

Civic Feedback Sessions
Consolidated Feedback
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What people liked about the plan:

- Reduced scale (not big box or factory) and mixed uses.
 - Reducing scale to make streets friendlier
 - Mixed use of parcels
 - Integration of high rise with great space and esplanade that seems practical
 - Smaller parcels and 1st floor “active uses”

- Taking advantage of the diversity of the water
 - More connection to the water
 - Public access to water
 - Maintaining multi use of the water

- “Green”, environmental sensitivity and parks
 - Use and development of green spaces
 - Pocket parks, green spaces
 - Water drainage into the park system
 - Natural features all along corridor
 - Use of piers for public recreation

- Economy – Jobs
 - More jobs
 - Construction more single family homes, more jobs for building trades
 - Currently no economic benefit to the land; [now] there will be great benefit

- Purposeful planning
 - Doing something, with a plan and not piecemeal
 - Long-term vision
 - Careful planning of building size and type
 - Planning as a “whole” is a great opportunity to impact future of the entire city

- Transportation
 - Potential to increase mass transit
 - Moving away from auto culture
 - Accessibility via mass transit

- Addressing I-95
 - Burying part of I-95
 - Heal the gash created by I-95
 - Minimize impact of I-95

- Fun
 - Places for kids to play safely
 - Continuous waterfront trail
 - Recreational parks for children and the young

- Connecting city and waterfront
 - Street grid to the water's edge
 - Extending the city grid
 - Building grating (sic) down to river – creates unique Philly feel
 - Reclaiming of city for people and visitors

- Activity along the waterfront
 - New places to walk around
 - Food traffic will improve public safety
 - Concept of a living harbor and waterfront
 - People on the waterfront
 - River part as a “sixth square” to accommodate a wide variety of activities on the waterfront

OPPORTUNITIES ...

- ... to getting transportation and connections “right” – or at least a whole lot better
 - ...to “fix” public transportation [to and along waterfront]
 - ... to facilitate the use of all modes of public transit
 - e.g.,
 - ... water taxis along and connections to Camden
 - ... light rail, tram, trolley
 - ... to use creative transportation options
 - ...to rethink transportation in the city as it relates to this area.

- ... to create mixed (diverse) communities, strengthen existing neighborhoods
 - ... to bring schools to the area
 - ... create unified community appearance unique to us and being us
 - ... to develop affordable housing
 - ... mixed income housing
 - ... diverse development – recreation, residential, tourism, business

- ... to improve infrastructure
 - ...to correct parking and car problems
 - ...to plan/update infrastructure (streets, electric, water, utilities, sewer, police, fire, EMS, schools, hospitals)
 - ... to bury wires and cables
 - ... to create remote parking to reduce the need for parking in the riverfront areas

- ... to fuel economic development
 - ... job stimulation and expansion
 - ... to strengthen the port
 - ... increase tax base (during construction and what is constructed)
 - ... waterfront could become an incubator area for small businesses
 - ... development itself – opportunities for creative financing, for private sector to promote public uses, public-private partnerships

- ... to generate taxes
- ... to address I 95
- ... to use planning and zoning to develop wisely
 - ... prospective guidelines with teeth – zoning overlay, eliminate zoning variances
 - ... to communicate short term wins to the public to keep the excitement going
 - ... to have more control of development in hands of citizens
 - ... to plan and implement with a long term vision
- ... to do environmentally sound development
 - ... to showcase environmental/sustainable design; use LEED green building rating system
 - ... to make the environment lush
 - ... to clean up the river
 - ... to provide storm water management and eco-friendly water treatment
- ... to highlight the city's history along the waterfront
 - ... to have landmarks throughout
 - ... to ensure there is something distinctive in the waterfront this is only found in Philadelphia
 - ... to rediscover local treasures
- ... to create recreational and other fun opportunities along the waterfront
 - ... to create beach and waterfront activities and amenities
 - ... bike, walking, etc. path along the water (and boulevard)
 - ... to create more opportunities for outside activities (land and water sport)
 - ... to create outdoor performance space facing the river
- ... to build political and civic and economic support for implementing the vision plan

Ideas for Citizen Action

- become active politically (as well as Politically)
 - Become active in neighborhood groups
 - Work through your community groups
 - Networking and coordinating among citizen groups to support the vision plan
 - Citizen groups can take lead to promote the plan.. Create a citizen's groundswell of support that pushes the vision plan up to elected officials...
 - Use neighborhood associations to improve existing networks of communication...

- Formal Political action
 - Hold elected officials accountable
 - Attend hearings
 - Pressure political representatives
 - Get citizens inside the planning room

- Citizen engagement
 - Continue citizen engagement process (forums, publications)
 - We need to educate ourselves about trade-offs of different development options
 - Use citizen engagement reach decisions and vote as bloc
 - Build transparency into the process

- Reach out to others

- Seek corporate sponsorships and grants

- Create citizen group to support this vision
 - Put together a citizens commission to see the plan through
 - Empower citizen groups
 - Create an organized advocacy group to unite citizen groups concerned about the waterfront
 - Insist citizens have a role in land-use decisions.

- Create public-private coalitions

- Plan process
 - Develop a phasing process before developers run off with the waterfront
 - Create a zoning overlay