

PlanBTV: South End Community Workshop Comments

TOPIC-BASED COMMENTS

Throughout the planBTV: South End Community Workshop, Feb. 11 – 14, 2015, community members recorded their thoughts on yellow sticky notes and posted them on mounted flipcharts in response to open-ended questions about:

- Open Space
- Economic Development
- Environment
- Mobility
- Arts and Innovation
- Land Use

Those questions and responses are transcribed below. For more information on the Community Workshop or planBTV: South End, please visit www.planbtvsouthend.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT OPEN SPACE IN THE SOUTH END?

Signs at superfund sites explaining the science and industrial history.

Can we build a pedestrian bridge over the Barge Canal?

I am confused about the “Barge Canal” – I thought it could not be touched – what are the restrictions?

Barge Canal should have signage along pathways telling the story of how the pollution was abated.

I’d love a Barge Canal area park with boardwalks and nature displays.

Connect green open space with stormwater drainage – above ground where it is visible.

Undeveloped waterfront sites should be developed for public use (parks, etc).

Keep barge wild.

Connect the green spaces for human and nonhuman life.

Parks and more connected green space would give people more reason to linger.

The Barge Canal is also home to homeless who are at risk of being displaced.

Tobacco and alcohol free parks and public space.

The quarry and Crescent Woods are very important to me! I’d love a crosswalk on Shelburne Rd. @ Hoover to make them easier to get to. Red Rocks too! I’m concerned about the Champlain Parkway cutting off Pine St. access to Red Rocks.

Consider preserving land behind Burlington College as well.

Figure out how to utilize the Barge Canal as public space.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** IN THE SOUTH END?

Structures with open flexible space for making things.

More jobs is a plus, of course – provided they are liveable wage jobs.

So important! Jobs come from the South End enterprise zone. Taxes too!

More walkable streets and connections to encourage foot traffic to support biz; less setbacks to promote active use.

Different rules for dif. parts or zones. Ex – industry only parts, mixed use parts, preserved green space, etc.

I advocate for more affordable housing – not at the expense of biz zoning, but alongside it. More people help us all!

I wish more people could walk and bike to work → so much commuting by car means more need for pkg = less developable space for biz growth.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE **ENVIRONMENT** IN THE SOUTH END?

Well the environment is.

Urban food forest.

I'd like to see the South End be an environmental hub of innovation.

Maximize Barge Canal site – open gardens, eco-ed.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT **MOBILITY** IN THE SOUTH END?

More bike/pedestrian access on/off roads.

Pine St. Trolley.

Dump Champlain Parkway – recapture connectivity and land there for housing.

Pine Street Trolley. Boardwalk to Lake. Bike lanes. Walking paths.

Let's talk about decreasing our reliance on cars in favor of more sustainable alternatives.

Dump the roundabout. Terrible idea.

Abolish parking minimums for new commercial development. Encourage use of alt. modes of transport.

A blinking crosswalk across Locust St. at Pine. Pine is so hard to turn south onto from there that drivers don't see pedestrians as well as they do in less stressful circumstances. It's scary to step into the street!

Biking on Pine, particularly S between Flynn and Home and N of Locust St, is difficult. More space for biking is needed there.

Lakeside/Pine intersection is a problem for pedestrians.

We don't need a roundabout.

Thumbs up for single lane roundabouts at intervals. Contrary to common opinion roundabouts make a community more pedestrian friendly by moderating traffic speeds. Crossing up or downstream of roundabout is safer than traditional intersection.

Regular wayfinding to break up linear, show how many mins walk to next point of interest, encourage "hopping" down street. Signs with concentric circles showing number of mins walk from sign with interest points.

Better transit focus.

We need pedestrian improvement along the East side of Pine between Birchcliff and Locust. The sidewalk is so unsafe because of proximity to round and multiple ill-defined driveways. It's heavily used by children and *ILLEGIBLE*.

Champlain Elementary circulation is key and needs to be updated.

Look at what institutional-commercial places residents go most often:

- Champlain Elementary
- Cumby – gas
- ReSource
- Env. Depot
- DDX/BED
- Speeder's/Airport
- Bike path – Lakeside

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT **ARTS AND INNOVATION** IN THE SOUTH END?

Foundation ownership of studios – include dance and music.

We need to value our artistic community – ensure studio space is available at reasonable rents.

Let community curate public art, not centralized authority.

Fund arts projects that are independent of central city authority and judgment.

Empower arts and innovation – keep housing out of the enterprise zone.

Support local arts district identity, don't impose a uniform "City of Burlington" identity on the South End.

Avoid fake veneer of art used to hike real estate values.

Add large-scale public art pieces throughout South End.

It's going strong and has been for years!

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT **LAND USE** IN THE SOUTH END?

Maintain the enterprise zone and develop the eco-planning.

Land use for economic growth – maker activity.

Impact of Champlain Parkway?

Preserve Industrial Heritage now. No housing.

More mixed uses in our neighborhoods.

What do you mean by land use?

No housing. Range of jobs – skill + \$