

Appendix A: Additional Meeting Summaries

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Summary of Meetings with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Rockford Mass Transit District

In order to ensure that all relevant stakeholders had an opportunity to review and comment on the complete draft of the Kishwaukee Street Corridor Revitalization Plan, the City of Rockford and the consultant team reached out to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD) to solicit their feedback. These meetings were in addition to extensive stakeholder outreach that had occurred over the previous several months. Following two meetings in which the plan was presented to both IDOT and RMTD, each of the respective groups provided comments, which are summarized below.

Illinois Department of Transportation (September 22, 2008)

Following a presentation made to relevant staff at IDOT's Dixon, IL District 2 offices, the consultant team and the City received a memo from IDOT which suggested the completion of a traffic capacity study in the Corridor.

Traffic Capacity Study

IDOT believes that the Kishwaukee Street Corridor Revitalization Plan may require modification, depending on projected traffic volumes within the Corridor and the capacity of the Corridor to accommodate it. It is IDOT's suggestion that this traffic capacity analysis includes a discussion of projected traffic at both the Whitman Street Interchange and the proposed Kishwaukee Street / US 20 interchange.

Rockford Mass Transit District (December 18, 2008)

Following a presentation made to relevant staff at RMTD's Rockford, IL offices, the consultant team and City received a list of comments regarding the future operation of transit in the Corridor within the context of the Plan recommendations.

Street Reconfiguration

The RMTD is supportive of two street reconfiguration ideas outlined in the Plan: the realignment of 15th Avenue and Broadway with Kishwaukee and the conversion of 2nd and 3rd Street from one-way pairs to bi-directional traffic. RMTD feels both of these projects would improve both safety and accessibility.

Bus Stop and Shelter Enhancements

The RMTD also supports any opportunity to work with the City on enhancing transit stop and shelter areas, and specifically mentions that the enhancement of Keith Creek-area transit stops would improve mobility, green space, and ridership levels.

Land Use Plan

The RMTD also supports the land use plan, as outlined in the report, because the incorporation of pedestrian-friendly development patterns are expected to enhance both the neighborhood and RMTD service.

Bus Access Along Kishwaukee Street

Finally, while the RMTD supports the reduction and/or separation of truck traffic through certain portions of the Corridor, as outlined in the Plan, the RMTD would like to ensure that bus travel would be excluded from consideration. RMTD affirmed the importance of access to the length of Kishwaukee Street as vital to its operations.

Summary of Kishwaukee Empowerment Group Roundtables

(April 2008-Present)

As the result of a discouraging market analysis commissioned for this Corridor, a major theme of the Kishwaukee Corridor Revitalization Plan is to promote efforts of businesses and other Corridor stakeholders to organize and advocate for initiatives and projects that would attract investment into the Corridor planning area. This organizing process began with a successful Empowerment Workshop held in April of 2008 that was attended by over 50 people. This workshop featured guest speakers



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from Chicago-based industrial coalitions and Community Development Corporations (CDCs) that have successfully revitalized urban industrial areas into vibrant business incubators and sites for innovative job-creating companies. Building on the ideas presented at the Empowerment Workshop, the City of Rockford, along with representatives across the Corridor, have been participating in monthly roundtable meetings. These meetings are meant to share information, continue the discussion of the Revitalization Plan document, and to identify and develop a Corridor advocacy group that functions as an equal partner with the City and other organizations in implementing and supporting the Kishwaukee Revitalization Plan.

Representatives from the City of Rockford's Department of Public Works, the Rockford Police Department, the Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC), and others have presented at these monthly roundtable meetings of the new "Kishwaukee Empowerment Group."

Major concerns discussed at these meetings include:

- Crime,
- Blight,
- Unattractive property uses,
- Shortage of space for business expansion,
- Major roadwork and the disruption of access and business traffic,
- Skilled workforce needs, and
- Finding the resources to hire a full-time or part-time organizing director of the Kishwaukee Empowerment Group.

Many of these concerns are addressed in the implementation table of this Revitalization Plan, but addressing these complex issues require a robust, active, organized stakeholder coalition representing the full range of interests in the Kishwaukee Corridor.

The City of Rockford will support the continued efforts of the Kishwaukee Empowerment Group through the following activities:

- Continue to hold monthly roundtable meetings, bringing speakers and government agencies whose activities are relevant to the revitalization of the Kishwaukee Corridor.
- Work with stakeholders to organize and support mixers, forums, and a variety of social events to bring Corridor businesses and residents together.
- Present and participate in other neighborhood organizations that exist in the corridor, including Haight Village, ORCHiD, and the Kishwaukee Weed and Seed District, and always look for opportunities for the Kishwaukee Empowerment Group to collaborate with these organizations to host events.
- Work with the Neighborhood Network to support neighborhood planning efforts for residential areas that are part of the corridor.
- Target existing Federal programs to support the rehabilitation of blighted areas in the Corridor. As a recent example, the City of Rockford's Housing Division has identified a Kishwaukee Program Area that will target Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for rehabilitation work, as well as acquisition and demolition, of blighted residential properties in the Corridor planning area.
- Additional outreach will also be done in the form of individual stakeholder interviews to allow every major business that is interested to discuss the breadth of their concerns about the Corridor with a member of the City of Rockford's planning staff. Notes from these interviews will be used to identify future organizing initiatives and open additional levels of dialogue between major Corridor stakeholders.



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Appendix B: Existing Conditions Analysis

Appendix C: Real Estate Market Assessment