

Evaluation Forms – 6 returned (5/3/07)

1. How did you hear about the Orlando Drive Corridor Visioning Workshop?
Mailed Invitation – 4
Newspaper – 0
Friend/Colleague/Neighbor - 1
Website - 1
Other – 1 (PB), 1 (asked to be on initial committee)

2. Please rate your level of knowledge about the Orlando Drive project before attending tonight's meeting.
“1” – 1
“2” – 0
“3” – 1
“4” – 3
“5” – 1

3. Please rate the proceeding of the evening (1=poor; 5=excellent)
Organization – 4.6
Speakers' presentations – 4.5
Breakout Groups – 4.8

4. Is there an area or topic you feel was missed in tonight's program?
 - Cost/Funding. Who will pay to implement?
 - Repair of Orlando Dr.
 - Would like to see traffic counts for Orlando Dr. today and with proposed River Walk / Landfill redevelopment

5. Any other comments?
 - Next workshop should have maps/aerials to look at existing uses and uses proposed at this workshop.

BREAKOUT GROUP COMMENTS

Existing Land Uses

Opportunities

- Municipal Owned Properties
- Busky Lane as a pedestrian connection
- Pedestrian bridge over Orlando Dr.
- Put utility wires underground
- Redevelop OCD industrial
- Orlando Dr as cut-thru would allow traffic calming (bump outs)
- Ensure pedestrians can cross safely
- Beautify Orlando Dr.
- Use existing spaces for community gathering spaces – shopping center parking lot for a Farmers Market

Challenges

- Industrial Buildings, relocation (can county help?)
- DPW site – need county assistance
- Busky Lane
- Remove industry
- Floodplain
- DPW site
- Beautify Nevius St. – trees/cobblestone
- Traffic – car and truck, install speed bumps on Orlando Dr, lessen speed
- Add bike and pedestrian access to Orlando Dr.
- Parking – maybe on Duke side of bridge(s)
- Businesses on Somerset St. may object to diverting business to Orlando Dr.
- Improvements will encourage more cut-through traffic on Somerset St.(?)
- Flooding – Shopping Center
- Traffic calming on Somerset St. is not needed. 25 or 30 mph and lots of interruptions.
- Parking problem in downtown.
- Increase traffic with improvements
- Parking
- Floodplain might discourage new businesses
- People use Orlando Dr and Somerset St as cut-through
- Need more variety of shops for actual shopping – not just doing errands.
- Need delineation between residential uses and the proposed recreation.

Historic / Cultural Resources

Opportunities

- Duke Castle – riverside restaurant, museum/historical masterpiece, historic presentation of power generation (Duke Energy Corp, Raritan/Somerville power supply), Duke Farms (emphasis on environmental conservation not just horticultural uses)
- Restore pump house / power canal – museum/visitors center, environmental education.
- Relocate Basilone Statue, incorporate gazebo/benches/green area for viewing of and reflecting at the statue.
- Utilize existing buildings for historic/cultural museum

Challenges

- Power supply is active and serves Duke Farms
- “Fish ladder” – NJDEP

Recreational

Opportunities

- Connect to the rest of the D&R Canal towpath system

- Pedestrian Use – north side of river (do not disturb – Owl Population), Nevius St Pedestrian Bridge
- Bikeways – D&R Canal Path
- Dog Park – Riverwalk Parcel turned over to Borough
- Re-routing Duke Farm electric supply, poles come down
- Ice Skating Rink in floodplain area
- Lighting from Residential to CBD to River – “Downlighting”
- Widen towpath to be more accessible for walking/biking
- If active – Kayak/Canoe rentals, pitch-n-putt/mini-golf
- Connections
- Use Duke land for recreation in Hillsborough
- Nevius Bridge – make active recreation park on other side (Duke/Hillsborough) eg – swimming in river, access to...
- Bikeway along river
- Boat rentals
- Use floodplain as a park
- Velodrome – tie in with Somerville Bike Races

Challenges

- “pole” city
- Existing golf range – not an inviting entrance to the Borough
- Retention pond – flooding
- Need to decide if greenway will be passive or active
- Need to extend pedestrian bridge trail on both sides of Nevius bridge.
- Clarify how big of a draw riverfront parkland will be – if regional – then Raritan’s current parking may be an issue.
- “tunnel” under Memorial Bridge is not bicycle friendly – need to pave/gravel/woodchip for better ridability.

Gateways

Opportunities

- Stone Pillars / Columns – highlight history of masons in town, 5-8 acre quarry in Hunterdon County available, continuity with Somerville/Hillsborough/206 Corridor
- Destination point – Center, Downtown, Basilone Statue, Green, Focal point
- Views into Hillsborough on the Duke property are beautiful

Challenges

- Incorporate goals with Somerville, but this is the gateway to Raritan
- Widen one-way on Canal St (at Basilone) to two-way street
- Views into Hillsborough are blocked by the industrial uses

Greenways

Opportunities

- Raritan Env. Commission, work with County to conduct a path/river clean up
- Plant trees near Nevius Bridge for anti-erosion effort
- Nature – escape
- Get Watershed Association input
- Keep it Green!

Challenges

- Floodplain
- Bring back native plants / habitat, consider the watershed

WISH LIST

Solar power lights

Work with Duke Farms

Community Garden

Farmers' Market

Gazebo

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS

Use the Open Space Tax for some of the proposed work

Use stone from Duke Property to create recognizable gateway into Raritan – Somerville and Hillsborough are going to be using it.

Arts program to beautify area and enhance identity – murals, stones

Need a short-term project to keep momentum for project going

RCP Challenge Grant and Municipal Planning Partnership grant available

Use newsletter for publicity, announcements about project – NEXT ISSUE IS IN AUG/SEPT.