




**PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mary Sheffield, Council President
FROM: Antoine Bryant, Director, Planning and Development Department (PDD) 
DATE: July 5, 2024
RE: Community Outreach Report for the Corktown Street Calming and Pedestrian
Connectivity Intervention

Below is a detailed description of the community outreach efforts led by the Planning and Development Department with assistance from the Department of Neighborhoods (DON).

1. How many meetings have or will occur?

Engagement for the Community Outreach Ordinance (COO) was comprised of two public meetings, as required for Class B Neighborhood Proposals. The following two public meetings were held virtually and noticed per the COO notification requirements:

COO ENGAGEMENT PUBLIC MEETINGS

1. **Meeting 1** was held via Zoom during a special District 6 DONcast meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024, from 5:00p to 6:00p. Twenty-five people attended this meeting including City staff, block club leaders and residents from the impacted neighborhoods.
2. **Meeting 2:** was held via Zoom during a District 6 DONcast meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2024, from 5:00p to 7:00p. Thirty-eight people attended this meeting including City staff, block club leaders and residents from the impacted neighborhoods.

At the meetings, PDD gave an overview of the Greater Corktown Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Strategy, the contract scope with deliverables, and the proposed plan for review. At the conclusion of the presentation, attendees provided feedback on the proposed contract and were encouraged to submit additional feedback at howardshe@detroitmi.gov and schroncek@detroitmi.gov. A comprehensive analysis of the feedback is listed below.

2. How were people notified or will they be notified?

Both COO meetings, **Meeting 1: June 13, 2024 and Meeting 2: June 20, 2024** were noticed

in compliance with the Community Outreach Ordinance. The COO notice for *both* meetings was distributed and posted as follows:



The flyer is a vertical document with a green and white color scheme. At the top, it says "CITY OF DETROIT" in a small font, followed by "Notice of Public Outreach" in a large, bold, dark green font. Below this, a yellow horizontal line is followed by the text "You are invited to give input on the following proposal." The flyer is divided into four main sections, each with a green header: "PROPOSAL" (Corktown Street Calming and Pedestrian Connectivity Intervention), "MEETING INFORMATION" (June 13th and June 20th at 5p, Zoom meeting details), "PROPOSAL SUMMARY" (PDD seeks professional services for a two-year period to support the design, engineering, engagement and planning of streetscapes and greenway work within the Greater Corktown area, aligned with the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant. The total amount of the contract is \$787,050.), and "FOR MORE INFORMATION" (Contact Shelby Howard at howardshe@detroitmi.gov or visit https://detroitmi.gov/departments/housing-and-revitalization-department/choice-neighborhoods/neighborhood-strategy). At the bottom left is the Detroit logo, and at the bottom right is a small text box with accessibility information: "With advance notice of seven calendar days, the City of Detroit will provide interpreter services at public meetings, including language translation and reasonable ADA accommodations. Please contact the Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Department at (313) 224-4950, through the TTY number 711, or email crio@detroitmi.gov to schedule these services."

- Shared with Detroit City Council Members and staff via email on June 3, 2024.
- Distributed via GovDelivery to members of the public June 3, 2024.
- Advertised via TV Channel 10 (Comcast) on June 3, 2024.
- Advertised via the City of Detroit’s and PDD’s social media channels on Facebook and Instagram on June 3, 2024.

3. What questions/concerns were raised by the community and how does the Department plan to address those concerns?

Meeting 1: The questions and concerns from the community were as follows:

1. *Question:* I'd like to suggest that when you're putting your selection committee together, that the Corktown Neighborhood Association, which is the Neighborhood Association for Historic Corktown be on that committee in addition to the CBA and others. I'd like copies of your presentation shared. a copy of the RFP or whatever is going out to the call for artists. Also, from what what's been presented, I'd like to understand better what the specific traffic calming strategies are because that wasn't really clear to me. What is it? What are you doing.

Answer: PDD will reach out to the Corktown Neighborhood Association to get a representative on the selection committee. We do not have specifics because we are in the design phase; however; our team will help us figure this out on a high level and could possibly include bump outs, murals or traffic calming. The purpose of the consultants is to help PDD work with members of the community to decide on what is most appropriate based on what's included in the budget for construction.

2. *Question:* When will these options be available for us (the community) to review?

Answer: Yes, there will be a host of community meetings where you can provide additional feedback. Additionally, the presentation that was shared this evening along with the recordings will be posted on the City's website.

3. *Question:* We have the Western Corktown Association and we are more unique than those you know from eastern Corktown – we have our own problems. Cathy Shanida's daughter is an artist who is born here, lives here, went to school and graduated. We would like to be part of the art program. If you can get us connected it would be appreciated. Also, we would like to be considered when issues come up with the City Planning Commission or parking problems.

Answer: The Call to Artist RFP was placed in the chat so local artists can apply. Additionally, PDD will contact the Western Corktown Association to seek representation on the selection committee.

4. *Question:* With Michigan being a state road, I wonder if you've negotiated with the State of Michigan (MDOT) for this to be within the purview and to allocate funding to the City. Just curious about the division of responsibility, funding, planning and implementation. I live along the Grand River corridor and we are starting to do some planning and visioning work in the neighborhoods. We are a state road so I'm curious to follow this process and to find out a bit about how the division of responsibilities.

Answer: This project does not touch Michigan Avenue or any of the state trunk roads. For questions about the Michigan Avenue, please contact Kevin Schronce – Director of the Central Region PDD at schroncek@detroitmi.gov.

5. *Question:* I just wanted to make sure that you are fully aware of our neighborhood project that just kicked off yesterday with OHM Partners. The East End Block Club has received a grant from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan to hire OHM to do a feasibility study on either Sixth Street or Brooklyn Street for an East Greenway as outlined and suggested in the framework plan. However, I did want to make sure that you were aware that we did our initial walkthrough with some neighbors and that PDD is fully aware and invested in the success of that project as well. I want to make sure that you have good lines of communication.

Answer: Thank you and this is on PDD's radar.

6. *Question:* Now that Michigan Central (Station) is going to be extremely busy, the 17th Street overpass should be looked at a way for people to get here safely without having to go through the big streets. I don't know how that would play in terms of what you're doing; however, I think that this needs to be thought of improving that overpass to allow people in North Corktown the ability to just walk over to Michigan Central.

Answer: Thank you for your insight. PDD will take this into consideration.

7. *Question:* Who is the outside consultant that the City has engaged to do the planning and design work for this project?

Answer: We are not able to disclose that information at this time because we are going through the OCP process and the contract has not gone before City Council.

8. *Comment:* It's nice to hear about this project. I put my email and my cell phone number in the chat. I'm the president of the Corktown Neighborhood Association and I also run the Central Corktown Block Club from Trumbull Ave. to Rosa Parks Ave. I'd like to inform everyone that we've been working on pedestrian improvements along Bagley from 20th Street to Rosa Parks using grant money that Hubbard Richard got independently and a grant of community benefits money from the Michigan Central Church Street project. We are looking at flower plantings to make the experience better. We'd really like to know who's supposed to clear snow on the Bagley St. Bridge at 14th Street as I'm sure that Michigan Central and the new apartment building on 16th Street would be appreciative. Apparently they're going to be using parking at the Mobility Center for their new residents across from Honeybee Market. We would like to coordinate with our neighborhood association and the Hubbard Richard Residents Association. We also have ideas of extending improvements to Bagley down to Sixth Street at the Lodge for the rest of Corktown and we are very much interested in Rosa Parks and Trumbull possibly for better connections for pedestrians through North Corktown and eventually Woodbridge. We hope that PDD would think about ways for pedestrians to move throughout various neighborhoods in Greater Corktown. Thank you.

Answer: Thank you for your feedback and we will take this into consideration.

9. *Question/Comment:* I am a resident of Church Street and we had tried several years ago to get four-way stops on Church and 11th Street and Church and 10th Street – approximately ten years ago when we still had a Citizens District Council that I served on. We were told by traffic control that basically we hadn't had enough accidents hence why there was no four-way stop at this intersection - which I thought was a ridiculous way to be proactive about people not getting hurt or worse. So I'm wondering, since we are - and somebody mentioned this before - we're getting a whole lot busier than we were 10 years ago. What can we do? What can I do? What can our block clubs do to make every

street in Corktown a four-way stop. A lot of them are but there are few that aren't specifically 10th and Church, and 11th and Church?

Answer: Thank you for those comments. I specifically am not able to speak to that for that question as this falls under DPW – Traffic Engineering. However, if you provide some direction on this matter, we will be happy to assist with the request. **Answer:** Thank you for your feedback and we will take this into consideration.

10. *Question/Comment:* Can you share with us who came up with the projected route, and why?

Answer: The critical improvements came from the Greater Corktown Framework Plan and these routes were chosen for improvements. The routes identified were Ash Street between 14th and 20th, 14th Street between I-75 and Martin Luther King Boulevard – including the overpasses at Rosa Parks and Trumbull, Bagley Street between Rosa Parks and Trumbull and 10th Street between Michigan Avenue down to the Riverfront.

11. *Question/Comment:* Bagley between Trumbull and Sixth is an area that becomes more residential and has parking on both sides. We have long talked about the possibility of speed humps or some kind of speed calming. We have always been told that this is a slightly larger street than others in the neighborhood. However, we do get a lot of traffic that is very fast coming down there now noting that it's based on commercial activity. To us it's weird that Bagley is always divided leaving it undone based on how Bagley runs. We have questions about this and would like your input.

Answer: Some of the constraint is the boundary for the Choice Grant. Please contact Kevin Schronce – Director of the Central Region to have a deeper conversation about this.

12. *Question/Comment:* We are south of Clement Kearns which is a cut through. Has the land near the DTE substation been acquired or are we waiting?

Answer: Awesome question. We are waiting because we have not acquired all of the parcels. The consultant will help us with a couple of options if we are not able to acquire the land immediately.

13. *Comment:* Were there community meetings to allow residents to assist with planning the routes?

Answer: PDD engaged with the community to discuss these routes during the Greater Corktown Framework Plan.

3. **Meeting 2:** The questions and concerns from the community were as follows:

1. *Question:* Thank you for the presentation, it was very well done. I am curious if there any plans about traffic calming on Michigan Avenue or maybe incorporating more pedestrian crossings.

Answer: Please email Kevin Schronce – Director of Central Region for questions about Michigan Avenue.

2. *Question:* Who are you relying on to create the history of the neighborhood?

Answer: We will gather the history of the community from residents through a series of community meetings.

4. **Was there any written feedback received, including letters, comments, or reports from residents, businesses, neighborhood groups, or an established Community Advisory Council?**

No other questions as of the writing of this report were received.

We would be happy to answer any additional questions.

CC: Detroit City Council
Dara O’Byrne, Planning and Development Department
Marcell Todd, City Planning Commission
Kevin Schronce, Planning and Development Department
Shelby Howard, Planning and Development Department
Edwina S. King, Planning and Development Department
Malik Washington, Mayor’s Office
Louise Jones, Clerk’s Office