

## Results from Community Input Meeting on 500 N Carrollton

On Monday, May 18, nearly 50 community leaders and engaged residents and business owners came together to review the current plans for the project. Two hours of group discussion at individual tables resulted in approximately 10 key principles per table, which the entire group proceeded to vote on.

After the voting it was evident there was considerable consensus—as well as frustration—regarding the project. Core principles agreed upon by the group, in order of popularity, were:

1. Mid-City desperately needs a hardware store, and the group asks the developer to pursue Ace—or True-Value if Ace is not interested.
2. There is strong concern about the impact this development will have regarding traffic and trucks on the Carrollton corridor, especially the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists crossing at the Greenway and other crossings, as well as transit riders crossing to the shopping center. Trucks also will be a problem, as they already do not follow the rules established for the Mid-City Market and are hurting houses, trees and quality of life.

The group urged the developer to commission a separate traffic study, and asks the City of New Orleans to put up not a flashing yellow light at the Greenway, but rather a button activated stop light or other mechanisms that would protect the safety of Greenway users. The group also would like to see pedestrian and transit improvements at the site.

3. The consensus of voters was strongly in favor of local businesses, including local restaurants, and is in favor of mechanisms the developer can pursue to keep these spaces affordable for local tenants. Not voted on but offered by several groups were ideas increasing vertical height to allow for businesses to locate on an upper floor and increasing density of the development along the Carrollton frontage.
4. Drainage is a concern and the group urges the developer to take all possible measures to ensure there is no runoff impact on surrounding properties and streets.
5. The current design of the project, including the CVS, is not a good fit for the neighborhood, is boxy and not aesthetically pleasing, and has a suburban design that the vast majority of participants rejected as unsuitable for Mid-City. The group urges the developer to make further aesthetic and architectural improvements.
6. The group wants businesses along the Greenway to be attractive to and easily accessible by Greenway users, perhaps with the doorways being a shared entrance in the pavilions that would be accessed easily from both the parking lot and the Greenway. (25)
7. The group would like to see one of the spaces given over to a co-op-run Artist's Market or Flea Market similar to what is in the French Market (with the understanding that groceries would not be allowed).

8. The group wants an office component for small business owners, particularly a shared workspace model.
9. The group likes the idea of parking on the rooftop of larger spaces. Other creative ideas expressed for rooftops included rooftop community gardens, solar panels, a skating rink and an outdoor movie theater.
10. The group absolutely does NOT want a Starbucks.
11. Mid-City needs softgoods, i.e. linens, housewares and clothing, preferably from a local company.
12. The group would like to see the tenant spaces broken into smaller units to provide more space for smaller, local tenants and less space for large national chains. (16)
13. A gift shop, potentially with cards and flowers, would be a good addition to Mid-City. Another idea with the same support included a dry cleaner/tailor.
14. The group thinks a micro-brewery would be a good addition to Mid-City in this location.
15. A music store, potentially selling instruments and sheet music, and/or giving lessons, would be a good addition to Mid-City.