

## Appendix 2 – Public Input Session Summary

At the first Public Informational Meeting regarding the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program planning process, held at 7:00 PM on August 1, 2002 at the Broome County Public Library, attendees were given the opportunity to offer input regarding their vision for the future of the waterfront in the City. All attendees were provided a questionnaire, which they were asked to fill in and return. The following is a summary of input compiled from the questionnaires:

### Waterfront Programming

1) What are the future land uses that you believe would be most successful, and suitable, along the “urbanized” waterfront?

(Rate each on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest)

Land Use	1	2	3	4	5
Residential	4	1	8	6	6
Boutique Retail	2	2	1	6	15
Office	7	3	9	3	3
Recreational	1	1	1	5	17
Light Industrial	11	8	3	0	3
Large Scale Commercial	20	2	0	1	2

Land Use	1	2	3	4	5
Residential	16%	4%	32%	24%	24%
Boutique Retail	8%	8%	4%	24%	58%
Office	28%	12%	36%	12%	12%
Recreational	4%	4%	4%	20%	68%
Light Industrial	44%	32%	12%	-	12%

Land Use	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Large Scale Commercial</b>	80%	8%	-	4%	8%

Summary:

The most the respondents believe that recreation / open space and small-scale boutique retail are the most desirable land uses along the waterfront. Large-scale commercial, including big box developments, were seen as the least desirable land use for the waterfront.

2) What specific activities / amenities would be most effective within the waterfront revitalization area to increase usage by residents and visitors?

(Rate each on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest)

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Waterfront Trail</b>	0	2	1	3	19
<b>Community Area</b>	1	0	4	7	13
<b>Land-based Recreation</b>	0	4	3	9	9
<b>Water-based Recreation</b>	2	1	5	8	9
<b>Tourism Center</b>	5	3	6	5	6

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Waterfront Trail</b>	0	8%	4%	12%	76%
<b>Community Area</b>	4%	0	16%	28%	52%
<b>Land-based Recreation</b>	0	16%	12%	36%	36%
<b>Water-based Recreation</b>	8%	4%	20%	32%	36%
<b>Tourism Center</b>	20%	12%	24%	20%	24%

Summary:

The majority of respondents (76%) would like to see a multi-use waterfront trail developed in the community. In addition over half of the respondents felt strongly that the development of a community gathering area would entice people to use the

waterfront more frequently. An enhanced tourism center was rated as the lowest priority, with respect to increasing waterfront usage.

### Access and Connections

3) What changes, if any, would you like to see along Route 363 (North Shore Drive), north of the Susquehanna River? (choose one)

Option	Preference	Percentage
Remain as is	4	16%
Widen with more travel lanes	0	-
Widen with on-street parking	2	8%
Narrow with fewer travel lanes	0	-
Parkway with median, pedestrian access	13	52%
Remove cloverleaf to create green space	6	24%

Summary:

Over half of the respondents (52%) would like to see North Shore Drive become a more pedestrian friendly roadway, with a landscaped median and additional pedestrian crossings. Approximately a quarter of respondents (24%) would like to see the cloverleaf removed to create more usable green space.

4) How should parking be accommodated for waterfront-based activities? (choose one)

Option	Preference	Percentage
Large, centralized, landscaped lot	2	8%
Several small, satellite, landscaped lots	20	80%
Parking garage	3	12%

Summary:

The majority of respondents would like to see waterfront parking accommodated through the development of small, landscaped lots interspersed at key locations.

5) Do you agree with the following statements? (yes / no)

a) The waterfront would benefit from an improved pedestrian and bicycle circulation system, increasing connections to surrounding areas.

Yes	No	Yes	No
24	1	96%	4%

Summary:

Almost all respondents felt that the waterfront would benefit from an improved circulation system for pedestrians and bicyclists.

b) Improved visual access is needed around existing flood control features.

Yes	No	Yes	No
23	2	92%	8%

Summary:

Almost all respondents (92%) felt that the improved visual access to the waterfront is a priority.

c) A cohesive trail system, along the entire length of the waterfront, would improve access and increase waterfront usage?

Yes	No	Yes	No
23	2	92%	8%

Summary:

The majority of respondents believe that a trail system along the waterfront would improve usage and access to the river's edge.

6) The following are important amenities that should be developed along the waterfront and in the Central Business District:

(Rate each on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest)

	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Way-finding / sign program</b>	2	0	4	5	14

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>On-road bicycle lanes</b>	4	4	4	3	10
<b>Off-road bicycle trail</b>	0	1	4	6	14
<b>Sidewalks</b>	2	1	4	3	15
<b>Multi-use recreation trail</b>	2	0	0	4	19
<b>Historic interpretive trail</b>	1	4	3	5	12

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Way-finding / sign program</b>	8%	-	16%	20%	56%
<b>On-road bicycle lanes</b>	16%	16%	16%	12%	40%
<b>Off-road bicycle trail</b>	-	4%	16%	24%	56%
<b>Sidewalks</b>	8%	4%	16%	12%	60%
<b>Multi-use recreation trail</b>	8%	-	-	16%	76%
<b>Historic interpretive trail</b>	4%	16%	12%	20%	48%

Summary:

Residents generally feel that an off-road bicycle trail, sidewalks and a multi-use recreation trail would be the most desirable amenities along the waterfront in the Central Business District.

**Community Pride**

7) What are the most significant constraints that must be overcome in the revitalization of the Binghamton waterfront?

(Rate each on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest)

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Safety and security</b>	0	1	1	8	15
<b>Pedestrian/bicycle access</b>	0	1	4	10	10

<b>Maintenance</b>	2	1	3	3	16
<b>No public gathering area</b>	2	4	6	4	9
<b>Community perception</b>	1	1	2	7	14
<b>Vehicular traffic</b>	7	7	3	3	5
<b>Funding for redevelopment</b>	2	1	6	5	11
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Safety and security</b>	-	4%	4%	32%	60%
<b>Pedestrian/bicycle access</b>	-	4%	16%	40%	40%
<b>Maintenance</b>	8%	4%	12%	12%	64%
<b>No public gathering area</b>	8%	16%	24%	16%	36%
<b>Community perception</b>	4%	4%	8%	28%	56%
<b>Vehicular traffic</b>	28%	28%	12%	12%	20%
<b>Funding for redevelopment</b>	8%	4%	24%	20%	44%

Summary:

When considering constraints against waterfront development, over half of the respondents felt that maintenance (64%), safety and security (60%) and community perception (56%) were the biggest obstacles to overcome. Vehicular traffic was not perceived as a major constraint, nor was the lack of a public gathering area for community events.

**Tourism**

8) Do you believe the Binghamton waterfront has the potential to be developed as a local or regional tourist destination? (yes / no)

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Local</b>	22	3	88%	12%
<b>Regional</b>	19	6	76%	24%

Summary:

Over three quarters of all respondents believe that the Binghamton waterfront has the potential to be developed as a local (88%) and regional (76%) tourist destination.

9) What tourist themes could be developed along the waterfront?

<b>Chenango Canal</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Cigar Industry</b>	9
<b>Civil War</b>	12
<b>Historic Architecture</b>	18
<b>Underground Railroad</b>	13
<b>Industrial History</b>	14
<b>Southern Gateway to NYS</b>	12

Summary:

Based on responses, the most popular tourism development themes are the Chenango Canal, the City’s historic architecture and its industrial history.

**Regional Cooperation**

10) Do you see the Binghamton waterfront directly related to, and having a relationship with, any of the following?

(Rate each on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest)

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other waterways in County</b>	1	7	4	3	10
<b>Surrounding communities</b>	2	2	4	7	10
<b>Binghamton University</b>	1	1	2	5	15
<b>Surrounding open space areas</b>	0	2	1	8	14

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other waterways in County</b>	4%	28%	16%	12%	40%

<b>Surrounding communities</b>	8%	8%	16%	28%	40%
<b>Binghamton University</b>	4%	4%	8%	20%	60%
<b>Surrounding open space areas</b>	-	8%	4%	32%	56%

Summary:

Respondents felt that the Binghamton waterfront had the strongest relationship with Binghamton University. The City’s waterfront is perceived to be least strongly related to waterways throughout Broome County.

11) How important is it for Binghamton to work with surrounding municipalities, including Broome County, in the development of the waterfront in the City?

(choose one)

<b>Option</b>	<b>Preference</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Very important, essential to future development</b>	19	76%
<b>Important, relationships may benefit City</b>	4	16%
<b>Not important, City should not pursue partnerships</b>	1	4%
<b>No opinion</b>	1	4%

Summary:

The majority of respondents (76%) believe that it is very important for the City to work with the County and surrounding municipalities in developing the waterfront.

**Environment**

12) Would you like to see the natural character along the Susquehanna River be preserved, as opposed to developed and “urbanized”? (yes / no)

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
25	0	100%	-

Summary:

All respondents feel that the natural character along the Susquehanna River should be preserved.

**Education**

13) Do you believe the waterfront provides an educational opportunity as a “natural laboratory” for learning? (yes / no)

Yes	No	Yes	No
22	3	88%	12%

Summary:

The majority of respondents (88%) believe the waterfront could be developed as a “natural laboratory” for educational purposes.

14) Should the City pursue partnerships with Binghamton University and the local school district for education-based waterfront development? (yes / no)

Yes	No	Yes	No
24	1	96%	4%

Summary:

Almost all respondents (96%) would like to see the City pursue partnerships with Binghamton University and the local school district for education-based waterfront development.

**Economic Development**

15) The following should be further explored for assistance in revitalizing the waterfront and / or central business district: (please provide contact names and phone numbers)

<b>Local Businesses:</b>	<b>Washington Street businesses</b>
	Gorgeous Washington
	Maggie Martin-Art Mission
	Binghamton Business and Professional Association
	Absolute Music – Dan Lord
Eureka Company	
<b>Schools:</b>	Binghamton High School
	BOCES Vocational School – Harry Barnes
	Susquehanna School

	Catholic Central High School Chenango Forks Schools – Steve Busch, 648-7446
<b>College/University:</b>	Binghamton University Broome County Community College Cornell University Syracuse ESF
<b>Government Agency:</b>	Town of Vestal NYSDOT Broome County Parks Department BMTC
<b>Other:</b>	Civic Groups (Project Pride, Rotary) Federal Highway Department (FHWA) Susquehanna River Watch Harry Barnes Broome County Teachers Group North Side Shalam Ahwaga Canoe Club

**Additional Comments**

I have long wished we could develop a hands-on museum of our industrial history, including the development of the computer, shoes and film – to name a few. “State-of-the-art” computer equipment designed for children and youth to explore could be a national draw if presented effectively. Connecting such a development with waterfront trails might enhance both developments.

Concerns: To preserve green space and open space along the trail system.

Suggest separating wheeled transport from pedestrian traffic for safety and feeling of security.

Suggest providing basic amenities (restrooms, drinking fountains, lighting, gardens, etc.) in the urbanized section of the trails, and at suitable intervals throughout the system.

Please refer to gentleman’s idea about building a pedestrian bridge by Lourdes Hospital. It’s a good idea.

Pedestrian bridge from west side to Route 434

This is a great idea.

Find a way to hook the west side to the south side near SUNY.

As a paddling instructor, and paddler in many disciplines, I would like to see access for canoes and kayaks. Also, as more people utilize the water, law enforcement must be present on the water. There already exists a conflict between jet skis and paddlers at Sandy Beach. Thank you. Steve Busch, 648-7446 or sbusch@stny.rr.com.

Would like to see part of the rivers developed like San Antonio, TX with restaurants, etc.

Provide portages around dams/pipes crossing the rivers to encourage canoe/kayak opportunities. Also possible exercise stations along trail for fitness buffs and markers to keep track of distances.

Long time in coming – make it happen before I get “too old”

If there is some way the plan can convey to the public how beneficial a trail system would be to this area that would be great. There is an overwhelming negative feeling towards trails – they cost too much, they attract crime, etc. The major problem with this community is that no one wants to take a leap of faith and try something new.

It's great that people are enjoying areas like San Antonio with Riverwalks. This area will never be San Antonio. To make this work we need a unique plan with public input throughout the entire process. The public needs to be instrumental in creating a plan like this or it will never work.