



# rentondowntown

CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

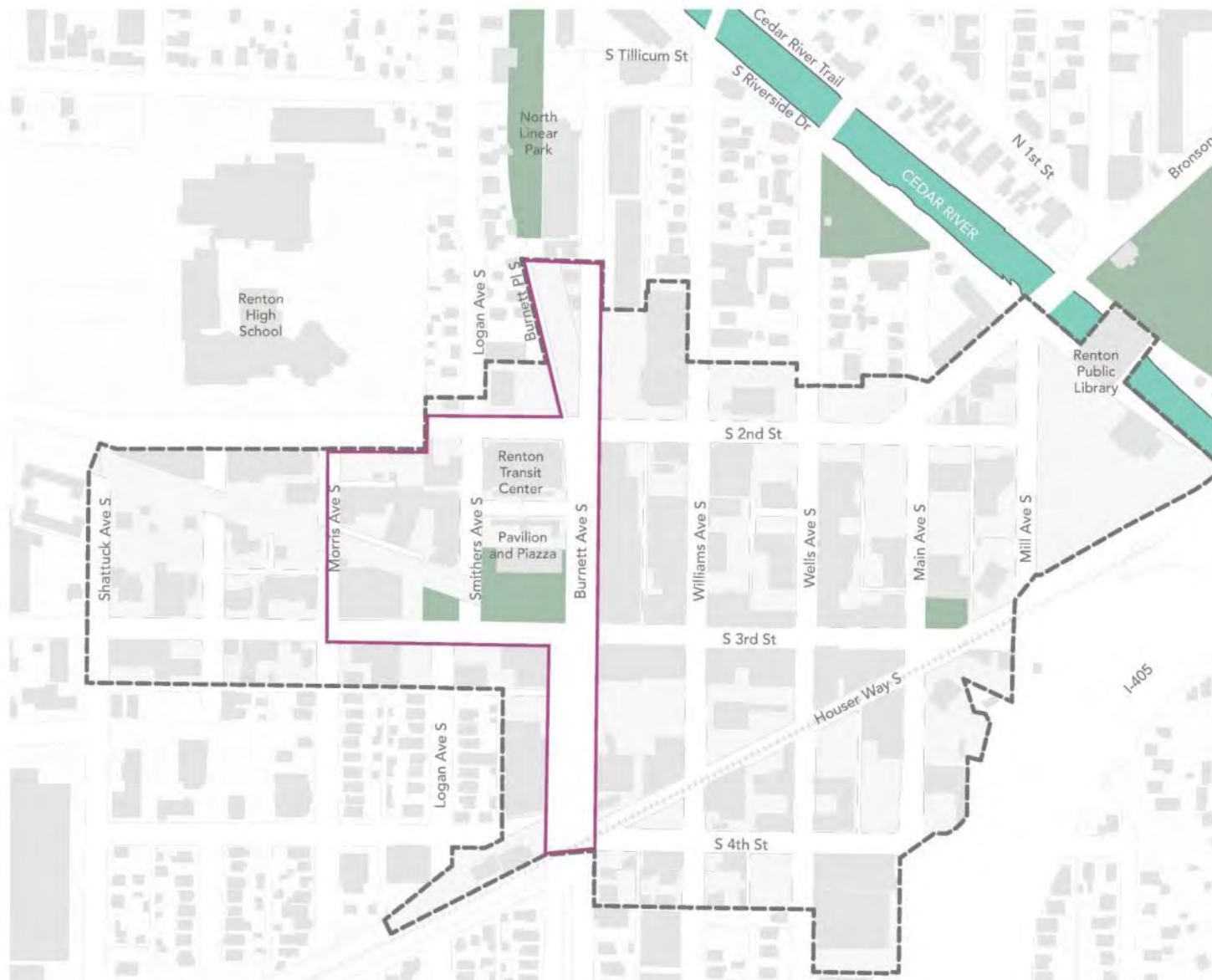
Public Kickoff Workshop Summary  
Downtown Pavilion | March 2, 2017



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

PROJECT AREA  
Existing Conditions  
MAP 1  
LEGEND

- Downtown Business District
- Civic Core
- River
- Parks
- Parcels
- Buildings
- Railroad



Renton's Downtown is home to a range of civic uses such as City Hall and the library, public spaces and a diversity of businesses, services and residences. The Civic Core is at the heart of Downtown and includes the segment of Burnett Ave. through Downtown, the Transit Center, Pavilion and Piazza, and adjacent homes and businesses.

# WHY DEVELOP THIS PLAN?

- The Renton Downtown Civic Core Vision and Action Plan will identify a community-supported vision with actions that take advantage of the unique opportunities facing our city
- The Plan will build upon many of the great activities already happening in the area
- The Plan will provide direction that integrates all the great attractions and amenities with great spaces to gather, safe streets for all modes of travel, and a bustling business environment

# PROJECT SCHEDULE

## Winter 2017

- Existing Conditions
- Transit and Parking Analysis
- Market Analysis
- Public Use Analysis
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Public Kickoff

## Spring/Summer 2017

- Concept Development
- Wayfinding Plan
- Programming Opportunities
- Infrastructure
- Transit Analysis
- Urban Design and Land Use
- Opportunity Site Analysis

## Fall 2017 THE PLAN

- Programming and Placemaking
- Implementation Strategies
- Urban Design
- Wayfinding
- Draft and Final Plan

Ongoing community participation, Advisory Committees, and Planning Commission and City Council engagement



# MEETING OUTCOMES OVERVIEW

- It was well attended with over 150 attendees
- It included statements from the Mayor about the importance of the project
- It included a brief presentation about Downtown and the Civic Core and development trends in cities happening across the country
- It engaged participants in a small group discussion
- It identified vision elements, assets, opportunities and constraints for the Civic Core

# GETTING STARTED: OPEN HOUSE

- Attendees were greeted at the entrance, signed in and received a packet of meeting materials
- There was plenty of time to catch up with familiar faces or meet new people at the display posters and at food tables
- Attendees also had a chance to talk with the City and consultant team staff, and elected officials
- Translators were also available if needed (Spanish and Vietnamese languages)



Participants arrived to find a warm welcome and exciting atmosphere, with conversations and displays all about Renton's Downtown and Civic Core.





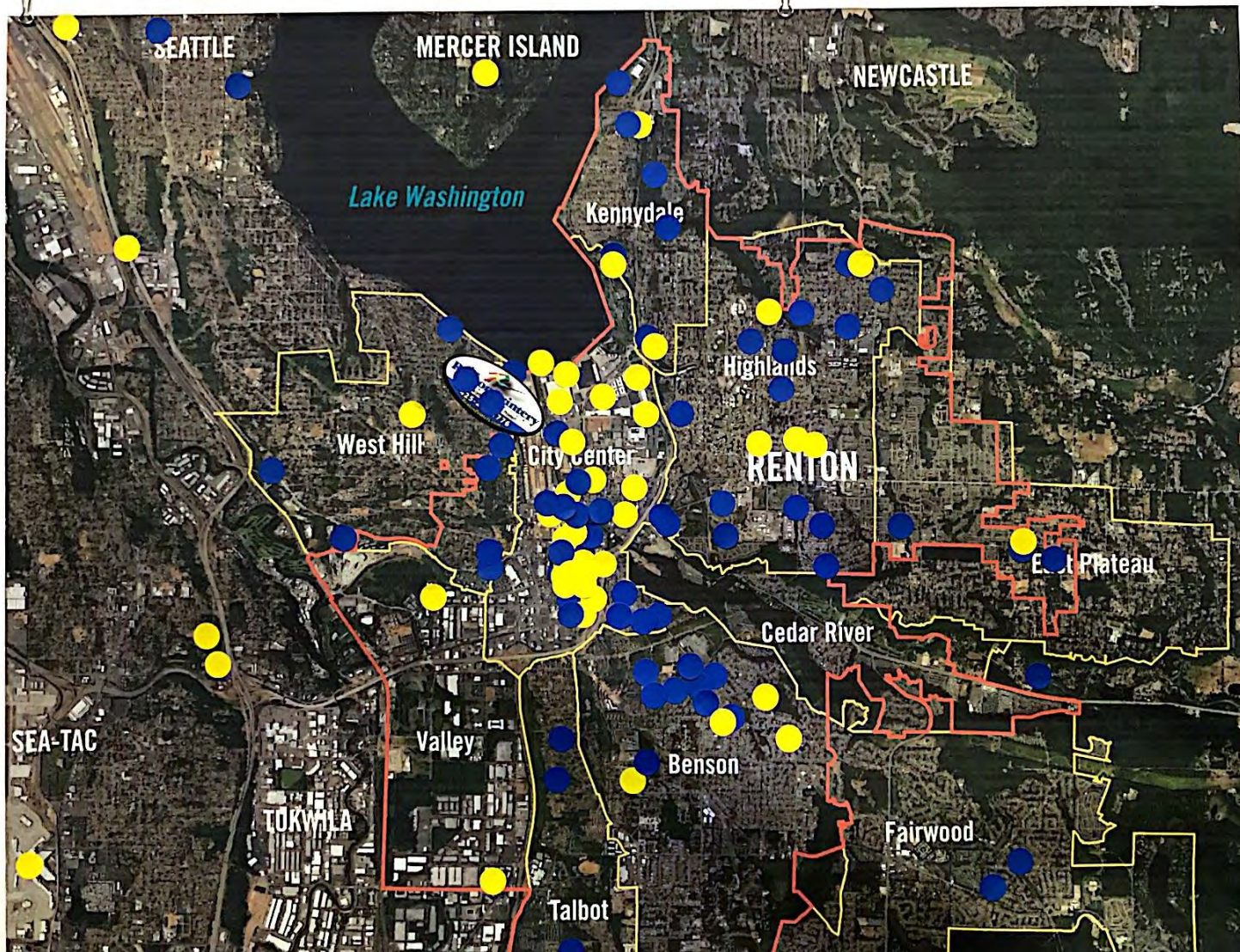
The open house allowed for plenty of time to talk and catch up with friends and acquaintances in a centralized Downtown location.



Interactive displays, maps and posters offered an engaging way to convey ideas, concerns and other creative remarks on the future of Civic Core.



PLACE DOTS ON THE MAP →



**WHERE DO YOU LIVE  
AND WORK?**

**PLACE ON THE MAP:**

A blue ● where you live,

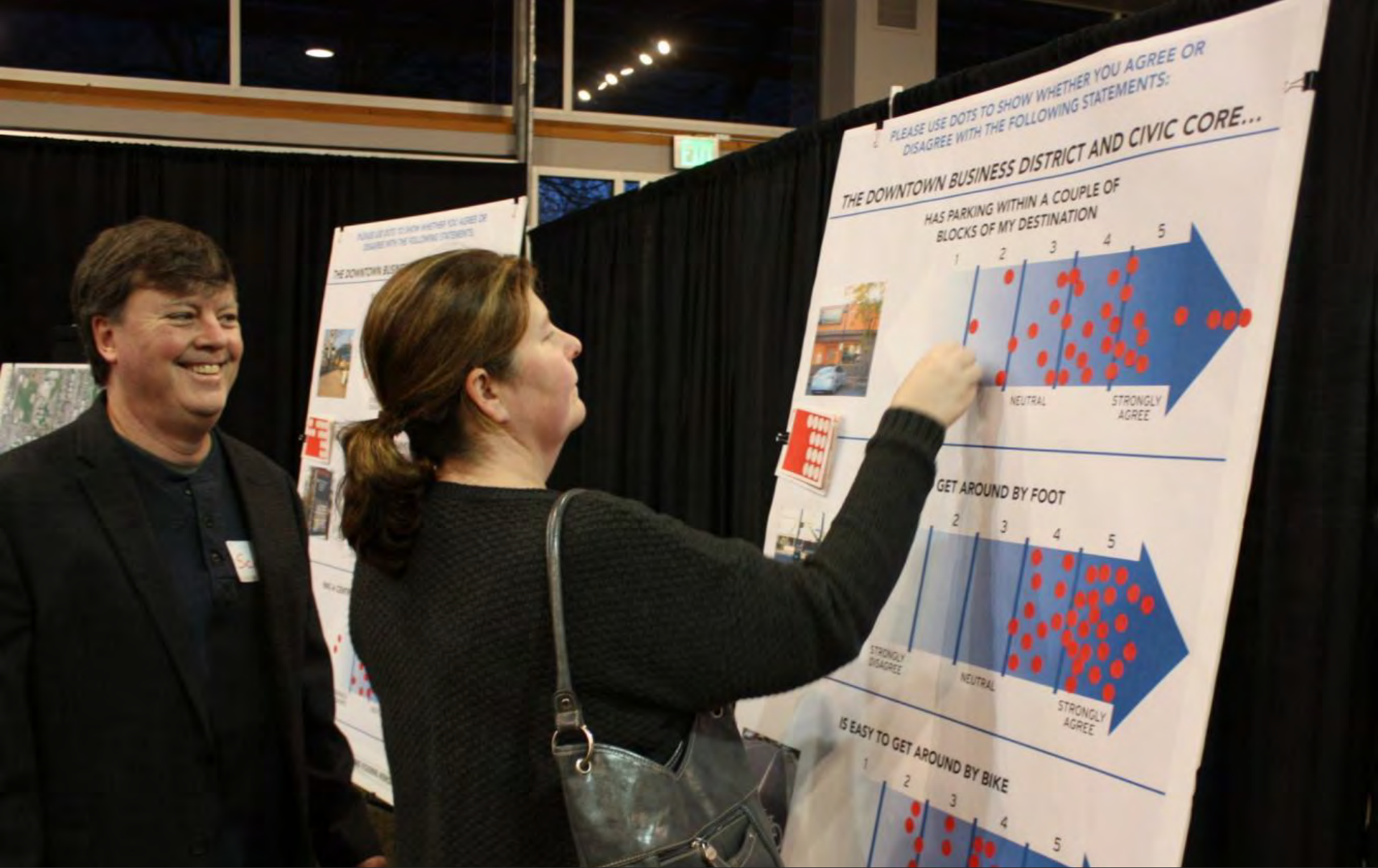
A yellow ● where you work.

**IF YOU LIVE OR WORK  
OUTSIDE THE MAP  
EXTENT, PLACE THOSE  
DOTS BELOW ↓**



This poster allowed attendees to show where they live (blue dots) or work (yellow dots) in the Renton area.





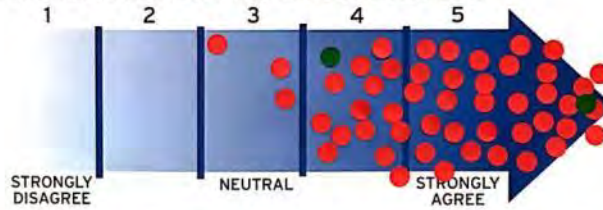
The open house provided a way to spark ideas and reactions, while providing the project team with a wealth of information to use for the project.



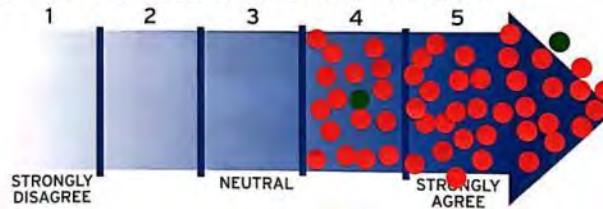
PLEASE USE DOTS TO SHOW WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

## THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT AND CIVIC CORE...

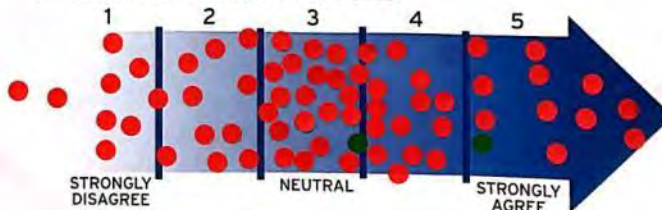
NEEDS MORE PEOPLE AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE DAY



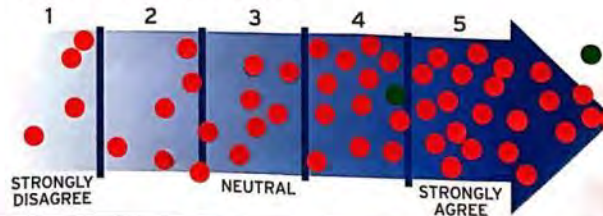
NEEDS MORE PEOPLE AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE NIGHT



FEELS SAFE WALKING AROUND



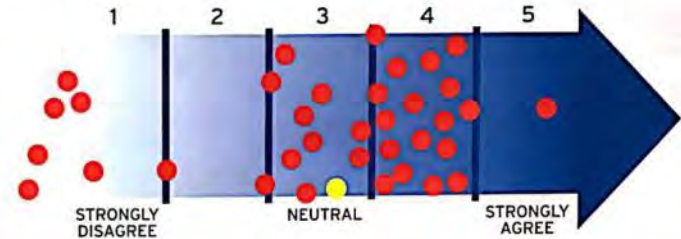
NEEDS MORE HOUSING



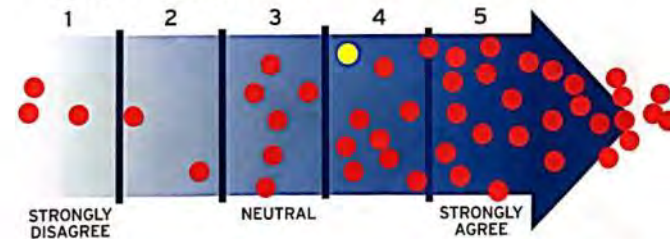
PLEASE USE DOTS TO SHOW WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

## THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT AND CIVIC CORE...

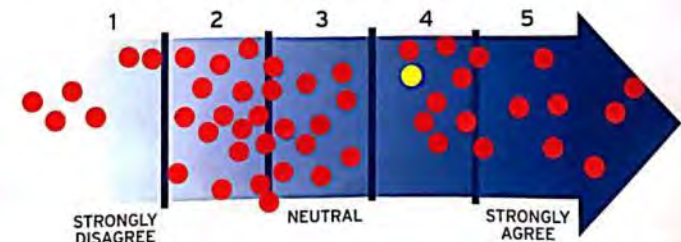
IS EASY TO GET AROUND BY TRANSIT



NEEDS BETTER SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING ELEMENTS TO KEY DESTINATIONS



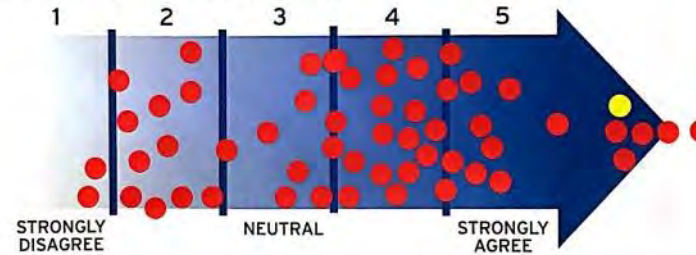
HAS A CENTRAL SPACE THAT DEFINES THE AREA



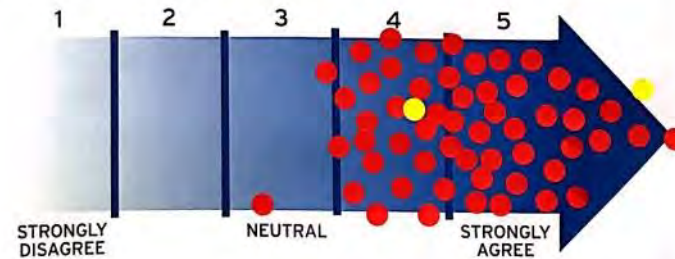
## THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT AND CIVIC CORE...



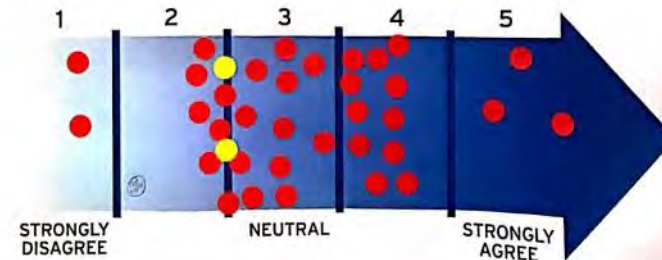
HAS PARKING WITHIN A COUPLE OF  
BLOCKS OF MY DESTINATION



IS EASY TO GET AROUND BY FOOT



IS EASY TO GET AROUND BY BIKE



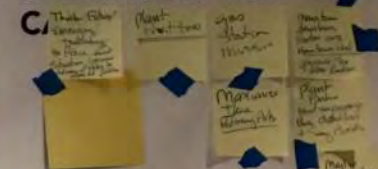
While many attendees agreed on a statement describing existing conditions ("is easy to get around by foot"), other opinions varied by travel mode ("is easy to get around by bike").



PLACE A YELLOW STICKY NOTE ON THE MAP

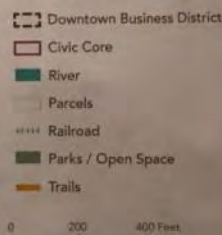


PLACE A STICKY NOTE ON THE SITE WHERE AN OPPORTUNITY IS PRESENT. BE AS SPECIFIC AS YOU CAN



EXAMPLES MIGHT INCLUDE:

- CONNECTIONS TO PARKS
- LOCATIONS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS
- EXPANDED SHOPPING AND DINING
- INCREASED EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING
- NEW PUBLIC ART



KICK-OFF AND VISIONING WORKSHOP

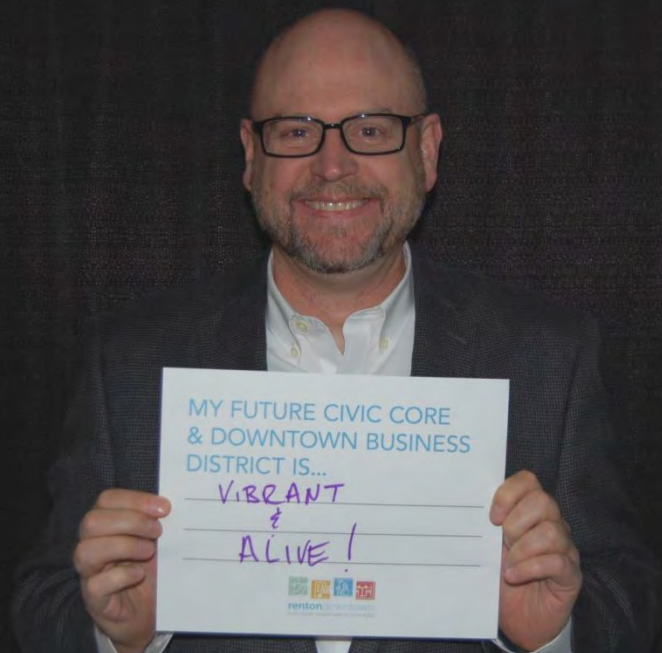


Meeting participants provided input and observations on existing opportunities and constraints in Downtown Renton.

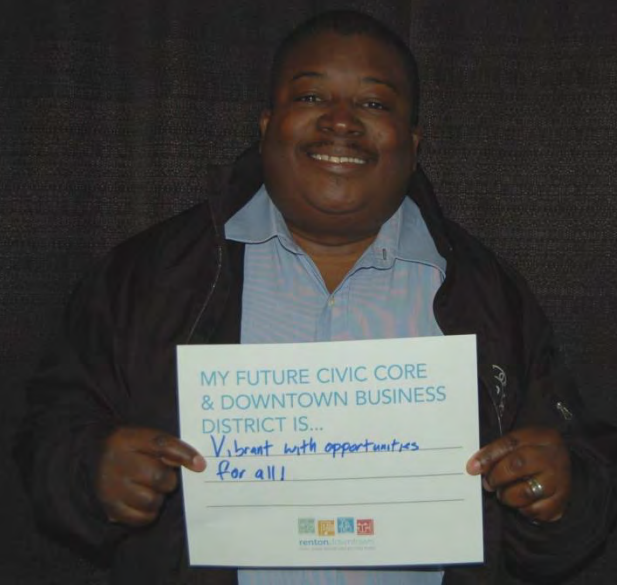
# MY FUTURE IS...

- Participants also provided their own ideas for the future of Civic Core and Downtown Renton
- The ideas were very similar to the overall tone of the small group discussions, including a future Downtown that is bustling, safe and inviting
- The following images show individual responses

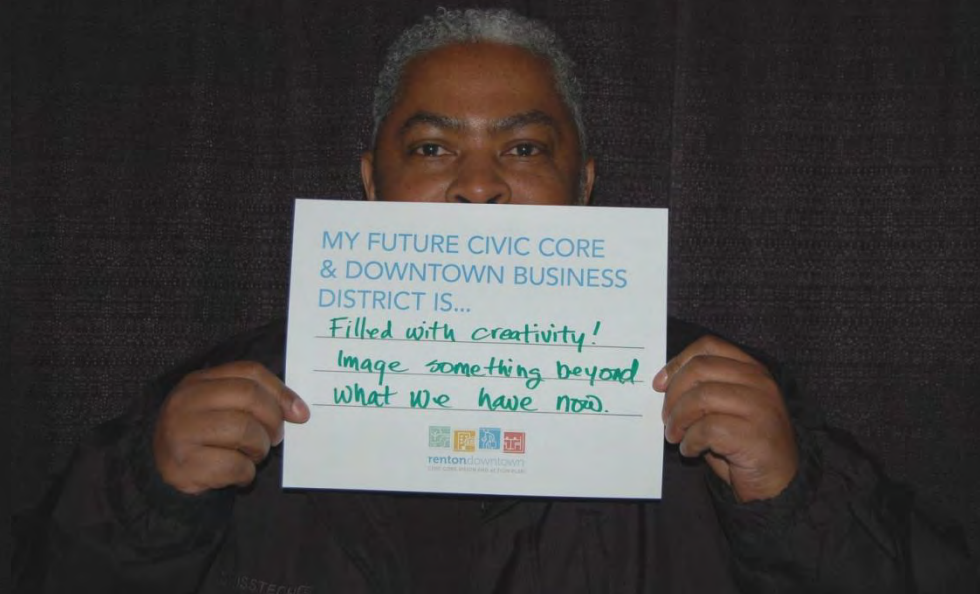
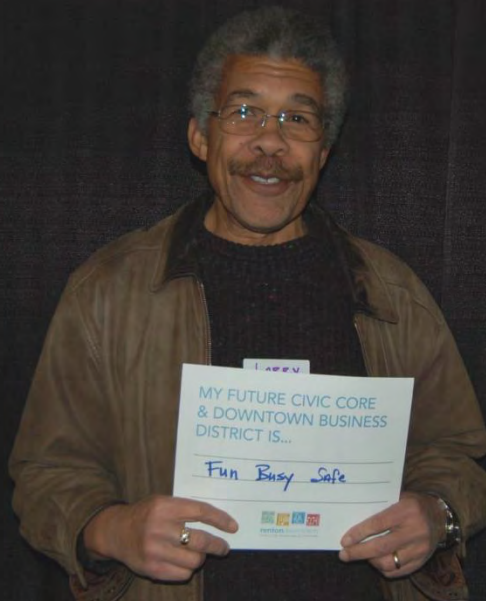




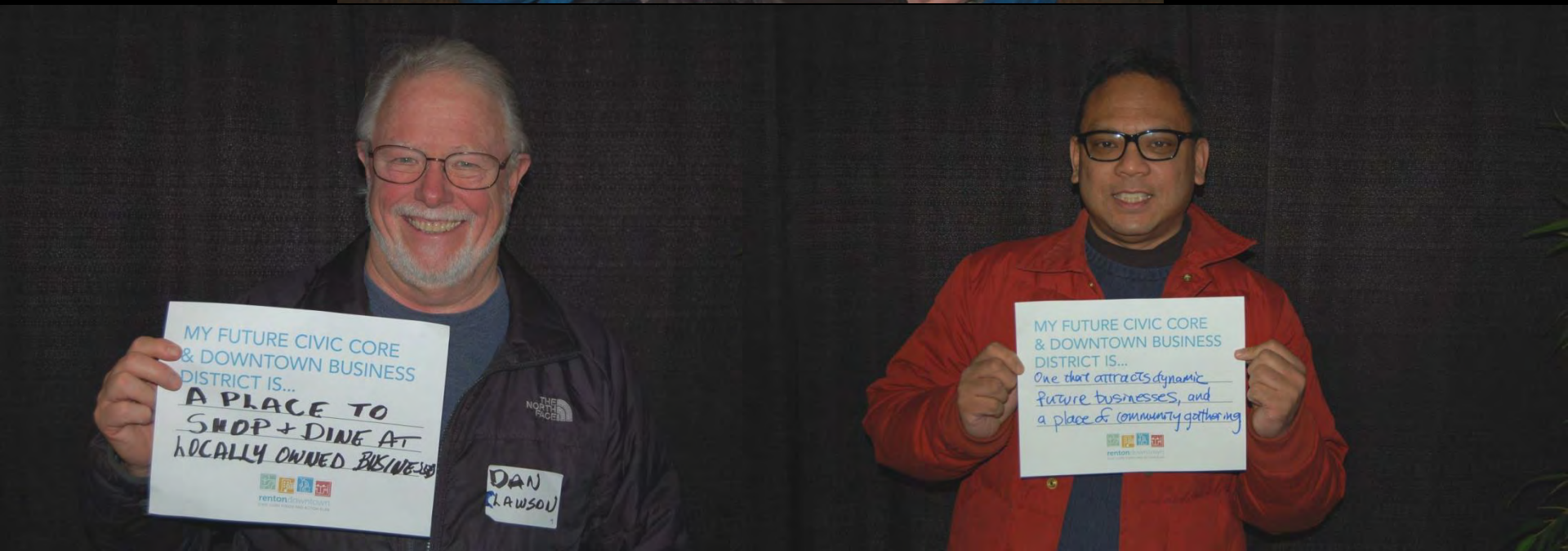
















Mayor Denis Law welcomed participants and discussed the importance of the Plan and its purpose for the future of the Civic Core.





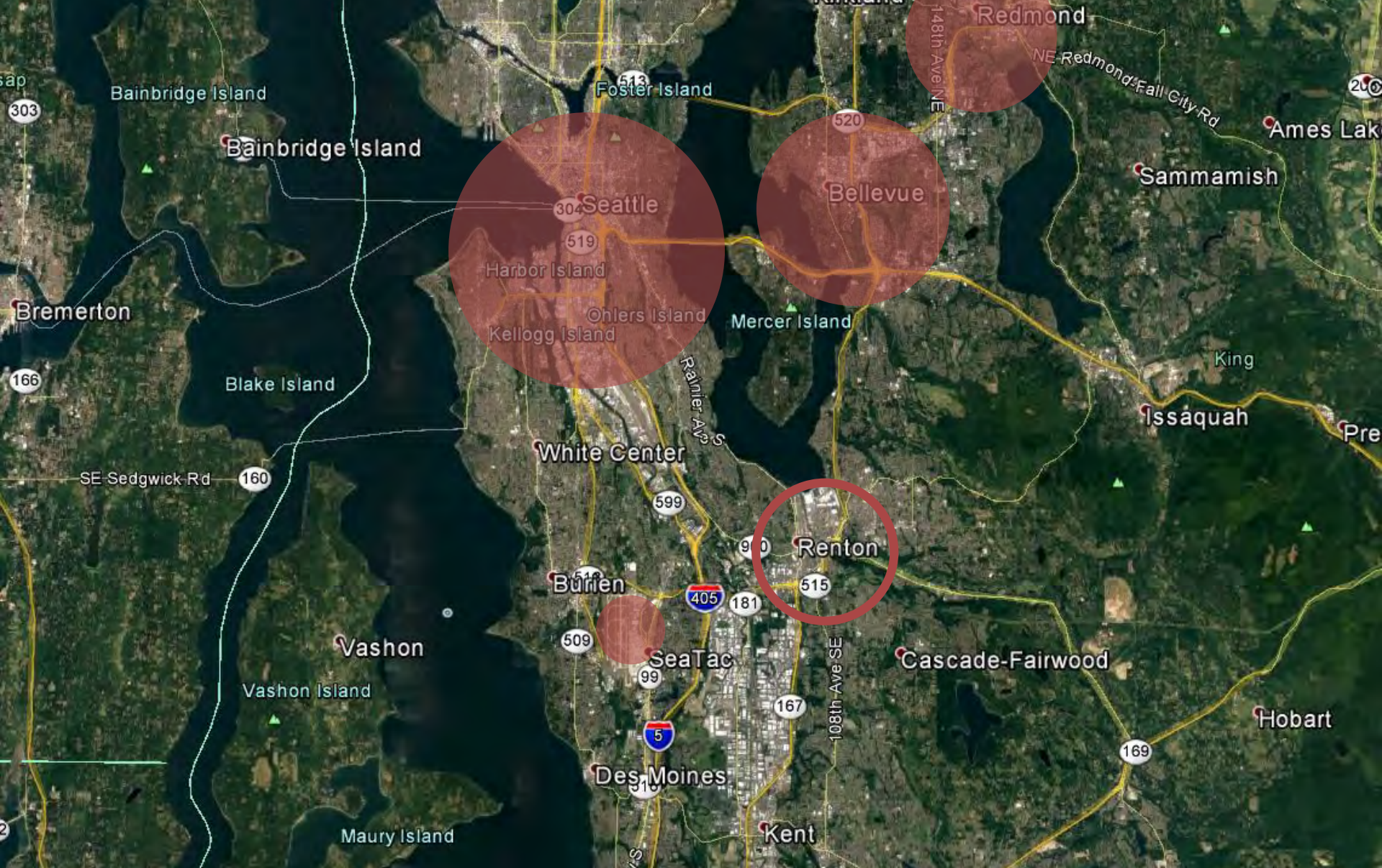
The City's Project Manager, John Collum, followed with a more detailed overview of the project's process and purpose, followed by a presentation of existing conditions by Alex Dupey, Project Manager with the consultant project team.

# EARLY INPUT/EXISTING CONDITIONS

What we've heard so far...

The following slides are a condensed version of the presentation given at the public kickoff.





Renton has convenient access to the larger market, with proximity to the Seattle region and SeaTac Airport.





Downtown has a unique past, with a history of interesting urban architecture and variety of uses making it a true center of the city. Much of that remains today but you need to know it's there to see it and want to go there.





Today, the signs of growth and change are everywhere, including new and more urban housing development. Change within Downtown and the Civic Core are coming, like many areas in the metropolitan area.





At the same time there is a lack of activity after work hours and at night, leaving most streets and storefronts quiet and uninviting especially for those on foot. Adequate lighting and safety issues are some of the challenges to making Downtown enticing for new visitors and businesses.



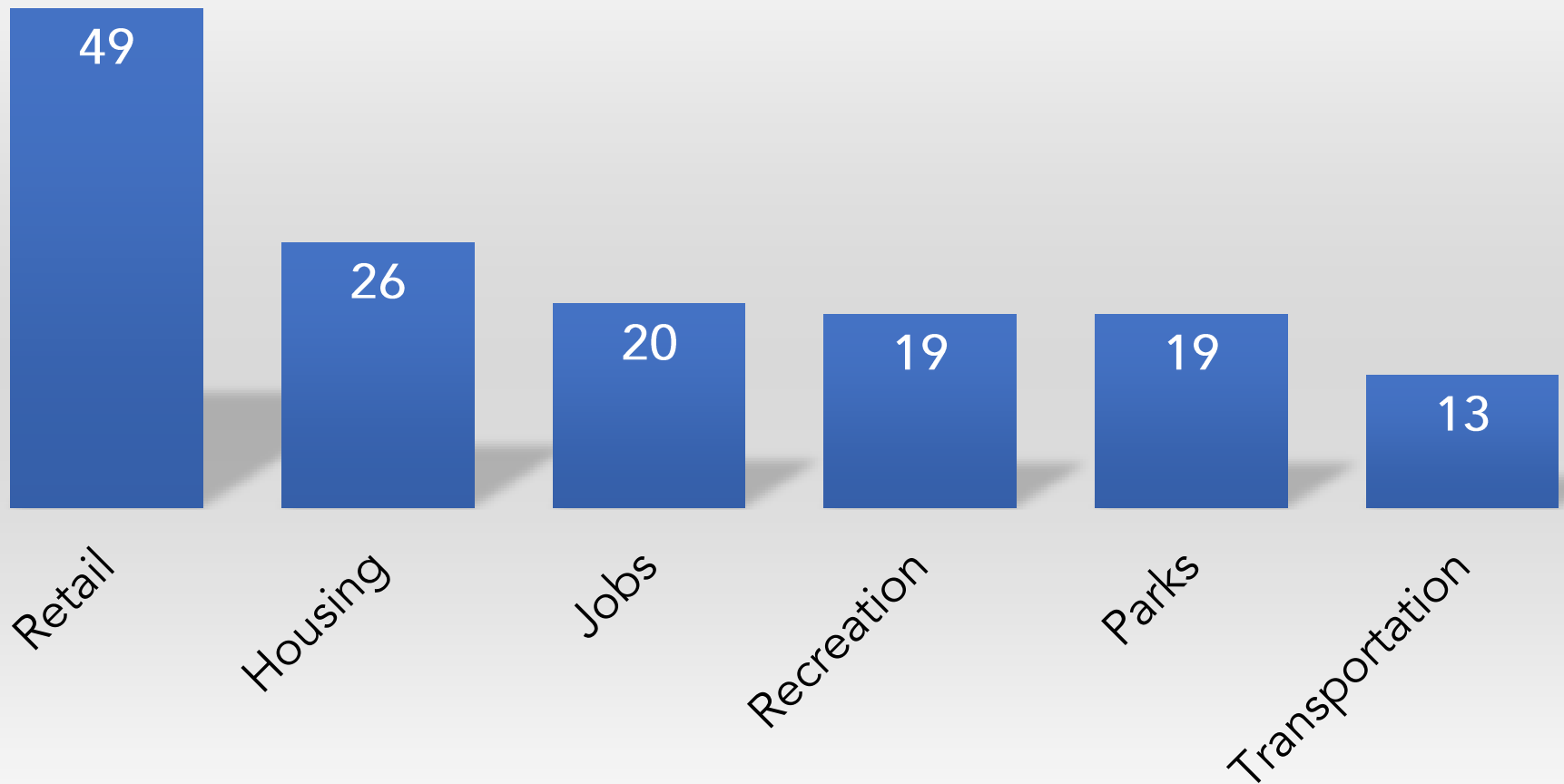


But there are great urban and natural spaces and important civic uses. The Cedar River and Public Library are two beloved features of Downtown and provide an opportunity to increase a sense of identity with better connections to these places and other attractions.

# ADVISORY GROUPS: DESIRED OUTCOMES

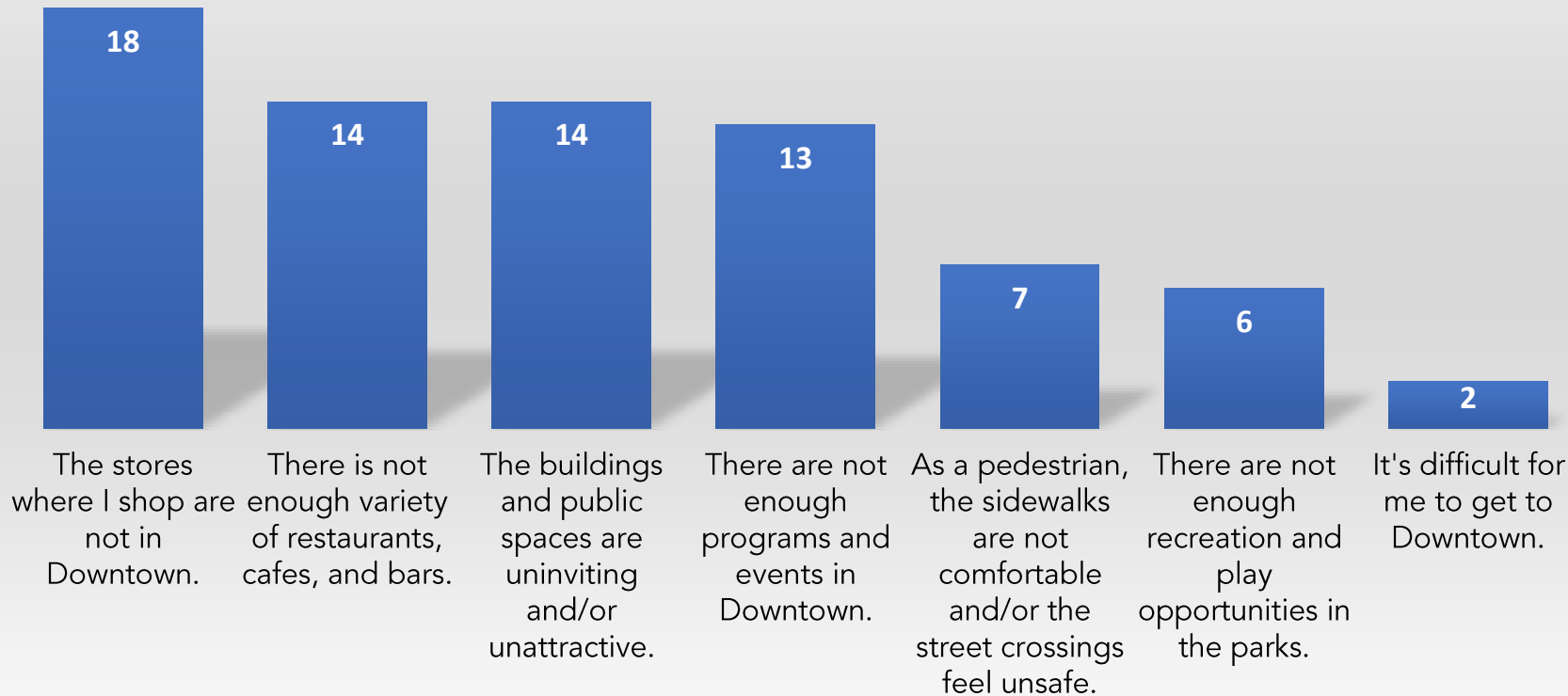
- Round the clock Downtown
- Maintain its small town feel
- Offer urban living
- Showcase rich history and identify
- Great public spaces
- Range of art and cultural attractions
- Efficient and multi-modal access
- Destination

# What's your vision for the future of the Civic Core?



Results from our monthly poll on the project website showed that retail and housing are the top two most important concerns for the future of the Civic Core.

# What, if anything, keeps you from spending more time in Downtown Renton?



And that there are several reasons that keep people from spending more time in Downtown Renton.



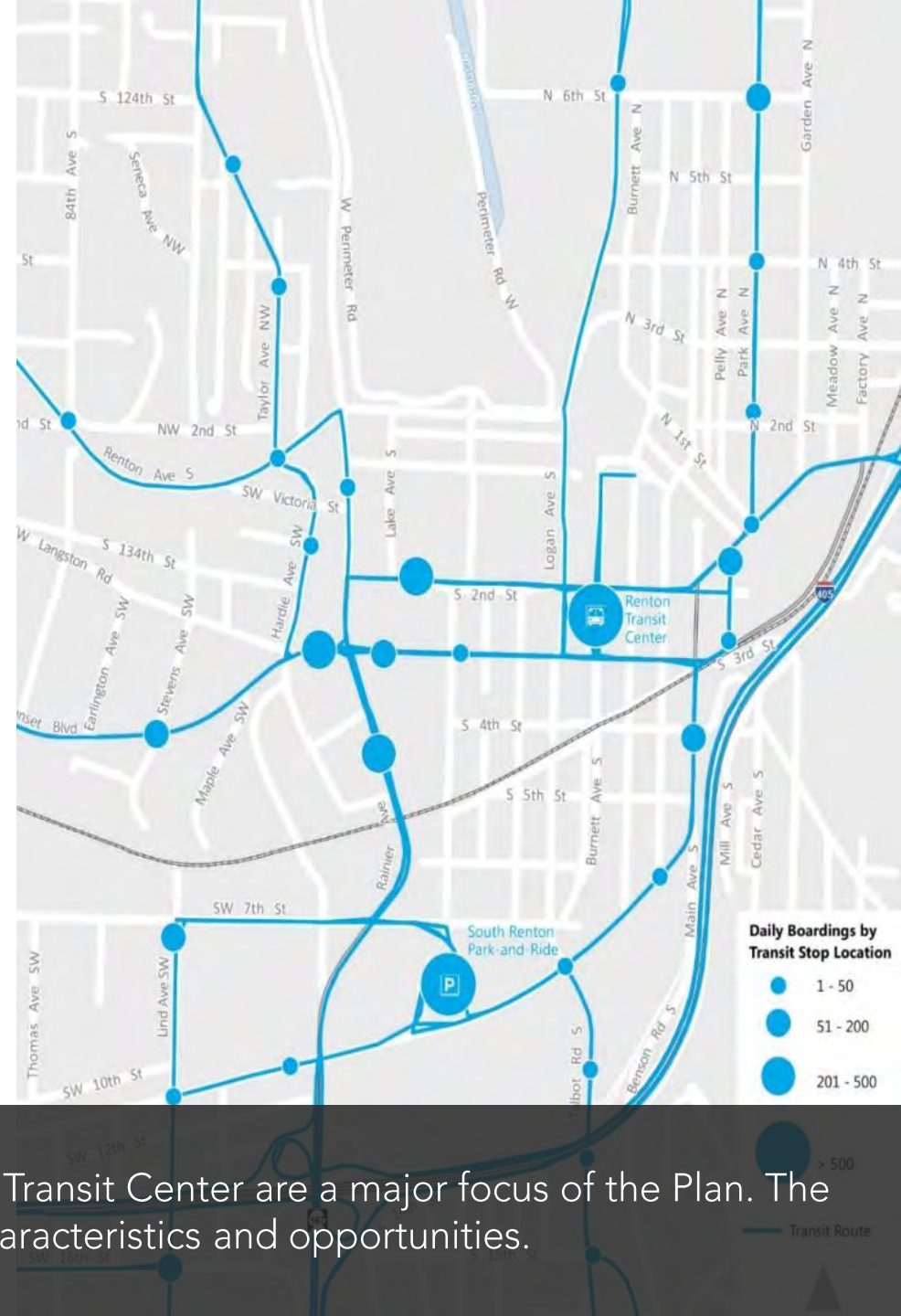
# TRANSIT

## The Project will Evaluate:

- Ridership
- Transit markets
- Bus operations
- Layover requirements

## And Understand the Interaction between:

- Renton Transit Center
- South Renton Park & Ride



Transit routing and reconfiguring the Downtown Transit Center are a major focus of the Plan. The project is evaluating a range of transit issues, characteristics and opportunities.

# TRANSIT

## Future Considerations

- I-405 Bus Rapid Transit
- Metro Connects

## Next Steps

- Identify potential route alternatives
- Understand trade-offs
  - Access to Downtown Renton
  - Regional mobility
  - Operational and capital costs



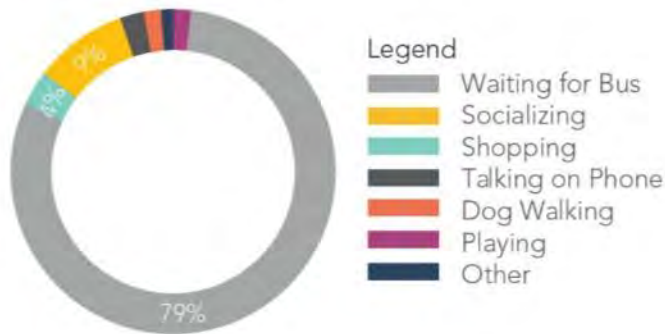


# PUBLIC USE ANALYSIS

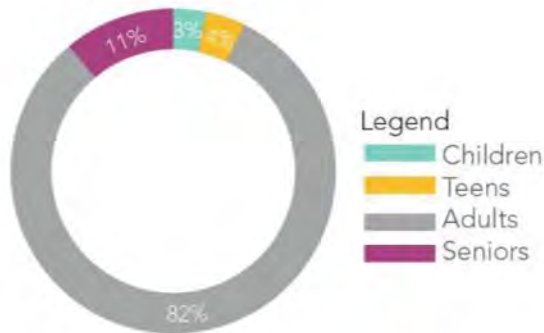


The Public Use Analysis examined the role and function of Downtown public spaces to better understand ways to make these spaces more inviting, interesting and connected with one-another and the Civic Core.

## Diversity of Uses



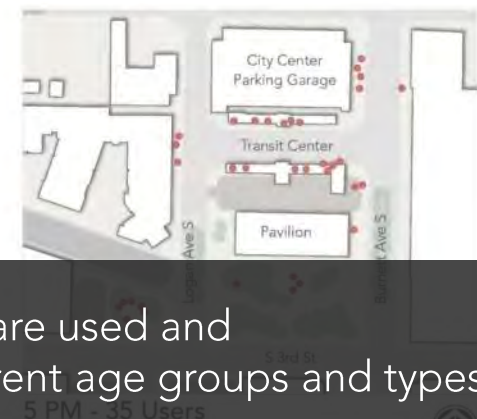
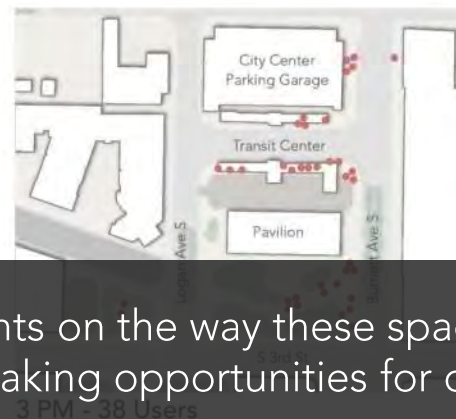
## Age Diversity



Only 3% of users observed were children.

## Behavior Observations

The following maps show where density or concentrations of activities are taking place in the Heart of the Civic Core throughout a typical weekday. This series of maps shows that activities tend to be concentrated near bus stops with very sporadic uses of the main Piazza space. At certain hours, not even a single person was using the main Piazza space. While the Piazza may draw users during events, there are few reasons to visit the Piazza when there is no programming at this space.



Person/Activity Observed on 11/4/2016

Not to Scale



The Public Use Analysis provided many insights on the way these spaces are used and considerations for improvement, including making opportunities for different age groups and types of users.



# WHAT'S NEXT?

Trends, ideas, and opportunities

# CREATIVE PLACEMAKING





Programmed spaces get people excited about being someplace, whether it's a street that can be shut down for events, or having music in a park. Making it fun and engaging makes people want to be there and come back often.





Art is important and Downtown already has some great examples. But public spaces also need to be programmed with activities to maintain interest. Children should always be part of the equation when it comes to programming and creative placemaking.



# TRENDS IN RETAIL



Retail has changed a lot over the years, from single stores selling many types of goods, to Main Streets, to regional malls that are regional destinations (often with large parking lots).



# Macy's committed to closing 34 more stores as sales drop in 2016



## JC Penney announces store closings



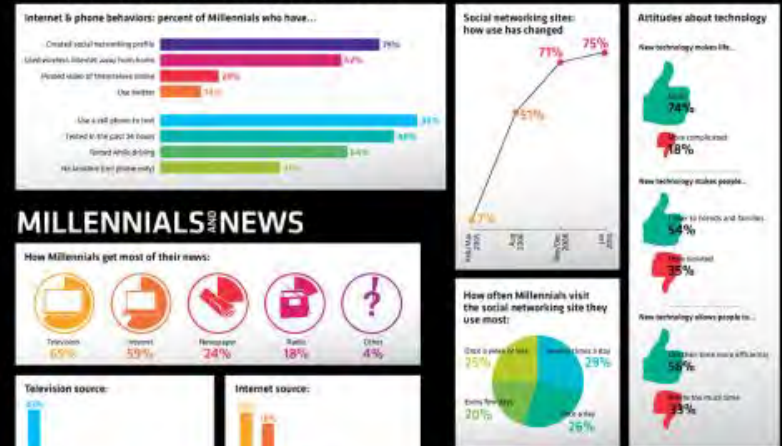
J.C. Penney announced on Friday that it will close approximately 140 of its stores in the next few months.

## WHO ARE THE MILLENNIALS?

### THE DEMOGRAPHICS



### MILLENNIALS AND TECHNOLOGY



Flowtown.

rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

But traditional retail with anchor tenants are not keeping up with changing demographics and shopper behaviors. Millennials (and others) are seeking experience in addition to the purchase.

# VARIED SPACES AND USES





Mixed use can be traditional residential or commercial development over retail, but mixed use can also combine multiple uses in a single building, such as education and incubator spaces. It can be eclectic and dynamic, creating places that provide services and support residential and commercial spaces.

# SMALL GROUP BREAK- OUT SESSION



# OVERVIEW

After the presentation, participations broke into small groups:

- To help maintain the size of small groups, each participant had a number on their nametag that directed them to a table with the same number
- Each table had one or two facilitators and note takers that assisted in the discussion
- Small groups were asked several questions and then reported back to the larger group



Each table had a large map of Downtown and the Civic Core to use as a reference and to note ideas. To start, each group decided on the best route (on foot) to get from one Downtown destination to another (pre-determined and colored orange on the map).





The group then made observations and took notes on the map and using the provided flip chart, following a series of general questions provided to the entire audience.

# SMALL GROUP REPORTS

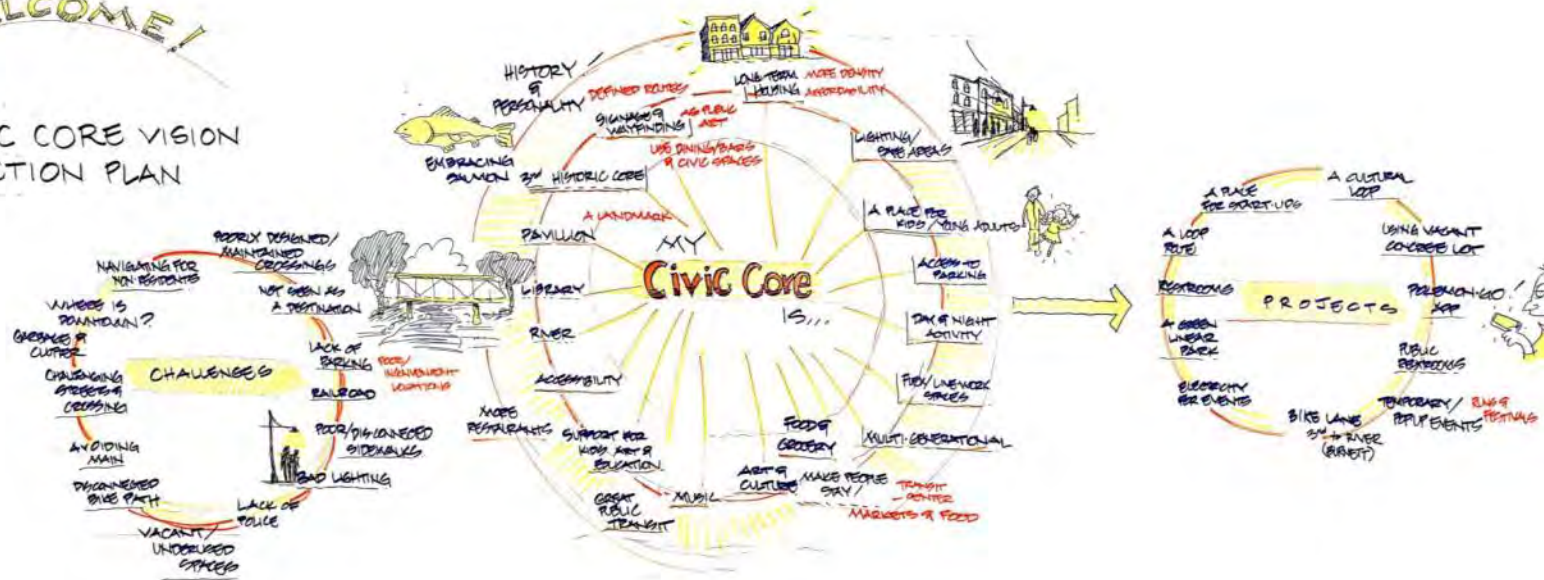
- Each group reviewed the information they generated and summarized it into several key points to share with everyone
- The following series of maps show locations and ideas from each of the small groups.
- Transcriptions of each flipchart is attached as an appendix





Each table chose a speaker to present their completed map and flipchart.

# WELCOME! renton downtown CIVIC CORE VISION & ACTION PLAN



The small group reports generated an array of ideas for the future, and issues and opportunities to build on. This graphic summarizes the key outcomes of these responses, displayed towards the front of the room.



# GENERATING IDEAS

The questions generated a lively discussion around opportunities, challenges and ideas for Downtown and the Civic Core. Not all groups or participants agreed on everything, however there were many similarities in what each table discussed.

# WHAT ATTENDEES SAID: THE TOP MOST MENTIONED WORDS OF THE EVENING



This word cloud represents the top most mentioned words taken from small group flip charts. Larger text indicates words that had the highest occurrence.



# PERCEPTIONS ON THE DOWNTOWN EXPERIENCE: CHALLENGES

## Transportation and mobility

- Finding and accessing Downtown for visitors
- Challenging streets and crossings
- Non (ADA) accessible streets and sidewalks
- Disconnected bike routes
- Need for improved parking management
- High traffic speeds and one-way streets feel unsafe
- Traffic noise, especially from I-405

# PERCEPTIONS ON THE DOWNTOWN EXPERIENCE: CHALLENGES

## Safety and sense of place

- Garbage and clutter
- Vacant and underused spaces
- Poor lighting and lack of police presence
- No well-defined sense of where Downtown is and what it has to offer



# THE FUTURE OF DOWNTOWN RENTON AND THE CIVIC CORE: IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Land uses

- Great existing destinations to build from (such as restaurants and public spaces)
- More restaurants and dining options, including a grocery store needed
- More places to live, including denser housing and flex (live/work) spaces
- Maximizing existing uses, including converting single family housing to mixed uses

# THE FUTURE OF DOWNTOWN RENTON AND THE CIVIC CORE: IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Streets and public transit

- Better landscaping and street trees
- Transit stations that connect to the regional transit system, including light rail
- Better streetscape and sidewalk connectivity
- Connecting to 3rd, the true Main Street



# THE FUTURE OF DOWNTOWN RENTON AND THE CIVIC CORE: IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Programming and placemaking

- Using technology for wayfinding and information (mobile apps)
- Coordinating local business with events
- Embracing our historic and cultural heritage
- Celebrating the natural environment and salmon in Cedar River
- Making great places for kids and families
- Getting people to stay, especially after hours
- More music, arts and cultural programs

# POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR THE CIVIC CORE

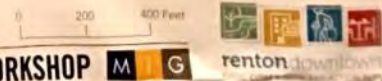
A sample of project ideas from the small groups:

- Using vacant storefronts for start-up companies
- Defining Downtown “routes” for walking/biking, arts and culture, food and entertainment
- Adding public restrooms
- Defining a green linear park, or connection to and through Downtown
- Adding electricity for events
- Creating a bike lane from 3<sup>rd</sup> to the Cedar River along Burnett
- Temporary/pop-up events and runs and festivals



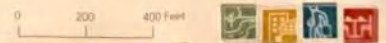




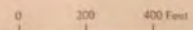


## KICK-OFF AND VISIONING WORKSHOP











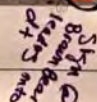










Table 2

No Good  
Bicycle  
route

Challenging  
Intersection

Need safe  
parking  
bikes









TABLE 12

KICK-OFF AND VISIONING WORKSHOP 





0 200 400 Feet

KICK-OFF AND VISIONING WORKSHOP







# rentondowntown

CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

[www.rentonciviccore.com](http://www.rentonciviccore.com)



# RENTON SMALL GROUP TRANSCRIPTIONS AND MEETING POSTER NOTES

## *SMALL GROUPS*

### Group 1

#### MAP

- Mix of housing options in the core mix-use
- Stable solid retail and grocery store
- Moving transit center to Grady
- Aldi Grocery
- Wiggle works for toddlers
- Need safe route for bikes
- No good bicycle route
- One-way streets
- Library hours?
- Barrier, untrimmed bushes at PO
- Link light rail?
- Commuter traffic drives too fast they don't stop here- they just take a short cut
- Free parking desired
- Tonkin Park is not child friendly- could be a safety hazard with 3 busy street sides
- Cross walks missing on most corners of Tonkin Park
- Tonkin Park has a great stage yet no electricity!
- Well Lit (Williams) S. 3<sup>rd</sup>
- No lighting within Tonkin Park in the evening hours

#### FLIPCHART

- Way finding
  - Lack of employee pkg.
  - No light rail (we want this!)
- Challenges
  - \*Lighting at night
  - \*Safety of crosswalks
  - Lack of free parking
  - One way streets
  - Lack of access to river
  - No "there" on S. 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Amount of traffic (cut-thru traffic)

- No light rail (we want this!)
- More building setbacks
- More landscaping
- Wide sidewalks needed
- \*visible police presence
- Remove clutter
- Art opportunities
  - Tonkin Park
  - Former Big5 site
  - Music- the chamber
  - More \*open space\*
  - Use the stage @ Tonkin Park, add power
  - Add lighting
  - \*Activate the space\*
- Opportunities
  - Night life
  - Events at piazza
  - River
  - Library
  - Space port
  - Reinstate the #110, free shuttle as a street car
  - Transit center services seniors

## Group 2

- 4<sup>th</sup> and Burnett challenging
- Speed
- No parking @ park
- No public restroom
- Crosswalks
- No sidewalks on Burnett along parking area b/w 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>
- safety
  - Very dark
- Amenities
  - Blossom
  - Smoking monkey
  - Red house
  - Park
  - Burnett station
  - B of A
  - Kindergarten
  - Piazza



- Signs start by brown bear along Burnett linear park
- Restaurants
- Retail
- Art
- D.O.L.
- Chamber
- Post office
- Library
- Public restrooms
- Transit center
- How to make better?
  - Sidewalk consistency
  - Stronger retail into center of town
  - Better pedestrian rail crossing
  - Better streetscape
    - Colored concrete
    - “district”
  - “wet love messages” - rain paint
  - Park/ path connections
  - Bike lockers
  - Make activity of piazza spill down Burnett
  - Closed streets for activities
    - Festivals
  - Public restroom!
  - Bike paths
- Art current and ongoing
  - Mural an old western wear building
  - Face plates at post office
  - I ♥ Renton mural
- Linear park to piazza
  - Bike path
  - Consistent sidewalks
  - Green way- perhaps Linear Park all the way through
  - Grown outward on farmers market days into neighboring streets
  - Signage to public buildings and bathrooms
  - Art along railroad tracks
  - Sidewalk or rainworks art as guide to civic core, permanent art murals

### Group 3

MAP

- Need directional signs for walkers (way finding)
- Pop up spaces, young adult attractions
  - Coffee
  - Dinner, ice cream, open
- Change pavilion into permanent market (farmer's market) or small stores/ s area
- Time of day? Unsafe feeling
- Increase events at iPAC
- Positive: Free Parking
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> predictable curb cuts, good sidewalks
- Renton parking Map → like me Seattle parking Map
- Wayfinding → interactive art → people will follow the art
- High speed traffic
- Need interactive art
- Millennials hate parallel parking
- Interactive art
- Identifying south side cedar river trail
- Destination provides multiple options library, pool, community center, walking path, kid stuff, skate park, open space
- More retail
- City hall should move into core of downtown core
- Yelling, screaming outside Bank/ kitty corner from Pavilion 3<sup>rd</sup>?
- Part of my childhood
- Lack of wheelchair accessibility to Cedar no ramps or curb cuts

#### FLIPCHART

- Why civic core?
  - Lunch & dinner \*
  - Farmer's market and shopping\*
  - Do business and work
  - Transit center
  - Events
- Ikea to Liberty Park/ Top Route Priority
  - Accessibility projects
  - Young adult attractions
  - More development
    - High density
    - Ped. Lighting

#### Group 4

- Ikea feels very separated



- Restaurant & theater, market/events
- Temporary art installations
- Mall setting shows multiple shopping options
- Higher use of plaza
- Employ artists, allow graffiti
- More publicized library events
- Parking is unsafe to walk through
- More info/ events when Salmon run
- Expand car-to-go and other sharing services into Renton, less reliance on multi-car families
- Scale of sidewalks good
- Businesses aren't coordinated with events (i.e. Oktoberfest)
- Better direct access from south Renton to Downtown
- A Linear Park
- City hall to library is more of a bike trip length
- Bus: city hall to library
- Perception is Piazza is a long way from library wayfinding to give time estimate
- Restrooms needed/ remain open
- Central website upcoming events

#### Group 5

- Priorities
  - Lighting/ signage
  - Leverage (guide to parking) – transit central garage
  - Facilitate/ improve access and use of Cedar River as public amenity
  - Improve access under interstate 405
- What makes it better?
  - Food/bev.
  - Enhance signs/ lighting
  - More destinations along route
  - Access to river
- Anchor Location
  - Live issues safety enhancement
- Why: This route
  - Sidewalk, awnings/ rain, slower traffic, old town feel

#### Group 6

- Must be a proactive pedestrian in Renton
- Ped crossings hazardous near veterans park
- People have no clue there are salmon in the river
  - Have no clue there is a river

- Have no clue there is a trail
- Use art downtown as directional signage
- Interactive map app on phone for features and amenities, with points to get treat/ reward
- Art with a salmon theme
- Art at every bridge crossing
- Art- incorporate into walkway surface
- Prioritize and projects
  - Safe crossings for pedestrians (Mill/ S third)
  - Celebrate the Cedar River- largest urban salmon run in continental U.S.
  - Interactive maps (iPhones) to locate/ identify the Cedar River
  - “pop up” ducks throughout downtown (similar to “Pokemon Go”) & then the players get business coupons
  - “Renton Map” at the piazza
  - “Pokemon Go”- “Renton Go”

#### Group 7

##### MAP

- Spaces for kids
- Feels unsafe
- One way- streets dangerous
- Need public restrooms
- Easy to get to
- Development & Opportunity art
- Need better street parking
- Skating rink & movie
- Traffic is a wall
- Upgrade lighting
- Hard for directions
- More events
- Lighting and interactive arts
- Children’s theater
- Art pop ups
- Trolley→ to the landing?
- More bike connections
- Need consistent amenities
- Integrate with river

##### FLIPCHART

- Not inviting
- Integrate with river



- Pavilion catering services
- Jazz
- \*Better use of pavilion\*
- Pop ups & chamber of com.
- Interior → market- Olympia
- Food trucks
- Art exhibitions
- Music festivals
- Dancing
- October fest
- Pavilion is dead at night ☹
- Indoor market
- Pop up art walk- first Thursday
- Need consistent draw
- Need spaces for kids\*
- Children's theater
- More seasonal festivals!
- Kids love landing!
- Bike events → draw people
  - Bike lanes
  - Encourage transit
- More lighting
  - Neon lights are cool
  - Renton sign or dances

#### Group 8

##### MAP

- Veterans Day celebration, Auburn Rodes
- Annual art centric/ historic scavenger hunt and prizes
- Art triggered by water/ rain sim.- temperature sidewalks
- Move downtown Renton transit station to Grady Way
- Maximize Jimi Hendrix concerts music event
  - Weekend concert series
- Thanks for working to keep downtown clean
- Alzehuer village
- New city hall downtown
- Parking garage is scary- especially at night. SO we need parking that's safe so we can walk around the city (with signs) Thanks!
- Utilize emerging technologies to plan the future of Renton
- Make overpass for people and bikes at City Hall Grady

- Overpass- city hall to wells
  - Leave locks for padlocks. Encouraged
- Noise from I405 (negative)
- No light rail station in Renton to connect to airport, Seattle, Bellevue
- Too much traffic and noise
- Benches, trees/ landscaping/ art
- Restaurants
- Big sculpture project along major walking routes
- Too bad at night
- Buildings need maintenance
- Crosswalk location not convenient to City Hall entrances; light is for cars, not people
- What is chamber of commerce involvement? They be by city hall?
- Great farmers market
- Unique library built over Cedar river
- Entice good affordable jazz music
- Classy dance like Salsa
  - Friday night
- Go past- nice residential makes walk interesting- if through neighborhood
- Great mixed use retail project
- Retail evening hours are limited, so there's not much to do after eating out than to go home rather than walking around, hanging out, and/or shopping
- Wells has more business that are active
- Food, art market place like pike place
- More green spaces, places to relax
- \*Preserve downtown buildings/ history (restore) no tall buildings
- Lacks independent coffee houses (not starbucks) (Liberty Café is great, but not open for early commutes)
- Connect Cedar river bike trail to downtown in same way
- More art based activities and public art
- Weekend events/ pedestrian only (or bikes)?
- Keep single residential housing mixed
- Encourage pedestrian experiences/ block parties
- Memorial park has best landscaping downtown
- Pedestrian path across Mill ave to Library is unclear
- Great mixed use retail project
- Renton River Day Events
- Unfortunate that Spirit of WA dinner train was disband. Great tourist place for locals and out of state visitors/ we need a similar attraction
- Lack of public parking on street near business (eg. Liberty Café)
- Area for food trucks as one of the main downtown attraction



## FLIPCHART

- Wider sidewalks and lighting= increased safety
- Wells vs. Grady/ Main
  - Interesting/ more things to do
  - Housing not well maintained
  - Need crosswalk at Grady/ Wells
  - Overpass
  - Traffic/ Noise
- Clean up eyesores
- Directional markers
  - Embedded art in s/w (Brass)
- Better landscaping & street trees
- Mural at 339 Wells building
  - Series with theme
- Public art for directional format
- New/wider s/ws
- Waste receptacles
- Use History as a theme
- Or use more contemporary art
- Cultural art
- C1-C2
  - Make city hall more inviting
    - Too functional
    - Add density around city hall/ along Grady 405
    - Renovate historic buildings with less higher density
- Create even more connections best City Hall and Civic Core
- Art studio for kids
- More events in Liberty Park/ LIB area
- D1 Priorities
  - Clean up program for DT businesses → beautification
  - Ped level street lights now
  - Uniform signage
  - More parking on street
  - Wayfinding signage
- A2→ Helmer's village
- More mixed use→ rts/ retail
- Re-use pavilion
- More DT events

## Group 9

- Different routes based on knowledge of DT 3<sup>rd</sup> st.
- Great retail, dining, bars
- Consider relocating transit center
- Bad intersections
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> & Main
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> & Main
  - Bronson
- Avoid!
  - Burnett → transients
  - R.R. south
  - Cedar river → homelessness/ drugs
- Placemaking
  - Public art on 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - River
- Activate Main & 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Incorporate a salmon viewing area! Into art and place → 5k “follow the salmon”
- The pavilion to the library, because... you can walk on 3<sup>rd</sup>!
- Dinner and movie at the old theater
  - Ikea, Carlo & old theater as a cultural route
- Use the museum (day & night)
  - Perceived as closed
  - Concert and music
- Combine new with old
- Art & Culture
- More permanent housing → condos
- Top Projects
  - Salmon- interp. Culture and art
  - Kids play/ activity area (water)
  - Year-round market

#### Group 10

- Different routes at night
- Homeless, crime at night
- No division at Burnett
- Distinction between N&S river
- Don't see DT Renton as a destination\*
  - Mini- I.D.
  - Movie
  - Maker space
- 3 things



- Restaurants on Wells
  - Sbox- workspace/ 3<sup>rd</sup> spaces
- More programs, space for museum
  - Master plan for museum rethink
  - Open art spaces
  - More relevant programs
- More businesses
  - \*flex space/ startup space
  - Attracting housing to support businesses
  - Mix for consuming and making spaces
- Library as destination
  - Computer skills (eg. Atlantic sr center)
- \*jobs, civic training, high school, adults
- Advertise/ promote
- Gateway drug to downtown- ice cream
- DT Study space between
  - HS & Library
  - Devoted to kids
  - Practice space
- Salmon days Renton River days
  - Tie DT to river better
- Parks/public spaces
- What to do?
  - Chess
  - H2O features- can touch!
  - Sidewalk cafes\*
  - Safe walking
  - Busker
  - Public restroom
    - Bus drivers
  - Make TC “Stickier” for commuters
  - Remove the “keep out” signs

#### Large Map Yellow Post it- Opportunities

- Street car circuit
- Love Roxy idea
- Roxy theater if you want a nightlife, turn the Roxy into a live music venue like the old theater in Seattle- paramount
- If we go to one way streets, will this cause traffic jams in the downtown area when people are trying to parallel park?

- To attract young lucrative small businesses like “Urban Sprout” from Seattle, keep the historic quaint feel downtown Renton has to offer. Columbia city, Fremont, Ballard, Queen Ann, all have this and they have attracted renters and successful businesses
- Artists bring business: older buildings are beautiful, please do not demolish for the sake of price. I appreciate the vintage look like you find in Seattle- keeps me coming back
- Public Restroom
- More greenery improve buildings
- Add water play area to Pavilion and Piazza (like Kent or Ballard)
- Boutique shops/ restaurants
- Trader Joes
- Bulldoze bank, replace with condos and shops
- Large mural on North side of bank
- The dream of Light Rail!
- Lightrail!
- More parks extend Burnett Ave
- Art and public meeting space outdoors
- Changing to 2-way traffic on Williams/ Wells is detrimental to residents on those streets
- Traffic bump outs to decrease speed
- Love the old downtown houses
- Needs art space and more lighting
- Once a month we make first Friday May- Oct
- Embrace historical keep/ fix historical brick buildings, no cheap stucco, avoid this at least
- More incubator office space
- More people eating at restaurants, shopping, etc.
- Creativity! Art space! Art community gathering
- Museum parking
- Mall type building
- Establish a factory to recycle carbon waste into oil to be sold to be used to either make fuels or to make plastic- it’s a real technology
- Ex from Columbia City, Seattle: artisan shops, vintage style, artisan signage. Embrace historic Renton- revitalization starts with beautiful shop fronts, historical pictures of Renton show this
- Temporary or permanent sculpture location through the core
- More restaurants and food for park goers
- Widen sidewalks to better accommodate both foot and bicycle traffic, beautify the bridge
- Maintain hardcopy books in library
- Establish city owned high speed internet to compete with Comcast and to ensure Net Neutrality and lots of WiFi
- Paint murals on vacant wall space throughout the core
- Think future/ emerging technology to fix a situation/ old way of solve. Don’t use old way of thinking to solve old problem



- Plant fruit trees
- Gas station museum
- Maximize Ikea performing arts
- Millennial attractions please
- Maintain downtown Renton Core hometown feel. Upgrade the outer Renton
- Plant bushes that encourage bees and butterflies and song birds
- Mail in postcard art
- Coincide RR days
- Author- artist in resident at public schools
- Art museum warm showers and laundry for homeless folks
- More public art everywhere
- More community pea patch garden
- Maximize Jimi Hendrix annual guitar concert

#### Large Map Blue Post it- Barriers

- Better lighting- dangerous at night for students and workers
- Safe pedestrian crossing from s. Tobin st. to trail across Lazan Ave- residents school bus stops, pedestrians, etc.
- Unsafe for parking
- Homeless/ gang activity/ drugs/ public defecation/ unsafe
- Homelessness and drugs make down town scary to go to at night
- Either provide better resources for homeless or better police the drugs and unfavorable activity
- Poor lighting- unattractive sidewalks and garbage disposal
- Make traffic 2 way
- Slow down traffic
- Public restroom
- Walk of fame
- Difficult intersection
- Car break ins
- Needs better lighting
- Commuting traffic moves too fast through the S. Renton neighborhood
- Homeless folks- needing substance abuse help
- Thank you for working on dog park. Important need.
- Lots of homeless folk, feels unsafe
- Too much drug activity
- Narrow sidewalks- not bicycle friendly
- We need to be able to turn- West or East or go straight
- Traffic fails to slow/ yield to pedestrian
- Messy construction taking up parking and noisy
- Dead space

- Car break ins at Cedar River trail
- Car break ins
- Vacant storefronts/ dead beat landlords
- Landscape along I-40s
- Poor lighting/ unattractive sidewalks and garbage disposal



# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

Create a "River Walk" with restaurants & shops  
along the river, Better street lighting, get  
rid of the drug activity in the civic core.  
monthly art / wine walk



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

Concerts in the parks July & Aug (weekly)

# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

FILLED WITH MANY VARIED

BUSINESS' AND ATTRACTIONS

• Eliminate all the Drug Activity - Drug Dealing

right outside this entrance - Scary!

Need more

Police Presence



to Eliminate Crime.

rentondowntown

CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

Santa Monica gave a grace period of \$1  
a month mental fee for open vacant businesses



# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

406 Grandey WAY NE  
Renton, WA 98056



**renton**downtown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

Exciting



**renton**downtown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN



# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

BUSY WITH SHOPPING,  
CULTURAL and FAMILY  
EVENTS and GOOD FOOD



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

*Transit oriented*

*Grocery stores/entertainment*

*Meet/shopping hub.*



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN



# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

One that attracts dynamic  
future businesses, and  
a place of community gathering



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE  
& DOWNTOWN BUSINESS  
DISTRICT IS...

**A PLACE TO  
SHOP + DINE AT  
LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES**



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN



# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

Filled with creativity!

Image something beyond  
what we have now.



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

Fun Busy Safe



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN



MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE  
& DOWNTOWN BUSINESS  
DISTRICT IS...

RENTON River Days  
ON 3RD



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

Vibrant with opportunities  
for all!



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN



MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE  
& DOWNTOWN BUSINESS  
DISTRICT IS...

HISTORIC REVITALIZATION

ARTISAN SHOPS

VINTAGE SIGNAGE(STYLE)



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

SAFE, CLEAN, AND

EXCITING SPACE AND ENVIRONMENT

TO EXPLORE



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN



# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

*Change 3rd Ave to  
a cute walking MALL*



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

MORE RESTAURANTS

UPPER END RETAIL

OLD BUILDING REMOVED



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN



# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

"BELLEVUE"



**renton**downtown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN

# MY FUTURE CIVIC CORE & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IS...

VIBRANT

&

ALIVE!



rentondowntown  
CIVIC CORE VISION AND ACTION PLAN



## TABLE II

A. - WIDER SIDEWALKS  
+ LIGHTING =  
↑ SAFETY

- WELLS VS. GRADY/MAIN

- INTERESTING  
MORE THINGS  
TO DO

- TRAFFIC/  
NOISE

- HOUSING NOT  
NEED WELL MAINTAINED

- CROSSWALK AT  
GRADY/WELLS

- OVERPASS



- CLEAN UP EYEORES
- DIRECTIONAL MARKERS
  - EMBEDDED ART IN S/W (BRASS)
- BETTER LANDSCAPING + STREET TREES
- MURAL AT 339 WELLS BLDG
  - SERIES w/ THEME
- PUBLIC ART FOR DIRECTIONAL FORMAT
- NEW/WIDER S/Ws
- WASTE RECEPTACLES



- USE HISTORY AS A  
THEME

- OR USE MORE CONTEMPORARY  
ART

- CULTURAL ART

C1-C2- MAKE CITY HALL MORE  
INVITING

↳ TOO FUNCTIONAL

↳ ADD DENSITY  
AROUND CITY HALL  
ALONG GRADY

405  
↳ RENOVATE HISTORIC  
BLDG'S w/ LESS  
HIGHER DENSITY



- CREATE EVEN MORE  
CONNECTIONS ~~BE~~  
BET CITY HALL AND  
CIVIC CORE

- ART STUDIO FOR KIDS'  
- MORE EVENTS IN  
LIBERTY PARK/LIB  
AREA



D1

## PRIORITIES

- ① ↳ CLEAN UP PROGRAM  
FOR DT BUSINESSES  
↳ BEAUTIFICATION
- ② ↳ PED LEVEL  
STREET LIGHTS NOW  
↳ UNIFORM SIGNAGE  
↳ MORE PARKING  
ON-STREET
- ③ ↳ WAYFINDING & SIGNAGE

11





- ALZ <sup>HEIMER'S</sup> VILLAGE
- MORE MIXED USE
  - ↳ RES/RETAIL
- REUSE PAVILION
- MORE DT EVENTS



TABLE 10

★ NOT INVITING.

★ INTEGRATE WITH RIVER

★ PAVILION CATERING SERVICES

★ JAZZ

★ Better USE OF PAVILION

★ POP UPS & Chamber of com.

★ INTERIOR → MARKET - OLYMPIA.

★ FOOD TALKS.

★ ART EXHIBITIONS

★ MUSIC FESTIVALS.

★ DANCING.

★ OCTOBER FEST



> PAVILION IS DEAD AT NIGHT ☹

> INDOOR MARKET

> POP UP ART WALK - FIRST THURS.

> NEED CONSISTENT DRAW

> NEED SPACES FOR KIDS.

> CHILDREN'S THEATER

> <sup>MORE</sup> SEASONAL FESTIVALS!

> KIDS LOVE LANDING!

> BIKE EVENTS → DRAW PEOPLE

- BIKE LANES

- ENCOURAGE TRANSIT

> MORE LIGHTING -

NEED LIGHTS ARE COOL

RENTON SIGN ORDINANCE



# Why Civic Core

★ ★ ★ Lunch + Dinner

★ ★ Farmer's Market + Shopping  
Do Business + Work

Transit Center

Events



# Ikea to Liberty Park

## Top Route Priority

- ① Accessibility Projects
- ② Young Adult Attractions
- ③ More Development.
  - High Density
  - Ped. Lighting



- 4th & Burnett Challenging
- Speed
- No parking @ park
- crosswalks
- No Public Rest Room!
- No sidewalk on Burnett along parking area b/w 3rd & 4th
- SAFETY
  - Very dark
- Amenities
  - Blossom
  - smoking monkey
  - Red House
  - PARK
  - Burnett Station
  - B. of A.
  - Kindergarten
  - Piazza



- Signs start by Brown Bear  
along Burnett linear park

- Restaurants

- retail

- art

- D.O.L

- Chamber

- Post office

- Library

- Public Rest Rooms

- Transit Center



How to make better?

- Sidewalk consistency
- Stronger retail into center of town
- Better pedestrian rail crossing
- better Streetscape
  - colored concrete
  - "district"
- "wet love messages"
  - rain paint
- Park / Path connections
- Bike lockers



- Make Activity of Piazza  
Spill down Burnett
- Closed streets for activities
  - festivals
- PUBLIC RESTROOM!
- Bike paths



Art Current + ongoing  
Mural on old Western Wear building  
Face Platers @ Post office  
I ♥ Kenton Mural  
Donkey in Park



# Linear Park to Piazza

- Bike Path
  - Consistent Sidewalks
  - Green way - Perhaps Linear Park all the way through
  - Grow outward on Farmers market Days into neighboring streets.
  - Signage to Public Buildings & Bathrooms
  - Art along railroad tracks
  - Sidewalk or ramworks art as guide to Civic Core
- and permeate  
Art &  
murals



# Way Finding

## Challenges

• Lack of Employee Pkg.

• No Light Rail (we want this!)

- more bldg setbacks

- more landscaping

- wide sidewalks needed

visible Police Presence

• Lighting @ night

• Safety of crosswalks

• Lack of Free Pkg

• One-way streets

• Lack of access to River

• No "there" on S. 2nd

• Amt of Traffic (cut thru traffic)

Remove clutter - shrubs

## Art Opportunities

- Tonkin Park

- Former Big 5 site

- Music @ the chamber

- More Open Space

- use the stage @ Tonkin Park  
add power

- add lighting

## Table 2

## Opportunities

• Nightlife

• Events @ Piazza

• River

• Library

• Space port U

Reinstate the #110 Free Shuttle as a street car

- Transit Ctr serves Seniors

Activate the space



## Table 5

- MUST be a proactive Pedestrian in Renton
- Ped. crossings hazardous near Veterans Park
- People have no clue there is salmon in the River
  - have no clue there is a river
  - have no clue there is a trail
- Use art downtown as directional signage
- Interactive Map App. on phone for features & amenities — w/pts to get treat/reward
- Art with a salmon theme
- Art at every Bridge Crossing
- Art - incorporate into walkway surface



## Table 5

### Prioritize 3 Projects

① Safe Crossings for Pedestrians  
(Mill / 5<sup>th</sup> Third)

② Celebrate the Cedar River  
Largest Urban Salmon Run in Continental U.S.

③ Interactive Maps (I-phones) to  
locate/identify the Cedar River

④ "Pop Up" Ducks throughout  
Downtown (similar to Poké Man Go)  
& then the players get Business Coupons

⑤ "Renton Map" at the Piazza

⑥ "Poké Man Go" → "Renton Go"



12. DIFFERENT ROUTES BASED  
ON KNOWLEDGE OF D.T. 3rd ST.

- GREAT RETAIL, DINING, BARS
- CONSIDER RELOCATING TRANSIT CENTER

BAD INTERSECTIONS

3rd & MAIN  
2nd & MAIN

BRONSON

AVOID!

BURNETT

↳ TRANSIENTS

R.R. SOUTH +++++

CEDAR RIVER

↳ HOMELESSNESS/  
DRUGS!

- PLACEMAKING/

↳ PUBLIC ART ON 3rd

↳ RIVER

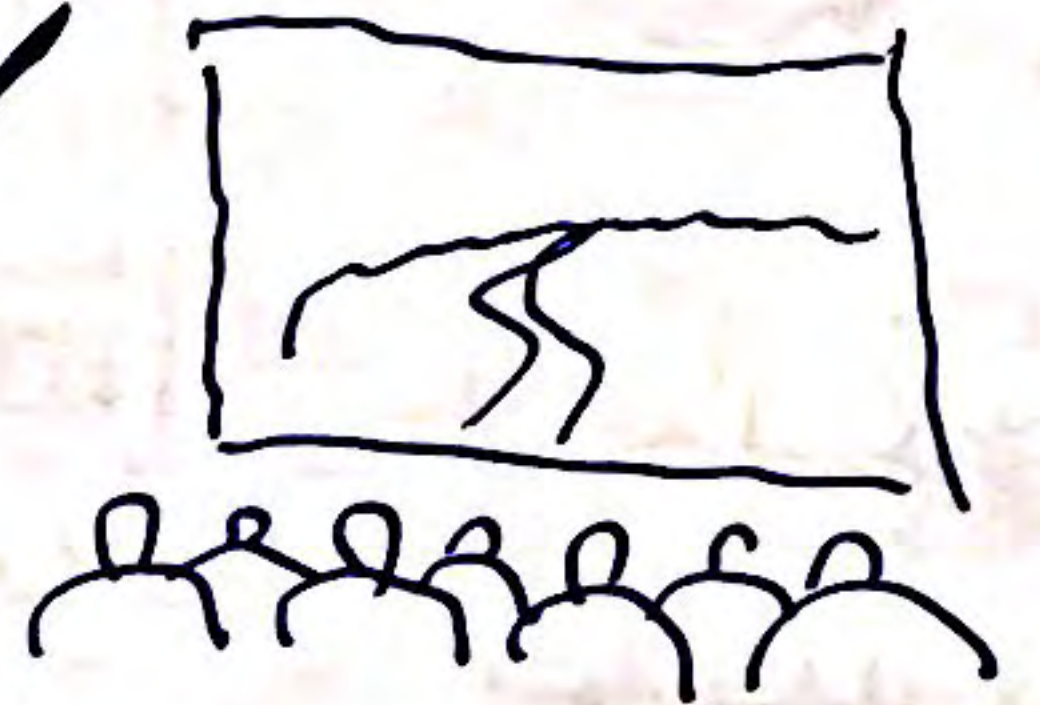
- ACTIVATE MAIN & 2nd



- A SALMON VIEWING AREA!
- INCORPORATE SALMON INTO ART & PLACE  
↳ SK 'FOLLOW THE SALMON'



- THE PAVILION TO THE LIBRARY, BECAUSE...  
... YOU CAN WALK ON 3rd!



- DINNER & MOVIE AT THE OLD THEATER

↳ IKEA, CARLO & OLD THEATER  
AS A CULTURAL ROUTE

- USE THE MUSEUM (DAY & NIGHT)  
↳ PERCEIVED AS ADDED  
↳ CONCERT & MUSIC

ART  
&  
CULTURE

COMBINE NEW W/ OLD



- PLACE FOR FOOD  
↳ FOOD TRUCKS

- A PLACE FOR KIDS

- GREAT SOCIAL SERVICES

- MORE PERMANENT HOUSING  
↳ CONDOS

'RENTON  
SANTA  
RUN'



## TOP PROJECTS

- SALMON — INTERP.  
CULTURE & ART

- KIDS PLAY / ACTIVITY  
~~AREA~~ ↳ WATER

- YEAR-ROUND MARKET



DIFFERENT ROUTES @ NIGHT

HOMELESS, CRIME @ NIGHT

NO DIVISION @ BURNETT

DISTINCTION BTW N & S  
RIVER

DONT SEE DT RENTON AS

A DESTINATION

\*

□ MINI-ID

□ MOVIE

□ MAKER SPACE

3 THINGS

RESTAURANTS ON WELLS

□ SBUX - WORKSPACE / 3RD SPACES

- MORE PROGRAMS, SPACE FOR

MUSEUM

IMASTER PLAN FOR MUSEUM RETHINK

□ OPEN ART SPACES

□ MORE RELEVANT PROGRAMS



- MORE BUSINESSES

- \* □ FLEX SPACE / STARTUP SPACE
- \* □ ATTRACTING HOUSING TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES
- MIX FOR CONSUMING + MAKING SPACES

LIBRARY AS DEST.

□ COMPUTER SKILLS (EG. ATLANTIC ST CENTER)

JOB, CIVIL TRAINING

HIGH SCHOOL, ADULTS

GATEWAY  
DRUG TO  
DOWNTOWN  
ICE CREAM

\* □ ADVERTISE / PROMOTE

□ IDT STUDY SPACE BTW

- HS + LIBRARY

- DEVOTED TO KIDS

- PRACTICE SPACE

□ SALMON DAYS RENTON

RIVER DAYS

TIE DT TO RIVER

BETTER



# PARKS / PUBLIC SPACES

## □ WHAT TO DO?

- CHESS

- H2O FEATURES - CAN TOUCH!

REMOVE  
THE "KEEP  
OUT" SIGNS

\*

- SIDEWALK CAFES

- SAFE WALKING

- BUSKER

- PUBLIC RESTROOM

- BUS DRIVERS

- MAKE TC. "STICKIER" FOR  
COMMUTERS