Notes on Community Feedback:
Open House to share ideas on the future of the Raymond-University area

February 6, 2020 at CoCreatz

Hosted by the Creative Enterprise Zone, St. Anthony Park Community Council’s Land Use Committee, and St. Paul City Council Ward 4 council member Mitra Jalali. About 70 people attended. These notes are compiled from participants’ written feedback: Post-it notes gathered under main headings, and notes on maps and streetscape photos taken in the neighborhood.

Summary/digest of the main points below:

- People value the proximity of the neighborhood to transit and both downtowns
- They value the current mix of the neighborhood but hope for more business destinations that are walkable, especially grocery (many types of businesses mentioned)
- They want greenspaces, trees, places to sit and be with other people in public
- They want pedestrian and bike safety (from cars and trucks, plus better lighting)
- There is no opposition to taller buildings

Note: Multiple responses of identical content are noted with a number following

What do you value here / what makes this place special?

- Public transit, light rail (5)
- Hampden Park Co-op (4)
- Close to both St. Paul and Minneapolis (4)
- So many things within walking distance (3)
- Many nonprofits and mission-based organizations (2)
- Diverse shops and restaurants (2)
- Mixed use real estate
- Beer and coffee
- Workhorse Coffee
- Galleries
- The Smallest Museum in St. Paul
- Carless accessibility
- Bikable to either city
- Diverse people
- The people who work and play and live here
- Hampden Park
- Third Friday potlucks [organized in the Hampden Park area]
- Interstate access
- Historic places
- Schools
- St. Anthony Park library
• Smart people
• Wide range of neighborhoods at varying income levels
• Neighborhoods nearby
• Friendly neighbors

What do you think is missing?

• More open greenspace (8)
• Trees (4)
• Pedestrian attention, sidewalks, safe walkways (4)
• Places for people to be comfortable in public, comfortable spaces or corners to hang out (3)
• Clean air (goodbye West Rock), days without odor from the recycling plant (2)
• Open spaces to sit and talk (2)
• Benches (2)
• Trader Joe’s (2)
• Better connection between North and South SAP
• Better connection across University Ave.
• Land bridges over 280 and 94
• Inspirational architecture and land use
• Resilience architecture and infrastructure
• We are so close to the U of M but little connection/investment/commitment to n’hood
• Affordable housing for families
• People on the streets
• Super-blocks with underground parking
• Dog park
• Jazz club, live music venue
• Kid-friendly attractions
• More small restaurants, food trucks, or street vending
• More frequent bus service
• Better weather protection at bus stops
• Flower banks hiding the light rail to soften the hard edges
• The landscaping of the Green Line near Raymond Station is weedy. Intentions were good but the pavers have a lot of weeds. Even if Metro Transit sent a crew a couple times each season to spray the weeds, that would help.
• Grocery mart
• Farmers market
• Ice cream shop (move the Lexington Dairy Queen here)
• Hampden Co-op at University and Raymond!
• Parking
• Stores, shops, cafés open later like 11:00 p.m. or 1:00 a.m.
• Sculpture park
• More murals on manufacturing buildings
• Diversity (economic and cultural)
• Better weather!
• Affordable medical care
• Affordable child care (opportunity for community investment)
• This area is incredibly under-leveraged. It is mostly one or two story buildings at the Raymond/University intersection (e.g. site of old US Bank, Noll Hardware/thrift stores, buildings immediately east of US Bank to Carleton, parking lots scattered in this area).
• Branding (CEZ sounds like a legal term, how about Hampden Park Arts District?)
• Please be reasonable in terms of what’s considered historically significant. It’s too often a tool by activists to block investment and development (change). This isn’t Europe, or even New England.
• It is hard to understand why more change hasn't happened at this intersection. The location is ideally situated for the U of MN campuses, both downtowns, low-crime, access to the freeways. Stadium Village and Prospect Park are booming in comparison.
• Please encourage investment and recruit developers to bring housing and businesses for new residents. Projects like Exeter’s C&E Lofts/Flats are significant to the tax base.
• Getting too gentrified
• How does a new resident know what is on offer in the neighborhood?

What would you add to the neighborhood?

• More green/public space (3)
• Outside dining (2)
• Parklets everywhere! (2)
• More clean air (no West Rock) (2)
• Farmers market in Hampden Park (or generally, farmers market) 2
• A small public square/park with benches and a fountain
• Vacant open spaces > used for park spaces
• A small public garden
• More flowers and gardens for the bees
• A closed-off street for pedestrians and pop-ups
• Add trees to replace the ash trees lost
• Trees
• Dog-walking path
• Wider sidewalks by eliminating [unreadable] lanes converted [unreadable] for cars
• Easy bike and pedestrian access to the river and the west side of 280
• Better bike routes
• Better bike connection between the Midtown Greenway and U of M Transitway
• Speed bumps on Raymond
• Fewer semi trucks
• Better traffic visibility/signage on Territorial
• Slow-down sign by Joy of the People (on Territorial), super dangerous
• Convert [unreadable] lanes into bus-only lanes with barrier to prohibit cars from using them
• Statues of animals (kid-friendly)
• Art of all kinds
• More murals!
• Interactive public art
• Volleyball, tennis, ping pong courts for the community
• Pickleball court
• Squash court
• Healthy aging activities, indoor and outdoor
• More street-level retail, restaurants
• Restaurant with a nice bar
• Outdoor cafés
• Fast-casual restaurants
• Wasn’t this section of University Ave. the pre-Prohibition beer garden strip? How cool would that be?
• Food market, small grocery store
• Pharmacy
• Bank in walkable distance
• On "affordable housing": I hope neighborhood activists and city officials do not place undue hardships on developers as to discourage them from building here. I understand the ideology here and that's a priority for many in St Paul, but please be practical and reasonable when you deal with potential investors.
• I support 10-story buildings. Look at Stadium Village/East Bank and seeing the density and the businesses added there. We’ve had Seal Hi-Rise for a long time and nobody has a problem with it. Fear of tall buildings is overblown.
• Parking
• Housing co-ops
• Hotel
• A folk music venue/mellow coffee shop
• More lighting for safety, no dark scary corners
• A pub in NSAP (the ones near University Ave. are too far by infrequent buses)
• Health services (doctors, dentists)
• Other professional service offices
• Small public library branch

From the maps

• Carleton and/or Charles as pedestrian plaza
• Vacate Charles Avenue between Raymond and Carleton
• Raymond and Charles: add benches and green space
• Charles between Carleton and Raymond: street trees here
• Create a Carleton extension for pedestrians and bikes from Territorial to Long
• Please reconstruct Territorial Road or mill and overlay it.
• Territorial from east of Hampden to the Minneapolis line: improve it for biking, it connects Saint Paul and Minneapolis for a lot of bikers because University Ave. is not safe for bikes
• North of Territorial: How to connect to the Transitway by bike? (not obvious, need signage)
• Charles near Pillsbury – Add street trees and art on these walls (the long green-top buildings on the north side of Charles)
• Make Hampden and Territorial into a 4-way stop
• Charles and Hampden (the south edge of Union Flats): What about a turning circle at this new school bus stop?
• Hampden to Capp Road: Could we add 100 trees along Hampden here?
• Lasalle south of University: sidewalks and trees! (and Hampden too if there aren’t)
• Lasalle south of University: add farmers market in the Update parking lot
• 2300 Myrtle (between Raymond and Carleton): Add street trees and rainwater/pollinator gardens here
• University, south side of Raymond Station at Carleton: this is the best pedestrian crossing on University
• Myrtle and Raymond, Myrtle and Glendale: Better street crossings for Avalon School students
• Cromwell and Franklin: Plant trees on the Memorial Blood Center green space
• Wabash at 280: Turn the old railroad bridge into a bike path
• Extend the Midtown Greenway over the Mississippi River bridge and turn the rail line along the south edge of West Rock to a bike trail connecting east
• Territorial and Raymond: How will the future Greenway Extension bike line connect and integrate into the neighborhood? With connection to the Transitway, this could become a major bike hub.