "and some for potential maintenance needs."	River Restoration		Text revised
45	Page 45, last paragraph - Rewrite "It will also separate types of <i>use</i> given the <i>diversity</i> in rapid configuration and velocity.	River Restoration		Not necessary to the subject discussed in this paragraph, it is about supplying more ramps due to the change of the river use
48	Page 48, third bullet = correct: Supplement (not supple)	River Restoration		Added "Create pedestrian access to the River and provide access to fish bypass and controls for dynamic barrier"
50	Page 50 - the existing boardwalk will be inundated more often with the whitewater project. GR Forward to raise the boardwalk.	River Restoration		Added to sub goals: Reconfigure lower walkway for increased programming and water elevation changes
62	Page 62, GRWW implementation line under source of funds - Add: Federal/State/Local	River Restoration		Added to matrix

GOAL #2: Create a True Downtown Neighborhood Home to a Diverse Population

PAGE #	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	ACTION	RESOLUTION
	Signage - more value of bilingualism (or multilingualism)	Grandville Ave / Cook Library	Interface to add recommendation to pilot bi-lingual sign program on Grandville Ave. (pg. 39-40)	Addressed - Added to Goal 5, "Develop streetscape designs to upgrade key streets." Do we need to add this to the implementation matrix?
	What about the peceptions of downtown? Especially by the distinct groups that makes us "diverse" (people of color, people of lower income, people with disabilities?)	DAKC	DGRI to write inset to send to Interface.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary and Preamble
6	"Constant refrain..." about diversity. So if that is what <u>people</u> want, how will this plan advance increasing diversity and better inclusion?	Written Comment	DGRI to write inset to send to Interface.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary and Preamble
28	With all new development- how are contractors, developes of color being integrated with all the development? Mentlors, CBA's, Subcontractor incentives?	Written Comment	DGRI to include language rewarding MWBE participation in contracting.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary and Preamble
49	Youth art & creative ventures. Esp tied with ArtPrize. Include college & high school students too.	Written Comment	DGRI to provide language.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary and Preamble
49	Youth could help design public spaces, help with public art, have youth art competitions, & be a sounding board on real solutions for youth in downtown.	Written Comment	DGRI to send to AFL.	Complete.
50	If you want to make downtown a diverse place that is inviting to all, try targeting boomerangs of diversity. Reaching out to former Michiganders at historically black colleges is a great audience to plug in to	Web (Hello WM)	Interface to add language to Goal #4 around additional talent attraction programs.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary and Preamble
4	Data driven. Passion is lacking for why inclusion is paramount in the city being built with this plan. It shines through in transportation section, but absent in this section.	Written Comment	DGRI to write inset to send to Interface.	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary and Preamble and revised Goal #2.
6	What does "Income Density" mean?	Written Comment	Interface to add definition to pg. 6	Addressed
1	Page #s repeat! Ugh. No thank you. Continuous # system please.	Written Comment	Interface to fix pg. #.	Booked together to have continuous page numbers
	The language here is all about commerce and capitalism. It's missing (Heart sign) about people.			
8	Connecting about civil society, about life. I understand people need to spend \$, & they will, if they like what they feel & want to be there. Otherwise its just gimmicky.	Written Comment	Interface add narrative to pg. 8.	Addressed
8	Integration of people, environment, housing, bussiness & commerce together. The downtown plan is about elevating all of these- not just making people spend \$!	Written Comment	Interface add narrative to pg. 8.	Addressed
42	Figure 2.40, the diagram points to potential improvements to Division, Can the language it be reworded to say expanding existing improvements to South Division and then define the district as Fulton to Wealthy Street?	Email Comment	Interface to change text for Fig 2.40 (pg. 42)	Addressed

	It is unclear how the "character map" is to be used. Please clarify.	Planning Department Memo	Interface to provide additional language clarifying the use of Fig 2.7 (pg. 9), specifically how the character map helps to inform the proposed height change recommendations.	Addressed
62	The section dedicated to embracing sustainable site design principles is redundant of existing programs and policies. This section should be revised to acknowledge such.	Planning Department Memo	Planning to provide clarification and language.	Added - "In accordance with City goals and policies" - to first sentence
	How do you (DGRI and the City) define "affordable" housing	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	Interface to add language to Goal #2 discussing how affordability is defined, and clarifying what AMI and other terms mean for Downtown and City of GR residents pg. 53 (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%	Creston 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 53 - the recommendation already addresses long-term preservation of affordable housing, but added a closing paragraph to >> Support preservation of low-income housing and social services
	How are we defining affordable housing? A lot of what is deemed affordable is not really affordable.		Interface to add strategy recommending a group convene to address this item.	See above - page 53
10	How many units for: 50-80% AMI? 80-120% AMI? Rent or own? How will DGRI and your landholdings either ignore HH with lower incomes or help them?	Written Comment	Interface to add graphic (see above).	2.3 introduction re-written
15	Ensure a mix of units available that are affordable for 50/80/120% AMI households for rent & ownership!	Written Comment	Interface to add graphic (see above).	2.3 introduction re-written
52	"Afford. Housing" not "Retain"- create more inclusive housing.	Written Comment	Interface to add graphic (see above).	2.3 introduction re-written
53	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?	Written Comment	Interface to add graphic (see above).	2.3 introduction re-written
4	Why are income restricted units split as unique housing type but not defined according to HUD/MSHDA standards? It seems sloppy to not nail 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.	Email Comment	Interface to add strategy recommending a group convene to address this item.	2.3 introduction re-written
47	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 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	Dwelling Place Memo	Interface to add strategy address expectations for public engagement.	Addressed - As with the Citizen's Planning Institute, accommodations must be made to ensure the broadest participation possible across incomes and neighborhoods. CPI tracks participation in their programs in order to identify and address gaps in their services.
52	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 \$181,887. 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 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	Interface to add clarifying language to clarify that we are less focused on income, more on density.	2.3 introduction re-written
52	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 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 \$53,760 in Kent County, higher than 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 \$69,120 and \$76,800 for a family of four. 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 stated. 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 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 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	Dwelling Place Memo	Interface to add strategy recommending a group convene to address this item.	2.3 introduction re-written - 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."

53	<p>The plan states that "Significant subsidies are required to enable households with incomes below 30% of the Area Median Income to rent or own newly constructed housing, and the Downtown area 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 of affordable housing to maintain." The report also references work LINC, ICCF and Dwelling Place are doing in the Heartside area. To the best of my knowledge, neither LINC nor ICCF have any housing units in the Heartside 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 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 547 of these types of units. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission operates Ransom Towers, a senior project with 153 rent subsidized 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 of 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 operating budgets to cover these costs. As such, these would not be on the PILOT list. More private</p>	Dwelling Place Memo	Interface to change text on pg. 53. DGRI to confirm sources.	Edited - the source of total income-restricted units is the City's Consolidated Plan.
62	Recommendation 2- Add WMEAC as a responsible partner to the recommendation "Manage Stormwater at the micro level"	WMEAC Memo	Interface to add WMEAC as a partner in the implementation matrix.	Addressed
62	Recommendation 3- Add an additional action step under "Embrace sustainable site design principles, "Establish a document outlining guidelines for site development that includes Low impact Development, native habitat for ecosystem benefits (see goal 1.1, recommendation 7)	WMEAC Memo	Interface to add action step.	Not addressed - City's LID guidelines are already referenced as an action step
16	On the map, if the green open space denotes public parks Heartside and Pekich Park should be added	Email Comment	Interface to ammend map.	Not addressed - this is a map based on current zoning. The current zoning of Heartside and Pekich Park is Center City (CC) according to City zoning maps. The other parks highlighted in green are specifically zoned SD-OS.
	Figure 2.45 Existing retail Downtown is interesting yet no accompanying text is provided to clarify the purpose of this information or its relevance.	Planning Department Memo	Interface to add text.	
62	2.5 Require energy efficiency, green building practices and universal desgin principles in projects with local subsidy Recommendation 1- Add "clean energy" to read: "Require clean and efficient energy, green building practices, and universal design principles in projects with local subsidy." Solar energy is now an accessible and affordable tool for developers and it should be encouraged heavily in Downtown Grand Rapids.	WMEAC Memo	Interface to add text.	Updated in goal 2, still needs to be updated in exec summary and spanish exec summary [locked for editing]
9	Under the Heartside description, Why is Ionia the only target area? Infill/new construction could be done along South Division, Sheldon and Commerce, That should be represented in the description as well as the map.	Email Comment	Interface to review and ammend map as needed.	Ionia is not the only target area. There are proposals across Goal 2 that show infill and improvements throughout Heartside. Ionia reference removed from the map.
	Grand River Overlay bonuses are recommended. Some of the recommendations are currently provided for in the Zoning Ordinance. In addition, it is unclear what document the "Grand River Edges Design Guidelines" is referring to.	Planning Department Memo	Interface / Stoss to add language.	Addressed - yes some provisions are included and others are suggested as additions / revisions
61	People > Biz, People > \$. Balance commerce with spaces to build community.	Written Comment	Interface add narrative to pg. 8.	Addressed
63	No idling ordinance. Less than 2 min for loading/unloading only or services vehicles. Otherwise turn that shit off!!	Written Comment	DGRI to send to Planning Dept.	Complete. DGRI sent to Planning.
	TBA zoning on Bridge Street should be 5 stories max.	1 on 1	Interface to include language showing Bridge Street TBA to be max 5 and note that 5th floor will require a setback	We have not recommended changes to the TBA zone but have re-zoned some portions of Downtown to increase density. If the TBA was changed - this would be a City-wide change to be discussed with the Planning Commission and City Commission
	Have strategy for affordable retail, office and maker spaces, not just housing	Written Comment	Interface to determine if additional strategy can be added.	See Goal 4 that addresses this challenge
	Figure 2.19 Along Seward, there is a mis-spelling and also those should say "units" and not homes. Homes implies fee simple not rental.	Written Comment	Interface to address	
	Implementation needs measurables, need to be SMART: specific, measureable (what are the metrics), achievable, results-oriented, time-bound	Written Comment	Interface to determine if measurables can be added to implementation matrix	There are metrics identified for many strategies. Others are policies of which the metric is whether its been completed or not. It was decided that the implementation matrix should be clear and easy to use. Metrics developed through the process can be tracked by implementation partners
	The "today" images should be prior to the proposed. That is how people think. Orient them to existing conditions and then show proposed.	Written Comment	Interface to adjust formatting.	This is how each goal area chapter is formatted: the "Why this matters" section precedes recommendations. Sometimes it made more sense to include existing conditions analysis within the narrative of recommendations to help contextualize the discussion.
	Heritage Hill quote is a repeat from an earlier page.	Written Comment	Interface to add new quote or remove.	
	Is the bonus language text in the graphic an "up to" or "additional" not clear. We believe it is up to, but this need clarity	Written Comment	Interface to clarify graphic	
	Figure 2.19, Add Summer Street name, also, the intersection of Summer and Bridge is really important based on this concept, but it is not shown as such. What is happening down Summer as you approach that green space? Also, what is happening at Pearl and Summer. This connection from Pearl to the Westside needs to be addressed. How are we knitting this area into the main gateway from 131 into the City? Also, this Figure should be oriented with North up.	Written Comment	Interface to add Summer Ave label and review orientation / additional clarification (note Pearl street enhancements on the westside under 131 are going to begin Spring '16).	Bike lanes, pedestrian improvements, US 131 underpass improvements and DASH service are proposed for Pearl / Lake Michigan to help address the connection to the West Side. The image orientation is intended to highlighted Bridge Avenue. Labelling is addressed.
	Add language about demolition by neglect; how/can we make this a civil infraction?	Written Comment	Interface to add language	This is a bigger, City-wide issue than GR Forward's purview
	Lobby state to remove rental rate restrictions	Written Comment	Interface to add language	This is a bigger, City-wide issue than GR Forward's purview
	Community land trust concept...explain more, should also be used for office and maker uses not just housing	Written Comment	Interface to add language	Added in 2.3 - Land trusts can be used for both residential and commercial uses and require extensive up front planning and discussion to ensure they are the right tool for a given City.
	Can we add The Rapid and GRPS to the Open Data policy?	Written Comment	Interface to amend implementation matrix to recommend GRPS and The Rapid explore open data policies.	

GOAL #3: Implement a 21st Century Mobility Strategy

PAGE #	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	ACTION	RESOLUTION
	Extend hours on the Rapid, especially Saturday and Sunday	Web	DGR! to send to the Rapid	Not accepted - this is a Rapid decision
	Is there any monorail development being considered as secondary development of public transit?	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	DGR! to send Interface street car map for inclusion in Plan.	Not addressed - we've noted it but focused on other elements of the mobility strategy that are achievable in the coming years
	Consider scooters, motorcycles, and moped another form of transportation: Include reference to these in the Plan.	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Interface to add language.	Added expanded definition of "pedestrian" under "Prioritize pedestrian safety and connectivity at intersections" [3.1]
	Can the Rapid run more frequently?	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	DGR! to send to the Rapid	Not accepted - this is a Rapid decision
	Scooter parking! Idea for the Rapid: Run smaller buses at night but more frequently and results in less waste during "low" times	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	DGR! send to Parking Services.	Not accepted - this is a Rapid decision
	How about a few "Go!Bus" (paratransit) drop off/pick up spaces? Or maybe bus pull out lanes that Go!Bus can use? Without this, downtown can be less accessible for people with disabilities.	DAKC	Interface to add language.	
	Throughout the plan the reference to 131 is inconsistent with US or US131 or US-131	Email Comment	Interface to insure consistency	consistent to be US 131
	Figure 3.3 Needs a street label	Email Comment	Interface to add label	
	Cross sections on these pages need street labels. What street is this?	Email Comment	Interface to add label	
	Add text about the Bridges as amenities. They need help, too. Bridges can be places.	Email Comment	Interface to see if additional narrative showing bridges as amenities.	Bridges as placemaking opportunities come up in goal 5
	DASH... Figure 3.12, we need to have a point on this map where the two lines intersect. We need DASH interlining with other Rapid Route and the two DASH circulators. They need to interline at the same station, not a block or two away. Also, we need to allow bikes on DASH.	Email Comment	Interface to examine routes	There is a transfer point for both DASH routes and the Silver Line at Monroe and Pearl. Customers will walk up to ½ block for this transfer.
31	Figures 3.16 and 3.17 The colors on these figures all look similar. Hard to read.	Email Comment	Interface to review maps	
	Add Pearl to the gateway streets list	Email Comment	Interface to add Pearl St.	
35	Figure 3.19, reorient this may to have north up	Email Comment	Interface to add N arrow and potentially re-orient.	added north arrow; new vantage point would not illustrate what we wanted to emphasize
46	FULTON STREET NEEDS TO BE PRIORITY 1 AND NEEDS A MUCH QUICKER TIMELINE. WE CANNOT WAIT.	Email Comment	Interface to change timeline on Implementation Matrix	Fulton is important but so are other items in Goal 3
47	Open Streets, I think Granville Ave is a good candidate, too.	Email Comment	Interface to add Grandville Ave to list	mentioned in text
	ALL TH E TIMELINE NEED TO BE SHORTENED IN THIS SECTION	Email Comment	Interface to review and amend	This isn't realistic given the funding cycles and from our experience in other cities
26	Add the bridges to each of these gateways	Email Comment	Interface to review and amend implementation timeline if possible.	The bridges are discussed in GR Forward
	Figure 3.5, there is nothing on here for Monroe North. Add designations to it. Also, the graphic is too small.	Email Comment	Interface to review and find ways to incorporate improvements to MN if possible.	Added "an intersection geometry changes" dot to the intersection of Monroe North/ Trowbridge. This is close to a DASH stop. Trowbridge at Mason has large curb radii. onroe/Mason appears to have been recently upgraded. Extended curbs, crosswalks, etc. Monroe/Coldbrook is a challenging intersection, but already has a large ped refuge island and high-visibility crosswalks. Also scaled up street labels

GOAL #4: Expand Job Opportunities and Ensure Continued Vitatility of the Local Economy

PAGE #	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	ACTION	RESOLUTION
11	Page 11 extra space between nothing. ____ A production, maybe this is just because the text is justified in this paragraph but i find it to be awkward.	Email Comment	Interface to address typo.	
20	Page 20 include promotion of programs that offer shared spaces alongside internship programs to college age grads/entrepreneurs will help with retention. I'm surprised to not see any mention of the collaborative kitchen space at the Market used as an example and resource.	Email Comment	Interface to reference existing collaborative kitchen at Downtown Market.	Not addressed: The comment is not reflecting the intent of the text on page 20
	Also I 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.	Email Comment	DGR! to add language related to the GR Jobs initiative.	
22	Richard Florida citation in paragraph is awkward	Email Comment	Interface to remove reference to City Lab article.	
56	In the "decision should be capitalized	Email Comment	Interface to review and change.	Error cannot be located
24	<u>4.4 Promote Inclusion and Equal Participation in the Local Economy</u> Recommendation 1- WMEAC recommends adding an initial action step under the recommendation "Formalize a leadership team among City decision makers and major employers to ensure equal access opportunities" The additional action step could read <i>"Create intentional linkages between green infrastructure installation/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 26, in training and jobs with living wages to ensure the long-term maintenance of new green and blue infrastructure installations."</i> Link this concept again in section 6.2 "Build partnerships with Grand Rapids Institutions to develop a locally-rooted workforce."	WMEAC Memo	DGR! to add language related to the GR Jobs initiative.	
251	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 members have 500 employees or more. 17% of member companies are "large" companies. 36 of members have 50 employees or less. 56% of member employers are "small" employers. Conversations for HWM were started by the CIO Council in 2007. To sit at that 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 5 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 2013, HWM restructured membership pricing to make it more affordable for small business. In 2013, the lowest membership tier was \$1,000 for 99 employees or less. Now it is as little as \$250 for companies with 10 employees or less. 2.) Also in 2013, 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. 4.) In 2014 alone, our out-bound marketing campaign delivered 20 million impressions promoting West Michigan and its companies, large and small alike.	Online Comment	Interface to amend document to describe services provided by HWM as saying "businesses of all sizes" not only "large businesses".	
255	HWM can assist with the active engagement of college millennials because we already have established programs like West Michigan Intern Connect and Employer Internship Training Sessions. In addition, HWM has contacts with the Career Services and Alumni Offices at most of the Michigan colleges and universities. 4.4, pg 255: As previously noted, HWM has an extensive out-bound marketing campaign extolling the benefits of living and working in West Michigan.	Online Comment	Interface to add HWM to implementation matrix.	

	Micro-enterprise opportunities; incubate new small/local businesses; draw people to the river with business location	Local Business	Interface to add language.	Addressed in 4.2
19	With all of the wonderful things happening in West Michigan around programming, parks, and city character, it is easier to combat the barriers (stated in fig 4.11) people have about relocating. Anything that adds to the region's vibrancy is something HWM will promote or talk about with candidates.	Online Comment	Interface to add HWM to implementation matrix.	
	Promote the use of minority-owned contracting	1 on 1	Interface to draft text paragraph & accompanying implementation strategy. DGRI and City of GR to be identified as implementation partners.	Addressed in 4.1 (formerly 4.4)
	Add more detail about supporting and recruiting minority owned business in Downtown	1 on 1	DGRI to provide additional language.	
	The Downtown workforce is 90.1% white. Add a strategy about the need to compel employers to recognize the benefits of hiring a diverse workforce.	1 on 1	DGRI to provide stats - Interface to amend Plan	
	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 and sewer 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 don't plan more aggressively now and non-stop continuously into the future. We need Grand Rapids and especially the entire downtown, to become a "fiberhood" multi-gigabit community that truly increases business development opportunities, market accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency and transmittal speeds. While the private sector providers will meet some of the needed "new reality" broadband infrastructure, it won't be enough. Thus, DGRI should seriously consider how to expand its role, its investment and leadership in 21st century broadband infrastructure development throughout the entire downtown and beyond. A form of private-public collaborative for broadband infrastructure will be needed to pay for this type of necessary, competitive infrastructure to be development, maintained and continually enhanced. Broadband service quality and quantity is essential for business competitiveness and increasingly a major location factor. Doing nothing is not an option and I fear a loss in our business competitiveness relying only on the marketplace for guiding the decisions necessary for our economic development competitiveness.	Right Place Email	Interface to add language.	Addressed: see page IV-23
	Ban the Box initiatives/smarter sentencing Safe Task Force already addressing issue at local level & GR Forward plan should stand in solidarity	3rd Ward Event	DGRI to send Interface language.	Addressed in preamble
	· Connect and utilize The SOURCE as a resource and connector Create a new culture vs. assimilation The SOURCE model being replicated Development/planning work usually done in isolation, need to come together to support one another	3rd Ward Event	Interface to add The Source to the implementation matrix.	
	We believe the recommendation to "Create a Production Development and Space Modernization Entity" requires much more research and stakeholder engagement. With the goal of purchasing property to "fill the gap that the private sector market will not fill", we have considerable concerns over the creation of an authority to compete with expert private sector leaders who have successfully led the revitalization of our city.	Chamber of Commerce Memo	Interface to add clarifying language that this will not be a public organization run by local government.	
	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" than it would drive any significant outcomes.	Chamber of Commerce Memo	Check with the City	The City is pursuing this idea and wanted it included in GR Forward for reference

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

PAGE #	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	ACTION	RESOLUTION
	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	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	City to send to Marquardt.	Information sent to City.
5.2	More recycling and trash bins are needed. Also more public restrooms	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Send to DGRI Alliance for Livability	Complete.
28	Recycling receptacles all around downtown. PLEASE!!!!	Written Comment	Send to DGRI Alliance for Livability	Complete.
31	Compost bins. Yes.	Written Comment	Send to DGRI Alliance for Livability	Complete.
	More city events at neighborhood/city parks	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	City to send to Marquardt.	Information sent to City.
	Many people with disabilities need more assistance at events. I live alone and am likely to visit festivities on my own, but need assistance paying and taking food from the vendors. Inviting help from strangers opens to up to security risk and sends the wrong message. A disability support station at downtown festivals and a couple of well marked floating assistants would be very helpful.	DAKC	DGRI to send to OSE.	Information sent to City.
8	Suggestion: a Patroncity 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!)	Email Comment	Send to DGRI Alliance for Livability	Complete.
11	The park should be called VandenBerg Plaza in all of the text, or explain why you were calling it Calder Plaza, also the Plaza is referred to as VandenBerg in other portions of the document, so be consistent with an explanation either way.	Email Comment	Interface to ensure consistency in the document to say "Vandenberg / Calder Plaza"	Addressed
	How can we add more green space and access on the West? Particularly South of Fulton	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	DGRI to send to Marquardt.	Information sent to City.
	My thoughts re: Heartside Park, please retain a summer play option that's active for kids. The splash park is the only place like it in downtown and the ONLY downtown play ground for kids in Heartside. Right now it suffers from a lack of funding to keep it clean, safe and running. I would want to see some support that people are interested in curling, is there a current interest? Has there been market research? Is it a build it and they will come scenario? What about using Heartside park to create a better location for bike polo in the summer? If Heartside park is redesigned as an active outdoor space why not use it as an event space for winter events? The outdoor event space is discussed later in the document.	Email Comment	DGRI to send to Marquardt.	Information sent to City.
21	Pekich Park is not on the map on page 21	Email Comment	Interface to add Pekich Park to pg. 21.	
24	Examples?	Written Comment	Interface to add precedent imagery	there is limited space to add imagery without lengthening the report. A note was added under figure 5.19 directing those interested to Goal 3 where imagery exists

26	Solar walkways that power lights? 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.
10	Pg 28 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 tree canopy discussion on page 5 of this goal may conflict with the work recently done by the Urban Forestry Committee. The committee recently completed a significant amendment to Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance to expressly regulate tree canopy within the City. The amendment is slated for adoption at the 09/22/15 City Commission meeting.	Planning Department Memo	DGRI to send new language to Interface	Complete. See revision to Goal #5 pg. 26.
32	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	Interface to add language to clarify how inactive streets contribute to negative perceptions of public safety.	Switched the order of the graphics and added the following to page 30: Although crime downtown comprises only 9% of crimes city-wide, and serious crimes fell 29% Downtown from 2009 to 2013 (compared to a 20% crime reduction in Grand Rapids as a whole), there is still a perception issue that Downtown is comparatively unsafe. This is reflected in the survey completed for GR Forward that identified crime as a factor impacting the decision to purchase a home Downtown. Much of what drives the perception that Downtown is unsafe is the character of Downtown streets. Figure 5.22 illustrates active and inactive streets Downtown. Active streets include open stores, windows and doors that help to generate street activity. More people or "eyes on the street" tend to improve perceptions about safety. Conversely, inactive streets are lined with blank walls, empty land or buildings, parking lots and structures or fencing. These factors foster negative perceptions about safety. Today, 63% of Downtown streets are inactive. This number must change to help address the persistent negative perceptions regarding Downtown.
35	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	Clarify language to speak to the impact of lighting on public safety as opposed to a promotional tool	change made to page 35
10	Figure 5.4	Planning Department Memo	Interface to remove "Tech Park" and "Boat Access" from map	
41	5.3 Express Downtown...	Planning Department Memo	Interface to remove Art Commission and "Require public art..." from Imp Matrix	Deleted but I disagree with the comment. Recommendation remains on page 28
	More marketing to communities of color is needed	1 on 1	Interface to add language.	Added page 5 - In expanding a calendar of events, it is essential that programming be inclusive by both seeking to attract a full cross section of individuals and families from across the region, and, by marketing to communities of color. As the vision for GR Forward states, Downtown must be welcoming to all Grand Rapiidians. Added page 9>> Ensure that events are directly marketed to communities of color. All should feel welcome to participate in Downtown events.
	Downtown Grand Rapids should have an African-American Cultural Institution	1 on 1	DGRI to send Interface language	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary
	The African-American festival needs to return permanently.	1 on 1	DGRI to send Interface language	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary
	Major "urban" radio station/diverse entertainment options for young professionals	3rd Ward Event	DGRI to send Interface language	Complete. See Equity and Opportunity Summary
	Designate a graffiti street space	Written Comment	Interface to add recommendaition if needed (believe this recommendation is included.)	Addressed page 29 - Interest was also expressed to designate a graffiti street wall as an integral part of the Downtown arts scene.
	Make the changes our skate park group suggested	Written Comment	DGRI to send Interface language	
	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.) Create a name, a logo or a slogan. Supply identifying banners, signage and lighting that create a sense of place. Market it along wih the Museum Campus (GRAM, Ford Presidential Meseum and VanAndel Public Museum) and the Arena District. Assist he 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.	Written Comment	Interface to review and determine if additional recommendation to be added.	Addressed as a new rec - page 9 - Consider establishing a Performing Arts District to help promote Downtown arts assets including the UICA, Ladies Literary Club, Civic Theater, Spectrum Theater, Dog Story Theater and St. Cecilia Music Center. Branded as a year-round entertainment destination, it could help establish Grand Rapids as an alternative to Detroit, Toronto or Chicago. If established, the District would require a name, banners, signage and lighting to help create a sense of place. Marketing for the district should be coupled with the museums (GRAM, Ford Presidential Meseum and VanAndel Public Museum) as well as the Arena District. The opportunity is to assist the member organizations to plan year-round programming that inspires visitors to stay overnight for 2 or more events. As the District evolves, it could consider creating pop-up museum space, arts studios and other venues that promote local live music.
	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 a free admission MUSIC SPACE for performances by area musicians or music students in a wide variety of music genres: celtic, bluegrass, folk, jazz, latin, Ameicana, etc. The idea is to promote live music (inspired in part by New Orleans' Perservation Hall). Funding for a test period is suggested as that suggested for the poo-up museum. 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 poo-up museum.	Written Comment	Interface to review and determine if additional recommendation to be added.	

	<p>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. Uses scenes from Portland ORE, 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: in 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 shorelines 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 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 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, ICOF, Habitat for Humanity), volunteers and others who make it happen. F) COMMUNITY EVENTS. Feature video of Laughfest events, the Riverbank 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.</p>	Written Comment	Interface to review and determine if additional recommendation to be added.	Not addressed - 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
	<p>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.</p>	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.

GENERAL COMMENTS						
ZIP CODE	PAGE #	CATEGORY	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	RESPONSE	ACTION
49509	-	Formatting	Where can I find the goals?	Online	A list of the goals can be found on pg. 31	
49503	-	Idea	Destroy all the downtown condemned houses. Change the residential land into commercial land and sell it to Meijers	Library	Thank you for your comment.	
49424	-	Arts & Culture	I love this library. I'm from Holland, MI and I wish the Herrick District Library was awesome like this one. I miss it :)	Library	Thank you for your comment.	
49316	-	Implementation	I am a member of the LGBTQI community here in Grand Rapids. I am also 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.	Web	Thank you for your comment.	
-	-	Clean and Safe	What about all those people standing on corners with cardboard signs?	Library	Thank you for your comments. Issues involving constitutional rights, including free speech, are beyond GR Forwards purview.	
49428	-	Arts & Culture	Why are the fireworks always skewed to be the kind that are booming loud instead of the ones that are just colorful?	Library	Thank you for your comment. Fireworks are not addressed through GR Forward.	
-	-	D&I	Something bothering me as of late are panhandlers. I absolutely feel empathetic for the downtrodden, however, having to have 75 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.	Library	Thank you for your comments. Issues involving constitutional rights, including free speech, are beyond GR Forwards purview.	
-	-	Economics	I 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?	Library	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.	
		Implementation	How is the GR Forward process funded?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	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.	
		Implementation	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	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GRACC will be identified as a potential partner in the implementation of housing strategies.	Interface to add GRACC to matrix.
		Idea	It would be helpful to make a presentation that specifically focuses on changes in our N. Monroe neighborhood so our businesses can plan ahead.	Monroe North Business Association	Thank you for your comment. A follow up presentation to the MNBA will be scheduled	DGRI to follow up with MNBA
49506	Cover	Language / Formatting	Pages/Formatting needs to be redone. Page numbers repeat in multiple sections. Very Hard to Follow.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised document will include revisions to the numbering system.	Page numbering will be revised.
		Language / Formatting	The document contains a number of spelling errors that should be corrected prior to adoption.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. The revised document will adress typos and spelling errors	Interface to correct spelling errors and typos.
		Language / Formatting	The numbers located on the summary page of each goal are confusing. It is not immediately clear what these numbers represent.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. The numbers on the summary page identify the page in each section where content can be found.	
		Language / Formatting	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	Thank you for your comment. The revised document will use consistent terms.	Interface to make sure terms are consistent throughout plan.
		Implementation	How can the plan balance the competing recommendations?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Recommendations in GR Forward are designed to achieve the vision statement, and thus seen as supportive, rather than competing.	
		Implementation	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.	Online	Thank you for your comment. DGRI will follow up HWM to further discuss implementation of GR Forward recommendations.	DGRI to follow up with HWM.
		Implementation	How is this Plan going to be implemented?	Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses Meeting	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 sectors, and between a variety of entities and organizations.	

		Implementation	How do we engage the disenfranchised / those that don't care?	Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Continuous engagement with businesses owners and community members to educate and inform about Downtown related activities is a stated mission of DGRl. It is the organizations hope that through these efforts, stakeholders and residents will better understand how to be involved and will have assurances that their efforts translate into improvements.	
		Formatting	As edits are made to the drafts, can people with disabilities be added to the renderings and can some photos get swapped out with ones that include people with disabilities? In the full plan on page 30 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 Exec Summary I did not see any.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include additional images of people with disabilities.	Interface to add additional images to revised draft.
		Idea	One more minor edit—my last name has two T's in it. It appears with only one now.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will make this correction.	Interface to correct spelling of "Detloff" on the Steering Committee list.
		D&I	Concern re: courts and judicial system and people of color not treated fairly	3rd Ward Event	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue.	DGRl to provide Interface language.
		Economics	Shift paradigms à access to capital, work with local lending institutions	3rd Ward Event	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue.	DGRl to provide Interface language.
		Implementation	Re: foundations, assistance should not be charitable, more partnerships and collaboration	3rd Ward Event	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue.	DGRl to provide Interface language.
		D&I	Diversify downtown governing boards	3rd Ward Event	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue.	DGRl to provide Interface language.
		D&I	Need diversity a decision-making levels	3rd Ward Event	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue.	DGRl to provide Interface language.
		D&I	Changing demographics "eventually catch up to us" whether we accommodate them or not (Representation level at DGRl Alliances)	3rd Ward Event	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue.	DGRl to provide Interface language.
		D&I	Valuing diversity is just as important as having diversity	3rd Ward Event	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue.	DGRl to provide Interface language.
		Language / Formatting	No zoom	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Language / Formatting	Not adaptive	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Language / Formatting	Difficult to locate link through DGRl website/City of GR website	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Language / Formatting	Footer should have the color and section name/number and page number on the outside edge of each page; assume single sided printing	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Language / Formatting	Chapter header page with the Goal statement/goals/page numbers is VERY confusing since there is no reference as to what those numbers mean and why they are not chronological	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include a new numbering system.	Interface to correct.
		Language / Formatting	On-line pagination does not match printed pagination making it difficult to reference	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include a new numbering system.	Interface to correct.
		Language / Formatting	Need a copy editor (Matt Kushinka is quite good); Westside is spelled differently throughout; crosswalk terms are inconsistent, north arrows missing from graphics; some graphics face north, other face south, all should face north	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will address this formatting issue.	Interface to correct
		Language / Formatting	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	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will address this formatting issue.	DGRl to send Interface language.
		Implementation	There is a missed opportunity by not assigning roles and responsibilities to Alliances or the DGRl Board, this should be a part of the implementation	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue in the Preamble and Vision chapter	DGRl to send Interface language.
		Implementation	The time lines are too long. We need to push ourselves to move faster and not wait, adopt a piloting or tactical approach	Email Comment	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.	
		Implementation	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	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Goals #3 and #5 discuss the importance of pilot projects that can be used as opportunities to test concept to understand if they work, and if not, to get a better sense for why.	
		Process	DGRl was in the community; people knew about the planning process	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Process	There was plenty of opportunity	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to include additional narrative on community meetings.
		Process	No summary of the community meetings, only a summary of the storefront/survey/open house	Email Comment	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.
		Process	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	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.
		Language / Formatting	Diversity and inclusion needs to be improved (everything from the plan format/accessibility to the missing voices/to the implementation)	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will include language related to this issue in the Preamble and Vision chapter	Interface to correct.
		Language / Formatting	Throughout the plan the Westside is either hyphenated, not hyphenated, etc. Need consistency	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will address this formatting issue.	Interface to correct.
		Language / Formatting	None of the graphics have north arrows. They all need them, and they all should be oriented the same way. North is typically up.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will address this formatting issue.	Interface to correct.
		Language / Formatting	I have arrived at my ideas independently, but I see hat they correspond on some level to the final recommendations made in Voices and Visions: Community Planning for Downtown, sponsored by Gr Downtown Development Authority (July 1993). Thus, we build on the past.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Language / Formatting	You will notice no references to beer or beer culture. I do not envision GR as "Milwaukee on the East Side of Lake Michigan."	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment	
		Implementation	I hope that this planning exercise leads to tangible results in an energizing blend of style, tradition, creativity and opportunity found nowhere else in the Great Lakes.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment	

		Arts & Culture	I hope the focus is on creating a sense of place with art and architecture that is unique, vital and organic to GR and that relies less on programming events.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment	
		Economics	As we look back at Grand Rapids' unique successes, many of the transformative projects that have propelled this city forward have been partnerships led by the private sector. It is our expectation that as the GR Forward Plan advances, the private sector will continue to lead the revitalization of our city.	Chamber of Commerce Memo	Thank you for your comment	
		Clean and Safe	How are you guys gonna make downtown a safer place for children & teenagers? How are you guys going to open up more for young teens that want or need jobs to work?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional activities and programs for youth are discussed in Goal #4.	
		Marketing	Marketing of Plan to Community (Not just committees connected to downtown development)	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional marketing, specifically to communities not traditionally involved in Downtown development, is addressed in Goal #4.	
		Clean and Safe	GR Inc. is amazing. D-Town Ambassadors. Keeping grocer/store. Local Starbucks/Madcap. Brand central grow us. Walgreens.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Implementation	I am a librarian by trade and do research for hire. I would be willing to work with you professionally for a reduced rate. Contact Info: AmyRanger-Walker. amy@researchrangers.com	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Idea	Bikes Check out. Diversity consortium/recruitment/retention among employers invite in resources.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Diversity strategies (See Vision and Goal #4), as well as Bike share are a recommendation of GR Forward (see Goal #3)	
		Idea	Ideas: 1. Light Rail- Balance Capacity& Traffic Flow. 2. Incentive people.-Food Markets(walking community)/Economic Club (Insights?)/Aquatennial (water festivals?)/Community Gardens. 3. Cultural Museums. What income range of populations do we want downtown? 4. Use Tech- Data to help people access info.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. With the exception of the light rail, these themes are reflected throughout the plan. A light rail study was conducted by the Rapid and they are carrying forward the possible implementation.	
		Idea	Really Good Job. More Help with safety- ambassadors/residential populations. Museum public schools/ fulltransformation.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Implementation	Certified Tourism Ambassador. Love to show off our city. Lifelong resident. Well Established connections. Just genuinely desire & willingness to introduce people to our incredible city. Kristine Dozeman. Kristined@grar.com	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Implementation	Multi-family broker. Craig Black Arena District. craigb@naiiwm.com	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Idea	In Holland they have people who perform every Thursday in the summer. This brings a lot of people into the downtown area.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Idea	What happens if there is not enough water after the dams are removed, and there is a stinky creek in the summer? Is there a provision to replace the dams? Who pays?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This item will be referred to GRWW and River Restoration. Further analysis and study will be conducted prior to any dam removal.	
		Idea	Great!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Idea	International families. Amenities. Young Profs. Need a Comp resource to highlight annual development.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Idea	Efforts to connect with minorities to plan events downtown- Events incentive. Time of how late businesses are open? Keep businesses open later.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional	
		D&I	Lack of diversity in GR Forward intro video	NAACP Meeting	Thank you fro your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.	
		Idea	Metro council missing	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The Metro Council will be engaged in conversations through implementation.	
		D&I	Will downtown growth spur growth in neighborhoods?	NAACP Meeting	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.	
		Implementation	Budget for plan? à little to none, the goal is to create conditions & marketplace for private sector to act	NAACP Meeting	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.	
		Implementation	You'll Run into a lot of red tape	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Idea	"They" use minorities to build stuff up and then raise the prices.	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.	
		Economics	Development has to move outside of downtown	NAACP Meeting	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.	
		D&I	Incentivize participation & get rid of nepotism	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.	
		D&I	Use these conversations to drive dialogue re: realities	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.	
		Implementation	Plan will work because it will connect to growth in city overall à Wealthy St. Intentionality has to start with DDA.	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Implementation	More actionable language in the plan	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.	
		D&I	Intentionally engaging people of color should be a priority not an afterthought	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.	
		D&I	"DGRI" needs to use discomfort to work toward intentionality	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.	
		Idea	Attendee has spent the last 26 years going out of town to party	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Providing additional entertainment options that appeal to a diverse audience is covered in Goals #4 and #5. It is also discussed in the Equity Driven Growth section.	

Introduction						
ZIP CODE	PAGE #	CATEGORY	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	RESPONSE	ACTION
49506	2	Formatting / Language	People and the Environment are our city's strongest assets.	Written Comment	Agree. These themes are identified throughout the document	
49506	3	Formatting / Language	Plan & Investment Strategy	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	7	D & I	Lots of Diversity here. Where is it in the plan?	Written Comment	D & I inset to be included in introduction.	
49506	30	Formatting / Language	Huge Headline: This reconnection of people to each other and to the place where we live is central to this plan. Bring it forward whenever possible.	Written Comment	Agree. These themes are identified throughout the document	
49506	31	Idea	Identity: Progressive, Healthy, Vibrant. This leads to Job Growth, Private Investment, and Welcoming City Center	Written Comment	Agree. These themes are identified throughout the document	
	5	Formatting / Language	Don't need to explain where the quotes come from it's inferred throughout the document	Email Comment	Demonstrating origin of comments is an important way to demonstrate the public participation strategy. Create uniform attribution throughout the document.	Interface to ensure quotes are attributed throughout the document, including what events/platform they were gathered from.
	5	Formatting / Language	I think the example on page 5 of comparing the 100 largest cities in the amount of parks this is <u>a great clear illustration</u> . Providing best practices, comparisons and helping to set goals. I'd like to see more illustrations throughout the document that are that clear	Email Comment	Agree. We will look for additional ways to translate ideas into visual graphics.	
		D & I	All of the D&I Hopes / aspirations / strategies should be summarized in one place, and should be a part of a larger brand.	1 on 1	DGRI to create new D&I summary spread for revised document.	DGRI to provide language to Interface.
	25	Formatting / Language	Formatting of last paragraph above the pics seems off. Ends with a colon.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be addressed in the final version.	
GOAL #1: Restore the River and Create a Connected and Equitable River Corridor						
ZIP CODE	PAGE #	CATEGORY	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	RESPONSE	ACTION
	37	Art and Culture	Use Art and Natural Environment tools to "brand" these e/w gateways.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, any improvements to east west corridors will be done in consultation with the neighborhoods.	(pg. 36) Add narrative to work with neighbors to incorporate artistic and aesthetic components to be a part of local placemaking
	19	D&I	Incorporate native people in the conversation and decision making!	Written Comment	We are working closely with native people to advance improvements to the River and will emphasize this more clearly in the Plan.	Add language / bullet to continue to identify and engage native people
	51	Formatting / Language	Eliminate this. Map makes no sense. The next few do though.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	Stoss to add more descriptive labelling.
49506	61	Formatting / Language	Recommendation 4 - Initial Action Steps: "Encourage local policies and incentives that favor low impact development-- add "regional and state" to read: Encourage local, regional, and state policies and incentives that favor low impact development.	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment	Interface to ammend and add WMEAC as a partner.
49506	61	Formatting / Language	Recommendation 5 - Add the following to the list of initial action steps under the section "Focus on improving water quality..." <i>Recruit a leadership team and embed this team in the GRForward and river restoration processes to achieve the water quality agenda with the region and state."</i>	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to add strategy to recruit and create a leadership team. Implementation partners to be identified.
49506	61	Formatting / Language	Recommendation 6 - Add the following to the list of initial action steps under the section: "Focus on improving water quality..." <i>Prioritize addressing pathogen pollutants contributed to the Grand River watershed by failing septic systems by advocating for statewide septic rules and improved septic regulation practices in counties (initially prioritizing Kent County) within the Grand River Watershed.</i> * WMEAC suggests this discrete water quality recommendation be specifically highlighted to the initial goals, because its particularly timely, following the recent data on septic contribution to water quality by Michigan State University, as well as current interest in the issue in the Snyder administration and current legislature.	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to add strategy. Implemenation partners TBD. Additionally, add strategy to address regional water quality agenda. Identify areas of alignment with existing State strategies.
49506	44	Formatting / Language	1.4 Create the outdoor adventure city Recommendation 1 - Add an "initial action" focused on planning for increased public safety investments in the river corridor, particularly in proximity to the rapids and key river activation sites.	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for comment. Public safety officials have been and will continue to be involved in GR Forward implementation.	
		Formatting / Language	Goal 1.2 is lacking sub-goals.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comments. Planning and GRWWV to follow up.	Interface to add sub-goals for Goal 1.2. Planning to identify language in partnership with GRWWV.
		Formatting / Language	Figure 1.27, 1.28 and 1.29 are not readable. In addition, they are labeled as Option 1, 2 and 3 respectively, but appear to be referenced as "scenarios" in the text.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment.	Stoss to reformat extent and legibility.
		Formatting / Language	Legends are needed for Figures 1.44 and 1.45 so to help clarify where 15 opportunity sites and 13 Phase II opportunity sites are located. Additional descriptions of the sites would be helpful for persons who were not involved in the planning process.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment.	Stoss to add legends to figures.
49506	61	Implementation	1.1 - Integrate Art, Education, Infrastructure and Ecology. Recommendation 2 - Add the WMEAC as a responsible partner in delivering this effort as we have been a key partner in water quality protection and low impact development innovation in West Michigan for over 45 years and plan to continue our role in local and regional watershed protection.	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to add WMEAC as a partner. DGRI will clarify with commentor which recommendation to add them to.
49506	14	Implementation	Recommendation 3 - 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).	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to add partners to implentation matrix, including MDARD.
49506	62	Implementation	1.2 Reinforce the Grand Rapids Whitewater Initiative Recommendation 1 - Add an "Initial Action" focused on planning for daily operations, ecosystem protection, competing recreational interests, and long-term maintenance of the proposed replacement dam.	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment, this falls within the scope of GRCRC.	
		Infrastructure	Are we in touch with non profits about green infrastructure?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment, we are in touch with local non-profits on this issue.	
49506	11	Infrastructure	Yes! Increase pervious surfaces that can soak in water quickly and support the earth underneath.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Maintenance	Maintenance long term	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment, this falls within the scope of GRCRC.	
		Maintenance	Management	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment, this falls within the scope of GRCRC.	
49506		Open / Public Space	This is so important to me, we are one of the only larger cities that don't take advantage of our property along the waterfront. I would also like to get rid of all of those parking lots in the Monroe north neighborhood and maybe do underground parking or a parking garage	Web	Thank you for your comment, riverfront parking is shown in the plan as being converted to open space.	
		Open / Public Space	Footprint of river-how does it change as we add all these activities?	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	The restoration of the River is informed by detailed ecologic and engineering studies.	
		Open / Public Space	Parks should remain free to encourage and preserve access	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not propose charging for park access.	
		Open / Public Space	If the State opens a park, we'd have to pay for access-DON'T want that	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not propose charging for park access.	
		Open / Public Space	I don't think you need to work to preserve industrial legacies/parks near the river	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment, GR Forward advocates for job preservation and growth in and near Downtown, not preserving industrial legacies on the River.	
		Open / Public Space	I love the idea of creating public space along the river and developing more green space on the west side. Keeping the river as a focal point.	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Open / Public Space	131 noise barrier	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment, this issue will be referred to MDOT.	

		Open / Public Space	River-edge woods - large tree protection from floods	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment, the incorporation of green infrastructure, including trees, is proposed throughout the River Corridor.	
		Open / Public Space	Lyon Square area - currently no ramp access to the riverwalk.	DAKC	Thank you for your comment. Universal design is the preferred approach. Will investigate to determine feasibility at site.	Stoss to confirm proposed design is ADA accessible.
		Open / Public Space	Dog access to the river; designated dog areas, off-leash perhaps even.	Monroe North Business Association	Thank you for your comment.	Stoss to identify opportunity site locations where dog access is feasible.
	41	Open / Public Space	Love Skatepark in this location under 131 @ Cherry.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	54	Open / Public Space	What is the lesser version of this? If this all does not fly, what realistically can we expect to happen here? What is basic option?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward proposes an inspirational land use and build out scenario to guide decision making.	
		River Restoration	I like the concept of river restoration. This 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 squeezed out. The auto industry helped build this city. Also need motorcycle and scooter parking. After start-up, public transportation needs to be self-sustaining. Do not remove existing parking minimums and set maximums. Support manufacturing as 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 (Meijer Garden) One that can be open or ticketed-paid seats. Neighborhood schools that are also community centers.	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	This is a revitalization of the Grand River and a restoration of the namesake rapids. We agree the addition of an amphitheater will be an important amenity for the future of Downtown. This is proposed as a component of several public spaces.	
49516		River Restoration	I think the plan goes too far in transforming the river	Web	The restoration of the River is informed by detailed ecologic and engineering studies.	
49505		River Restoration	What happens if there is not enough water after the dams are removed and there is a stinky creek in the summer? Is there a provision to replace the dams? Who pays?	Open House	The restoration of the River is informed by detailed ecologic and engineering studies.	
		River Restoration	Lamprey: how do we prevent invasion?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	New lamprey barrier is proposed as part of the Grand River revitalization and is being evaluated by all state agencies and local partners.	
		River Restoration	What happens to communities down the river?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Impacts to all adjacent communities are considered as part of the Grand River revitalization.	
		River Restoration	concerns about river revitalization project's effect on communities up and down river	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Impacts to all adjacent communities are considered as part of the Grand River revitalization.	
		River Restoration	Are the boulders being added natural or artificial?	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	The design of the River revitalization project, including the boulder material, are still being determined.	
		River Restoration	Is the GRWW initiative informed by the history of the river?	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The history of the River is being used to inform the GRWW initiative.	
		River Restoration	Restoration issue: it should not be called "restored"	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	The Grand River project proposes to revitalize the river and restore the namesake rapids.	
		River Restoration	Will there be swimming in the river?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Yes, there will be various locations for swimming.	
		River Restoration	The river improvements will make our greatest natural resource a true asset. I'm really looking forward to enjoying and showing off this asset.	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment.	
		River Restoration	Please strive to maintain the water level up to Northland Bridge	GR Rowers Association	The restoration of the River is informed by detailed ecologic and engineering studies.	
		River Restoration	Study and confirm no river level loss in 10 miles upstream	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment. This item will be referred to River Restoration and GRWW.	Send comment to RR and GRWW.
		River Restoration	How long into the future are we planning for flood protection?	GR Rowers Association	Flood protection as designed in GR Forward will provide a higher standard of protection for our community for decades to come.	
		River Restoration	What will be the upstream impacts (beyond North Park Bridge)	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment. This item will be referred to River Restoration and GRWW.	Send comment to RR and GRWW.
		River Restoration	What will be the default level of the new barrier? How will adjusting the barrier for different events upstream and downstream change the water level.	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment. This item will be referred to River Restoration and GRWW.	Send comment to RR and GRWW.
		River Restoration	Is there an opportunity to recognize Native American history in the river reconstruction?	Grandville Ave / Cook Library	We are working closely with native people to advance improvements to the River and will emphasize this more clearly in the Plan.	Add language / bullet to continue to identify and engage native people
		Rowing	Rowing has made all the difference with my physical health this year.	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment.	
		Rowing	GRRRA is a great addition to the community	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment.	
		Rowing	The Grand River is a wonderful place to row.	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment.	
		Rowing	Rowing boathouse in Riverside Park	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment, this is being referred to the City of Grand Rapids Parks Department for inclusion in their 5 year master plan.	Send to Marquardt.
		Rowing	National Rowing Events such as the 2014 Masters Nationals Regatta in Grand Rapids brings millions of dollars of economic impact to Grand Rapids. A rowing facility, boathouse, close to downtown such as in Riverside Park would continue to support this impact	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for your comment, this is being referred to the City of Grand Rapids Parks Department for inclusion in their 5 year master plan.	Send to Marquardt.
		Rowing	Rowing is not just the 'rowing pool' along Riverside Park - the rowing community uses the rivers for 10+ miles upstream from GR	GR Rowers Association	Thank you for this information.	
		Trails	Will there be river walks North of where the existing trails stop?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Trails are planned for both sides of the River	
49506	22	Trails	11 Make Grand Rapids a hub in a regional trail system, while creating universal access along the river on both the east and west sides. Recommendation 1 - "Create a robust trail system on both sides of the river"- Add WMEAC to the list of responsible partners. WMEAC has expertise in water trail development and has recently won a grant from the MDEQ Office of Coastal Zone Management to complete water trail planning in Ottawa County. It is our intention to contribute our leadership to the development of a water trail that extends into Kent and Ionia counties to meet up with the established water trail in the Middle Grand River.	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to add WMEAC as a partner.
		Water Quality	How do we manage river pollution?	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	GR Forward proposes extensive green infrastructure to support improved water quality.	
		Water Quality	There is still the perception that the river water is not safe. We need good info about this.	Monroe North Business Association	Thank you for your comment. See Goal 1.1 for improved messaging.	
	18	Water Quality	Coldbrook Creek drains into river- How can we help?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to add strategy. Implementation partners TBD. Additionally, add strategy to address regional water quality agenda. Identify areas of alignment with existing State strategies.
49504		Water Quality	This seems vague. This is the first and hopefully last 'land-locked' city I live in and the river needs to be cleaned up enough for people to be able to at least wade in it during the hot summer days. This would draw residents downtown and keep money here instead of them driving out of town to lakes.	Web	Thank you for your comment. Significant water quality enhancements are proposed throughout GR Forward.	

49506		Water Quality	1.1 Integrate Art, Education, Infrastructure and Ecology Recommendation 1 - 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 authority.	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment. Will be added to subgoals of Goal 1.2.	Planning to follow up with WMEAC.
	29	Implementation	Support: Option 2 with some of existing 3. (Land swap & Public redevelopment)	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Implementation and development of the river may include land swaps as a component of acquisition.	
49506	15	Idea	Recommendation 7 - 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 p.61 that reads, "Outline guidelines for trail development, including: riparian buffer zone recommendations, native plant recommendations, and habitat restoration at these locations. Finally, we suggest linking incentives for the use of native plants into related efforts to incentivize the use of low impact development practices throughout downtown.	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment. Native planting will be emphasized more prominently.	Stoss to include additional language on pg. 15 related to native plants.
		D&I	Several pages are dedicated to a regional discussion about the Grand River, but regionalism does not appear to be incorporated into the actual goals.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. Additional language will be added in the goals related to regionalism.	Planning to send language from guiding principles from the RRSC and RCSC to DGRI for inclusion in preamble.
	42	Implementation	Figure 1.40, gateway for Bridge Street, suggests that the underpass should be activated. The City's Parking Commission recently detailed plans to upgrade the existing parking lot that occupies this site. Has there been communication with the Parking Commission about this proposed plan?	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. The figure is conceptual and envisions activation of existing infrastructure. Specific site was identified as a barrier in public process. Approach is conceptual. Implementation matrix does not recommend a skate park on the Scribner lot.	Specify on graphic approach is conceptual.
		Implementation	Under the implementation approach, bullet 3, part 2, the approach states that the City should "gain access during redevelopment with the use of incentives and/or by acquiring or amending utility easements, to include public access and amenities". This approach is already captured by the Grand River Overlay (Section 5.8.03 of the Zoning Ordinance). Additional detail is needed to distinguish between what is proposed versus what is existing.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. Additional language will be added to clarify what exists in the Grand River overlay, and what is being proposed.	Stoss / Interface to add language making distinction between existing and proposed.
49503	63	River Restoration	Having a viable and immersive riverfront makes it easier for organizations like Hello West Michigan (HWM) to attract talent from outside of the region. Many of the candidates HWM talks to are interested in outdoor recreation options. Having a useable riverfront with trails and water access makes it a great selling point for the city.	Web	Thank you for your comment.	
		Connections	Identify Grandville Ave. as a latino-owned business corridor	Verbal Comment	Add paragraph on page 39 or 40 that references a thematic positioning of Grandville Ave. as a latino small business district	Interface to add language.
	41	Formatting / Language	Remove the skate park from Bridge and 131. The Committee does not want it there.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. New language reflecting the priorities for a Downtown skate park will be added to the revised draft.	DGRI to send Interface language.
	59	Formatting / Language	Figure 1.68 is too small	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The figure will be reviewed to determine if it can be enlarged.	Interface to review.
		Water Quality	Make the river REFLECTIVE of clouds, tree color, lights and shadows to a much greater degree than it is today. ENHANCE is visuals. IMPROVE how light plays on the surface. TEST the water and riverbed to learn why it is relatively non-reflective now. I suspect that air 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.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Access / Mobility	Make the river ACCESSIBLE for human activity, not cars. REMOVE the parking spaces in the Sixth Street and Canal Parks in the North Monroe neighborhood. Replace those spaces with a NEW large 6 sory 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).	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward includes recommendations related to adding green spaces and public access along the River Corridor, in addition to providing additional mobility options.	
		River Restoration	The proposals for the Grand Rapids Whitewater project are interesting but require for technical expertise than I possess for assessing wheher they are advisable 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.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Trails	CONNECT the Grand Rapids Edges Trail to the White Pine Trail. Do a better job of marketing these and other trails (Grand Rapids Township Trail, Reeds Lake Trail, Butterworth Trails) to raise our biking, walking and nature activities and our consciousness of these opportunities.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional trails that aim to connect to the existing regional network are a recommendaiton in GR Forward.	
		River Restoration	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 gaud 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.	Chamber of Commerce Memo	Thank you for your comment. Long term maintenance of the River will be a task addressed through the soon to be formed GRCRC.	
		River Restoration	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 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.

	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 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: The rapid 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 as the initial step in addressing water quality.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for 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 reduce 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 vegetated island. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future island.	
	21	River Restoration	Page 21, top of text - A portion of the dam will not remain.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a walkway built over the remaining portion of the dam. It is not known yet whether a the portion of the dam will remain and is pending final design.	
	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 the comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of walkways, platforms and other recreational improvements. All concerns about obstructions and piers will need to be addressed in future designs.	
	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 the comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of walkways, platforms and other recreational improvements including swimming. All concerns will need to be addressed in future designs.	
	24	River Restoration	Page 24, at the end of paragraph headed Trail Type 2 - Piers or floating structures will pose an extreme safety hazard in moderate to high velocity areas.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of walkways, platforms and other recreational improvements. All concerns about obstructions and piers will need to be addressed in future designs.	
	28	River Restoration	Page 28, 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 the comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of future trails. All concerns about obstructions and piers will need to be addressed in future designs.	
	31	River Restoration	Page 31, second paragraph - Replace "...the initial GRWW...planning and construction" with The river restoration is designed based on existing bedrock shelf, historic boulder rapid (according to historic accounts and renderings), and hydraulic gradient.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for comment. This language will be changed to reflect your comments.	Change language.
	31	River Restoration	Page 31 - Add: Staging areas for the construction of the river restoration are planned to be restored to pre construction conditions in the river restoration project. GR Forward could redesign those sites for implementation during construction restoration.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for comment. This language will be changed to reflect your comments.	Change language.
	31	River Restoration	Page 31, figure 1.30, comment on title "Construction Access" - Is this to show construction access for whitewater project.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the 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 1.31, 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 1.31, comment under activities in Riverside Park area - Riverside ramp #1 is existing. It currently accommodates vehicular boat launch and has trailer parking.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. The boat ramps are existing and can be used for emergency access. The word "proposed" should be deleted.	Remove the word "proposed"
	33	River Restoration	Page 33, figure 1.32, comment on Rapids View Park - There is an existing boat ramp used for emergency access only. A proposed ramp is also included in our plans to allow for the boats to be put in at the bottom of the triple drop rapids.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. The Emergency Access should be labeled "existing" and a new "proposed" boat ramp symbol should be added.	Revise figure 1.32
	34	River Restoration	Page 34, figure 1.33, 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 walkways, platforms and other recreational improvements. All concerns about obstructions and piers will need to be addressed in future designs.	
	44	River Restoration	Page 44, second paragraph - Rewrite "Recent efforts...recreational asset." for clarity, such as: Because of the catalytic GRWW rapid restoration, GRForward is working to expand the river as a central recreational asset for the City.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you the comment. The language 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".	Revise text.
	45	River Restoration	Page 45, at end of paragraph headed "Provide river access for construction and programming" - Add: "and some for potential maintenance needs."	River Restoration Org.	Thank you the 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.	Revise text.
	45	River Restoration	Page 45, last paragraph - Rewrite "It will also separate types of use given the diversity in rapid configuration and velocity.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you the comment. The first line of the second paragraph will be revised to read "While the reconfiguration of the River to support whitewater activities will expand the types of programming available in the River corridor, it will also separate types of use given the diversity in rapid configuration and velocity.	Revise text.
	46	River Restoration	Page 46 Correct text and typo	River Restoration Org.	Thank you the 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. Each of these sites....	Revise text.
	48	River Restoration	Page 48, third bullet = correct: Supplement (not supple)	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. The typo will be corrected.	Revise text.
	50	River Restoration	Page 50 - the existing boardwalk will be inundated more often with the whitewater project. GR Forward to raise the boardwalk.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. The Lyon Plaza is being redesigned and the boardwalk will be a consideration in the new design.	
	62	River Restoration	Page 62. GRWW implementation line under source of funds - Add: Federal/State/Local	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. Federal/State and Local will be added.	Add F/S/L to the Source of Funds Column.
	5	Appendix 1A	Page 5, figure 1.2 - Trees will most likely not establish on the raised island in the river and would pose flood constraints. It will be constructed of mostly boulder and inundated completely every run off season	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of a vegetated island. Your comments will be taken into consideration for future planning and design of a future island.	
	18	Appendix 1A	Page 18, Figure 1.21 titled: Proposed Coldbrook site sections - Fulton + Market?	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. Figure 1.21 is labeled incorrectly it should be labeled Proposed Fulton and Market Site sections	Change Figure title
	23	Appendix 1A	Page 23, fourth bullet - Riverside trail boardwalk: The river revitalization proposed conditions model shows higher water surface elevations at the boardwalk between the JW Marriott property to the Lyon Square Amphitheater. There is an opportunity to incorporate changes to the river side trail at this location with the timeline of river construction.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. The Lyon Plaza is being redesigned and the boardwalk will be a consideration in the new design.	
	25	Appendix 1A	Page 25, figure 1.30 - Piers or floating structures will pose an extreme safety hazard in moderate to high velocity areas.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. This is an illustrative drawing showing the concept of an re-imagined Lyon Plaza with new river boardwalks. All piers and floating structure concerns will need to be addressed in future designs.	
	26	Appendix 1A	Page 26, figure 1.31 comment on lower boardwalk depicted - Cantilevered elements at low elevations like this create dangerous obstacles for river users.	River Restoration Org.	Same comment as above and as will be applied to the lower river boardwalk and cantilevered walkways.	

	30	Appendix 1A	Page 30 - the floodwall at this location will be temporarily taken down for the MDOT bridge widening project and for the river restoration construction access.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for pointing out this information. Construction phasing and access points will be an important consideration in project implementation.	
	31	Appendix 1A	Page 31, 9th bullet - Any piers in the river at this location would present dangerous obstacles for river users.	River Restoration Org.	Same comment as above related to piers and floating structure concerns to be addressed in future designs.	
	39	Appendix 1A	Page 39, Figure 1.5 - Access steps included in river restoration located here.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for bringing this to our attention.	Stoss to show the proposed steps on the 6th Street Bridge Park plan in the location where GRWW shows them.
	44	Appendix 1A	Proposed boat ramp/ emergency access at Canal Street Park is proposed not existing	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. The plan will be changed.	Correct plan.
	57	Appendix 1A	Page 57, 4th bullet - Control station for barrier will need to be protected from general public.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. Future designs for the Adventure Park will take into consideration the need for the barrier control station to be protected from the general public.	
	58	Appendix 1A	Page 58, figure 1.76, middle cluster of activities - Boat passage channel as well as fish passage (portage route around barrier)	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. The plan will be revised to include a label of the boat passage channel as well as fish passage including portage route around barrier.	
	74	Appendix 1A	Page 74, figure 1.100 - Wetlands present	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for bringing the wetlands to our attention.	
	82	Appendix 1A	Page 82, figure 1.111, depiction of boardwalk - Cantilever presents possible hazard	River Restoration Org.	Any future cantilever designs shall take into consideration possible hazards for river users.	
	86	Appendix 1A	Page 86, figure 1.115 - New boat ramp included in whitewater project.	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.	
	86	Appendix 1A	Page 86, figure 1.116 - Existing boat ramp is emergency access only. Proposed ramp will also be emergency only in river restoration project.	River Restoration Org.	See comment above.	
	93	Appendix 1A	Page 93, figure 1.126, top cluster of activities - This boat ramp is existing	River Restoration Org.	This ramp is emergency only.	Label ramp as emergency only.
	98	Appendix 1A	Page 98, figure 1.133 - Downstream open space at this site will be utilized heavily for construction staging and access for river restoration project and will need to be rehabilitated.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for bringing this to our attention. This will need to be included in the implementation phase and funding will need to be identified to restore the site.	
	99	Appendix 1A	Page 99, figure 1.136 - No water skiing at this location due to rapid nature of river.	River Restoration Org.	The words "Water Skiing" should be removed from this graphic.	Remove "Water Skiing"
	105	Appendix 1A	Page 105, figure 1.145 - Same comment as previous page on parking for vehicles with trailers.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for bring this to our attention. Parking accommodations for vehicles and trailers should be added to the plan.	Revise graphic accordingly.
		Executive Summary	Page 13, center paragraph - Revise the sentence "There are unique.... accessible and connected.	River Restoration Org.	Thank you for the comment. This sentence will be revised to read "There are unique amenities and things to do Downtown in and along the river.	Revise sentence.
49503		River Restoration	Outside of building condos/ Apartments Downtown	Meeting Comment Card	Thank you for your comment. Enhanced River access is explored throughout the River Corridor as part of GR Forward.	
		River Restoration	Access to water (drinking), integrating drinking fountains into the downtown area.	Written Comment Card	Thank you for your comment. Specific improvements to parks and public spaces, including the addition of drinking fountains will be considered as part of implementation.	
	57	Formatting	P-57 Bandwidth doesn't mean trails. Bandwidth= Electrical/Wireless etc.	Written Comment Card	Thank you for your comment. In urban planning and design, bandwidth is often used to refer to the capacity of moving cyclists, pedestrians, etc. through a public space.	
	28-30	Formatting	Figures 1.27-29: No way to see those lines unless heavy or larger. Figure 1.31= Why have a black river? Figure 1.34- What are the red lines? Figure 1.46- River=Blue. You need E/W streets to figure out what that is. Also needs E/W streets to figure out what it is.	Written Comment Card	Thank you for your comment. All figures will be reviewed and if needed, enlarged / clarified during revision of the draft plan.	
		River Restoration	Remove flood wall where possible and implement berms, slopes, and setbacks.	Written Comment Card	Thank you for your comment. These approaches to multi-functional and green infrastructure are explored throughout Goal #1.	
		River Restoration	Is there anything regarding fishing on the river. Will that recreation be maintained? Dog Park.	Written Comment Card	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.	Info sent to the City of Grand Rapids.
	20	River Restoration	Add paragraphs about GRWW into the GR Forward Plan on page 20 after the first paragraph	GRWW/Matt Chapman	Thank you for your comment. Revised language will be added to Goal 1 on page 20 after the first paragraph.	Interface to add language.
		Rowing	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 exactly 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 Ordway/rowing community	Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44.	Between the second and third sentence, add a sentence about rowers popular use of the river. Suggested language: "As one of the best rowing venues in the Midwest, hundreds of rowers train on the River and Riverside Park plays host to local, regional, and national regattas."
		Rowing	The River Plan can assist these community efforts and serve the public by working with GRRA and the other rowing organizations in the area to develop and implement plans for a boathouse in Riverside Park where feasible locations have been reviewed multiple times. This facility would not only support community rowing and enhance the hosting of major 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 x-country skiing. I understand that the National Rowing Hall of Fame has even expressed interest in re-locating to a new Grand Rapids facility, which would increase further the tourist potential associated with rowing in Grand Rapids.	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 implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.	Between the second and third sentence, add language about facilities to support river programming/activities. Suggested language: "New facilities, such as a multi-sport boathouse, will enhance existing activities and programming, support new activities, and serve as an entry point for new river users." Consider adding ">>>Design and construct multi-purpose facility for river activities" under "Provide river access for construction and programming" in the implementation chart.

		Rowing	An essential element of planning and preparation for a project such as the Grand River Restoration/Revitalization project is to complete a study of the effects on the water level of the river throughout the area used by rowers (and riparian property owners) that may or will result from removal of the existing dam and any form of replacement. Rowers have repeatedly raised these concerns and been assured that the potential effects of any proposal would be studied in order to determine what the water level effects would be in all seasons and conditions. And yet the study has not been done; rowing is downplayed in the reports; rowing is referred to almost exclusively as if it is a Riverside Park only activity; and an explanation is repeatedly offered that you could remove the dam and have no effect at all on the level of the river. That explanation simply defies common sense and the experience of rowers. Lowering the water level in town will inevitably have an effect upriver and that effect may be most dramatic when the river level is low and rowing is most at risk.	Dustin Ordway/rowing community	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. Hydrolic studies of the upstream and downstream segments have been and will continue to be done as the project progresses.	
		Rowing	The plan to have a variable dam with a committee managing it invites difficult challenges that should be considered in detail prior to taking any action. Other dams that can be adjusted and the management of those dams have led to mitigation in Michigan, even where there are less challenging conditions. It is critical to evaluate all competing interests that could be affected by a variable dam in the planning process to assess the potential for problems and how to resolve them in order to avoid creating a new and challenging conflict that will place burdens on the city and users of the river. The needs of various interested river neighbors and users do not necessarily lend themselves to a readily managed plan. The ability to protect and serve all interests should not be assumed.	Dustin Ordway/rowing community	Thank you for your comment. The specifics of the river revitalization and rapids 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	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 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. 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	Include rowing as a part of the GR Forward 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	I 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. 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	Include a boathouse at boat launch #3 to bring rowing closer to downtown, include other sports out of the boathouse - paddle boarding, canoeing, kayaking.	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 in parks and rec master plan.	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	Would like to see a 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 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	I would like to see rowing more prominently featured in the GR Forward 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	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 implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.	Amend language as suggested above in comment #2
		Rowing	Need to address how the planned river development would affect river depth and flow, especially around Riverside Park and points upstream.	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. Hydrolic 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	Please include GRRRA in the parks and rec 5 year master plan.	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	GRRRA would like to be part of the 5 year parks and rec master plan with a boathouse at Riverside Park	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	Include rowing in the Parks and Rec plan (A boathouse at Riverside Park)	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	Please include rowers in the 5 year parks and rec master plan.	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	Would love to see a boathouse in 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 implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.	Amend language as suggested above in comment #2
		Rowing	Why not put whitewater improvements downstream and keep the dam intact.	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your question. Removing the dam makes the river more accessible, allows for improved habitat and ecology, and removes a dangerous obstacle for river users.	
		Rowing	Please include GR Rowing in discussions concerning the 5 year parks and rec master plan - boathouse in Riverside Park	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	Maintain upstream water level April to October	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. Hydrolic 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	GRRRA'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 rated us as the top venue.	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your comment. This language acknowledging the Grand River as a premier venue will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44.	Amend language as suggested above in comment #1
		Rowing	Maintain our city's reputation as competitive rowers - collegiate, high school, and masters	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your comment. This language acknowledging the importance of rowing will be added to the first paragraph under goal 1.5 on page 44.	

		Rowing	GRRA would like to be included in the 5 years parks and recreation master plan development.	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	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.	Amend language as suggested above in comment #2
		Rowing	Michael Witkin: I would like to participate in the riverfront committee and help GRRA and Parks and Rec assist in the selection of a future boathouse in Riverside Park. This "oportunity site" will be a "demonstration project" for recreational uses & serve he community at large	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	Please be sure to include the rowing community in discussions with the parks regarding potentia 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 implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.	Amend language as suggested above in comment #2
		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. Language about rowing has been added to page 44 and the river revitalization and rapids restoration plan are keeping rowing as a priority.	
		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 rapids 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 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 implementation plan under goal 1.5 on page 67.	Amend language as suggested above in comment #2
		Rowing	Include rowing (1000+ rowers in the area, 8 rowing clubs) in the 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	Include economic impact of rowing and rowing regattas in plan - 2014 Masters National Championship brought in 2,000 visitors, impact of \$2.2 million over 4 days - likely to return event in 2018.	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 cannot decrease at all north of Ann Street.	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. Hydrolic 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	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 rapids 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	Parks and Rec 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. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. Hydrolic 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	I would like to see GRRA members and other rowing association members part of the river 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	Include GRRA and rowing in the plan for management of the bladder system.	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your question. The specifics of the river revitalization and rapids 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	Look at effects of the changes miles upstream including past northland bridge.	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. Hydrolic 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	Have GRRA part of the Grand River Conservancy.	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The specifics of the river revitalization and rapids 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	Who will operate the new barrier?	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your question. The specifics of the river revitalization and rapids 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	How much will it cost to operate the new barrier?	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your question. The specifics of the river revitalization and rapids restoration project are not a part of the GR Forward plan. The management and operations cost of a new barrier are 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 question. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. Hydrolic 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 question. GR Forward does not address the specific details of the Grand Rapids Whitewater plan. The construction sequencing is still being designed by the GRVWV engineering team.	
		Rowing	Are there barrier like this in other rivers?	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your question. Yes, other cities such as Boise, ID have similar adjustable structures.	
		Rowing	Why does the dam need to be removed/replaced?	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your question.	
		Rowing	Is there a scenario that would destroy the rowing pool?	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your question. Removing the dam makes the river more accessible, allows for improved habitat and ecology, and removes a dangerous obstacle for river users.	

		Rowing	What happens when trees come down the river?	Rowers Meeting	Thank you for your question. GR Forward 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 a part of discussions about long term management of the river and riverfront.	
		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 experiences for a variety of user groups including Rowers, Anglers, Rafters, Drift boaters, White Water Enthusiasts and the General Public. The project also aims to improve river habitat and connectivity for a variety of fish and other creatures. The vision of restoring the namesake 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						
ZIP CODE	PAGE #	CATEGORY	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	RESPONSE	ACTION
		Bikes	Why have bike lanes AND trails going along same corridor	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	The trail on the River would be primarily designed for the recreational trail user, the others proposed in Downtown would be for commuters.	
49516		D & I	Initiatives aimed at ensuring a diverse downtown are weak.	Web	Thank you for your comment, please see revised draft.	
		D & I	How will development of Punk Island effect the homeless population?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	It is unclear how improvements to Punk Island may or may not impact the homeless population. Any improvements would be done in partnership with stakeholders to ensure the homeless population is considered.	
		D & I	Signage - more value of bilingualism (or multilingualism)	Grandville Ave / Cook Library	Thank you for your comment. In partnership with the City, DGRI will explore bi-lingual signs	Add recommendation to pilot bi-lingual sign program on Grandville Ave. (pg. 39-40)
		D & I	What about the perceptions of downtown? Especially by the distinct groups that makes us "diverse" (people of color, people of lower income, people with disabilities?)	DAKC	D & I inset to be included in introduction.	DGRI to write inset to send to Interface.
49506	6	D & I	"Constant refrain..." about diversity. So if that is what people want, how will this plan advance increasing diversity and better inclusion?	Written Comment	D & I inset to be included in introduction.	DGRI to write inset to send to Interface.
49506	28	D & I	With all new development- how are contractors, developers of color being integrated with all the development? Mentors, CBA's, Subcontractor incentives?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide strategy.	DGRI to include language rewarding MWBE participation in contracting.
49506	46	D & I	No, Need more structural input from residents. They should be able to have a rep that votes on DGRI board and have a voice at decision making tables. Not some BS communication.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, residents are represented on all DGRI Boards.	
49506	47	D & I	Love citizen planning institute. Should be implemented ASAP.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	49	D & I	Youth internships, mentorships, esp. w/ children and young adults of color paired with downtown businesses.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, see Goal #4.	
49506	49	D & I	Youth art & creative ventures. Esp tied with ArtPrize. Include college & high school students too.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide strategy.	DGRI to provide language.
49506	49	D & I	Youth could help design public spaces, help with public art, have youth art competitions, & be a sounding board on real solutions for youth in downtown.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, we will refer to the DGRI Alliance for Livability and the educational partnerships program.	Send to AFL.
49503	50	D & I	If you want to make downtown a diverse place that is inviting to all, try targeting boomerangs of diversity. Reaching out to former Michiganders at historically black colleges is a great audience to plug in to	Web (Hello WM)	Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide strategy.	Add language to Goal #4 around additional talent attraction programs.
		D & I	Is the leadership team diverse? Are there new partners? Diverse talent pool? Adding diverse community into conversation and planning will attract more diverse population	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. Please see the Preamble and Vision chapter of the revised draft.	
49506	4	Formatting / Language	Data driven. Passion is lacking for why inclusion is paramount in the city being built with this plan. It shines through in transportation section, but absent in this section.	Written Comment	D & I inset to be included in introduction.	DGRI to write inset to send to Interface.
49506	6	Formatting / Language	What does "Income Density" mean?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, new language clarifying income density will be added.	Interface to add definition to pg. 6
49506	1	Formatting	Page #s repeat! Ugh. No thank you. Continuous # system please.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, the page #s will not repeat in the revised plan.	Interface to fix pg. #.
49506	8	Formatting / Language	The language here is all about commerce and capitalism. It's missing (Heart sign) about people. Connecting about civil society, about life. I understand people need to spend \$, & they will, if they like what they feel & want to be there. Otherwise its just gimmicky.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, additional language will be added to discuss the importance of people to the future of Downtown.	Interface add narrative to pg. 8.
49506	8	Formatting / Language	Integration of people, environment, housing, business & commerce together. The downtown plan is about elevating all of these- <u>not just</u> making people spend \$!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, additional language will be added to discuss the importance of people to the future of Downtown.	Interface add narrative to pg. 8.
49506	9	Formatting / Language	(In reference to map) Names: More creative? GVSU Dist: Cabbage District? Innovation: Cube District (Like Incubate), Cathedral-?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The map is meant to describe character areas, not name or brand districts.	
	42	Formatting / Language	Figure 2.40, the diagram points to potential improvements to Division. Can the language it be reworded to say expanding <u>existing</u> improvements to South Division and then define the district as Fulton to Wealthy Street?	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment, the figure description will be updated.	Interface to change text for Fig 2.40 (pg. 42)
		Formatting / Language	It is unclear how the "character map" is to be used. Please clarify.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. The map is meant to describe character areas in Downtown.	Interface to provide additional language clarifying the use of Fig 2.7 (pg. 9).
	62	Formatting / Language	The section dedicated to embracing sustainable site design principles is redundant of existing programs and policies. This section should be revised to acknowledge such.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment, additional language will be added to identify existing City sustainability programs.	Planning to provide clarification and language.
49506	13	Historic Pres	e.g. Peacock Building: Keep historic buildings. Should not be taken down for density only. Must be careful about density and it being balanced w/ historic buildings.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward is not proposing the demolition of any historic buildings.	
49506	42	Historic Pres	Agree with the recommendation on this page. Keep this street historic though.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	43	Historic Pres	Make new buildings keep with character of historic buildings. Ornate, detailed brick etc.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Historic Pres	The verbiage used in the "preserve the 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.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment, DGRI will continue to work with the City's Historic Preservation Planner to identify solution.	DGRI to provide language.
49503		Housing	Make sure 40%, 60% and 80% income restricted housing is always available possibly have 120%.	Web	Thank you for your comment, a diverse mix of housing for people of all income ranges is essential to the future of Downtown.	
49453		Housing	it would be expensive if consideration was given to temporary housing for transient students and visiting guests from the country and afar. See holidayurbanlofts.com	Library	Thank you for your comment.	
		Housing	How do you (DGRI and the City) define "affordable" housing	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	For the purpose of GR Forward, "affordable housing" is defined as housing accessible to households making up to 120% of the area median income.	Interface to add language to Goal #2 discussing how affordability is defined, and clarifying what AMI and other terms mean for Downtown and City of GR residents pg. 53 (see Great Housing Strategies). Also clarify that we are not advocating for the removal of income restricted housing.
		Housing	What are you going to do about displacement as you build up downtown	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment, GR Forward recommends adding to the total number of affordable units Downtown, which will combat displacement issues. Further, many of the existing income restricted units are deed restricted and thus will be preserved for the next 20-30 years.	
		Housing	Concern about lowering 35% of downtown housing as income restricted to 25%	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	GR Forward proposes increasing the total number of affordable units in Downtown.	Interface to add graphic.
		Housing	Would like to see more student housing in downtown	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment, GR Forward advocates for additional student housing in Downtown.	
		Housing	Really like incentives for "workforce housing"-very important for diversity!!	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	

	2.3	Housing	The mix of housing opportunities downtown is limited, removing barriers to that mix will be crucial to make downtown successful	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Housing	Preserving affordable housing past 20 or 30 years	Grandville Ave / Cook Library	Thank you for your comment, a strategy will be added recommending a group convene to address this item.	Interface to add strategy.
		Housing	How are we defining affordable housing? A lot of what is deemed affordable is not really affordable.		Thank you for your comment, a strategy will be added recommending a group convene to address this item.	Interface to add strategy.
49506	4	Housing	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.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	10	Housing	How many units for: 50-80% AMI? 80-120% AMI? Rent or own? How will DGRI and your landholdings either ignore HH with lower incomes or help them?	Written Comment	GR Forward proposes increasing the total number of affordable units in Downtown.	Interface to add graphic.
49506	15	Housing	Ensure a mix of units available that are affordable for 50/80/120% AMI households for rent & ownership!	Written Comment	GR Forward proposes increasing the total number of affordable units in Downtown.	Interface to add graphic.
49506	20	Housing	Transition for housing type- great! Will ensure for varied incomes...if encouraged by DGRI policy.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	52	Housing	"Afford. Housing" not "Retain"- create more inclusive housing.	Written Comment	GR Forward proposes increasing the total number of affordable units in Downtown.	Interface to add graphic.
49506	53	Housing	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?	Written Comment	GR Forward proposes increasing the total number of affordable units in Downtown.	Interface to add graphic.
49506	54	Housing	Who would own the land? (CLT) What kind of contract would be developed with City of GR? Where? How many units?	Written Comment	The details of development are still TBD.	
49506	54	Housing	Jersey City, NJ and Seattle housing models are great examples of progressive housing strategies we could adopt and use here.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. These will be considered as best practices when advancing zoning and policy changes.	
49506	54	Housing	Encourage microhousing for future employees, students, entrepreneurs of new biz & integrate all incomes in each development.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, GR Forward advocates for new policies allowing micro units in Downtown.	
49506	55	Housing	Assistance with down payments. Mortgage assistance. Ownership	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, a range of programs to address finance for homeownership are being developed through the Great Housing Strategies.	
	4	Housing	Why are income restricted units split as unique housing type but not defined according to HUD/MSHDA standards? It seems sloppy to not nail 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.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment, a strategy will be added recommending a group convene to address this item.	Interface to add strategy.
49503		Housing	Have a company buy condemned houses, smash the houses, build a store, get property tax break for the store, turn the residential property into commercial property, encourage quick development	Library	Thank you for your comment.	
	4	Housing	The statement is made that "Grand Rapids lags peer cities 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 lauded 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 this effort from some reports I have seen so I am not sure we want to aspire to look exactly like them.	Dwelling Place Memo	Thank you for your comment, the comparisons were used to show why Grand Rapids lags peer city's in terms of retail.	
	47	Housing	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 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	Dwelling Place Memo	Thank you for your comment, a strategy will be added recommending a group convene to address expectations for public engagement.	Interface to add strategy.

	52	Housing	<p>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 \$181,887. 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 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.</p>	Dwelling Place Memo	<p>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.</p>	Interface to add clarifying language.
	52	Housing	<p>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 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 \$53,760 in Kent County, higher than 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 \$69,120 and \$76,800 for a family of four. 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 stated. 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 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 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</p>	Dwelling Place Memo	<p>Thank you for your comment, a strategy will be added recommending a group convene to address this item.</p>	Interface to add strategy.
	53	Housing	<p>The plan states that "Significant subsidies are required to enable households with incomes below 30% of the Area Median Income to rent or own newly constructed housing, and the Downtown area 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 of affordable housing to maintain." The report also references work LINC, ICCF and Dwelling Place are doing in the Heartside area. To the best of my knowledge, neither LINC nor ICCF have any housing units in the Heartside 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 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 547 of these types of units. The Grand Rapids Housing Commission operates Ransom Towers, a senior project with 153 rent subsidized 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 of 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 operating budgets to cover these costs. As such these would not be on the PILOT list. Many private property owners allow portable vouchers for</p>	Dwelling Place Memo	<p>Thank you for your comment. We will clarify the LINC and ICCF areas of activity and also provide sources identifying that 20% of affordable housing in the City is located Downtown.</p>	Interface to change text on pg. 53. DGRI to confirm sources.
		Housing	<p>Although Planning Staff supports need to diversify housing types available in downtown, little is discussed on how this goal should be achieved.</p>	Planning Department Memo	<p>Thank you for your comment. This will be addressed through zoning changes and realignment of incentive programs.</p>	
49503	52	Housing	<p>Encouraging more students to move downtown is very important, as is more housing options for the middle income professionals. This is a major barrier to get a critical mass downtown. Many of the candidates HWM talks to are looking to live downtown.</p>	Web (Hello W/M)	<p>Thank you for your comment. GR Forward advocates for additional student housing in Downtown.</p>	

		Housing	Mixed use & income based housing has to be in attractive areas; not just for one demographic to create more pockets	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward supports scatter based housing approached.	
49506	62	Implementation	Recommendation 2 - Add WMEAC as a responsible partner to the recommendation "Manage Stormwater at the micro level"	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to add WMEAC as a partner in the implementation matrix.
49506	62	Implementation	Recommendation 3 - Add an additional action step under "Embrace sustainable site design principles, "Establish a document outlining guidelines for site development that includes Low impact Development, native habitat for ecosystem benefits (see goal 1.1, recommendation 7)"	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to add action step.
		Infrastructure	Will infrastructure need to be added/improved in order to support plan recommendations? If so, how much will it cost and how will it be paid for?	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Building and maintaining adequate infrastructure is an ongoing responsibility of the public sector.	
49506	51	Marketing	Don't need to market if its cool. Seriously- focus on the right things & marketing is unnecessary.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	16	Open Space	On the map, if the green open space denotes public parks Heartside and Pekich Park should be added	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment, map to be revised.	Interface to amend map.
	19	Open Space	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 25	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The map legibility will be reviewed.	
		Parking	Concern about removing existing minimums for parking	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Parking	Don't leave developers upto their own judgement because they don't know best	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Parking	Concern about the number of parking spaces available for downtown cultural events	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Monitoring the availability of the public sector.	
		Parking	General parking concerns	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Monitoring the availability of parking is an ongoing responsibility of the public sector.	
		Parking	Where does the car parking go?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment, new development projects are required to meet existing zoning code. Current system has existing capacity.	
		Parking	YMCA parking lot is underutilized right now	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Parking	Concern about eliminating the minimum parking requirements	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Parking	New Holland Brewing-no parking?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment, new development projects are required to meet existing zoning code. Current system has existing capacity.	
		Parking	Morton Renovation-providing no parking?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment, new development projects are required to meet existing zoning code. Current system has existing capacity.	
		Parking	Concern about the # of parking spaces or lack thereof at the Fulton/Rockford development	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment, new development projects are required to meet existing zoning code. Current system has existing capacity.	
		Parking	Concern over the current amount of parking on West side within the study area	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment, new development projects are required to meet existing zoning code. Current system has existing capacity.	
		Parking	Is eliminating the minimums wise?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Monitoring the availability of parking is an ongoing responsibility of the public sector.	
		Parking	Can there be incentives for parking?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment, parking incentives already exist.	
		Parking	Technology parking solutions	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Parking	Ability of paying for parking using smart phones-app for showing lot/ramp capacities	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. There currently exists an app for parking meter payments. We will explore opportunities for lot/ramp capacity technology.	
		Parking	Mitten Brewery and others causing parking problems	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Monitoring the availability of parking is an ongoing responsibility of the public sector.	
		Parking	Proposed uses/activities/jobs are parking intensive (space:time)	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Monitoring the availability of parking is an ongoing responsibility of the public sector.	
		Parking	More angle parking	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Angled parking opportunities will be evaluated through implementations and infrastructure improvements on a case by case basis.	
		Parking	Worried by loss of on-street parking taken up by bike lanes	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Removal of on-street parking will be evaluated as projects are proposed.	
		Parking	GVSU's unwillingness to lower parking rates for their lots drives students to park in the neighborhood which causes congestion and parking shortages.	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GVSU is in charge of setting their own parking rates.	
		Parking	Is the Belknap parking pilot project working?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Parking	How about underground parking lots as well?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Opportunities for underground parking are continuing to be explored in Downtown.	
		Parking	Concern over parking rates. Example: Ellis	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Ellis Parking is in charge of establishing their own parking rates.	
		Parking	Parking incentive for affordable housing?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Currently, developers are not requesting parking reductions. As such, using them as an incentive would not achieve the goal of mixed income housing.	
		Parking	Instead of eliminating minimum parking requirements, could we waive them provided mixed-income housing is included?	DAKC	Thank you for your comment. Currently, developers are not requesting parking reductions. As such, using them as an incentive would not achieve the goal of mixed income housing.	
49506	14	Parking	If a developer wants to eliminate or provide less than required parking, they must provide at least 15% housing units for HH under 80% AMI	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Currently, developers of affordable housing are not requesting parking reductions. As such, using them as an incentive would not achieve the goal of mixed income housing.	
49506	17	Parking	See note under mixed income housing- waive parking requirements if developers include at least 15% of units that are affordable for HH @ 80% AMI or less.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Currently, developers are not requesting parking reductions. As such, using them as an incentive would not achieve the goal of mixed income housing.	
		Residential Diversity	No diversity/cultural acceptance in residential areas	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. Preserving and advancing diversity in our Downtown area is a seminal goal of GR Forward. Currently, 34% of the Downtown population is non-white.	
49504		Retail	A full sized grocery store would be nice.	Web	Thank you for your comment. The expansion of retail options, including a grocery store, are goals that are identified in the Plan.	
		Retail	Is a grocer really feasible?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The expansion of retail options, including a grocery store, are goals that are identified in the Plan.	

		Retail	Need a balance-more retail	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The expansion of retail options, including a grocery store, are goals that are identified in the Plan.	
	2.4	Retail	Using the term "ground floor retail" to refer to stores, restaurants and bars is misleading. I think the majority of people think of grocery stores, pharmacies, bakeries etc.	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward promotes a mixture of retail in Downtonw.	
49506	50	Retail	Word. No more high end downtown market food. Real food, better prices. Local . (In reference to "Build affordable..." text box)	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	56	Retail	Local biz. First right of refusal. No chains! Agree with 2.4. Continuous retail districts.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Neither the City, nor DGRI have the ability to select retailers to occupy private developments.	
49506	61	Retail	Not national retailers! Small biz. Local focus . Minority Biz development competition like ArtPrize.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. See revised goal #4 for additional information on greater mix of diversity for Downtown businesses.	
		Retail	Figure 2.45 Existing retail Downtown is interesting yet no accompanying text is provided to clarify the purpose of this information or its relevance.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. Additional narrative will be added to clarify the purpose of this map.	Interface to add text.
49506	62	Sustainability	2.5 Require energy efficiency, green building practices and universal design principles in projects with local subsidy. Recommendation 1- Add "clean energy" to read: "Require clean and efficient energy, green building practices, and universal design principles in projects with local subsidy." Solar energy is now an accessible and affordable tool for developers and it should be encouraged heavily in Downtown Grand Rapids.	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment. The text will be amended to reflect this change.	Interface to add text.
		Zoning	Concern about recommendations for changes in zoning related to building heights, particularly around residential areas	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The maximum height in the TCC Zone, which is the buffer between Downtown and the adjacent neighborhoods, is not proposed to change.	
		Zoning	Are there other areas on the West side for high density (multi-level) lots?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward is focused on the West side within the DDA boundary (from US 131 to Seward).	
		Zoning	Concerns over heights of buildings East of Seward between rail road	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The proposed changes in zoning between US131 and the rail line will continue to be examined; however, it is the recommendation of GR Forward to allow greater height in this area to better connect the Westside to the Downtown core, and promote more people and retail, like a grocery store.	
		Zoning	Do not support 7 stories near the freeway, would like 3 with allowance/exceptions to up to 5 stories	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The proposed changes in zoning between US131 and the rail line will continue to be examined; however, it is the recommendation of GR Forward to allow greater height in this area to better connect the Westside to the Downtown core, and promote more people and retail, like a grocery store.	
		Zoning	Don't want building taller than GVSU parking lot in the area between river and Seward	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The proposed changes in zoning between US131 and the rail line will continue to be examined; however, it is the recommendation of GR Forward to allow greater height in this area to better connect the Westside to the Downtown core, and promote more people and retail, like a grocery store.	
		Zoning	Would like to see buildings step down into/transition into the neighborhood	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The recommendations in GR Forward support this notion.	
49506	6	Zoning	What zoning policy and incentives will assist with ensuring a mix of housing types and incomes downtown? Name them here.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. There are various recommendations to achieve a mix of housing types and incomes in Downtown which are covered on pgs. 11-17.	
49506	12	Zoning	Recommendation that the city and DGRI pursue state law change to allow for inclusionary zoning for non-city/county owned property (i.e. private) for the entire city & county.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Advocacy to change State laws is a component of GR Forward.	
49506	12	Zoning	Agrees with "Note"	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	13	Zoning	Just max heights? No min. heights? Does bonus mean up to what #? Traditional business area along Monroe, Ottawa, Commerce, Pearl, Ionia? Need requirement of high quality building materials & design.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The zoning code does include minimum height requirements and restrict the types of building materials that can be used.	
49506	14	Zoning	Advocate & support city to revise 1988 statute allowing for Inclusionary Zoning	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Advocacy to change State laws is a component of the Great Housing Strategy.	
49506	14	Zoning	Already a height bonus- its not used. Instead eliminate parking requirements downtown- If development includes at least 15% affordable housing for 50-80% AML.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Currently, developers of affordable housing are not requesting parking reductions. As such, using them as an incentive would not achieve the goal of mixed income housing.	
	9	Zoning	Under the Heartside description, Why is Ionia the only target area? Infill/new construction could be done along South Division, Sheldon and Commerce, That should be represented in the description as well as the map.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The map will be reviewed and ammended as needed.	Interface to review and ammend map as needed.
49504		Zoning	Stop closing sidewalks and crosswalks. Livable cities manage to construct buildings in tighter quarters and mitigate the impact on pedestrians. Now it's a pedestrian nightmare along Michigan St and Monroe Ave.	Web	Thank you for your comment. The map will be reviewed and ammended as needed.	
		Zoning	It is unclear how the Open Space Fund Height Bonus would be administered. Has a legal opinion been provided on whether this is feasible?	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. DGRI will hold additional conversations with the Planning Department.	
		Zoning	A Mixed-Income Height Bonus is recommended to be added to the Zoning Ordinance with a Payment in Lieu option. The paragraph suggests that this fund is currently defined by the Code. Staff is unclear what fund has been uses, could be used and whether it is legally defensible.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. DGRI will hold additional conversations with the Planning Department.	
		Zoning	Grand River Overlay bonuses are recommended. Some of the recommendations are currently provided for in the Zoning Ordinance. In addition, it is unclear what document the "Grand River Edges Design Guidelines" is referring too.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment, additional language will be added to clarify what is existing and what changes are being proposed.	Interface / Stoss to add language.
		Zoning	Parking maximums are already provided for in the Zoning Ordinance. The recommendation to allow a development to waive all parking requirements without an incentive is in contrast to the recommendation being developed by the Great Housing Strategies.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. DGRI will hold additional conversations with the Planning Department.	
		Zoning	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. 13). Additional conversation with Planning Staff relative to height bonuses and overlay districts is necessary.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. DGRI will hold additional conversations with the Planning Department.	
		Zoning	TBA zoning on Bridge Street should be 5 stories max.		What does West Side ASP have for max building heights?	DGRI to reserarch and advise Interface if changes are recommended.
		Development	It seems development being proposed is concentrated on the East.		Thank you for your comment, development is proposed on both sides of the River in Downtown.	

		Development	What are we doing to focus on the outer edges of the city and not just developing downtown?	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Downtown is a primary focus for GR Forward, though it also advocates strongly for enhanced connections to citywide neighborhoods.	
		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	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Downtown is a primary focus for GR Forward, though it also advocates strongly for enhanced connections to citywide neighborhoods.	
		Parking	Concern over the conversion of West side lots to other use	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	50	Transportation	Exactly. Walk to work incentive programs by biz. Encourage corps to do something!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment	
49506	58		Agree	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment	
49506	59	Retail	Targets b/c you are building on what exists already?	Written Comment	Yes, GR Forward advocates building on the existing retail stock.	
49506	60	Retail	Target too long? Not dense... Could be better connected? Require retail/ent @ ground floor?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	61	D & I	Increase diversity of promotional materials. If you have to, make them.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. See Goal #5	
49506	61	D&I	People > Biz. People > \$. Balance commerce with spaces to build community.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment, additional language will be added to discuss the importance of people to the future of Downtown.	Interface add narrative to pg. 8.
49506	62	Energy	*Yes absolutely + and create a strategy to address utility consumption in offices re: a/c, and heat b/c that drains so much energy in summer. (Not just new buildings)	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward promotes strategies to address energy efficiency in office buildings.	
49506	62	Energy	Need to reduce greenhouse gases in our large office buildings. People can wear a f'n sweater or rock a t-shirt.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward promotes strategies to address energy efficiency in office buildings.	
49506	63	Zoning	No idling ordinance. Less than 2 min for loading/unloading only or services vehicles. Otherwise turn that shit off!!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This recommendation will be forwarded to the City of Grand Rapids for further review.	DGRI to send to Planning Dept.
49506	63	Energy	Really support 2.5 Goal	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment	
49506	64	Formatting / Language	Is city-owned synonymous with DGRI/DDA owned?	Written Comment	DGRI / DDA is not synonymous with City owned.	
49506	66	Formatting / Language	Theory of Change?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	67		1. Goal: Big (So valued) 2. Outcome: What you want to happen. 3. Strategy/Action Steps	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment	
		Formatting / Language	The recommendations for the MSU, City, Kent County Sites seem to contrast the requirements of the grant used to obtain the property.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment, the Plan shows a variety of alternatives all of which are potentially feasible following approval of the State grant.	
Dave Shaffer		Zoning	TBA zoning on Bridge Street should be 5 stories max.	1 on 1	What does West Side ASP have for max building heights?	DGRI to research and advise Interface if changes are recommended.
		Housing	Some of the barriers to housing are the affordability issue, as well as application discrimination.	Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward provides a number of recommendations to preserve and expand affordable housing options in Downtown. DGRI 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.	
		Housing	Need strategies to address missing middle housing.	Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward provides recommendations to help address the need for more "missing middle" housing.	
		Housing	How are we going to ensure a diversity of housing types?	Endless Opportunities	Thank you for your comment. There are a number of recommendations in GR Forward aimed to ensure diversity of housing types.	
		Retail	Need to continue to promote a diversity of retail options and activities to attract a diverse audience.		Thank you for your comment. The recommendations in GR Forward support this notion.	
	57	Retail	Pure retail spaces missing along South Division: -Local Epicurean 111 South Division -Vertigo Records 121 South Division -Woosah Outfitters 131 South Division If galleries are counted as retail (which they should be) also add: -Craft House 40 South Division -Heartside Gallery 48 South Division -(106) Gallery 106 South Division There are 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. This additional spaces will be added.	
	59	Zoning	Why is library a 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. Park shown as 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.	
		D & I	Need to educate realtors/brokers re: downtown living as a viable option	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The realtor community was engaged during GR Forward and this was an item of discussion.	
		Entertainment	We need more than just clubs – but need clubs too	Email Comment	Thank you fro your comment. Additional entertainment venues, events, and retail spaces are addressed in Goals 2 and 5.	
		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.	
		Zoning	Too tall at Jefferson and Lafayette; 7 stories is not in context	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The zoning on Jefferson and Lafayette are not proposed to change through recommendations in GR Forward.	
		Zoning	Concern about up to 25 stories near Fountain Street Church	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Specific changes to zoning will be finalized after the approval of GR Forward. This concern will be forwarded to the Planning Department for consideration.	Send to Planning.
		Zoning	Height should be proportional to context; stepping up or back from adjacencies	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The importance of context and transitions is discussed in the revised plan on pg. 9. The transition to neighborhoods is memorialized in the TCC zone.	
		Zoning	Remove the 3 story minimum in TCC, we don't want to force this or create non-conformities; or make it too difficult to rehab an existing 1 story	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The 3 story minimum being prposed would only apply to new construction, and not prohibit the renovation of an existing 1 story structure.	

		Zoning	Concern about transition from CC to adjacent areas lies with the coherence with existing heights	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The importance of context and transitions is discussed in the revised plan on pg. 9. The transition to neighborhoods is critically important, which is why the TCC zone is not proposed to change in areas that it is adjacent to existing neighborhoods.	
		Zoning	Use the district character map to inform the height strategy	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be addressed in the revised plan.	Interface to add text to pg. 8-9 in Goal 2.
		Zoning	Is the bonus language text in the graphic an "up to" or "additional" not clear. We believe it is up to, but this need clarity	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be addressed in the revised plan.	Interface to clarify text on Fig. 2.11
		Historic Pres	Suggested bonuses (or requirements): Affordable/accessible/attainable/work force housing provisions; Quality of materials (are we building the next historic buildings or just disposable buildings); Use mix/minority owned.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does recommend bonuses for the inclusion of "affordable housing" in new development. It also includes discussion on the	
		Historic Pres	Need to preserve the mid-century modern buildings, esp. near St. Mary's	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Districts of historical significance are protected via there inclusion in a historic district, 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.	
		Zoning	Add language about demolition by neglect; how/can we make this a civil infraction?	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This item will be forwarded to the City for consideration.	Send to City of GR
			Lobby state to remove rental rate restrictions	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Advocacy at the State level to change housing policy is in the City's Great Housing Strategy.	
		Retail	Have strategy for affordable retail, office and maker spaces, not just housing	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. See Goal 4 for additional information on this challenge.	
		Formatting / Language	Figure 2.19 Along Seward, there is a mis-spelling and also those should say "units" and not homes. Homes implies fee simple not rental.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This change will be addressed in the revised Plan.	Interface to fix spelling error.
		Formatting / Language	Figure 2.13 Why is the business district at Jefferson/Fulton, State Street, and along Cherry missing?	Email Comment	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.	
		Formatting / Language	Change the names of GVSU and Cathedral neighborhoods. Name it for the place or character, not an entity or a building	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Fig. 2.7 is meant to describe the character of an area, not name a neighborhood.	
		Formatting / Language	All implementation sections are weak/wishy-washy	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Implementation	Implementation needs measurables, need to be SMART: specific, measureable (what are the metrics), achievable, results-oriented, time-bound	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. There are metrics identified for many strategies. Others are policies of which the metric is whether its been completed or not. It was decided that the implementation matrix should be clear and easy to use. Metrics developed through the process can be tracked by implementation partners	
		Implementation	Implementation should some how imbue the City or the "agents" with a culture of innovation, the design thinking approach, we need to encourage failure, testing, prototyping, etc.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Land Trust	Community land trust concept...explain more, should also be used for office and maker uses not just housing	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional language will be added to the narrative in the revised draft.	Added in 2.3 - Land trusts can be used for both residential and commercial uses and require extensive up front planning and discussion to ensure they are the right tool for a given City.
		Implementation	Add DGRI operational methods for diversity and inclusion	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. See revised draft.	
		Retail	How are we addressing the retail services gap? Incentives?	Email Comment	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 addition retail investment (see Goal 2.4).	
		Housing	DGRI is 3rd largest landowner, why aren't there policies about land disposition to include affordable living/working/making/diverse ownership/storefront fee simple, etc.?	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. DGRI does not own land Downtown, however, the DDA does (not the 3rd largest however). There is a discussion about disposition of these assets under the implementation approach of Goal #2 on pg. 18 and pg. 65. Further, realignment of incentive programs, and development agreements, will help to implement the recommendations of GR Forward.	
		Economic Development	Provide incentives for business retention	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This item will be forwarded to the City for consideration.	Send to Economic Development.
		Housing	Re-instate City incentives for home ownership or rental within 1/4 to 1/2 radius of DT	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This item will be forwarded to the City for consideration.	Send to Economic Development.
		Economic Development	Recruitment priorities should not be regional chains, need to focus on locally-owned and not car-heavy uses; have true form-based code	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The importance of the local economy and the support of local businesses is discussed throughout Goal #4.	
		Urban Design	Nothing about urban design in this entire chapter; add strategy to hire urban designer to review site plans	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The importance of quality design, particularly around public access to River sites, ground floor retail, street activation, and public spaces is addressed in Goals #1, #2, #3, and #5 respectively.	
		Zoning	Amend zoning ordinance to reduce allowable min. dwelling size; allow co-housing by amending definitions of families	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Zoning code amendments to allow micro-units is a recommendation in GR Forward.	
		Food	DT Market is pushing out farmers, need better model for fresh foods	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional access to fresh food is discussed in section 2.2 (pg. 50).	
		Food	Mobile market/pop-up is better than a CSA, must have evening hours. Most people work, especially the vulnerable populations	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional access to fresh food is discussed in section 2.2 (pg. 50).	

	33	Development	Figure 2.19. Add Summer Street name, also, the intersection of Summer and Bridge is really important based on this concept, but it is not shown as such. What is happening down Summer as you approach that green space? Also, what is happening at Pearl and Summer. This connection from Pearl to the Westside needs to be addressed. How are we knitting this area into the main gateway from 131 into the City? Also, this Figure should be oriented with North up.	Email Comment	Interface to add Summer Ave label and review orientation / additional clarification (note Pearl street enhancements on the westside under 131 are going to begin Spring '16).	Bike lanes, pedestrian improvements, US 131 underpass improvements and DASH service are proposed for Pearl / Lake Michigan to help address the connection to the West Side. The image orientation is intended to highlight Bridge Avenue. Labeling is addressed.
	24-25	Formatting / Language	The photos here should be numbered and then the numbers added to the map on the following page.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This formatting will be reviewed and addressed if necessary.	
	30	Connections	Figure 2.27...I still think Oakes is a better connection from Ionia to the River. Weston is cut off from the grid thanks to Van Andel. You don't cross under 131 and there is a direct visual connection from the entertainment district to our river.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. All East-West streets that meet that terminate at the River are viewed as important neighborhood connections. In the concept shown on pg. 30, there is a potential park shown on this private development site, that would be best accessed off Weston.	
	32	Formatting / Language	The "today" images should be prior to the proposed. That is how people think. Orient them to existing conditions and then show proposed.	Email Comment	This is how each goal area chapter is formatted: the "Why this matters" section precedes recommendations. Sometimes it made more sense to include existing conditions analysis within the narrative of recommendations to help contextualize the discussion.	
	39	Connections	Figure 2.38. Isn't the old rail line along Bond supposed to be a green connection, and have a connection into MSU? There is a tunnel under 196 that can be utilized.	Email Comment	Figure 2.38 shows potential development in Monroe North and the proposed linear park on Ionia. The connection from Bond to MSU is still under consideration, and is a project identified in a grant application from the City to the EDA. This project is explored in detail in the Michigan Street Corridor Plan and supported by GR Forward.	
	43	Historic Pres	Preservation....we will lose buildings not in District. We will also lose buildings in District to demolition by neglect. We need an end to this. We cannot allow neglect. Can we incentivize or require, at a minimum, the preservation of the storefront facades? Build new behind and above the old storefront? This is common in Seattle and helps to achieve the desired pedestrian and human scale at the street wall.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comments. GR Forward recommends updating the existing historic preservation guidelines to ensure protection of existing buildings and guidance for new construction.	
	46	Formatting / Language	Heritage Hill quote is a repeat from an earlier page.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be addressed in the revised plan.	Interface to add new quote or remove.
	49	Signage	Add two strategies...bilingual materials and also, create an email notification system that auto sends folks notices of city stuff that can be customized for each person depending on the boxes they check. Example: I check historic preservation, Eastown, Parks...and the agendas for any committee or meeting have these tags. If an item is tagged for Eastown, I will automatically be emailed that notice.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised plan added a strategy related to bilingual signs. Customizable notification systems exist through CRM programs. DGRI currently utilizes a CRM program.	Addressed - Added to Goal 5, "Develop streetscape designs to upgrade key streets." Do we need to add this to the implementation matrix?
	59	Development	Figure 2.46 I would think that Bridge and Summer would be an Active Commercial Corridor	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Bridge Street is shown as a Targeted Retail Corridor, which means it is required to have ground floor retail. Summer was not identified at this time because the idea is to concentrate retail in areas that it already exists, rather than have it spread around Downtown.	
	67	Implementation	How do we encourage the redevelopment of State Street, seems too general of an implement step?	Email Comment	An ASP was recently completed for State Street. The recommendations with GR Forward consistent with the recommendations in the ASP, and are viewed as helping revitalize the area.	
	67	Historic Pres	Re: Historic Pres, what about conservation easements or preservation easements as implementation steps	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward recommends updating the Historic Preservation Guidelines for Heartside, and creating a list of potential preservation financing options and incentives. Conservation / preservation easements will be a part of that conversation.	
	67	Zoning	What about amending the ZO to allow micro units, group housing, and smaller unit sizes	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward advocates for new policies allowing micro units in Downtown.	
	68	Implementation	Can we add The Rapid and GRPS to the Open Data policy?	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be added to the revised plan.	
	68	Implementation	Can we have DGRI have a storefront incubator at their office?	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. DGRI is always looking for creative ways to activate its storefront. An incubator space will be considered as a part of future efforts.	Send to Alliance for Vibrancy.
	68	Housing	Can DGRI require in a development agreement that any of their surface lots they sell have a certain percent of affordable units?	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. DGRI does not own land Downtown, however, the DDA does. There is a discussion about disposition of these assets under the implementation approach of Goal #2 on pg. 18 and pg. 65. Further, realignment of incentive programs, and development agreements, will help to implement the recommendations of GR Forward.	
	68	Food	I'm not sure why we are working with residents to explore the option of tapping into a CSA? These implementation steps for fresh food need more thought, they need to address the systemic challenges.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Pg. 50 of Goal #2 discussed CSAs and other programs to help provide additional fresh food options for Downtown residents.	
		Housing	Make sure 40%, 60% and 80% income restricted housing is always available possibly have 120%.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Section 2.3 discusses in depth the importance of affordable housing.	
		Retail	ENCOURAGE private investment in RETAIL businesses, including: A) a Hallmark card shop is essential. Everyone buys cards. B) a bookstore. Bring back Schulers! C) an upscale jewelry store. Bring back Herkners! D) a specialty toy store. E) an outdoors/sports clothing and supply store. Add these to your Draft Recommendation on p 69.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The importance of retail, and the attraction of additional investment Downtown is discussed throughout Goal #2.	
		Retail	FIND AN INVESTOR to add a non-denominational Sunday (or daily) brunch restaurant that features all styles of gospel music. This idea is inspired by the Gospel Brunch of Chicago's House of Blues in the Marina Towers on the Chicago River. Let's provide the next Al Green (a national arts honoree at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC who was raised in GR and attended South High School) with a stage we can all enjoy and say "we heard him before he hit the big time." Logic suggests that this would go over well in light of all the church-related colleges in the area. Perhaps this would fit in the description of South Division Ave as a small business corridor on p 42 of your Draft Recommendations. Perhaps Rev Sapp and others in the area with musical talents and experience could help make this a reality. Perhaps folks at the GRCC Culinary Arts Program or others in the restaurant industry could join them to pull it off.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional strategies to provide a diversity of entertainment options is provided in the Vision chapter of the revised plan, as well as in Goal #5.	

	62	Energy	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	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 areas delineated as "Downtown Height Overlay "B" or the "unlimited maximum height overlay" to follow Fulton on the south starting from Ottawa and extending east to Division and then north until it reaches the current proposed delineation. Our suggestion would reduce the transition distance from six city block to four; but still allowing sufficient distance to effect transitions to the intermediate overlay and traditional city center zone before transitioning to the existing single-family residential area to the east; unlike the area along I-96 and Michigan Avenue that extend to Lafayette with a one block transition from "Downtown Height Overlay (B) to existing neighborhoods. The boundary as we have delineated is the perceptual 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 DGRI 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.	DGRI / Planning to Follow Up with Hinman.
49503		Arts & Culture	Attract what type of people we need (professionals etc.)	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	56	Retail	2.4 Concentrate Retail- <u>Prioritize Locally Owned</u>	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The importance of the local economy and the support of local businesses is discussed throughout Goal #4.	
	13	Formatting	P13- What is orange hased (towards the N). P16- 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 ammend map as needed.
	21	Formatting	P-21- 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 ammend map as needed.
	23	Formatting	P23- It seems like some maps change orientation from Top=N to Top=S. Just keep it the same. As well 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 ammend map as needed.
		D&I	Love the idea of affordable housing & min space. Include grocery store & movie theatre in new downtown for those w/o cars.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	54	Idea	Diversify Type of Housing Available Downtown. Incentives to build live/work sapces 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	I 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.	
		D & I	Want to see a truly multicultural city; wants downtown to help develop/cultivate diversity in city	NAACP Meeting	Thank you fro your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.	
		D & I	Need diverse events and programming	NAACP Meeting	Thank you fro 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 fro your comment. See the revised document Preamble and Equity Driven Growth sections.	
		D & I	Where/What are requirements for minority contractors	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Discussons 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 fro 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 fro 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, incentivize zero waste practices at downtown events and finally, incentivize zero waste infrastructure, planning and implementation in all downtown buildings - residential and commercial. Add this as an initial action step on page 68.	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment.	

GOAL #3: Implement a 21st Century Mobility Strategy

ZIP CODE	PAGE #	CATEGORY	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	RESPONSE	ACTION
49512	N/A	Highway	Realizing this has been stated, again for the record, I believe this G.R. Forward effort is missing one important component to understand, evaluate and improve upon. The adjacent highways, especially 131. These affect every single Goal intended, and need to be a part of the Forward movement for this city. To ignore, and not even discuss their impact is ignoring the Elephant in the room. Solving these conflicts of noise, space, visual could very well create a much better and greater usefulness of G.R. Downtown	Web	Thank you for your comment. Goal #3 includes a recommendation to further study US 131 and I 196 in Downtown.	
49503		Transit	Extend hours on the Rapid, especially Saturday and Sunday	Web	Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration	DGRI to send to the Rapid
49516		Idea	This seems good	Web	Thank you for your comment.	
		Transit	Is there any monorail development being considered as secondary development of public transit?	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. A monorail is not proposed. however the Rapid has conducted a study of street car in Downtown and this will be included in the revised GR Forward Plan.	DGRI to send Interface street car map for inclusion in Plan.
		Transit	What other types of public transit development are we doing besides BRT-any light rail or metro?	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. A monorail is not proposed. however the Rapid has conducted a study of street car in Downtown and this will be included in the revised GR Forward Plan.	
		Highway	Is Wealthy and US 131 being studied?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	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.	
		Highway	rebuilding this interchange and working with MDOT on options	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	GVMC is exploring the Ottawa and Ionia interchanges in Downtown.	
		Highway	explore various options related to interchange	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	GVMC is exploring the Ottawa and Ionia interchanges in Downtown.	
		Economics	Concern over city, state, and Federal incentives are actually providing developers with a profit	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Incentives are designed to support development and encourage growth in the City. Agencies such as MEDC evaluate rates of return to ensure incentives are appropriately scaled.	
		Economics	can/are the developers helping to pay for other items/improvements	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. In some instances, developers are required to pay for offsite improvements, such as sidewalk improvements.	
		Transit	Is State street included in the plan?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The State Street ASP was consulted to insure consistency.	
		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	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Parking is a complex issue, that involves different perspectives and experiences.	
		Parking	Real time information for parking is desirable	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward recommends utilizing technology to better utilize existing assets, including parking supply.	
		Parking	Make more parking information available	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward recommends utilizing technology to better utilize existing assets, including parking supply.	
		Parking	both private and public orgs should make more info available about parking and payment options	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward recommends utilizing technology to better utilize existing assets, including parking supply.	
		Parking	Concern about new development and parking requirements	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	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.	
		Parking	Concern about having no min or max parking requirements	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward recommends only removing the minimum from parking in Downtown.	
		Transit	Can the DASH go to the Bridge St grocer?	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	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 Dutthler Grocers on Bridge Street.	
		Transit	How about a trolley and other means of transit to get around downtown?	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward recommends repurposing the DASH to serve as circulator in Downtown, much the way a trolley would operate.	
		Technology	Don't assume everyone has and will use smartphones for mobility related options	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Technology is only one piece of the marketing / information strategy. Traditional signage will accompany transportation communications.	
		Transit	If you want to get people working, you need to provide them a way to get to work	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Goal #4 provides strategies for job growth and economic development.	
		Transit	buses aren't frequent enough	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration	DGRI to send to the Rapid
		Transit	Consider scooters, motorcycles, and moped another form of transportation: Include reference to these in the Plan.	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward embraces all forms of transportation in Downtown. Additional language will be added.	Interface to add language.
		Transit	Can the Rapid run more frequently?	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration	DGRI to send to the Rapid
		Transit	Would prefer not to own a car if mass transit was more robust and ran more frequently	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The recommendations in GR Forward aim to provide a variety of transportation options to allow choice in mobility.	
		Transit	Consider commuter lots to serve mass transit	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	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.	
		Parking	Scooter parking! Idea for the Rapid: Run smaller buses at night but more frequently and results in less waste during "low" times	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Scooter parking is currently provided in many Downtown parking ramps. Additional parking needs will be considered by the City.	Send to Parking Services.
		Parking	We would eat downtown more if there was easy in-out restaurants and parking. We now eat at places where we can park	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Additional parking is proposed in areas of need through GR Forward. See pg. 21 of Chapter 3.	
		Parking	Angled parking on Ionia?	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN	Thank you for your comment. Angled parking opportunities will be evaluated through implementations and infrastructure improvements on a case by case basis.	
		Cycling	3.3: Connecting bike pathways downtown will require safe, secure bike parking		Thank you for your comment. The need for additional bike parking will be monitored as part more biking occurs.	

		Technology	3.4: A dynamic tech-based parking app would help alleviate some problems		Thank you for your comment. GR Forward recommends utilizing technology to better utilize existing assets, including parking supply.	
		Transit	How do bus stops work on one-way streets when you have only one lane after adding a bike lane? Do they block traffic?	DAKC	Thank you for your comment. The interaction of bike lanes, transit, and automobile traffic will be considered prior to any infrastructure investments.	
		Transit	How about a few "Go!Bus" (paratransit) drop off/pick up spaces? Or maybe bus pull out lanes that Go!Bus can use? Without this, downtown can be less accessible for people with disabilities.	DAKC	Thank you for your comment. Language recommending the addition of "Go!Bus" stops will be added.	Interface to add language.
49506	3	Idea	How about just be awesome& you don't need to market? Just good, strategic networks...	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. In addition to continuing to improve Downtown, we believe marketing is important to celebrate our success and tell the story of Downtown Grand Rapids.	
49506	4	Economics	Around 18% of Budget	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. It is unclear what this refers to.	
49506	5	Transit	The narrative in this section is strong, bold, and compelling. You can sense the support for multi-modal (non-car) transit. (Do the same w/ Housing & Inclusion Sections.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional language is going to be included in the Introduction and Goal #2. See revised draft.	
49506	6	Pedestrian	"Stress Free"- Interesting... but pedestrians 1st in all decision making... What about putting people 1st in the context of development?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Pedestrian scaled design is an important piece of designing cities for people, and a notion supported by GR Forward.	
49506	7	Idea	Develop surface parking lots. Agree with all these proposals. Pedestrians are PEOPLE.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	7	Formatting / Language	"Creating a attitude of respect..." WOW. Awesome! Use this in section 2 too.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional language is going to be included in the Introduction and Goal #2. See revised draft.	
49506	8	Formatting / Language	(References middle column) Use this language w/ housing that is focused on people. Prioritize their community.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional language is going to be included in the Introduction and Goal #2. See revised draft.	
49506	9	Cycling	Great! Bike lane with protected space on Market South of Wealthy	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Opportunities to expand the bicycle network with protected infrastructure throughout Downtown are recommended in GR Forward.	
49506	10	Cycling	Love separated bike lane. YES. "Bold Design Element"- Fulton 10' Driving Lane.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Opportunities to expand the bicycle network with protected infrastructure throughout Downtown are recommended in GR Forward.	
49506	11	Pedestrian	"Serve all users" - Yes. Do not take bike lanes off Division. Keep all bike lanes connected. Children & Elderly as the muse for the crosswalk & pedestrian walkways. Division- city take back control & remove 131 business designation.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The City of Grand Rapids is in continuous discussions with MDOT regarding local control of City streets.	
49506	12	Pedestrian	10' Driving lanes. 12' Sidewalks. Referrign to 2.3 Goal-YES!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Final design of improvements to City streets will be done in partnership with the City of Grand Rapids Engineering Department as well as community stakeholders.	
49506	13	Pedestrian	Creative Crosswalks are a wonderful idea as they can help create a sense of community w/in a community.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Enhancement to the public realm, including pedestrian enhancements to crosswalks are an important recommendation in Goal #3.	
49506	13	Pedestrian	Cherry St. Major alt. to Fulton St as a bike/walk connector.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. It is unclear what this refers to.	
49506	14	Idea	(Refers to all 3 sections)- Yes!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	16	Parking	Ban all surface parking lots in downtown (city + all)	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. New surface parking lots are currently allowed only as a temporary use in Downtown.	
49506	18	Formatting / Language	(Refers to bar graph) What does this mean?	Written Comment	The bar graph on pg. 18 is meant to illustrate the total amount of parking spaces in Downtown vs the utilization of those spaces.	
49506	32	Transit	(Refers to first section) & State to Cherry NEED connector & State to Madison Connector.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Enhanced connections to Downtown from surrounding neighborhoods is a recommendation of GR Forward.	
49506	32	Transit	(Refers to second section) Need Valley-Lake Michigan Drive connector. Need 2 lane curbed cycle track on Pearl over river.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The location of the E-W bike lane connector is to be determined.	
49506	36	Idea	Love this. Make sure this happens.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	42	Transit	Need trolley around downtown. Reinvigorate from our history.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The Rapid has conducted a study of street car 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.	
49506	45	Transit	Need trolley cars!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The Rapid has conducted a study of street car 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.	
		Transit	Keeping Downtown accessible to us elderly who can't ride bikes and buses are not practical. Parking is important. We are used to free parking lik in the 60's and 70's when we came downtown all the time. We used to drive downtown a lot. Now we go to the E. Beltline because it is easier.	Library	Thank you for your comment. Additional parking supply is proposed for Downtown as growth continues.	
		Transit	How does the City's Vital Streets plan integrate with goal 3: mobility	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The City's Vital Streets Plan is intended to compliment GR Forward and carry a balanced street network throughout the City.	
		Highway	Continue to give consideration to bringing US-131 down to grade	SWAN/West Grand/JBAN Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Goal #3 includes a recommendation to further study US 131 and I 196 in Downtown.	
	14	Zoning	The zoning ordinance currently requires parking landscaping and screening. Although the City can encourage private property owners to upgrade, the State's Zoning Enabling legislation recognizes non-conforming structures and uses and effectively makes it illegal to require any type of amortization schedule. This section should be modified accordingly.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. DGRI looks forward to continuing conversations with the Planning Department to finalize language for zoning and ordinance changes.	
		Zoning	It is unclear how the City can "more actively enforce the 'ground floor active use' requirement" relative to new parking structures. Section 5.9.23 of the Zoning. Ordinance currently requires all parking structures to have an active uses that is a minimum depth of 30 feet and a minimum width not less than 75% of the building frontage on the primary street lot line. This section was amended in 2014, increasing the width requirement from 50% to 75%.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. DGRI looks forward to continuing conversations with the Planning Department to finalize language for zoning and ordinance changes.	

		Pedestrian	Concern for high speed drivers where ped. Travel is common. Pedestrian over cars addressed. 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 comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration	
		Parking	Why are parking charges changing? How will we increase parking?	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. Parking rates to change to balance system utilization. Rates in some areas are proposed to decrease to help incentivize use.	
		Highway	Recommend closure of the Pearl exit, also consider road diet along Mt. Vernon to better create the plaza/housing plan	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The recommendation to close the Pearl exit will be forwarded to MDOT.	DGRI to send to MDOT.
		Pedestrian	Need implementation step about pedestrian connections from the west side to DT	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This is addressed in Goal 1 under "Connections", with a special emphasis on Bridge St. Also, new Laker Line and DASH routes will improve transit access.	
		River Access	Family access to the river at Fulton and Market is essential, this is the slowest part of the river and therefore the best for kids/families	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The "Green Living Room" design is particularly focused on families, as it will provide a large, protected open space surrounded by retail.	
		Formatting / Language	Throughout the plan the reference to 131 is inconsistent with US or US131 or US-131	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be corrected in the next draft.	Interface to create uniform name designation.
	10	Formatting / Language	Figure 3.3 Needs a street label	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be corrected in the next draft.	
	10-11	Formatting / Language	Cross sections on these pages need street labels. What street is this?	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be corrected in the next draft.	Interface to add language.
	13	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.	
	15	Formatting / Language	Figure 3.5, there is nothing on here for Monroe North. Add designations to it. Also, the graphic is too small.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will identify additional opportunities in Monroe North.	Added an "intersection geometry changes" dot to the intersection of Monroe North/ Trowbridge. This is close to a DASH stop. Trowbridge at Mason has large curb radii. onreo/Mason appears to have been recently upgraded. Extended curbs, crosswalks, etc. Monroe/Coldbrook is a challenging intersection, but already has a large ped refuge island and high-visibility crosswalks. Also scaled up street labels
	16-17	Parking	Page 17, which parking lots and garages should be the priority? Names them....and then only name the ones that are on the streets we have identified as Active or Retail streets in previous chapters.	Email Comment	Thank you for you comment. The proposed zoning requirements would apply only to newly constructed ramps. The permit and incentive for liner 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.	
	22	Loading Zones	We need to include some analysis/project/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, can we prevent right on red? AND, we need a pilot program to change all traffic lights in the DT core to flashing red to slowly move away from the signalized intersections. Traffic can get to 40 MPH because we have timed the lights through Ottawa and is it not pedestrian friendly.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. These are operational observations and will be forwarded to Parking Services and Traffic Safety.	DGRI to forward.
	24	DASH	DASH. Figure 3.12, we need to have a point on this map where the two lines intersect. We need DASH interlining with other Rapid Route and the two DASH circulators. They need to interline at the same station, not a block or two away. Also, we need to allow bikes on DASH.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. As proposed, there is a transfer point for both DASH routes and the Silver Line at Monroe and Pearl. Customers will walk up tois block for this transfer.	
	30	GATEWAY	Add Pearl to the gateway streets list	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be reflected in the revised draft.	Interface to add.
	30	Formatting / Language	What about Ottawa in North Monroe? Again, North Monroe is sort of left out of this chapter.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Ottawa is identified as a street prime for "humanizing" elements, extending into Monroe North. See Fig 3.16.	
		Circulation	WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE ONE WAYS TO TWO WAYS IN DT AND INTO HERITAGE HILL	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Whereever possible, two-way conversions are being explored.	
	7	Pedestrian	Page 7 calls for more signalized 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. These are operational observations to Traffic Safety. Crosswalk times are adjustable.	
	31	Formatting / Language	Figures 3.16 and 3.17 The colors on these figures all look similar. Hard to read.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be corrected in the next draft.	Interface to address.
	35	Crosswalks	In Europe, we move the cross walk away from the corners...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 unsafe.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Pedestrian safety at intersections is discussed at length in Goal #3. See pg. 7 - 9 and 13. Further, initial action step for 3.1 is Establish a Department standard to upgrade crosswalks to international style crosswalks as a part of any street resurfacing or improvement project in Downtown.	
	35	Formatting / Language	Figure 3.19, reorient this may to have north up	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be reflected in the revised draft.	Interface to add N arrows.
	46	Implementation	FULTON STREET NEEDS TO BE PRIORITY 1 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 #5. The prioritization of implementation will be identified in partnership with the City.	
	47	Implementation	Open Streets, I think Granville Ave is a good candidate, too.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be reflected in the revised draft.	Interface to add Grandville to text.
		Implementation	ALL TH E TIMELINE NEED TO BE SHORTENED IN THIS SECTION	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.	
	26	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.	

		Transit	UPGRADE mass transit systems to meet the practices of other regional Great Lakes cities.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration	DGRI to send to the Rapid
		Transit	A) ADD service to the 5/3 Ball Park and Meijer Gardens. One can find mass transit to games at Milwaukee's Miller Ballpark, 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.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration	DGRI to send to the Rapid
		Transit	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?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration	DGRI to send to the Rapid
		Transit	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 stressed, under the influence of drink or drugs and inattentive to the road and driving responsibilities. That is one reason why service is provided - AND in some places (including Chicago) AT NO COST to the rider on Christmas and New Year's Eves. 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.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This comment will be sent to the Rapid for further consideration	DGRI to send to the Rapid
		Parking	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.	Written Comment	This is an interesting, albeit expensive idea. It will be sent to Parking Services for their consideration.	DGRI to send to Parking Services.
		Transit	IMPLEMENT your recommendation 3.4 (p 51 of your draft) to "Use new technology to improve conditions for transit riders. Work with DGRI and businesses to install monitors/screens in the public right of way and in businesses showing real time Rapid/Dash schedule info." This alone will add much value to the Rapid experience.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		Transit	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 spaces. Parking does, 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.	Written Comment	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.	
		Transit	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 that will provide a more comprehensive, big-picture analysis would be premature.	Chamber of Commerce Memo	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.	
38		Transit	Speed Sensitive Rds. Monroe Center, Ionia, Parts of Monroe? Highly monitored? People first, cars second campaign.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The prioritization of pedestrians in Downtown mobility is the cornerstone of Goal #3.	
33		Cycling	P-33 I'm hoping you're banning cars or doing something to make the "sidewalk" on 6th Street bridge not so scary for bikes.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward does not propose prohibiting cars in any location; however, it does promote pedestrian and bicycling enhancements throughout Downtown.	
		Formatting / Language	You can hardly read wording on streets on the page. Revert to black type.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The formatting will be reviewed throughout the document for the revised draft.	

GOAL #4: Expand Job Opportunities and Ensure Continued Vitality of the Local Economy

ZIP CODE	PAGE #	CATEGORY	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	RESPONSE	
49504		Idea	Agree. I'm so amazed at how few people are downtown on the weekends.	Web	Thank you for your comment.	
49516		Implementation	Doesn't do enough to address gaps in education and skills	Web	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	
		Infrastructure	Is something in the works concerning Internet speeds?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The Right Place, City, and DGRI are exploring opportunities to expand communications systems.	
49506	3	Implementation	This Section is lame. No real strategies, policy recommendations. Need to either do something real or get rid of it all together. Ask the community for ideas.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	
49506	3	D & I	CBA's; Minority contractors & mentorships w/ longstanding developers. Bonuses!!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	4	D & I	Diversity?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional information on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
49506	6	D & I	What does inclusion mean? Inclusion= skills training & jobs? WTF? Horrible Assumption!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	
49506	7	Language	Downtown as a "product"? SCARY. Need to reframe.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	
49506	8	Economics	Need Low-Cost space for biz incubation, growth & support. Yes.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	9	Economics	What about Social Innovation? Entrepreneurship. Partnerships.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. It is unclear what this refers to.	
49506	10	Economics	What about re: shoring/sourcing? Manufacturing?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	
49506	11	Idea	Production & Development & Space Modernization Entity. Good.	Written Comment	Thank you for comment.	
49506	14	Idea	Agree!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	20	Idea	Internship, career entry models.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward includes recommendations to support and expand internship opportunities Downtown.	
49506	23	Formatting	F'n Lists?! No. No No.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	
49506	24	Formatting	Glad this objective is here. Let's make it more robust, or get rid of it.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	24	D & I	>address systemic barriers, not individuals overcoming implicit bias....	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	
49506	24	Formatting	Leadership team? Not a goal	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The Leadership Team is seen as an arm	
49506	25	D & I	Biz license app.- Yes.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
49506	25	Implementation	(Refers to implementation approach section) Lacks depth & teeth.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	
		Language	The language at the beginning of the section, immediately ostracizes a huge portion of the population by using that specific example to set the stage. "expand the belief that GR has a place for" young entrepreneurs should be a belief that we are focusing on building for multiple generations and not just those business owners who call themselves entrepreneurs.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	
	11	Formatting	Page 11 extra space between nothing. ____ A production, maybe this is just because the text is justified in this paragraph but i find it to be awkward.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be fixed in the final draft.	Interface to address typo.
	20	D & I	Page 20 include promotion of programs that offer shared spaces alongside internship programs to college age grads/entrepreneurs will help with retention. I'm surprised to not see any mention of the collaborative kitchen space at the Market used as an example and resource.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	
		D & I	Also I 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.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	DGRI to add language related to the GR Jobs initiative.
	22	Formatting	Richard Florida citation in paragraph is awkward	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The formatting / reference will be addressed in the final version of the plan.	Interface to remove reference to City Lab article.
	56	Formatting	In the "decision should be capitalized	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The formatting / reference will be addressed in the final version of the plan.	Interface to capitalize.
49506	24	D&I	4.4 Promote Inclusion and Equal Participation in the Local Economy _____ Recommendation 1- WMEAC recommends adding an initial action step under the recommendation "Formalize 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 installation/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 26, 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 6.2 "Build partnerships with Grand Rapids Institutions to develop a locally-rooted workforce."	WMEAC Memo	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for clarified goals and additional narrative.	DGRI to add language related to the GR Jobs initiative.
		Formatting/Language	Please provide additional clarity on the type of uses/businesses included in "artisanal manufacturing".	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. The use table will be moved from the appendix to this chapter.	Interface to add use table.
		Zoning	Eliminating the ability to provide a loading bay in the downtown district so to control land use is not the most appropriate way of controlling the use of land. The Zoning Ordinance currently classifies uses in the "transportation/distribution/logistics" field as a special land use where loading, truck routes and compatibility with the district and existing businesses is considered. In addition, commonly found uses in the downtown, such as restaurants and offices, also utilize loading bays.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. DGRI looks forward to continued conversations with the Planning Department on this issue.	

49503	251	Economics	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 members have 500 employees or more. 17% of member companies are "large" companies. 36 of members have 50 employees or less. 56% of member employers are "small" employers. Conversations for HWM were started by the CIO Council in 2007. To sit at that 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 5 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 2013, HWM restructured membership pricing to make it more affordable for small business. In 2013, the lowest membership tier was \$1,000 for 99 employees or less. Now it is as little as \$250 for companies with 10 employees or less. 2.) Also in 2013, 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. 4.) 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.	Interface to amend document to describe services provided by HWM as saying "businesses of all sizes" not only "large businesses".
49503	237	Implementation	"For the near term Grand Rapids will recruiting form other outside to fill key roles." According to W.E. Upjohn Institute, 33% of our workforce needs to come from outside of West Michigan by year 2025 if the region is to keep up with projected demand. If West Michigan continues to grow, that percentage will need to increase so we have a pipeline of future talent for long-term needs.	Online Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional language will be added clarifying the importance of attracting talent.	Interface to add language.
	249	Economics	All of the issues in Fig 4.11 are things Hello West Michigan addresses through their work with candidates. When a candidate drops a resume in the HWM candidate database, the Executive Director reaches out to each candidate personally via phone. Through personal conversation, HWM helps address candidates' concerns about relocation, and potential perceived "challenges" about West Michigan. HWM combats concerns like "must be on coast for IT," "not cutting edge," "lack of city amenities," "no jobs," "employment for trailing significant others," "concerns about educational/school system," or "where to find next job." HWM helps candidates overcome these concerns by presenting the facts about the region. Candidates simply don't know what the region offers and HWM educates them. In addition to talking to candidates personally, HWM connects candidates with employers and organizations with a warm handoff, so they can speak to others about concerns or attractors of the region. Hello West Michigan has heard every objection from candidates that is stated in the GR Forward Plan. In the last 2-3 years, the prevalence of these concerns from HWM candidates has decreased because of the increase in positive publicity the region has had. However, many candidates still cite low wages, lack of diversity, and the perception of being on the coast for a successful IT career as roadblocks to potential relocation.	Online Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	249	Housing	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 wildly and many times the decision is a culmination of several factors. Things like school options, safety, parking, and cost are all various reasons. In particular, individuals from the area will push people to certain school districts based on reputation, rather than looking at the facts. Educating front liners like realtors 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.	
	251	Implementation	4.2 , pg 251: Universities aren't the only stakeholder 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. 4.2, 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.	Interface to add language.
	253	Implementation	DGRI 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.	
	255	Implementation	HWM can assist with the active engagement of college millennials because we already have established programs like West Michigan Intern Connect and Employer Internship Training Sessions. In addition, HWM has contacts with the Career Services and Alumni Offices at most of the Michigan colleges and universities. 4.4, pg 255: As previously noted, HWM has an extensive out-bound marketing campaign extolling the benefits of living and working in West Michigan.	Online Comment	Thank you for your comment. HWM will be included as an implementation partner.	Interface to add HWM to implementation matrix.
	19	Arts & Culture	With all of the wonderful things happening in West Michigan around programming, parks, and city character, it is easier to combat the barriers (stated in fig 4.11) people have about relocating. Anything that adds to the region's vibrancy is something HWM will promote or talk about with candidates.	Thank	Thank you for your comment. HWM will be included as an implementation partner.	Interface to add HWM to implementation matrix.
		Local Business	Micro-enterprise opportunities; incubate new small/local businesses; draw people to the river with business location	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. Language will be added about opportunities to support micro-enterprises	Interface to add language.
		Local Business	Locally owned businesses vs big named businesses: who decides? Use what we have locally to be affordable for locals; still ne	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. The composition of retail in Downtown is determined by property owners aspirations for their spaces.	
		Retail Space	Who will decide what businesses are placed where? They need to attract the locals and fit the demographic	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. The composition of retail in Downtown is determined by property owners aspirations for their spaces.	
		Retail Space	Add retail space by DeVos Hall and City Hall empty space.	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. See Goal #5 and Goal #2 for additional information on public space and retail activation.	
		Economic Development	Public Sector - City / County should not be using tax dollars to acquire buildings to hold for economic development	1 on 1	Further articulate in Space Modernization Entity section (page 11) that this should not involve a government-led effort or taxpayer dollars	Interface to revise text & implementation steps, remove City as source of funds, add private sector
		Economic Development	We shouldn't be promoting "green" companies just because they are green		Does this even appear in document anywhere?	

		Economic Development - minority-owned businesses	Promote the use of minority-owned contracting	1 on 1	Suggest modifying DDA / MNTIFA / Brownfield Incentives to create a % tax increment rebate bonus for developers that contract with some percentage MWBE contractors	Interface to draft text paragraph & accompanying implementation strategy. DGRI and City of GR to be identified as implementation partners.
	Sonya Hughes	Economic Development - Minority-owned businesses	Add more detail about supporting and recruiting minority owned business in Downtown	1 on 1	Add more text to the strategy about fostering the success of minority-owned businesses in Downtown. DGRI to serve as the convener, with partners that would include GROW, Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, GRABB, Black Chamber of Commerce, SCORE. Add implementation strategy about developing a collaborative minority-owned business strategy with aforementioned partners. Add a jazz club as an example of a potential use that is currently not represented in Downtown, but could be a target of recruitment efforts.	Interface to add language.
	Sonya Hughes	Economic Development - Diversity	The Downtown workforce is 90.1% white. Add a strategy about the need to compel employers to recognize the benefits of hiring a diverse workforce.	1 on 1	Add more text about the statistics (DGRI to provide Interface), and add outreach strategy driven by City's office of diversity and inclusion.	DGRI to provide stats - Interface to amend Plan
		D & 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.	DGRI to provide additional language.
		Housing	We need more live/work space	Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting	Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue.	
		D & 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.	
		D & 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.	
		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.	
		D & I	Engage minority community in flex 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.	
		Economic Development	Create a certified kitchen for entrepreneurs to use		Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue.	
		D & I	It is frustrating that there are no places in Downtown that I can go and see people that look like me.		Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue.	
		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.	
		Retail Space	Need to attract an anchor tenant from one of the large local employers to Downtown	Endless Opportunities	Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue.	
		D & I	How are we going to educate existing business owners that have preconceived notions about minorities who shop in their stores.	Endless Opportunities	Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue.	
		D & 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.	
		D & I	We need to make sure these conversations about diversity, connections, etc, 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.	
		D & 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.	
		Arts & Culture	Need a night club / hang out spot for teens.	Endless Opportunities	Thank you for your comment, revised plan will provide additional insight and narrative on this issue.	
		Technology	<p>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 and sewer 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 don't plan more aggressively now and non-stop continuously into the future.</p> <p>We need Grand Rapids and especially the entire downtown, to become a "fiberhood" multi-gigabit community that truly increases business development opportunities, market accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency and transmittal speeds. While the private sector providers will meet some of the needed "new reality" broadband infrastructure, it won't be enough.</p> <p>Thus, DGRI should seriously consider how to expand its role, its investment and leadership in 21st century broadband infrastructure development throughout the entire downtown and beyond. A form of private-public collaborative for broadband infrastructure will be needed to pay for this type of necessary, competitive infrastructure to be development, maintained and continually enhanced. Broadband service quality and quantity is essential for business competitiveness and increasingly a major location factor. Doing nothing is not an option and I fear a loss in our business competitiveness relying only on the marketplace for guiding the decisions necessary for our economic development competitiveness.</p>	Right Place Email	Thank you for your comment. This language will be added to the revised GR Forward Plan	Interface to add language.
		D & I	Ban the Box initiatives/smarter sentencing Safe Task Force already addressing issue at local level à GR Forward plan should stand in solidarity		Thank you for your comment. The Preamble and Equity and Opportunity section of the revised draft will reflect this.	

		Infrastructure	<p>Connect and utilize The SOURCE as a resource and connector</p> <p>Create a new culture vs. assimilation</p> <p>The SOURCE model being replicated</p> <p>Development/planning work usually done in isolation, need to come together to support one another</p>	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The SOURCE will be added to the implementation matrix.	
		Idea	Donate buildings to business owners à sale for \$1. Create	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The development and redevelopment of property to preserve affordable office space is discussed in 4.3.	
		Idea	Engage banking, chambers of commerce re: start-up capital	NAACP Meeting	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.	
		Idea	Need to educate realtors/brokers re: downtown living as a viable option	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Demand for Downtown housing continues to rise. The strategies throughout GR Forward will help create a true neighborhood that is expected to be a highly desirable location to live. Further, through the GR Forward process, there were several meetings with realtors, including GRAR, to educate them on the plans for Downtown.	
		D & I	Need to be intentional about including diverse images in marketing materials (BRAND Rapids)	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for you comment. The revised plan will include language related to the importance of diversity in marketing materials.	
		D & I	Establish strong relationships between Downtown cultural institutions and multi-cultural neighborhood audiences.	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional infoaiton on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
	11	Economic Development	We believe the recommendation to "Create a Production Development and Space Modernization Entity" requires much more research and stakeholder engagement. With the goal of purchasing property to "fill the gap that the private sector market will not fill", we have considerable concerns over the creation of an authority to compete with expert private sector leaders who have successfully led the revitalization of our city.	Chamber of Commerce Memo	Thank you for your comment. The Production Space and Modernization fund is an idea that will require further investigation before implementation and is envisioned to be operated by a non-profit entity as opposed to an authority established by local government.	
	25	D&I	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" than it would drive any significant outcomes.	Chamber of Commerce Memo	Thank you for your comment. The inclusion module is being explored by the City of Grand Rapids as a potential opportunity to promote diversity in hiring practices. The specifics of implementation still need to be determined.	
		D&I	A strong urban core with a diverse workforce and business community is key to creating a community where everyone is welcome and where businesses thrive. The Chamber is leading the business community on the road to creating strong leaders and a more diverse and inclusive workforce. As communicated during the meeting with two Chamber talent affinity groups on Friday, October 16, there are still many questions related to vague 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 talented workforces	Chamber of Commerce Memo	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional infoaiton on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
		Housing	More affordable housing, targeted to work-class & middle families.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Please see goal 2.3 for conversation on affordable housing	
		D & I	What is DGR's strategy to get minority consumers and businesses downtown? Why Black Chamber of Commerce not engaged?	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional infoaiton on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
		D & I	Plan is great, where does African-American businesses fit in? Need real, legit businesses, not just crafts, etc.	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional infoaiton on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
		Economic Development	If all new development is focused downtown, how will that impact the city overall?	NAACP Meeting	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.	
		Economic Development	Most small businesses are in the neighborhoods. Will they be able to afford to operate downtown?	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The affordability of retail space in Downtown is discussed in Goal #4, as well as in the Equity Driven Growth section of the Vision chapter.	
		D&I	Anything to encourage more minority-owned businesses	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional infoaiton on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
		D & I	Minority-owned businesses don't want a handout	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional infoaiton on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
		D&I	Current situations is like fiefdoms à small companies don't have a chance	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional infoaiton on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
		D&I	Like ideas so far à people don't want handouts, they want opportunities	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Please see Goal #4 and the Vision of the revised draft for additional information on strategies to promote opportunities in Downtown	
		Economic Development	The money is going to come, will just be delayed Weather the storm and your patience and deliberateness will do everyone justice	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	

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

ZIP CODE	PAGE #	CATEGORY	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	RESPONSE	ACTION
		Clean and Safe	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	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comments. Will be referred to the City of Grand Rapids Parks Departments for inclusion in the the upcoming Master Planning process.	Send to Marquardt.
	5.2	Clean and Safe	More recycling and trash bins are needed. Also more public restrooms	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	Send to DGRI Alliance for Livability
	28	Clean and Safe	Recycling recepticles all around downtown. PLEASE!!!!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	Send to DGRI Alliance for Livability
	29	Clean and Safe	Yes to Graffiti artist walls. Like in Eastern Market.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	31	Clean and Safe	Compost bins. Yes.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	Send to DGRI Alliance for Livability
49516		Events	I attend few of the events other than Artptize, so much of this didn't appeal to me. Maybe another artptize like event would be good	Web	Thank you for your comment. A diversity of events helps to appeal to diverse interests.	
		Events	Like the idea of additional activities in public spaces	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		Events	More city events at neighborhood/city parks	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comments. Will be referred to the City of Grand Rapids Parks Departments for inclusion in the the upcoming Master Planning process.	Send to Marquardt.
		Events	Many people with disabilities need more assistance at events. I live alone and am likely to visit festivities on my own, but need assistance paying and taking food from the vendors. Inviting help from strangers opens to up to security risk and sends the wrong message. A disability suppor station at downtown festivals and a couple of well marked floating assistants would be very helpful.	DAKC	Thank you for your comment. This will be referred to the City of Grand Rapids Office of Special Events.	Send to OSE.
		Events	Also not sure why we aren't doing this now but events should target specific weekends and get extra points on the application if they fill programing gaps, not just broad months.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. DGRI event support incentivizes non-redundant event programming.	
	14	Formatting	Crowded on the ground view of what this design refelects.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The graphic is conceptual to illustrate opportunities on Calder Plaza.	
	8	Idea	Suggestion: 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!)	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	To be referred to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy.
49504		Land Use	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 'ignore' the river's beauty and possibilities.	Web	Thank you for your comment.	
	11	Language	The park should be called VandenBerg Plaza in all of the text, or explain why you were calling it Calder Plaza, also the Plaza is referred to as VandenBerg in other portions of the document, so be consistent with an explanation either way.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to ensure consistency in the document to say "Vanderberg / Calder Plaza"
		Open Space	How can we add more green space and access on the West? Particularly South of Fulton	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comments. Will be referred to the City of Grand Rapids Parks Departments for inclusion in the the upcoming Master Planning process.	Send to Marquardt.
	5	Open Space	If Calder Plaza was in Europe, it would be surrounded by outdoor cafes with al fresco meals 7am-2am	Creston Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. RFP for Calder Plaza redesign being released 10/19.	
49506	5	Open Space	Double green space/park land	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	5	Open Space	Double green space in downtown. Yes.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	9	Open Space	Arts/Cultural: eg. Bryant Park- Makers of local artist micro booths @ Calder Plaza in Winter, in mid-December.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. RFP for Calder Plaza redesign being released 10/19.	
	12	Open Space	Green Clader Plaza!! Can we or is restricted by Calder?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. RFP for Calder Plaza redesign being released 10/19.	
	15	Open Space	Develop the 5/3 Parking lot on Ottawa? YES. Love the skating track & hockey rink. Who will pay for this? DGRI or City? Summer- Does the Splash pad come out?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Final design of Heartside Park will be done in partnership with neighbors and stakeholders. Will forward comment to Parks Master Planning process.	Send to Marquardt.
	17	Open Space	(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?	Written Comment	Construction documents for Veteran's Park were completed and approved in 2013.	
	17	Open Space	Yes on Parklets!	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	18	Open Space	Like Switch back park idea	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	20	Open Space	Like Ionia St Linear Park.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	21	Open Space	Agree with greening Eastern portion of Sheldon St.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	23	Open Space	Love skate park & green under bridge/highway	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The figure is conceptual and envisions activation of existing infrastructure. Specific site was identified as a barrier in public process. Approach is conceptual. Implementation matrix does not recommend a skate park on the Scribner lot.	
		Open Space	My thoughts re: Heartside Park, please retain a summer play option that's active for kids. The splash park is the <u>only place like it in downtown and the ONLY downtown play ground for kids in Heartside</u> . Right now it suffers from a lack of funding to keep it clean, safe and running. I would want to see some support that people are interested in curling, is there a current interest? Has there been market research? Is it a build it and they will come scenario? What about using Heartside park to create a better location for bike polo in the summer? If Heartside park is redesigned as an active outdoor space why not use it as an event space for winter events? The outdoor event space is discussed later in the document.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Final design of Heartside Park will be done in partnership with neighbors and stakeholders. Will forward comment to Parks Master Planning process.	Send to Marquardt.
	21	Open Space	Pekich Park is not on the map on page 21	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to add Pedich Park to pg. 21.
		Open Space	The Skate Park site identified by the planning committee is not included in the GRForward plan was not discussed with the planners? Or did they veto that option?	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Final location of skate park is yet to be determined.	
49503		Retail	Drug store, grocery store chain	Web	Thank you for your comment. Goal #2 drives economic vitality to support said uses.	
-		Infrastructure	Repair the northern set of steps. Stop making excuses. Maintain the southern set of steps. You have the money. Switchback: Use the road (now closed) off the northern end near Division.	Open House	Thank you for your comment. GR Forward calls for improved connections from Belknap Hill to the River, including repairs to the stairs.	
	24	Idea	Examples?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to insert precedent images of potential gateway treatments.
	25	Environment	Tree Canopy. YES.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
	26	Idea	Solar walkways that power lights? What about?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Feasability to be explored.	Send to City of GR.
	33	Idea	LED & Solar Powered Lighting for all city/DGRI owned lights.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Feasability to be explored.	Send to City of GR.

		Language	The term Parklet as currently used, is not a park. Parks are public space. Our current parklets are privately maintained and only for customers. I think this term needs to be clarified not only in the document, but also in the way that DGRI discusses PUBLIC space. I see a conflict of interest in how we currently discuss those spaces as public assets. (while i have no problem with their use as privately maintained spaces i just think it is fairer to be clear)	Email Comment	Thank you for comment. There various forms of parklets, both public and private.	
		Arts & Culture	I'm disappointed not to see an emphasis on connecting citizens to cultural programming provided by institutions that already exists but doesn't receive DGRI funding. a great example would be GRAM on the Green.	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Both DGRI and the Go-Site at GRAM provide exhaustive calendars that feature cultural programming.	
		Idea	Pg 28 Can the Alliance for Livability be used to help identify priority sites for public art? Should that be included in the plan?	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. Edits will be made accordingly to narrative and implementation matrix.	Interface to add DGRI as an implementation partner to "Determine Priority Sites for Public Art".
	30	Implementation	Why not engage media outlets in the discussion about how crime in GR is portrayed? (I think the crime discussion takes pace around page 36)	Email Comment	Thank you for your comments. Media education is an ongoing goal for DGRI and the City.	
		Environment	The tree canopy discussion on page 5 of this goal may conflict with the work recently done by the Urban Forestry Committee. The committee recently completed a significant amendment to Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance to expressly regulate tree canopy within the City. The amendment is slated for adoption at the 09/22/15 City Commission meeting.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. This item was addressed with Planning and UFC Downtown Tree Canopy work group	DGRI to add new language.
	32	Formatting	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	Thank you for your comment. Additional narrative to be added.	Interface to add language to clarify how inactive streets contribute to negative perceptions of public safety.
	35	Implementation	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	Thank you for your comment. Additional narrative to be added.	Clarify language to speak to the impact of lighting on public safety as opposed to a promotional tool
	19	Events	With all of the wonderful things happening in West Michigan around programming, parks, and city character, it is easier to combat the barriers (stated in fig 4.11) people have about relocating. Anything that adds to the region's vibrancy is something HWM will promote or talk about with candidates.	Online	Thank you for your comment.	DGRI to follow up with HWM
	10	Open Space	Figure 5.4 needs clarity.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	Interface to remove "Tech Park" and "Boat Access".
	41	Highway	5.3 Express Downtown needs clarification	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	Remove Art Commission and "Require public art..." from Imp Matrix Planning to discuss with Tom Almonte.
49503		Heartside Park	Asset to current neighborhood it serves; how will reimagining change that?	Chamber	Thank you for your comments. Any improvements to Heartside Park will be done in partnership with the neighborhood residents, business owners, social services, etc.	
49503		Retail Space	Demand for grocery store; more people to attract development	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. The importance of downtown residents and "critical mass" is discussed in Goal #2	
49503		Public Needs	More public restrooms & drinking fountains; dog parks city-wide	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. This will be referred to the City of Grand Rapids for inclusion in the upcoming Parks Master Plan.	
49503		Safety	More eyes on street with growing population, but do we have more responders?	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. This will be sent to the City of Grand Rapids.	
Darius Quinn		Events	More marketing to communities of color is needed	1 on 1	Amend pages 8-9 too add language about marketing to diverse audiences and creating more inclusive experiences at Downtown events for communities of color. Add implementation item about building a collaborative marketing effort to promote events and other opportunities to diverse audiences. Identify City, DGRI, CAA, Experience GR as implementation partners.	Interface to add language.
Senita Lenear		Cultural Institutions	Downtown Grand Rapids should have an African-American Cultural Institution	1 on 1	Add strategy & implementation item associated with attracting an African-American Cultural Heritage Museum.	Interface to add language.
Senita Lenear		Ethnic Events	The African-American festival needs to return permanently.	1 on 1	Add strategy & implementation item associated with re-establishing and supporting important cultural heritage festivals, such as the African-American festival. City, D&I non-profits, and DGRI as implementation partners	Interface to add language.
		D & I	How do we create a diverse nightlife scene?	Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Providing additional entertainment options that appeal to a diverse audience is covered in Goals #4 and #5. It is also discussed in the Equity Driven Growth section.	
		Economic Dev	How do we create affordable event space?	Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The addition of event space in Downtown is discussed in section 5.3.	
		D & I	What is going to be done about the homeless population?	Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting	Thank you for your comment. The addition of event space in Downtown is discussed in section 5.3.	
		Idea	If you want winter activities, hold a Gus Macker tournament in January.	Endless Opportunities	Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to the DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy	Send to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy
		D & I	Information on Downtown events should be shared with the African American community.	Endless Opportunities	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional information on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
		D & I	There are not enough events that appeal to African Americans.	Endless Opportunities	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional information on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
		Clean and Safe	How are we going to ensure youth safety in Downtown?	Endless Opportunities	Thank you for your comment. Safety for everyone, including youth, is addressed in GR Forward through recommendations to expand the downtown population ("eyes" on the streets), expand beautification management, build on the success of the Downtown Ambassadors, and improved lighting on streets and public spaces. It is also covered in the acknowledgement that there need to be more events, activities and opportunities for youth in Downtown, include internships and job training.	
		D & I	How are we going to help the minority population access jobs in Downtown?	Endless Opportunities	Thank you for your comment. Please see 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).	Endless Opportunities	Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to the DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy	Send to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy
		Idea	Food Trucks at Calder or another location.	Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Programming for Calder Plaza will be determined jointly by the City and County, with input from DGRI. There is currently an RFP posted to begin the conceptual design of the Plaza.	
		D & I	Major "urban" radio station/diverse entertainment options for young professionals	Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Please see the revised draft for additional information on diversity and inclusion goals. Specifically the Preamble and Vision chapter	
		Ethnic Events	An event similar to LINC's Rock the Block (community resource fair/block party) should be held on Calder Plaza	Grand Rapids Area Black Business Meeting	Thank you for your comment. This will be sent to the DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy for consideration.	Send to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy
		Urban Design	Add HIRE AN FULL TIME CITY URBAN DESIGNER POSITION TO IMPLEMENTATION SECTION	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. The recommendations in GR Forward to hire specific positions for implementation were sent by the City. As urban designer was not one of them, it was not included. That said, this will be referred to the City for consideration.	Send to the City.
		Lighting	Add a night lighting plan to implementation to highlight our lovely buildings and infrastructure at night	Email Comment	Thank you for your comments. Decorative façade lighting is proposed as part of Goal #5.	
		Art	Designate a graffiti street space	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be added to the revised plan.	Addressed page 29 - Interest was also expressed to designate a graffiti street wall as an integral part of the Downtown arts scene.
		Skate Park	Make the changes our skate park group suggested	Email Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be added to the revised plan.	DGRI to send Interface language

		Cultural Institutions	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 ear-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.) Create a name, a logo or a slogan. Supply identifying banners, signage and lighting that create a sense of place. Market it along with the Museum Campus (GRAM, Ford Presidential Museum and VanAndel Public Museum) and the Arena District. Assist the 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.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be added to the revised plan.	Interface to add language
		Cultural Institutions	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 a free admission MUSIC SPACE for performances by area musicians or music students in a wide variety of music genres: celtic, bluegrass, folk, jazz, latin, Americana, etc. The idea is to promote live music (inspired in part by New Orleans' Preservation Hall). Funding for a test period is suggested as that suggested for the pop-up museum. 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.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be added to the revised plan.	Interface to add language
		Cultural Institutions	INSTALL a giant screen videoboard in Heardside 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. Uses scenes from Portland ORE, 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: in 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 shorelines and riverbanks and images of Maya Lin's Eclipse. Add short poems and axioms on the subject of water. D) GRAND RAPIDS: AS THE COLLEGE TOWN IT IS. 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 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, ICCF, Habitat for Humanity), volunteers and others who make it happen. F) COMMUNITY EVENTS. Feature video of Laughfest events, the Riverbank 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.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. There is room to explore these ideas as conversations about public art further progress	
		Parks and Open Space	ADD as much GREEN in trees, shrubs, greenery and plants as you possibly can to all the cement and asphalt of the manmade environment. Medical science tells us that the color green relaxes people. Use this science factoid to help folks relax enough to open their wallets and patronize area businesses. I would like to see the plant-covered "breathing wall" (which was the 2014 ArtPrize entry titled "Breathe" at the BOB) added to the landscape of Sixth St Park, Crescent Park, Veterans Park, and Heardside Park. This would create a visually pleasant oasis and a cleaner airspace.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Additional tree canopy, park space and green spaces throughout Downtown and the River Corridor.	
		Parks and Open Space	Establish a statewide ARTS IN THE PARKS program that invites artists to create sculptures, floral landscaping, bridge art and the like that can travel through the state, allowing each community to enjoy and learn about the art and creating an informed audience around the state. Establish a local BRIDGE ART program that seasonally decorates downstream bridges and/or replicates in an impermanent way the bridges of Paris, Prague, Florence, London and other cities. Establish an Inside/Out program of art reproductions in the parks. See attached clip from the Detroit Free Press, May 4, 2015.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be sent to the DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy for consideration.	Send to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy
		Parks and Open Space	ESTABLISH AN ARCHITECTURAL TRAIL that features the best in GR's urban architecture across its historical styles. Use distinctive markers at each site; Ashville N CAR uses pink granite tiles with icons. This may well complement the series of notable local statues and might blend them into the trail. Promote the trail with a map brochure and an app.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be sent to the DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy for consideration.	Send to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy
		Events	Find an investor willing to fund an architecturally significant structure that can serve as an anchor in a transitional area undergoing renewal. Make it UNIQUE. GR is unique for all of the things not found elsewhere: La Grande Vitesse, Maya Lin's Eclipse, the Meyer May House, Meijer Gardens and the GRAM building. Adding unique structures will draw visitors and strengthen GR's image, especially if the architect is internationally known.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. See 1.1 for discussions on strategies to integrate art into Downtown and the River Corridor.	
		Events	COMBINE snow removal needs with a creative and competitive snow building culture. Remove snow from sidewalks and street parking spaces and deliver it to these locations: the Lyon St Amphitheater, the Riverwalk behind Devils Performance Hall, Ah-Nab-Awen Park, the Blue Bridge entrances on both sides of the river, Veterans Park, Crescent Park, Sixth St Park, Canal Park. Invite teams from schools, churches, neighborhoods, really anyone to show up to create snow art: villages, animals, carolers, snow families, a North Pole Express trail (perhaps inspired by The Polar Express) and the like. Depending on the response, this could be set up as a serious competition with prizes awarded for various categories (technique, size, creativity, the like). It could be marketed as a time-based event (a la ArtPrize) for the importance that time plays in creating and destroying snow art. This idea is consistent with Goal 5.1 (p 38) and Goal 5.4 (p 42) of your Draft Recommendations.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be sent to the DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy for consideration.	Send to DGRI Alliance for Vibrancy

	10	Formatting	P10- Label more roads. Why make a black river?- Make it blue! Label the highway.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will address this formatting issue.	Interface to correct.
	13	Formatting	Figure 5.7- Which Way is North? Figure 5-12- Make N at the Top. P5- Label the Boundaries. P 21 Why would you make a river black? It should be blue.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The revised draft will address this formatting issue.	Interface to correct.
		Idea	Repair the northern set of steps. Stop making excuses. Maintain the southern set of steps. You have the money. Switchback: Use the road (now closed) off the northern end near Division.	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. The Switchback Park concept proposes enhancements to both sets of stairs leading up to Belknap.	
GOAL #6: Retain and Attract Families, Talent, and Job Providers with High Quality Public Schools						
ZIP CODE	PAGE #	CATEGORY	COMMENT	RECEIVED FROM	RESPONSE	ACTION
49516		Formatting / Language	This part didn't fit with the rest	Web	Thank you for your comment.	
49506		Idea	I think the Belknap path would be great and also more retail and please a decent grocery store in the area!!!!	Web	Thank you for your comment.	
		Education	How do we bridge quality elementary schools with quality middle and high schools? Kids are doing really well in our top notch elementary schools, but there is a drop off in performance and quality of schools (facilities) once students go to middle / high school.	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to GRPS for consideration.	Send to GRPS
		Education	Are there any incentive programs we could start to have GRPS teachers send their own kids to GRPS schools?	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to GRPS for consideration.	Send to GRPS
		Education	How do we encourage teachers who teach in the GRPS system to have their kids attend in-district too?	Belknap Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to GRPS for consideration.	Send to GRPS
		Clean and Safe	Concerns over the outdoor classroom space, particularly the below grade portion	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to GRPS for consideration.	Send to GRPS
		Implementation	What's happening with Lyon: Fountain?	Heritage Hill Neighborhood Meeting	Lyon and Fountain are proposed to be converted to 2-way. Further discussions between the City and GRPS are required.	
		Education	I would like to see more support for schools and programs in schools like Harrison Park, Stocking and Union form everyone.		Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to GRPS for consideration.	
	6.2:	Implementation	More students working in local business/vocational trades will help build our workforce		Thank you for your comment.	
		Formatting / Language	Have parent permissions been granted for use of photos with children/students?	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment. Images used are a combination of consultant project photos, stock photos, and images provided directly by GRPS for our use in this document. When not stock images, permission has been implied.	
		Historic Preservation	The recommendation to remove the building at the corner of College and Fountain will require approval by the Historic Preservation Commission.	Planning Department Memo	Thank you for your comment.	
		Transit	On Page 22 the circulation recommendations have not been modelled or reviewed by the City for Central Campus plan at Lyon and Fountain.	Planning Department Memo	Lyon and Fountain are proposed to be converted to 2-way. Further discussions between the City and GRPS are required.	
		Education	Additional or improved education options help win over trailing significant others who are very concerned about the educational options for their children.		Thank you for your comment.	
49503		Public Schools	Demographics of current public schools; how will this change overtime with plan?	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to GRPS for consideration.	Send to GRPS
49503		Public Schools	How will diversity improve is schools have selection processes?	Chamber	Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to GRPS for consideration.	Send to GRPS
		Idea	Great schools, need more teachers of color (specifically African American teachers) need to be more intentional about hiring teachers of color	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. This will be forwarded to GRPS for consideration.	
		Idea	How important are student development programs?	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment. Student development programs, including job and skills training, and internships are an important recommendation put forth in goal #4.	
		Implementation	I have a plan and business for youth development. Stephen Smith-youngexecsceo@gmail.com	Written Comment	Thank you for your comment.	
		D & I	Nepotism & transplants don't stay because of it	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment.	
		D & I	Need housing for college students	NAACP Meeting	Thank you for your comment. Additional housing for students is discussed in Goal #2.	