

Rochester Downtown Partnership

WalkShop Summary

April 19th, 2023

12:00 PM — 1:00 PM

Summary:

The Partnership for Downtown Rochester conducted a WalkShop on 4/19/23 from 12:00 — 1:00 PM. This outdoor workshop was facilitated by Galin Brooks, President & CEO of the Rochester Downtown Development Corporation and Executive Director of the Partnership for Downtown Rochester. Participants were led in a collaborative exercise to share their thoughts, feedback, and impressions of the area. The WalkShop began in front of Java's, 16 Gibbs St., and moved east along East Ave. The WalkShop continued south on Union St. and west along E Broad St., concluding at the traffic circle at Broadway and E Broad St. Participants engaged in discussion on a potential Business Improvement District in the downtown core of Rochester, NY, asking questions on process, timeline, and long-term vision for the effort.

Attendance: 8

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

Gibbs St., in front of Java's

- *Participants feel area is inviting and intimate*
- *Participants express appreciation of streetscape*
- *Some participants believe area grew organically*
- *Other participants believe area growth has been supported by Eastman School of Music*

Northeast Corner of East Ave. and Broadway

- *Participant remarked they have always felt safe here*
- *Participant noted foot traffic has increased over the past 15 years*
- *Some participants feel the East End has grown organically*
- *Participants shared desire to keep, grow, and nurture small diverse businesses*
- *Participant observed pedestrian safety to be good*
- *Participants believe there are too many surface parking lots within the vicinity and this contributes to a lack of walkability*
- *Participants believe parking is a perception problem for those who live in suburbs*
- *Participants share experience of drivers not paying attention to pedestrians and feeling unsafe in the right-of-way*
- *One participant noted East End area businesses were hesitant of a BID in 2014*

Northeast Corner of East Ave. and Union St.

- *Participant cited first floor parking in new construction to be an issue*
- *Participants would like more public uses of first floor spaces*
- *Some participants feel new Inner Loop buildings to be a wall*
- *Some participants feel new Inner Loop buildings could be more aesthetically pleasing and diverse in architecture*
- *Participant notes the lack of green space in the final Inner Loop East project*
- *One participant shared their desire for an unbuilt Inner Loop lot to become a permanent green space*
- *Participants like dedicated bike lanes but note potential hazards due to traffic flow and lack of education on bicycle safety for drivers*

Traffic Circle at E Broad St. and Broadway

- *Several participants like the façade improvements of Park Square*
- *Participants note the excessive number of surface parking lots*
- *Participants would like to see rehabilitation of small park along Broadway*