

PUBLIC STREET WATERFRONT ACCESS PROJECT

SHORELINE RESILIENCE COHORT - JUNE 18, 2024

MEETING NOTES

Manuel Cordero - CIVIC, Adam Anderson - Design Under Sky, and Kevin Proft - Providence Sustainability Department attended the June 18, 2024 meeting of the Shoreline Resilience Cohort at the Groundworks office in Olneyville. After sharing the project background, past engagement, and design proposal, the team engaged in an informative conversation with the cohort. Highlights of the feedback and issues raised are captured in the notes below.

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

- Interest in the building that exists adjacent to the site. Important to the activation of the site. The building is currently vacant with an owner offsite, hopefully there might be a future possibility in its role on site.
- What might change along the property lines with abutters - visible change when the sidewalk is added. Important to make sure operational ability but primarily making a safe experience for the public.
- Has the design team gone to the site and measured - width of everything, driving down, and tested the traffic requirements and maneuvers. Participant has experience with a visually beautiful presentation but a vastly different constructed reality.

PUBLIC SAFETY and VEHICLE LOGISTICS

- Public Safety (EMT, police, fire and rescue) access is critical. Participants mentioned the Broad Street project as an example of what happens when they do not consult these departments.
- Plowing + logistics of vehicle movement in the corridor important to facilitate and consider in the design

HISTORY

- Participant asked about historical reference points. The industrial history of the site is an arbitrary point. Indigenous leaders can be consulted in describing the history of the waterfront. Opportunity to include industrial history which is not an isolated history. There were things before the industry, the marsh and the waterfront.
- Consider marking placards that show the shoreline at different times
- History before and after industry. Part of the original infrastructure. Having both histories told would be very important
- Highlight the Indigenous and Black communities along the water historically
 - The Cape Verdean sailors, and other black families working on the railroads, the people of these neighborhoods, those people and the culture have existed before and after the industry

- Cape Verdean communities in the surrounding area as part of its history and culture
- Connecting to the community and listening
- Part of the sidewalk, markers to explain the history integrated into the site? Placard and QR code. How canal was shifted, how was the shape of the bay informed

ACCESS and ACCESSIBILITY

- Participants liked the clear access showing a path underneath the highway - directing people to the waterfront.
- Consider creating a mural, or time capsule, like the tiles from the Memorial Blvd tunnel - that connects with elements from people's homes or communities. Horsehair insulation within homes, possible to repurpose these materials in a tiled mural underneath the underpass to direct others toward the waterfront
- Riding the bike down the overpass. Need safe bike lanes. The light to dark transition as you move under the overpass can be dangerous with oncoming headlights that switch on underneath the overpass,
 - Better lighting underneath the overpass could prevent this?
- Site must consider universal design. Design for access for elderly people. Disabilities are also increasing - site must be accessible for all.