A Community Conversation about the future of Broad Street

MARCH 11, 2017

CITY OF PROVIDENCE
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA
BONNIE NICKERSON, AICP, DIRECTOR
Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Presentation**
  - Southside context and demographics
  - Planning and development: How it works
  - Past plans and their accomplishments, upcoming investments
- **Small Group Discussions**
  - Your vision for Broad Street
  - Your ideas for redeveloping the Saint Joseph’s campus
  - Other ideas and concerns related to Broad Street
- **Report-Back**
- **Next Steps**
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Study Area

- 2.6 miles from Crossroads to Cranston line
- 30,000 people living within 1/3 mile of Broad Street (less than a 10 minute walk)

Data Sources: Unless otherwise noted, all data is adapted from the US Census 2015 American Community Survey. Census tracts 1.01, 1.02, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 12 were used to represent the study area.
**Broad Street: Diversity**

### Race

- **Broad Street:**
  - White alone: 32%
  - Black or African American alone: 27%
  - Some other race alone: 30%

- **Providence Metro:**
  - White alone: 81%
  - Black: 6%

- **United States:**
  - White alone: 74%
  - Black: 13%

### Ethnicity

- **Broad Street:**
  - Hispanic or Latino: 57%
  - Non Hispanic or Latino: 43%

- **Providence Metro:**
  - Hispanic or Latino: 86%
  - Non Hispanic or Latino: 14%

- **United States:**
  - Hispanic or Latino: 83%
  - Non Hispanic or Latino: 17%
40% of the population is foreign-born

60% of households are multilingual

Total foreign-born population 40%

Central America: 10%

Caribbean: 63%

South America (Colombia, Peru, Venezuela): 3%

Southern Europe: 4%

South Eastern Asia: 5%

Western Africa: 6%

Other: 6%

Eastern Asia: 3%

Population Born in United States 60%

Foreign-Born Population (Broad Street)
34% of people live in poverty (compared to 14% in metro Providence, and 16% nationwide)

Median household income is ~50% less than metro Providence average
25% of households do not have a car

40% of working residents do not commute to work alone in a car

2X as many people carpool, take public transit, walk, and bike
Broad Street experienced the highest number of crashes involving people walking or riding a bicycle out of any corridor in Providence (2009 - 2015).

82 crashes involved a person walking or riding a bicycle (2009 -2015)

11 crashes resulted in a fatal or serious injury to someone walking or riding a bike (2009-2015)

Source: City of Providence Vulnerable Road User Safety Action Plan, 2017
>5,000 elementary, middle school, and high school students at schools along Broad Street between Downtown and Roger Williams Park
Services

• The Southside has the highest concentration of homeless services locations in Providence.

• Of the 7 shelters for individuals in Rhode Island, 4 are located in the South Providence.
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How Planning Works

Comprehensive Plan – establishes citywide plans and policies (2014)

Neighborhood Plans, Special Area Plans, Other Planning Studies

Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map – tools of implementation
What is Zoning?

- Shapes the physical environment you experience every day
- Controls density, height, placement of buildings
- Protects against incompatible uses
- Establishes clear standards for the development process
- Determines what building uses are allowed where
  - Residential, Commercial/Mixed-Use, Institutional, Industrial, Parks/Open Space
Development Review Process

- Volunteer boards - city residents
  - City Plan Commission (large redevelopment projects)
  - Zoning Board of Review (variances)
  - Historic District Commission Review
  - Downtown Design Review Committee
- Public notice requirements and public input and comment periods at various points during development
How to Engage

- Attend and comment at City Plan Commission meetings
  - [http://sos.ri.gov/openmeetings/](http://sos.ri.gov/openmeetings/)
  - Type “Providence City Plan Commission” into search bar
  - Click orange “eMail” button next to “Upcoming Meetings” to receive meeting agendas

- Participate in planning meetings (like this one)

- Get to know your planner liaison, Allen Penniman
  - [apenniman@providenceri.gov](mailto:apenniman@providenceri.gov)
  - 401-680-8523
How to Engage

- Check the Development Viewer: www.providenceri.com/planning
Project Name: Community Prep School addition
Address: 126 Somerset Street
Neighborhood: Upper South Providence
Description: Expansion of a private primary school campus consisting of an addition to the school building, creation of playing fields and creation of new parking areas.
Project Status: Under Construction
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Providence Tomorrow
Neighborhood Plan (2009)

- Based on community input from neighborhood charrettes

**Result:**
- Influenced new comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance
Zoning Ordinance
Adopted November 2014

- Revised to encourage walkable, urban development that responds to neighborhood character
- Simplified development review process
- Access the Zoning Ordinance and Map at:
  - Map: https://gis.providenceri.com/city-map/
  - Ordinance: https://www.providenceri.com/efile/5782
DPD has invested $44.2 million of HUD funds in the Southside since 2000:

- Affordable housing
- Community centers
- Schools
- Playgrounds
- Local business renovations
- Social service providers
- Tree planting
- Sidewalk repair

Source:
City of Providence Department of Planning and Development, HUD
Integrated Disbursement and Information System
Almost every day, I go for a walk along the river. The path is lined with tall trees and wildflowers, and I often see birds and squirrels. It's a peaceful place to escape from the chaos of the city.
Grace Church Cemetery Fence

- Providence Redevelopment Agency invested $170,000 in fencing
Connect neighborhoods
Make it easier and safer to walk and bike to:
- Jobs and opportunities in Downtown, schools, Roger Williams Park, India Point Park, merchants and destinations along Broad and Elmwood

Result:
- Announcement coming soon!

City Walk Study 2014
Broad Street Road Safety Assessment 2016

- Identified safety issues for people walking and riding bikes
- Broad St has highest number of pedestrian and bike crashes citywide

**Result**

- Announcement coming soon!
The Big Jump
2017-2020

- 1 of 10 U.S. cities selected by People for Bikes
- Focus on South Providence and Jewelry District
- Will work with City and neighborhood leaders in South Providence and Jewelry District to make riding bicycles safer
- Goal: double or triple number of people riding bicycles in South Providence over 3 years
Arts and Cultural Investments

- **Illuminating Trinity** ($1.3 million)
  - Southlight design/build project
  - Community Innovation Lab
- **Sowing Place** ($75,000)
  - Indoor farmer’s market and greenhouse
  - Economic development for local growers
- **Broad Street Cultural Tourism** ($4,500)
  - Highlight monthly events on Broad
  - Create and promote marketing materials
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Ground rules:

Be respectful.
Be positive.
Stay on topic.
Everyone gets a turn to speak.
All ideas and opinions are valuable.
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Next Steps

- Summarize meeting notes and key themes/issues in a report
- Future meetings to move forward with key issues
Stay Connected

- Facebook and Twitter: @ProvPlanning
- Web: providenceri.com/planning
  - Download this presentation
  - Access the online survey
- Your planner liaison:
  - Allen Penniman, apenniman@providenceri.gov, 401-680-8523
- Sign up for working group meetings
- Invite us to your meetings!
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