



Mount Vernon Comprehensive Plan- Phase II Seniors Community Conversation

November 7, 2024



Welcome & Introductions

City of Mt. Vernon

- Department of Planning & Community Development

Consultant Team

- Cleary Consulting
- AKRF
- Pattern for Progress
- BRS
- Creative Urban Alchemy



Why Are We Here?

The goals of this community outreach process are as follows:

- Build trust, support, and open dialogue between community members, the city, and the consulting team.
- Identify and understand the community's concerns and unique needs and preferences.
- Promote community participation throughout the comprehensive planning process.
- Obtain community support for land use decisions.
- Engage new resources and allies.
- Address overall community land use concerns and improve outcomes.



Meeting Rules

- ✓ Be respectful to others.
- ✓ Only one person will speak at a time.
- ✓ Keep an open mind.
- ✓ Please leave opportunities for others to speak.



Icebreaker

- How many of you were born in Mt. Vernon?
- How many of you have lived here since you were school age? (0-18)
- How many of you moved here as working aged adults? (18-55)
- How many of you moved here as seniors?
- How did you get here this morning? Raise your hands if you drove alone - car pooled - took mass transit - walked or biked



Evolving Mount Vernon

Question 1

We often have a sense of nostalgia about the way our communities were in the past. Part of that is because of the impact that our communities have on us, particularly when we were young. Please share a “one-minute memory” of Mt. Vernon that had an impact on shaping your life. Please limit to one memory per person.



Evolving Mount Vernon

Question 2

For those of you who moved to Mt. Vernon as adults, what brought you here? Were there particular things about Mt. Vernon that attracted you to come?



Evolving Mount Vernon

Question 3

Change is an inherent part of all communities, but part of what we do when we plan is try to understand some of what makes a community unique, so that we can preserve that essence. Given that, are there particular buildings or homes, landscapes or features in your neighborhood that you really love, that give your community character?



Evolving Mount Vernon

Question 4

What is your favorite place to relax in the city? What do you like about it?



Poll

- How many of you regularly go into Downtown Mt. Vernon?
- How many of you regularly go to some of the other retail strips or neighborhoods in the city to shop?
- How many of you primarily do your shopping in your own neighborhood?
- How many of you regularly take public transportation around Mt. Vernon?
Around other parts of Westchester? Into New York City?



Access and Commercial

Question 1

How do you feel when you go to either the Downtown or some of the other retail corridors in the city? Do they feel safe? Welcoming? Attractive?



Access and Commercial

Question 2

How easy is it to walk around the city? Are facilities such as sidewalks, crosswalks, and streetlights adequate?



Access and Commercial

Question 3

If you drive, is adequate parking available when you are doing your regular shopping?



Access and Commercial

Question 4

Are there any challenges to shopping for the basics that you need in Mt. Vernon such as food, clothing, and medicine?



Access and Commercial

Question 5

Are there any challenges to accessing the healthcare facilities that you need?



Access and Commercial

Question 6

Are there any other shopping opportunities that are missing from Mt. Vernon?



Housing Question 1

If you have children or grandchildren, do they still live in Mt. Vernon? If not, what barriers are there to moving here?



Housing

Question 2

Are there enough housing opportunities for people to live in Mt. Vernon? Are there any kinds of housing that are missing or too difficult to access?



Infrastructure Question 1

How often, in a given year, do you have problems with your plumbing (toilet back-ups), water pressure, electricity (black-outs), internet service, cable TV?



Infrastructure

- Do you have any problems with your trash collection or recycling?
- Is snow removal from sidewalks and roadways adequate?



Broadband

- Do you have access to high-speed internet access at home? (Not on your phone.)
- If you do not have internet access at your home, do you depend on a community facility to access the internet? Where?



Vision

Question 1

Is there any other type of housing, amenity, facility, business or service that you have seen in other communities, that we have not yet talked about, that you would like to see in Mt. Vernon?



Vision Question 2

What would you like Mt. Vernon to be known for?



Closing Remarks

Upcoming Community Conversations

Spanish Language

November 21, 2024

6pm to 8pm

Hamilton Elementary School-
20 Oak Street

Industrial Businesses

December 10, 2024

8am

Virtual on Zoom

Save the Date

- January 2025 – 2 Citywide Community Comp Plan Meetings
- Spring 2025 – 2 Comp Plan Public Workshops

