

## Rochester Downtown Partnership

### WalkShop Summary November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 9:00 AM — 10:00 AM

#### Summary:

The Rochester Downtown Partnership conducted a WalkShop on 11/9/22 from 9:00 — 10:00 AM. This outdoor workshop was facilitated by Galin Brooks, President & CEO of the Rochester Downtown Development Corporation and Executive Director of the Rochester Downtown Partnership. Participants were led in a collaborative exercise to share their thoughts, feedback, and impressions of the area. The WalkShop began in front of City Hall and moved east toward State St. The walk continued south down State St. and then west down W Main St. The WalkShop doubled back heading east on Main St., concluding at the Main St. Bridge over the Genesee River.

Attendance: 20

Feedback from participants is highlighted below. Comments are notated by location.

#### State St. between Church St. and W Main St.

- *Construction [on State St.] has been bad for many people*
- *Construction [on State St.] has hurt small businesses in the corridor*
- *Very little retail activity on this block*
- *This street reconstruction and utility upgrading is necessary, but is expected to take a long time*
- *Participants worry that street trees would be negatively impacted by construction and/or not replaced*
- *Little to no landscaping*
- *Inconsistent walkway surfaces (pavers are not level)*

#### Northwest Corner of N Fitzhugh St. and W Main St.

- *Beautiful architecture*
- *Green metal street lamps are pretty but are being replaced with plainer street lamps*
- *Main St. should be a hub — need for more small, local businesses lining the street*
- *Many government offices line Main St. and do not activate the street level experience*
- *More bike racks are needed*
- *On-street parking should be added to W Main St. in a similar fashion to E Main St.*
- *Participants noted many cars drive down Main St. but do not stop - endless parade of cars*
- *Downtown should be a destination, not a thoroughfare*
- *Desire to see more breakfast establishments on W Main St.*
- *No on-street weather protection. Buildings could add sidewalk canopies or protected walkways for all weather use*
- *Downtown is full of history, but it is not showcased in our public spaces*
- *E Main St. gets more attention than W Main St.*
- *Participants noted many frosted windows at street level*
- *Founder's Café is great but it is hidden*
- *Desire for an entity to help promote hidden businesses located inside buildings*
- *More pocket parks would be nice, creating an open space network*
- *Desire for parking lots to be converted to active uses such as playgrounds*
- *Adaptive reuse of historic buildings may be challenging because they are not designed for ground floor retail*
- *There are no cigarette butt holders*

- *Sidewalk pavers are a trip hazard*
- *The sidewalks are hard to walk on in winter. More plowing and salting would help pedestrians*

#### **Northeast corner of Plymouth Ave. and W Main St.**

- *Feels like an orphaned place*
- *Transitional area, the density has diminished on this block*
- *Participants describe area as an opportunity*
- *Crosswalks are wide to cross by foot*
- *Street appears overbuilt*
- *Blank wall on the NE corner of Plymouth and W Main St would be a good location for a mural*
- *Looks like nothing was planned here*
- *Participants noted future planned buildings will change the atmosphere*
- *Better pedestrian striping on the roadways may improve walkability*
- *Main St. used to be a transit corridor, but the Transit Center has changed that.*
- *Hopr bikes and scooters are not available in cold weather. Hopr racks are empty*
- *Participants suggested possibility of a free downtown circulator, such as a trolley or light rail to encourage pedestrian activity*

#### **Southwest corner of the Main St. Bridge**

- *Restaurants along Main St. need more visible signage*
- *Nice to see the transformation presently occurring on the Main St. Bridge. Downtown is moving toward a better future, even if it is inconvenient in the moment*
- *Desire for street vendors, but acknowledge the need for more people on the street to support these*
- *Desire for downtown-wide free Wi-Fi*