

# Planning & Physical Development

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## Introduction

During the recent Reality Check Workshops, topical experts and members of the public worked together in small groups to examine a particular topic in-depth. During the two-hour workshops they worked with a trained facilitator to complete the following exercises:

- 1) Review of Ideas. Participants reviewed all of the ideas related to their topic that were collected during the community Idea Gathering Sessions.
- 2) Critical Questions. Participants engaged in a discussion of two Critical Questions, which had been identified by the *Vision for Staten Island* Steering Committee. The facilitator recorded the results of the discussion on flipchart paper, and then helped the group summarize major areas of agreement and disagreement.
- 3) Implementation Recommendations. At the end of the discussion period, each participant wrote down two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps to help Staten Island achieve its vision for their topic.

The results from the Planning and Physical Development group are provided below. Note that responses have been recorded verbatim, and some errors may remain due to handwriting legibility. Responses are numbered for reference purposes only; this does not indicate any sense of priority.

## Critical Question 1:

What specific areas of Staten Island should be targeted for future development and/or redevelopment? Write your ideas below and, if appropriate, use the map provided to indicate locations for specific suggestions.

1. Denser development commercial and residential – existing transit stops SIRR
2. North Shore, West Shore rail developments and increased density
3. North Shore waterfront (all)
4. Beautification of every town; main street
5. Support maritime dependent and waterfront access and usage
6. Revitalize residential along Edgewater (Alice Austen) to St. George
7. SI mall redevelopment (town center)
8. Port Richmond revitalize

## Critical Question 1 SUMMARY:

1. Denser development resident and commercial on rail systems
2. Town centers – beautification
3. Revitalize NS Alice Austen to St. George
4. SI mall area – town center planning
5. Port Richmond – water to Forest Ave.

**Critical Question 2:**

How can we accommodate growth while balancing our community integrity? You may want to think about specific examples (in Staten Island, the NYC region, or elsewhere) where you believe this balance has been successful.

1. Master plan for infrastructure
2. Transit connection Brooklyn, Manhattan and New Jersey
3. (Community) Transit supportable development and walkability
4. South Richmond-like master plan – schools, roads, development
5. Train and transit attractions
6. Access – need free connection to other areas
7. Mixed-use resident and commercial
8. Concentrate development on existing locations

**Critical Question 2 SUMMARY:**

1. Agreement
2. Disagree - sorry

**Implementation Recommendations:**

Consider the draft vision statement, the ideas gathered from the public, and your group’s discussion of critical questions. Please recommend two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps that would you would recommend to help Staten Island achieve its vision for your topic.

1. Implement a mandatory master plan review for the entire borough. The master plan should coordinate different land use overlays (wetlands), agency requirements, zoning and future growth and infrastructure needs
2. Look for a quick planning “win.” Redevelop a city-owned parcel like the site adjoining the ferry with a first-class model mixed use facility/supermarket and residences that can become the “template” philosophy for future smart growth
3. Waterfront revitalization – needs new masterplan with new zoning category
4. Public transit – North and West Shore – needs funding
5. Pride in your neighborhoods – beautifying each “main street” in each town. 1. Staten Island “spring cleanup day.” Clean up your town’s main street. 2. Encouraging use of Staten Island Rail
6. Beautifying the waterfront around the SI ferry. More places to eat and shop
7. Keep up the Vision for SI process – keeping people involved, talking, thinking about these issues – will open minds to new concepts, spending tax \$ on necessary investments
8. Support expansion of transit on SI and greater development near existing rail stations
9. Test subject (neighborhood) for mix-use redevelopment around a transportation hub
10. Commercial district redevelopment
11. No tolls for SI residents at the VNB
12. Develop a base of residents to advocate for mixed-use, transit oriented development – to push the city agencies and elected officials to find the money
13. Build on many studies and use their research and work to develop island-wide goals and priorities
14. Proactively direct growth to answer our greatest challenges and reinforce what makes us special: Transit-oriented development; St. George/downtown; waterfront; infill on low-density sites (SI Mall) and public land (public housing)
15. Make riding the SIRT/train more inviting – special events at train stops, etc. More folks using the train builds an advocacy group for better development/destinations at train stations
16. Identify a long-range infrastructure plan for the borough and sustainable funding sources

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