



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
MEETING #5 – THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025 – 5:00PM-6:30PM
VIRTUAL - ZOOM
Meeting Purpose

To review the draft Union Square Transformation Plan and go over key takeaways.

Committee Members Present

John Pupello, Bill Villano, Andrew Orefice, Alice Forrester, Chris DiStasi, Michala Seales, Candacia Wright, Jenn Bayer, Jennifer Ricker, Carmen Rodriguez, Mike Carter, Tameka Miller, Ann Harrison, Arleva Samuel, Gus Keach Longo, Lucas Voelkner, Thomasina Shaw, Eliza Halsey, Emily Burne, Mark Wilson, Kymbel Branch, Mike Piscitelli, Doug Hausladen, Steve Winter, Amos Smith, Brian Wnek, Latoya Mills, Haley Vincent, Ken Boronson, Christina Musante, David Stembel, Michala Mahon.

Other Presents

-PRESENTATION MATERIALS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT-

Overview

Haley Vincent-Simpson opened the meeting by recognizing the contributions of participants in developing the Transformation Plan, which is set for submission to HUD by February. She provided an overview of the agenda, emphasizing the importance of feedback on the draft plan available on the Union Square Choice website in two spots: [Union Square Choice](#) – under Updates and Progress or scroll down on the home page under Milestones. Alder Carmen Rodriguez requested that the draft be emailed to those unable to access the website, to which Haley agreed. Following this, roll call was conducted, and participants introduced themselves, representing a diverse array of organizations involved in community development and health initiatives.

The discussion then shifted to the development of the People Plan, which aims to improve access to services, economic health, and educational outcomes for residents. Key community needs identified include affordable food, better school performance, and job opportunities. Strategies proposed include enhancing K-12 education, increasing access to early childhood education, and promoting health literacy, with a focus on collaboration with community partners like the Boys and Girls Club and LEAP. The overarching goal is to foster an engaged and thriving community in the Hill and Union Square areas.

Chris DiStasi presented the Neighborhood Plan, which encompasses the Church Street South site and outlines a vision statement along with four strategic goals. **These goals focus on**

enhancing connectivity and mobility, promoting health and opportunity, supporting local businesses, and increasing affordable housing. The plan includes actionable items for residents to implement grassroots initiatives and emphasizes the importance of traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures. The aim is to create a vibrant, safe, and sustainable community for all residents, with a strong emphasis on local business support and community engagement.

The meeting concluded with discussions on infrastructure and connectivity improvements, including strategies for flood risk mitigation and enhanced pedestrian and cyclist connectivity. David Stembel highlighted the importance of **green stormwater infrastructure and community-friendly lighting**. Michaela Mahon proposed a central public open space near Union Station to host community events and support local businesses, while also addressing security measures and connections between the hill neighborhood and downtown New Haven. The group engaged in discussions about the specifics of these connections, suggesting the use of visual aids from existing city plans for clarity. **Connection to downtown may be missing.**

Topics:

Draft Transformation Plan Overview

Haley Vincent-Simpson welcomed attendees and expressed gratitude for their hard work on the transformation plan. The meeting aimed to review the draft plan and solicit further feedback, with the goal of submitting it to HUD by February. Participants were informed that the draft is available on the Union Square Choice website for review.

Participant Introductions

This section featured introductions from various participants, including Bill Villano from Workforce Alliance and Andy Orefice from Yale New Haven Health. Michaela Mahon represented Torti Gallas, while David Stembel and Ken Boroson introduced themselves as part of the architectural team. Additional attendees included representatives from Solar Youth, the Boys and Girls Clubs, and the City of New Haven.

People Plan and Community Engagement Strategies

Haley Vincent-Simpson presented the people plan, highlighting the collaborative efforts of community partners in the planning process. The plan aims to address issues such as access to education, healthcare, and affordable food, while also promoting community engagement. Specific strategies include improving K-12 education outcomes and increasing access to healthy food options.

* Drafting and submission of the transformation plan to HUD

* Community engagement and feedback mechanisms

Overview of the Hill Neighborhood Plan

Chris DiStasi outlined the Hill neighborhood plan, highlighting its focus on the Church Street South site and broader neighborhood investments. The plan is structured with a vision statement, four goals, and a graphic summarizing strategies. Each goal section includes public engagement data, existing conditions, and actionable items for residents.

Connectivity, Health, and Housing Strategies for the Neighborhood



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

MEETING #5 – THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025 – 5:00PM-6:30PM

VIRTUAL - ZOOM

Chris DiStasi presented a comprehensive plan addressing connectivity, health, business development, and housing in the neighborhood. Key strategies include traffic calming, improved pedestrian amenities, and support for local businesses. The plan also emphasizes the importance of affordable housing and community resources to ensure residents can thrive. Each goal is supported by specific interventions and graphics illustrating potential improvements.

* Strategies for affordable housing development

Community Development and Transformation Planning

Haley Vincent-Simpson emphasized the need for community partnerships to support youth development and local business initiatives. She outlined strategies including internships, career fairs, and entrepreneurship training, alongside plans for a grocery store and retail incubator spaces. Additionally, she mentioned the importance of adult literacy programs and tailored job training for various demographics.

Housing Planning Goals and Strategies

Kenneth Boroson discussed the engagement process that informed the housing strategies for Union Square, highlighting the community's desire for improved public transportation, parking, and affordable housing. He presented six housing planning goals, which include ensuring the right to return for current residents and enhancing community amenities. Michaela Mahon then introduced the second goal focused on providing diverse and high-quality housing options.

* Proposed community amenities and services

Site Plan and Housing Strategy Overview

Michaela Mahon from Torti Gallas outlined a site plan master plan aimed at providing diverse housing options that foster a neighborhood atmosphere in New Haven. The design strategy respects the low-density character of the adjacent hill neighborhood while gradually increasing density towards downtown. The plan emphasizes the creation of secure outdoor spaces for residents and the inclusion of modern, high-quality buildings with necessary amenities.

Infrastructure and Connectivity Planning

David Stembel discussed eight major strategies for infrastructure and connectivity improvements, starting with flood mitigation through site elevation and green stormwater solutions. He stressed the need for better pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, improved lighting for safety, and the inclusion of trees to enhance the environment. Additionally, he mentioned the importance of adequate parking design and traffic calming measures to improve safety and accessibility.

* Safety and connectivity improvements in the neighborhood

Community Space and Urban Planning Updates

Michaela Mahon outlined a proposal for a flexible public open space near Union Station, intended for community events and daily use. The plan also includes play areas for children, community spaces for various programs, and approximately 40,000 to 50,000 square feet of retail space to enhance the area. Haley Vincent-Simpson emphasized the importance of security measures and community engagement in the planning process.

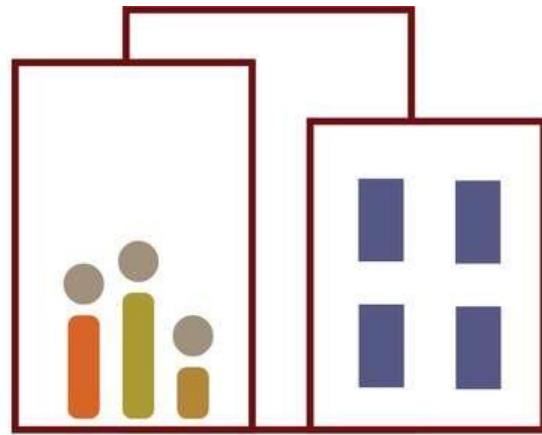
Action Items:

1. Look at creating bridge programs, financial aid, and job training for high school students and low-income individuals.
2. Haley Vincent-Simpson will send the rough draft of the transformation plan to Alder Carmen Rodriguez for distribution to the community.
3. Team will consider adding emergency blue phones and additional security measures to the housing and neighborhood components of the plan.
4. Plan feels solid and well-thought out maybe just emphasize the connection to downtown more.
5. Housing Team should look at rooftop spaces and how we can possibly incorporate those for gardens or convening spaces.

Key Questions:

- * What strategies are being considered to improve community engagement and participation?
- * What measures will be taken to ensure pedestrian safety in the neighborhood?
- * Will there be emergency blue phones similar to those provided around the Yale campus?
- * A suggestion to give visual that displays the connection to downtown.

Next Steps: Committee will provide feedback on the draft Transformation plan. The planning team will revise accordingly.



UNION SQUARE

A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

Welcome!

STEERING COMMITTEE

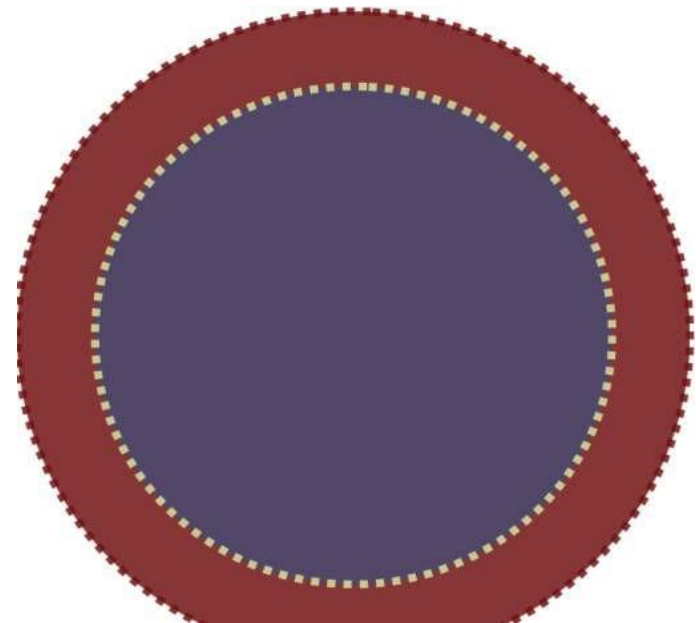
Zoom Meeting
January 23, 2025



For More Information Visit
UNIONSQUARECHOICE.COM

TONIGHTS AGENDA:

- Greeting and Welcome!
- Where Are We in the Planning process?
- People Plan: Goals and Strategies
- Questions and Answers
- Next Steps in the Process



www.unionsquarechoice.com



OUR PARTNERS:

Thank you for making this process possible!

**ROBERT T. WOLFE
RESIDENTS**

**FORMER CHURCH
STREET SOUTH
RESIDENTS**



Yale University

Yale SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT



New Haven Adult & Continuing Education Center



YaleNewHavenHealth
Yale New Haven Hospital



Workforce Alliance

CONNECTICUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN



& MORE!

3

People Plan



THE TRANSFORMATION PLAN

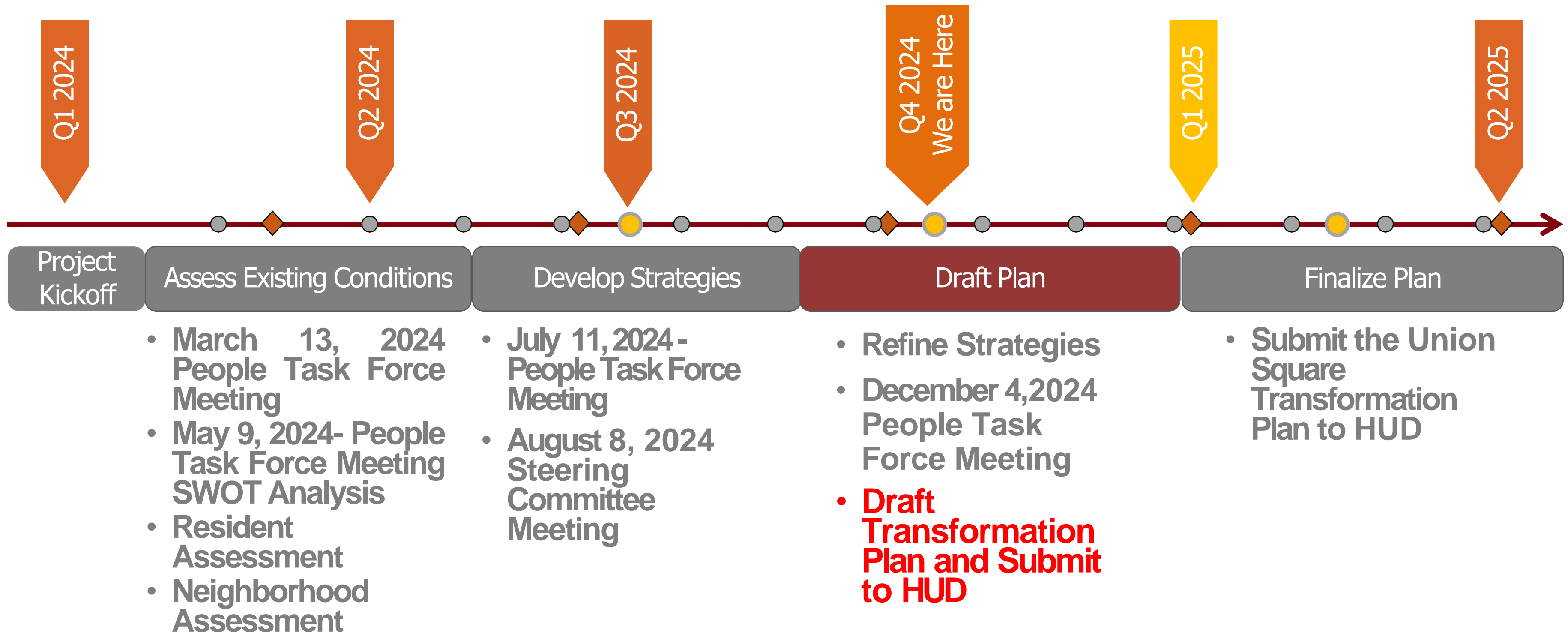
A Choice Neighborhood *Transformation Plan* Has 3 Components:

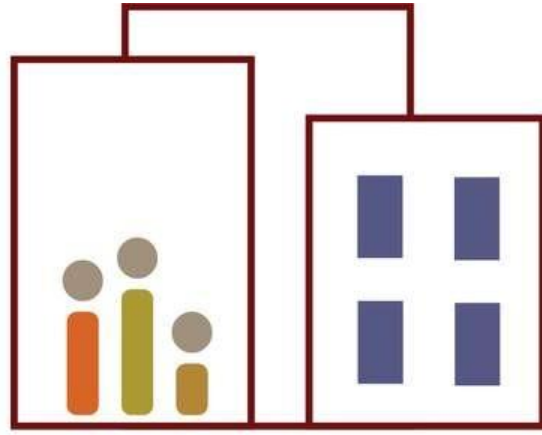
- **Housing**
 - Plan to build affordable, mixed-income, and mixed-use development at Union Square.
- **Neighborhood**
 - Plan to improve the Hill neighborhood through programs and site improvements.
- **People**
 - Plan to increase access to services and improve economic, health and education outcomes of residents.



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WHERE ARE WE?





UNION SQUARE

A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

PEOPLE PLAN: GOALS AND STRATEGIES



For More Information Visit
UNIONSQUARECHOICE.COM

WHAT WE'VE HEARD:

“Community not working together”

“Need access to affordable, fresh food”



“Increase access to adult education”

“Lack of resources for early childhood education”

“Improve school academics”

“Provide affordable daycare”



“Want a job but can't find one that meets my needs”

“Adult education for ESL”

The Consensus People Plan

Vision Statement

An engaged and thriving Hill and Union Square community with quality education, ample employment opportunities, social interactions, and excellent health care for all.



Road Trip!

Vision for the Hill Community

An engaged and thriving Hill and Union Square community with quality education, ample employment opportunities, social interactions, and excellent health care for all.

People Goals

GOAL 1 ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION TO ALL RESIDENTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

GOAL 2 ENSURE EXCELLENT HEALTH CARE FOR ALL RESIDENTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

GOAL 3 STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

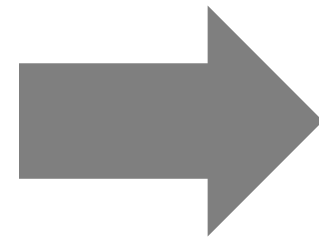
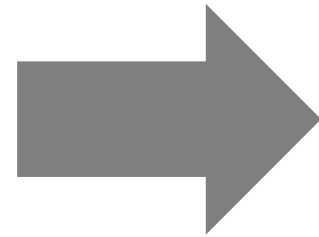
GOAL 4 SUPPORT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

GOAL 5 FOSTER JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PEOPLE PLAN

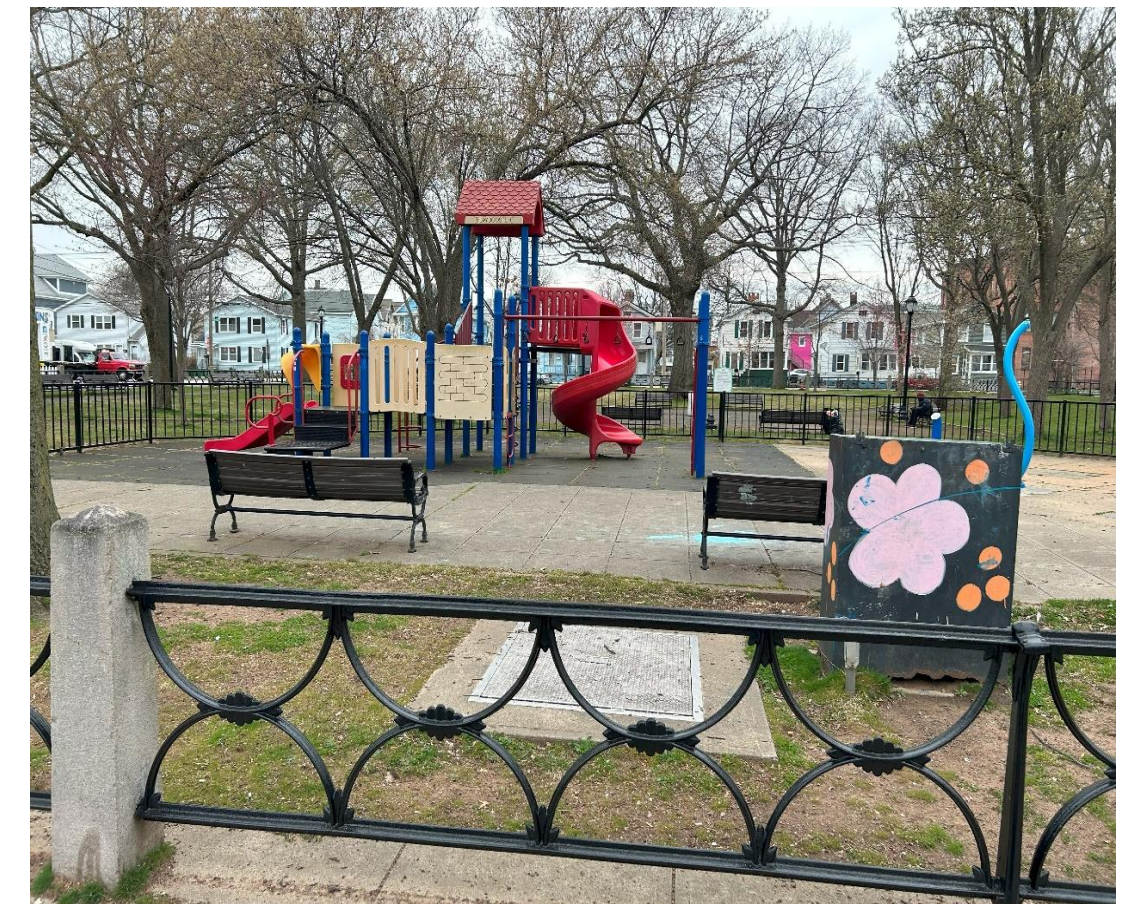
EDUCATION GOALS

- Improve K-12 educational outcomes.
- Increase access to early childhood education programs for children aged six weeks to five years old.



EDUCATION STRATEGIES

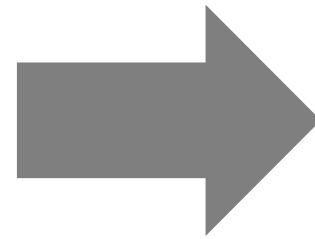
- Academic after school support
- Literacy and reading programs.
- Summer learning.
- STEM and creative arts enrichment.
- Mapping and coordinating services.
- Collaboration with early childhood providers.
- Centralized referral system.
- Promoting early childhood best practices .
- Improving access to high quality early childhood education.
- Promoting inclusion and diversity



PEOPLE PLAN

HEALTH GOALS

- Improve housing conditions, including lead abatement, mold and remediation.



HEALTH STRATEGIES

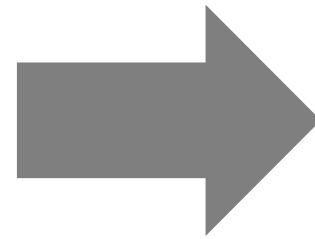
- Develop partnerships LCI, ECC, Neighborhood Works, YNHH, Hill Health Center .
- Aid residents facing unsafe housing.
- Offer free home repairs for low-income homeowners.



PEOPLE PLAN

HEALTH GOALS

- **Increase access to affordable and healthy foods.**



HEALTH STRATEGIES

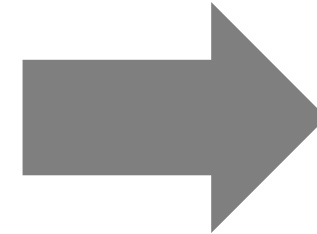
- **Provide access to food programs such as CT Food Bank and farmers' market.**
- **Develop community-based food programs that support local farmers markets and mobile markets.**
- **Food Hall with collection of small restaurants offering counter service, with shared seating to Union Square residents.**



PEOPLE PLAN

HEALTH GOALS

- **Increase access to affordable, and healthy foods.**



HEALTH STRATEGIES

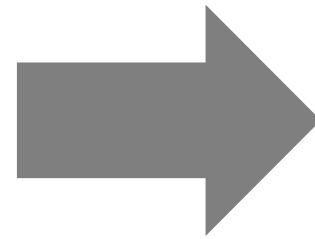
- **Community education campaign to raise awareness of healthy food options and nutrition**
- **Chef Training Program for immigrant and refugee residents ran by CitySeed. The program consists of four months of culinary training and job skills, as well as a two-month culinary and hospitality internship.**



PEOPLE PLAN

HEALTH GOALS

- **Address transportation barriers that prevent access to healthcare facilities and services.**



HEALTH STRATEGIES

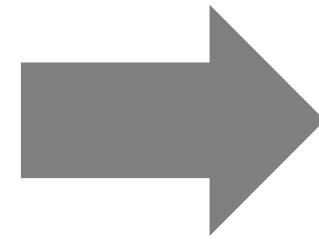
- **Provide access to non-emergency medical transportation services.**
- **Partnerships with transportation companies to have dedicated community shuttles.**
- **Bring healthcare to the community with a Health Hub.**
- **The Hub will provide snapshot of resident's physical health to identify and address risk factors such as high cholesterol and high blood pressure in one centralized location on site.**



PEOPLE PLAN

HEALTH GOALS

- **Promote health literacy and community engagement.**



HEALTH STRATEGIES

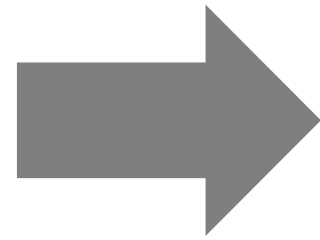
- **Implement health literacy programs.**
- **Use local and social media to spread awareness about available healthcare.**
- **Develop school-based health care education.**



PEOPLE PLAN

HEALTH GOALS

- **Strengthen mental health and substance abuse support.**



HEALTH STRATEGIES

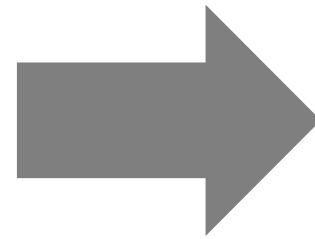
- **Create and promote mental health services.**
- **Establish mental health outreach clinics in the Hill/Union Square.**
- **Develop a peer recovery support network.**
- **Promote collaboration between local universities and health systems.**
- **Promote digital health tools.**



PEOPLE PLAN

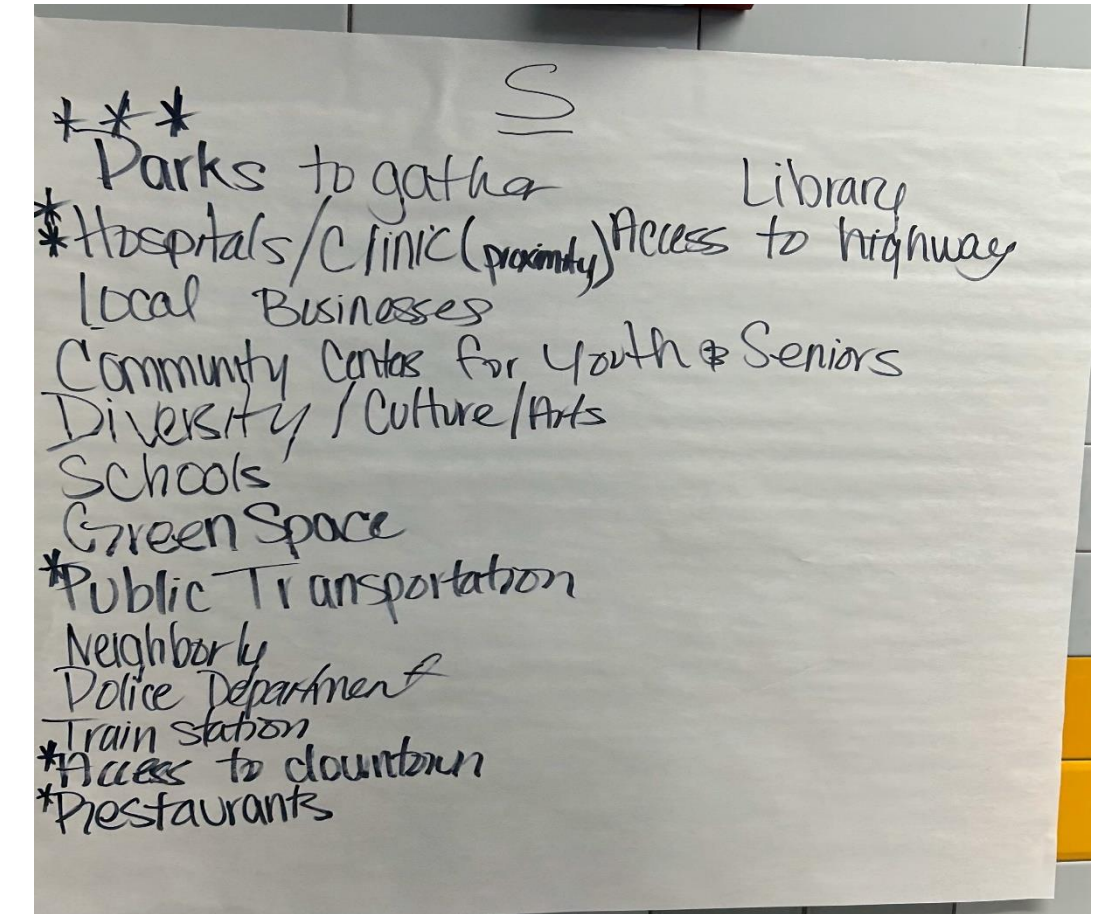
HEALTH GOALS

- Incorporate healthcare and wellness programs into local youth programs.



HEALTH STRATEGIES

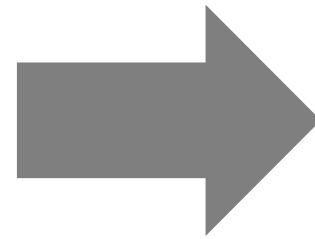
- Work with the Boys and Girls Club to provide safe, structured sports and recreational activities.
- Work with LEAP to incorporate health and Wellness education into its programs
- Work with LEAP to introduce a “Healthy Life Initiative” in Union Square.



PEOPLE PLAN

HEALTH GOALS

- Incorporate healthcare and wellness programs into local youth programs.



HEALTH STRATEGIES

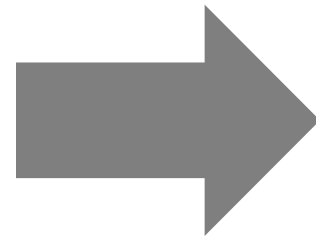
- Work with LULAC to provide regular health screening for children.
- Work with LULAC to incorporate physical activities and wellness education into its curriculum.
- Work with LULAC and healthcare partners to connect families to medical, dental, and mental health services.



PEOPLE PLAN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS

- Enhance community engagement and partnerships.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

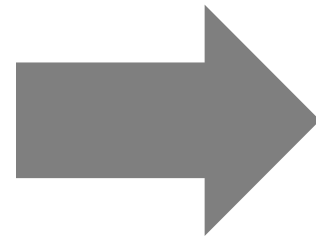
- Work with community organizations to host informational sessions, career fairs, and community events in Union Square.
- Establish mentorship and peer support programs with Gateway students and alumni from Union Square.



PEOPLE PLAN

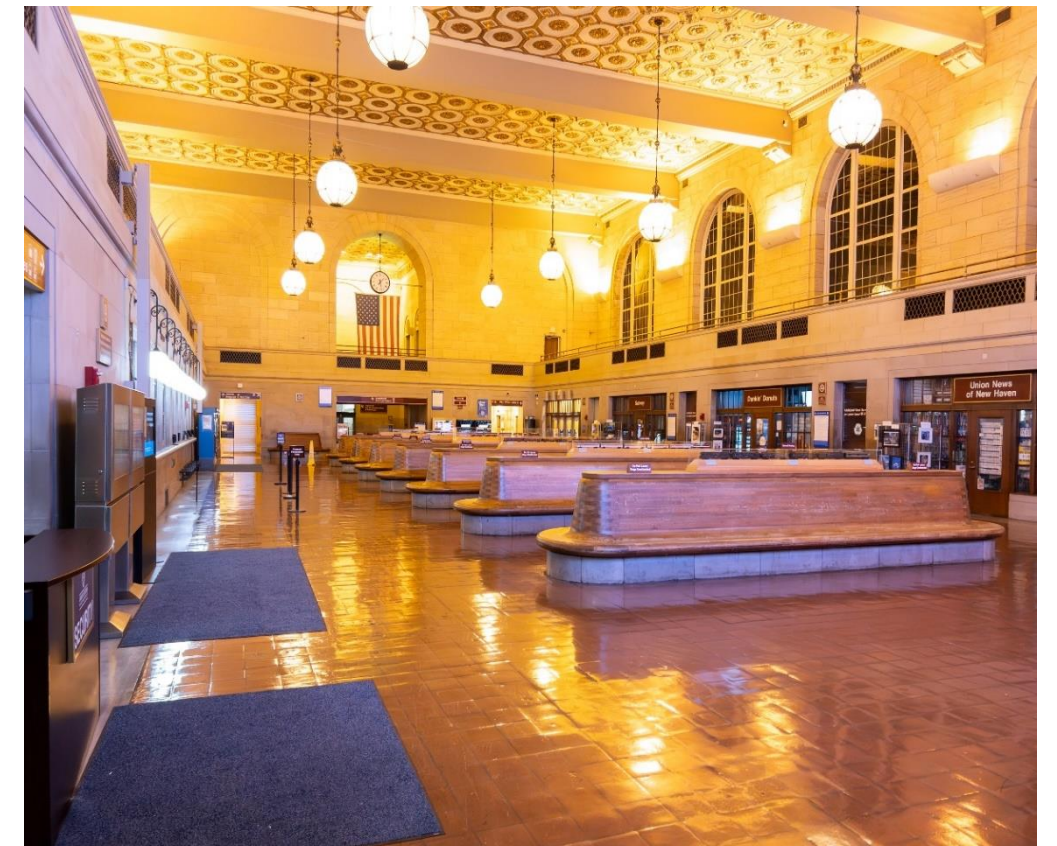
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS

- Enhance community engagement and partnerships.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

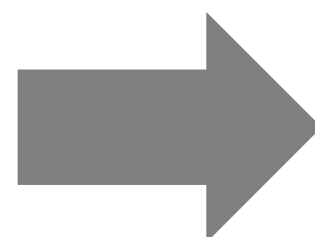
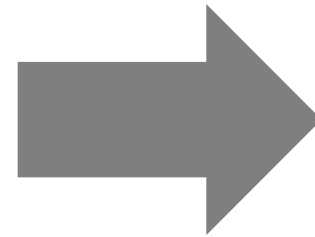
- Nonprofit collaboration between the Boys and Girls Club and other local organizations to help expand the services available to youth and families.
- Establish partnerships between the Boys and Girls Club, CitySeed, Work Force Alliance and local businesses to provide internships.



PEOPLE PLAN

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Promote leadership skills, social development, and mentoring for Union Square youth



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

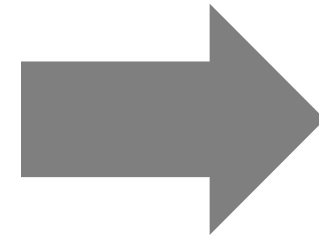
- Work with Gateway and other community organizations to host information sessions, career fairs, and community events in Union Square in an outreach to reach residents.
- Work with retail tenants to hire and train residents.
- Surround the Central Green with Retail and Amenities.
- Bring a Grocery Store to Union Square.
- Design incubator retail spaces for local small businesses.



PEOPLE PLAN

YOYTH DEVELOPMENT

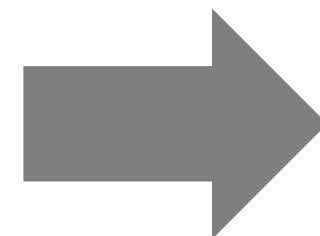
- Design space for retail and commercial development.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGES

- Surround the Central Green with Retail and Amenities.
- Bring a Grocery Store to Union Square.
- Design incubator retail spaces for local small businesses

- Create job training opportunities.



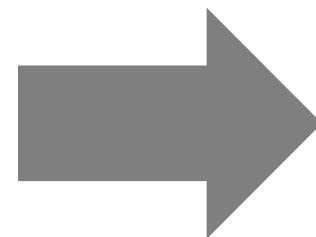
- Work with retail tenants to hire and train residents.



PEOPLE PLAN

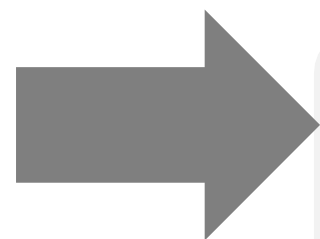
JOB CREATION

- Higher education and vocational training.



EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

- Provide adult basic literacy
- Create “bridge” programs for H.S. students.
- Financial aid for low-income students.
- Provide access to industry certification programs.
- Enhance job placement services.



- Expand employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

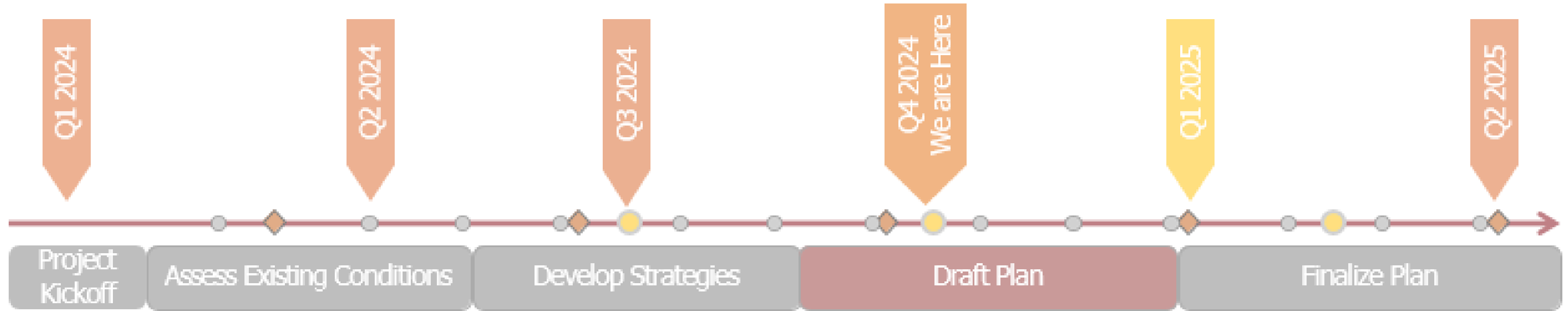
- Tailor job training programs for elderly and people with disabilities.



WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

KEY

-  Steering Committee Meetings
-  (3) Committees Meetings
-  Public Meetings

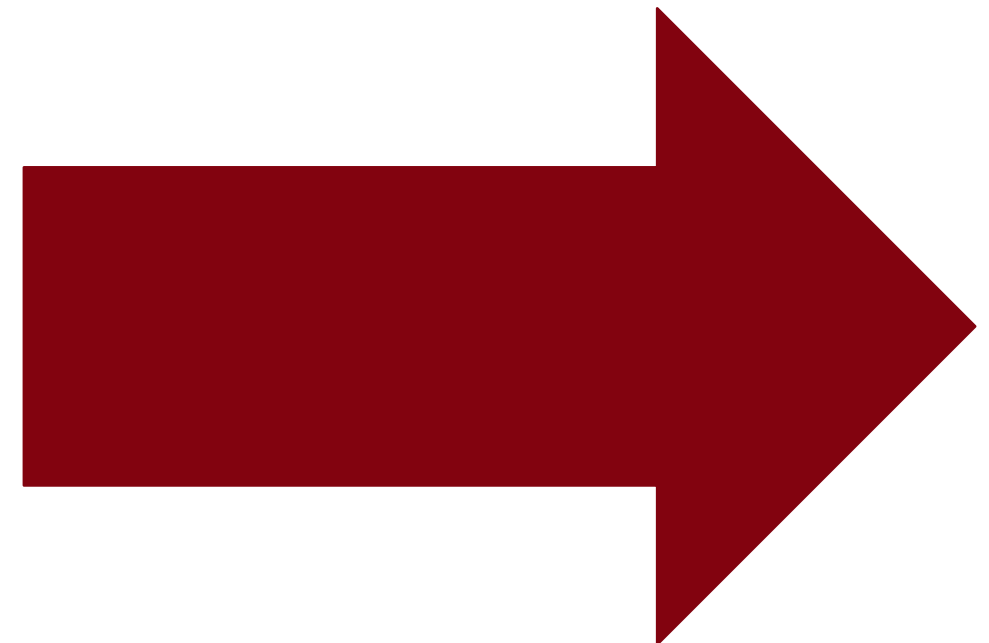


- March 13, 2024 People Task Force Meeting
- May 9, 2024- People Task Force Meeting SWOT Analysis
- Resident Assessment
- Neighborhood Assessment

- July 11, 2024- People Task Force Meeting
- August 8, 2024 Steering Committee Meeting

- Refine Strategies
- December 4, 2024 People Task Force Meeting
- **Draft Transformation Plan and Submit to HUD**

- Submit the Union Square Transformation Plan to HUD



WHATS NEXT:

- Finalize **Strategies**
- Draft & Finish **The Transformation Plan**
 - The Transformation plan will lay out a road map for how to accomplish the goals and strategies we've produced together
- Apply for a **HUD Implementation Grant**
 - \$30-\$50 million to carry out the Plan



+ CONTINUE
EARLY
ACTION
ACTIVITIES

+ PREPARING THE
UNION SQUARE
SITE FOR
DEVELOPMENT

An aerial architectural rendering of a city development project. The scene shows a mix of existing and proposed buildings, including a prominent tall skyscraper with a blue glass facade. The area is interspersed with green trees and walkways. Three streets are labeled: Columbus Ave at the top, Church St S on the left, and Union Ave at the bottom. In the bottom right, there are railway tracks. The word "Questions?" is written in large, bold, black letters across the center of the image.

Questions?

COLUMBUS AVE

CHURCH ST S

UNION AVE

The Neighborhood Plan



How to Read the Neighborhood Plan



6

Neighborhood Plan

How to Read the Neighborhood Plan

Introduction

This section of the Union Square Choice Neighborhood Plan focuses on the broader Hill neighborhood.

Elsewhere in this plan, you will find a much needed plan to bring lively mixed use development to the Union Square site, as well as a plan for the network of resources, supports, and services that will ensure residents of the new Union Square development succeed. But the Hill neighborhood reaches far beyond Union Square, and the larger community is also ready to harness this momentum for positive change.

Hill residents know what makes their neighborhood great: beautiful homes, parks, and schools; friendly neighbors; proximity to Downtown; and easy access to

the region. But they also know the Hill faces significant challenges. Wide, dangerous streets separate the neighborhood from the city and neighborhood destinations; disinvestment has deprived residents of healthy choices, safe streets, and local businesses; and rising rents and real estate prices put all low-income residents at risk.

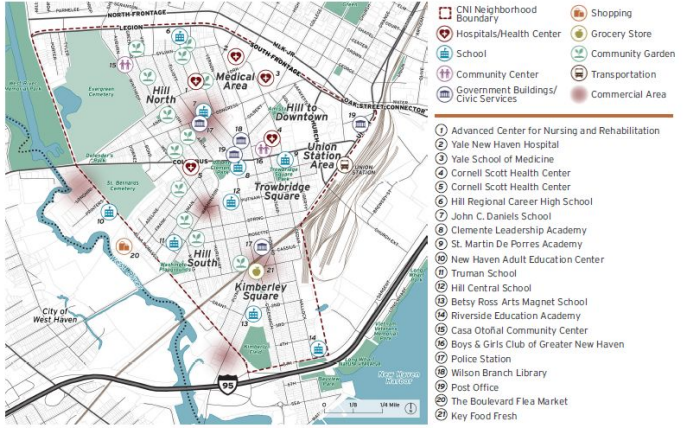
There is already significant good work in progress. The Downtown Crossing project, a new BRT, and bicycle lanes will start to knit the neighborhood together; improvements to Trowbridge Square Park, Kimberly Field, and the reopening of the Hill Cooperative Youth Center will strengthen community health; a new plaza and mixed use development at Kimberly Square will bolster businesses; and multiple affordable rental and homeownership projects will

help protect the lower-income community. This is just a sample of what is happening in the Hill, and residents say they are ready for more.

This plan will bring the collective resources and attention of a wide range of high capacity partners, including the City of New Haven, the Glendower Group, Elm City Communities, the New Haven Police Department, the Boys and Girls Club, Workforce Alliance, and more. This is the time for the Hill to take a big step forward towards accomplishing the community's goals.



Figure 1: Neighborhood Destinations and Assets



How to Read the Neighborhood Plan

Vision Statement

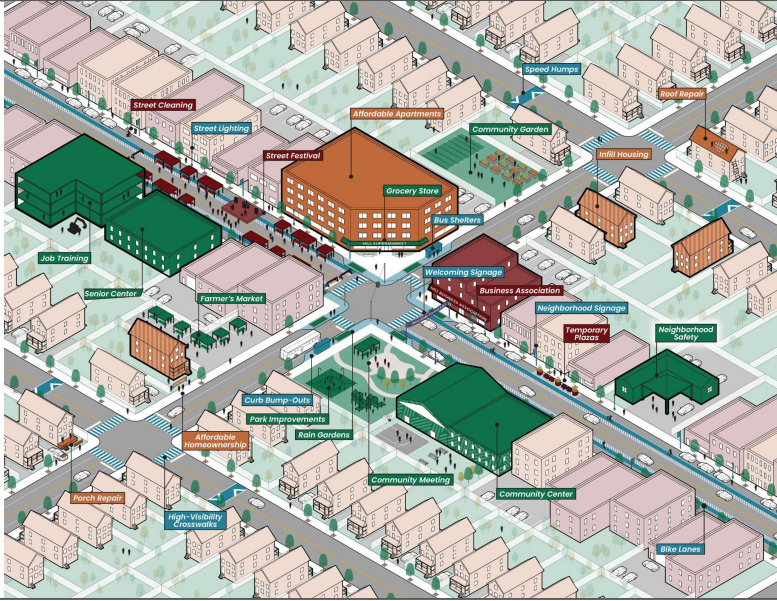
Vision for the Hill Neighborhood

The time is right for the Hill community to harness the energy of committed residents, City leaders, and organizations—and to extend the momentum for change represented by the Union Square development.

The Hill will make it easy for residents to learn, grow, and stay healthy; with safe, easy connections to the City and region; and a strong community that residents can afford to stay in for years to come.

Neighborhood Goals

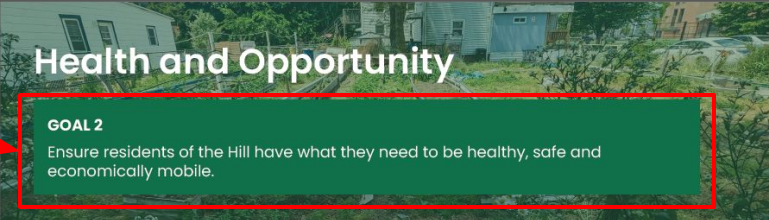
- GOAL 1** Calm traffic, ensure pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and improve connections within and outside the Hill.
- GOAL 2** Ensure residents of the Hill have what they need to be healthy, safe and economically mobile.
- GOAL 3** Encourage neighborhood-serving retail, food, services, and activities that support basic needs and community life.
- GOAL 4** Increase the supply of affordable and high quality homes for the homeowners and renters who want to stay here.



Goals (each goal has its own section)

How to Read the Neighborhood Plan

#1 Goal Statement



Health and Opportunity

GOAL 2
Ensure residents of the Hill have what they need to be healthy, safe and economically mobile.

Strong Need For Educational and Economic Opportunities

Hill residents experience higher rates of poverty and unemployment and lower rates of educational attainment than the rest of the City and County. One in three residents lives below the poverty line, and one in every four adults does not have a high school diploma. Only 13 percent of residents have a Bachelor's degree, compared to 35 percent of City residents.³

Throughout this plan's public engagement process, residents said the community needs more opportunities for economic mobility and better access to educational resources. The most significant gap is in adult education and job training. Although the New Haven Adult Education Center is currently located on Grasso Boulevard in the Hill, the organization is planning

to relocate out of the neighborhood to Newhallville. With Hill residents' reliance on public transit and pedestrian accessibility, it is more important than ever to expand programming in the Hill for adult education and job training.

Youth programming and senior programming is constrained by insufficient indoor recreational space, according to community members and local organizations. While several schools and organizations offer youth after-school programs, they say they do not have enough space for the number of local youth. Meanwhile, seniors lack any dedicated space in the Hill. The population is aging, and many seniors have few options for fun, enrichment, and access to essential resources.

Figure 7: Neighborhood Demographics

	The Hill/ Union Square	City of New Haven	New Haven County
Residents Living in Poverty	33%	25%	11%
Unemployment Rate of Residents in the Workforce	10%	8.6%	6.4%
Median Household Income	\$34,886	\$44,507	\$71,370
Adults with a High School Diploma/GED	76%	86%	90%
Adults with a Bachelor's Degree	13%	35%	36%

3 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

#2 Summary of Public Engagement

WHAT WE'VE HEARD FROM RESIDENTS

- A sense of safety and access to fresh food are key to making this a great place to live.
- Violent crime is a major issue, particularly in areas South of Columbus Avenue and Kimberly Square.
- There has been an uptick in the number of unhoused residents in the neighborhood, especially around Union Square.
- Residents want improved neighborhood amenities that bring people together, like better parks and recreation spaces.
- Many residents want more water recreation like a public pool or more spraygrounds.
- There is a need for more after-school programs, indoor recreation spaces, and educational resources for youth.
- There is a need for more opportunities for adult education and job training and more access to resources like money management classes and computer labs.
- Seniors need a place of their own.

"We need more programs for youth and child to keep them busy and safe." - HILL RESIDENT

MOST POPULAR IDEAS

FROM NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN TASK FORCE

HEALTH IDEAS	# OF VOTES
Grocery Stores	9
Police Cameras	9
Water Recreation	8
Improved Lighting	8
Farmer's Market	7
Places for Sports/Active Recreation	7
More Police Presence	7

OPPORTUNITY IDEAS	# OF VOTES
After-School and Summer Programs	11
More Indoor Recreation Spaces	9
Senior Centers	8
Job Training Opportunities	6
Money Management Classes	5

"Need access to healthier foods at reasonable and affordable prices." - HILL RESIDENT

"Increase our ability to find out what our resources are." - HILL RESIDENT

#3 Relevant Existing Conditions

How to Read the Neighborhood Plan

#2 Framework Diagram for the Following Strategies

Strong Advocates, But No Central Community Organization

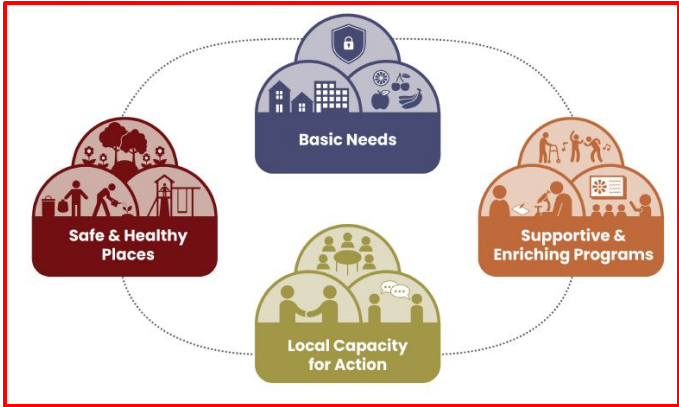
Through the many public meetings and interviews with stakeholders conducted for this plan, it is clear that many people and organizations are dedicated to making the Hill a better place to live for all residents. However, the community lacks a strong organizing entity with an interest in comprehensive neighborhood planning and advocacy. An organization like a community development corporation (CDC) or civic group can provide much needed resources and discipline to community priorities, ensuring that plans like this do not become just another book on a shelf.



A community development corporation or civic group for the Hill neighborhood could help enhance the work that organizations, like Casa Ochoa and El Centro, are already doing so that their services can reach more residents. (Source: Senator Richard Blumenthal)

Health and Opportunity Strategies

The diagram below provides a framework for the following strategies related to Health and Opportunity. There are four essential strategy areas that must be addressed to provide health and opportunity to the community. Each supports the other, and with action in all four, the community will continue to make progress.



How to Read the Neighborhood Plan

#1 Strategy/Partners

2.1. Expand access to fresh food at affordable prices.

PARTNERS | City of New Haven, Glendower, Elm City Communities, Gather New Haven, Urban Resources Initiative, Local Alders

- 2.1.1. **Bring a new grocery store to the neighborhood.** See the Housing section of this plan for more details.
- 2.1.2. **Expand programs to increase access to healthy food,** including local farmers markets and mobile markets, food access programs, and community-based food programs. See People recommendation 2.2 for more details.
- 2.1.3. **Make sure community garden spaces serve the needs of the community.** Where gardens are viable, work to increase usership and programming, provide access to water and other resources, and connect residents to knowledge about growing. Where gardens may no longer be used for growing, explore other community-serving uses.

Farm-Based Wellness Program

Gather New Haven offers their Farm-Based Wellness program every summer to New Haven residents with certain health risk factors, such as heart disease and diabetes, and who are patients at one of their health center partners, such as Cornell Scott Hill Community Health Center and Yale New Haven Health.

Focused on improving health practices and food security in underserved communities, the 16-week program provides cooking demonstrations, gardening, nutrition education, stress management, and lifestyle intervention practices. Each week, participants are given a box of fresh produce and healthy recipes to prepare at home.⁶ After completion of the program, select graduates may be invited to apply to their Community Health Ambassador program, where participants undergo leadership training and further nutrition and wellness education that they can bring back to their own communities.⁷



Source: Gather New Haven

⁶ "Farm-Based Wellness Program", Gather New Haven. www.gathernewhaven.org/our-programs/farm-based-wellness-program/
⁷ "Community Health Ambassadors", Gather New Haven. www.gathernewhaven.org/our-programs/community-health-ambassadors/

#2 Sub-Strategies/Action Items

Community Gardens, Farms, and Greenspaces

The non-profit Gather New Haven provides resources and support for the city's community gardens and farm sites. The Hill is home to about a quarter of the community gardens that Gather New Haven supports. But Gather New Haven does not provide the daily labor to tend gardens. That is provided by the local community. Additionally, the Hill has three vacant lot greenspaces managed by residents and local neighborhood groups in partnership with the Urban Resources Initiative (URI) Community Greenspace program.

Figure 10: Map of Community Gardens, Farm Sites, and Greenspaces



Community Gardens



Farm Sites



Greenspaces



#3 Precedent Call-Outs

#4 Supporting Graphics

How to Read the Neighborhood Plan

Options for Resident-Led Projects

What Can Residents Start On Today?

Many of the strategies will be led by the City and other major partners, but what can residents and community leaders start on today? This section outlines ideas step-by-step. But these aren't the only actions residents can take. In addition to advocating for implementation of the plan, residents already lead countless projects throughout the community, and there is always room for additional motivated community members to pitch in!

Survey the neighborhood's green spaces, and determine their needs.

This strategy should be led or supported by local elected officials or other community representatives.

- 1. Make a list of the topics and locations you want to survey.** Use the maps in this plan to create a list of all of the parks, community gardens, or sections of street you want to survey.
- 2. Create a simple form for each location.** For each type of location, your form could include the following questions or others: →

Parks

- What **amenities** are located at this park? (Playgrounds, basketball courts, etc.)
- What **condition** are the park's amenities in? (Poor/Fair/Good)
- Is there a **Park Friends group** or other way that community members contribute to the park? If so, who is the **primary contact**?

Community Gardens & Greenspaces

- Is the garden/greenspace **currently managed or maintained**? Who is the **primary contact or manager**?
- Does the garden/greenspace have the **resources** it needs, such as water, electricity, soil, tools, etc.?
- Does the garden/greenspace have **active volunteers/members**?
- Is there **underutilized space**, and is there a possibility of creating new publicly-accessible areas?

Streets & Blocks

- Are there **rain gardens** located on the block? Do they need **maintenance**?
- Are there **dead or dying street trees**?
- Are there sections of street that could **accommodate new street trees**?

EXTRA!
Create a flyer to leave at gardens that informs community members you were here and you are interested in helping them.

- 3. Use the results of this survey to identify priority investments.** For instance, create lists of: →

- The **total number of each type of park amenity** in the neighborhood. Are there any types of amenities missing from the neighborhood?
- The **worst condition amenities** in local parks. Which park amenities need rehabilitation or replacement?
- Parks or gardens that **do not have any community members taking care of them** (or that have too few community members involved). How can residents spread the word and get new people involved?
- Primary contacts** for parks and gardens. Would it be helpful to gather this group together to strategize?
- Individual gardens' **resource needs**. Some of these can be solved by the local community, and some will need coordination with others.
- Underutilized** gardens or open spaces. Where can publicly accessible space be expanded?
- Rain gardens** in need of **maintenance**.
- Dead or dying trees** in need of care or removal.
- Addresses that have **space for new street trees** in front of them. Could the community engage residents around planting new trees to cool down the neighborhood in the summer?

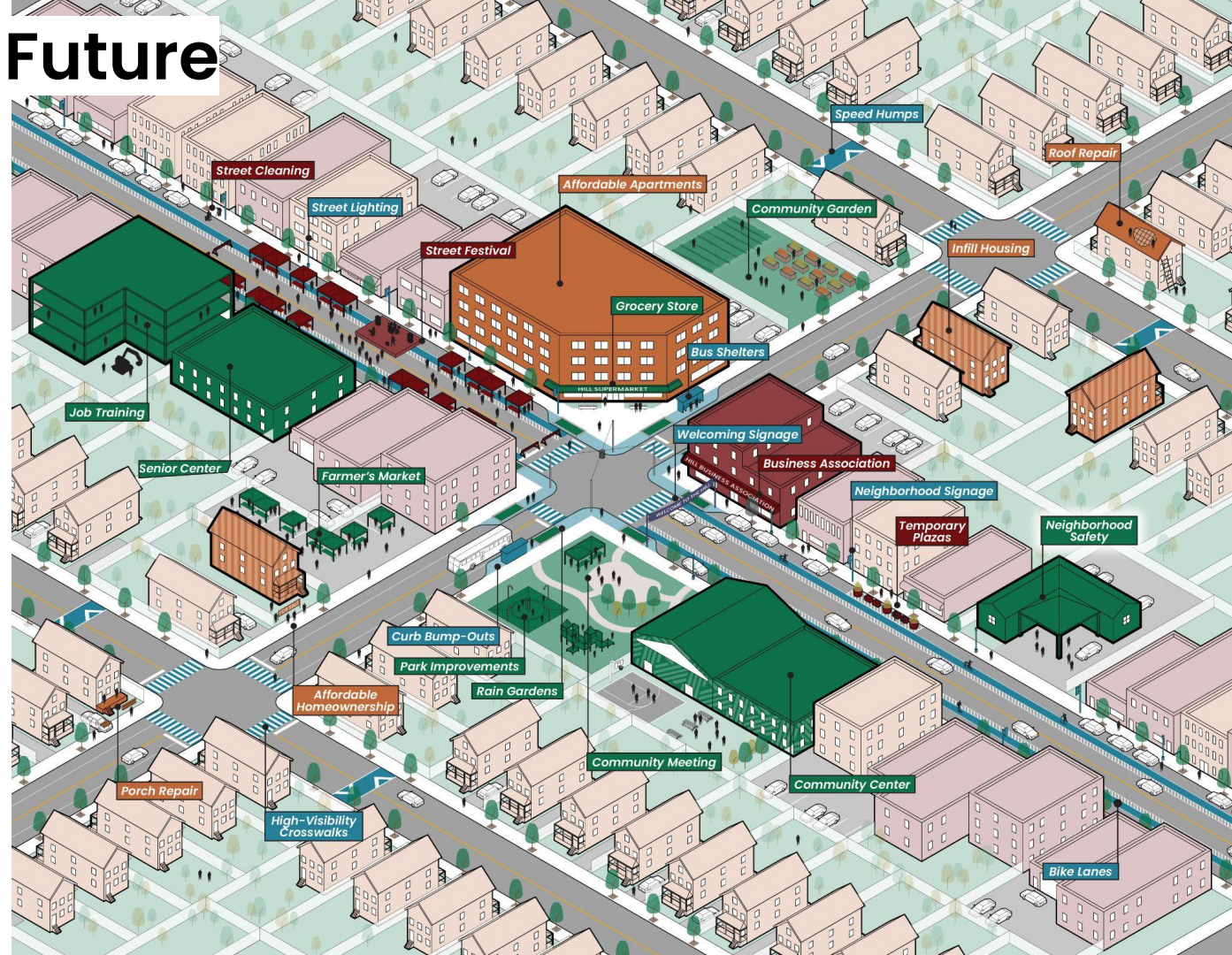
- 4. Work together to decide on priorities.** →

- Where is the **greatest need** in the neighborhood? Are there areas or locations that appear on multiple lists?
- Are there opportunities to **access funding or other resources** for specific topics?

Vision for the Future

The time is right for the Hill community to harness the energy of **committed residents, City leaders, and organizations** - and to **extend the momentum for change** represented by the Union Square development.

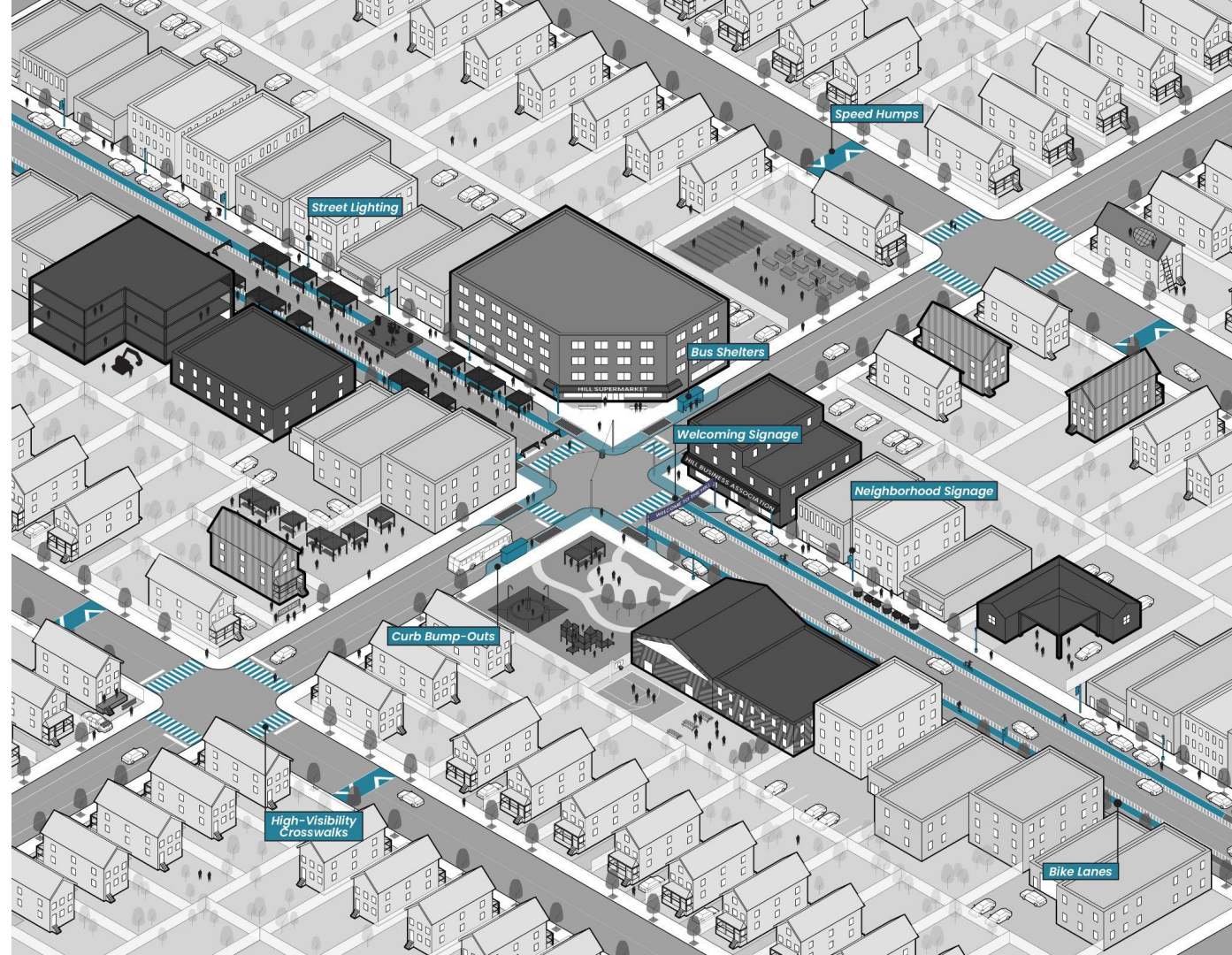
With this plan, the Hill will make it easy for residents to **learn, grow, and stay healthy**; with **safe, easy connections** to the City and region; and a **strong community** that residents can **afford to stay in** for years to come.



Connectivity & Mobility

GOAL 1

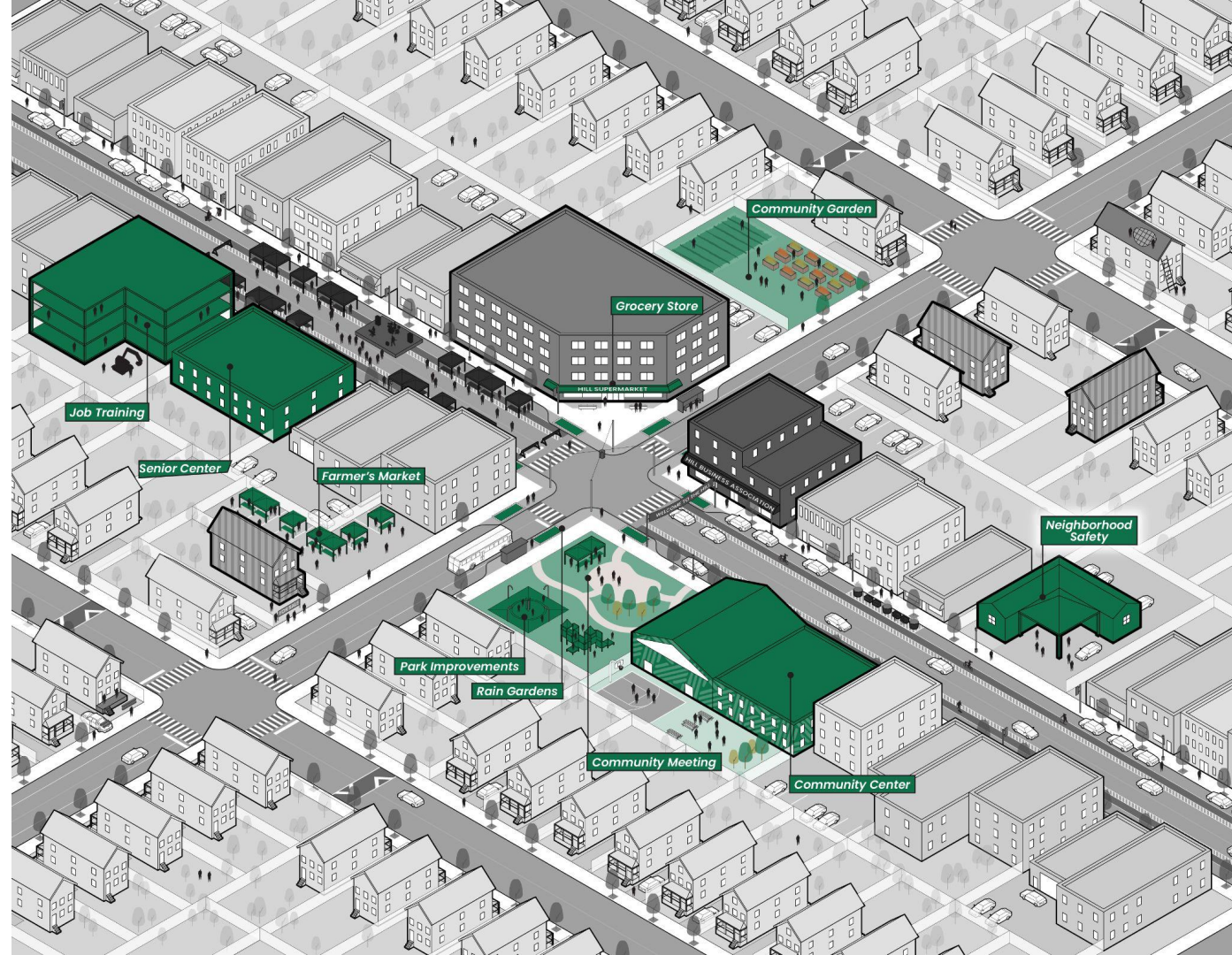
Calm traffic, ensure pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and improve connections within and outside the Hill.



Health & Opportunity

GOAL 2

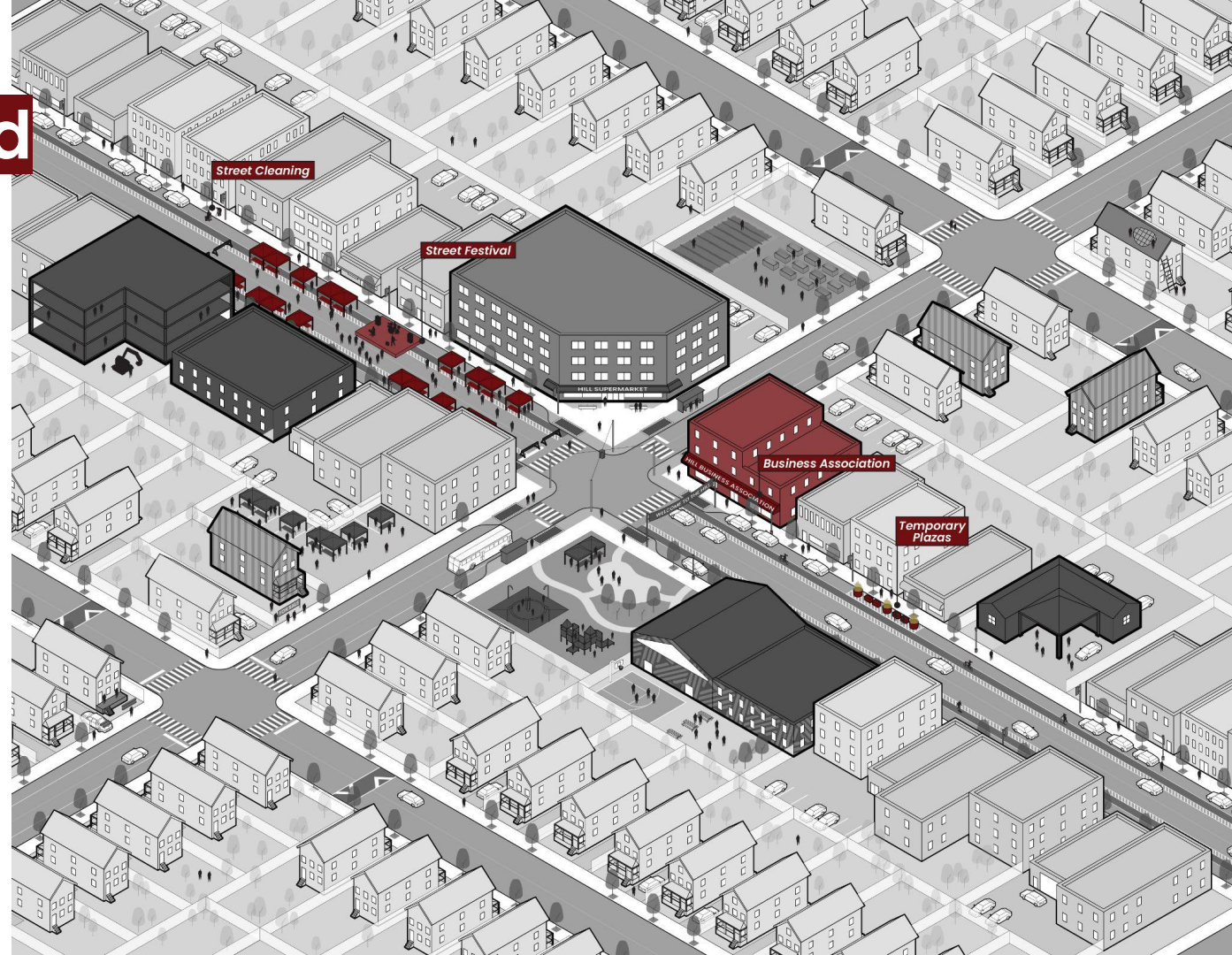
Ensure residents of the Hill have what they need to be healthy, safe and economically mobile.



Business & Neighborhood Hubs

GOAL 3

Encourage neighborhood-serving retail, food, services, and activities that support basic needs and community life.



Housing & Affordability

GOAL 4

Increase the supply of affordable and high quality homes for the homeowners and renters who want to stay here.



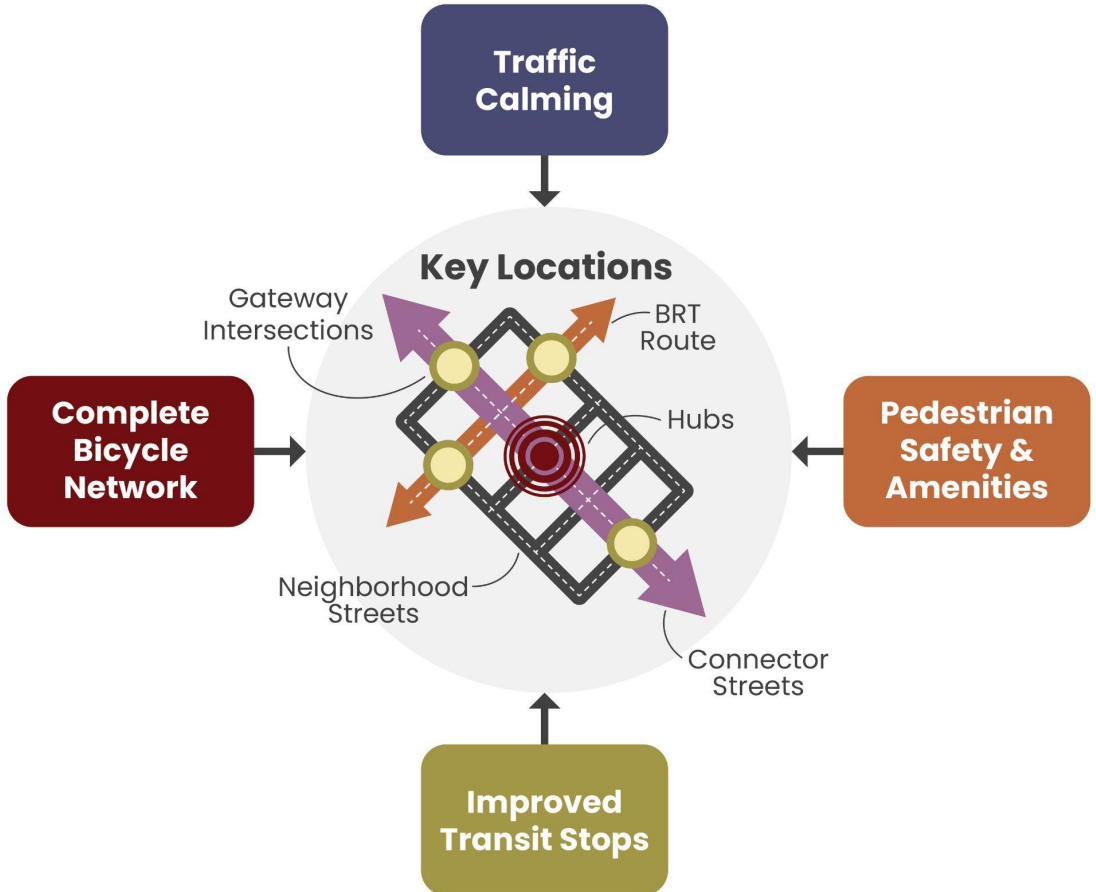
GOAL 1

Connectivity and Mobility

Calm traffic, ensure pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and improve connections within and outside the Hill.

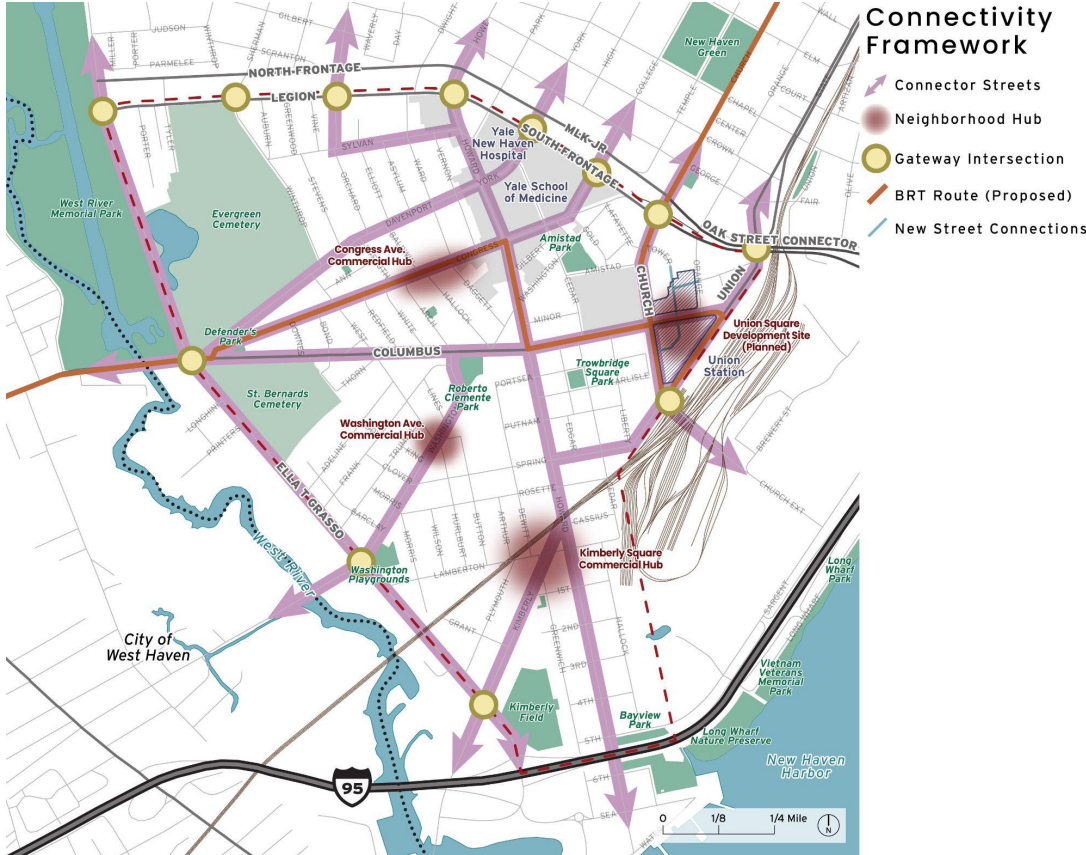


Strategies for Connectivity and Mobility in the Hill



- ### Goals for Key Locations
- 1. Gateway Intersections**
Make it safe and welcoming for pedestrians and bikers to get in and out of the community.
 - 2. Neighborhood Streets**
Provide the basics for safe multi-modal travel.
 - 3. Connector Streets**
Ensure safe multi-modal travel and present an attractive, well-maintained face to represent the community.
 - 4. Neighborhood Hubs**
Create an exceptional pedestrian-focused environment at mixed-use hubs.
 - 5. BRT Route**
Support BRT ridership with welcoming transit stops and pedestrian improvements.

Strategy 1.1: Coordinate action at key intersections, streets, and destinations.



Goals for Key Locations

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Example of a Connector Street

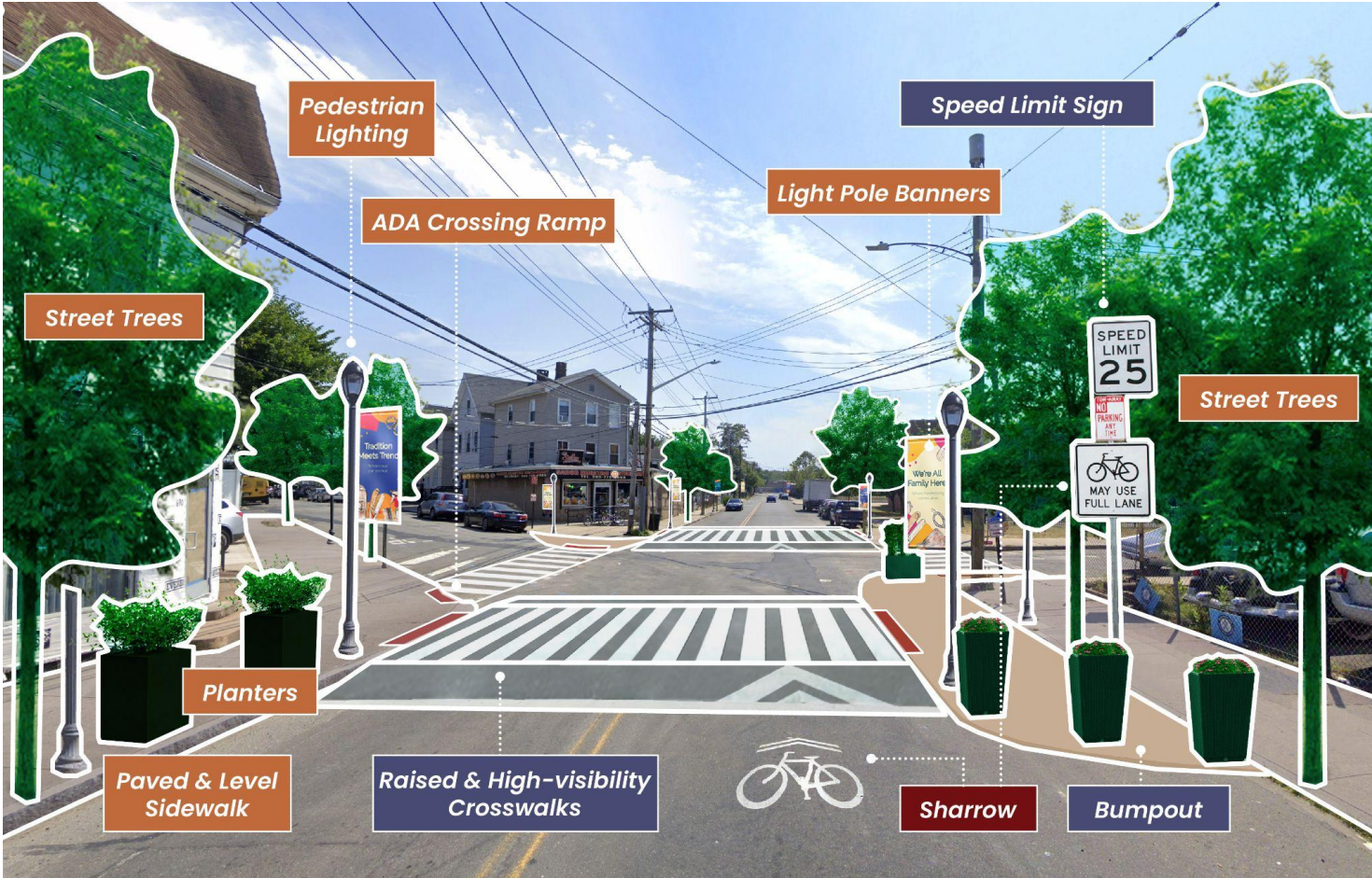
This graphic is meant to illustrate what might be possible. It is not a final design.

Traffic Calming

Pedestrian Safety & Amenities

Complete Bicycle Network

Improved Transit Stops



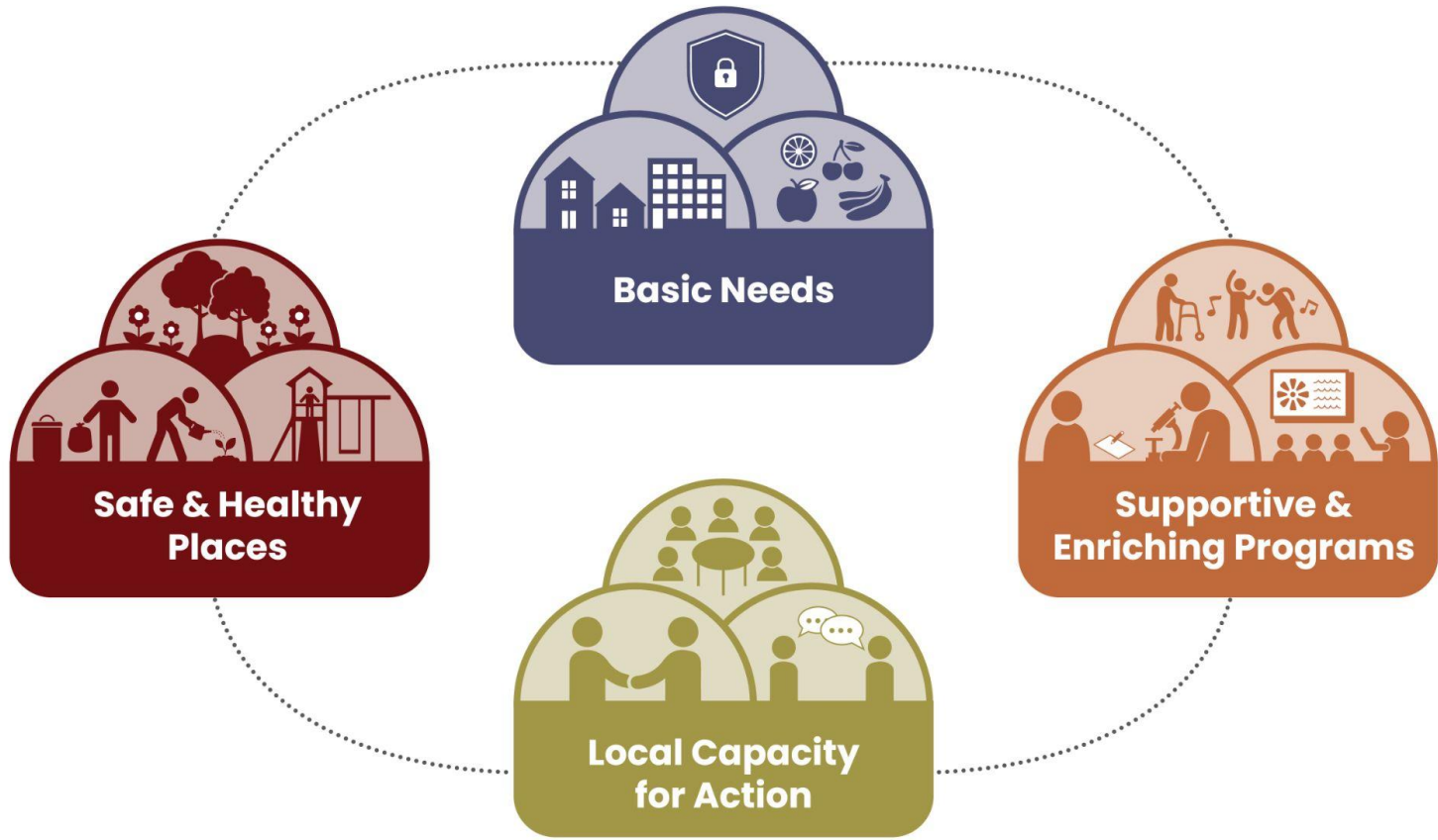
GOAL 2

Health and Opportunity

Ensure residents of the Hill have what they need to be healthy, safe and economically mobile.



Strategies for Health & Opportunity in the Hill



Strategy 2.1: Expand access to fresh food at affordable prices.



Additional Grocery Store(s)



Farmer's Market(s) and/or Mobile Fresh Food Market



Community Garden Spaces, more support for growing or other community uses

Strategy 2.2: Improve neighborhood safety.

- **Assist Vulnerable Populations**
- **Manage Problematic Locations**
- **Build Relationships & Safe Places**



The APT Foundation and its methadone clinic will move to Long Wharf

Strategy 2.3: Invest in parks, indoor recreational spaces, and the environment.

- **New indoor recreational spaces**
- **Additional park space and amenities**
- **New trees and greening**
- **Day-to-day maintenance**
- **Highlight local culture and history**

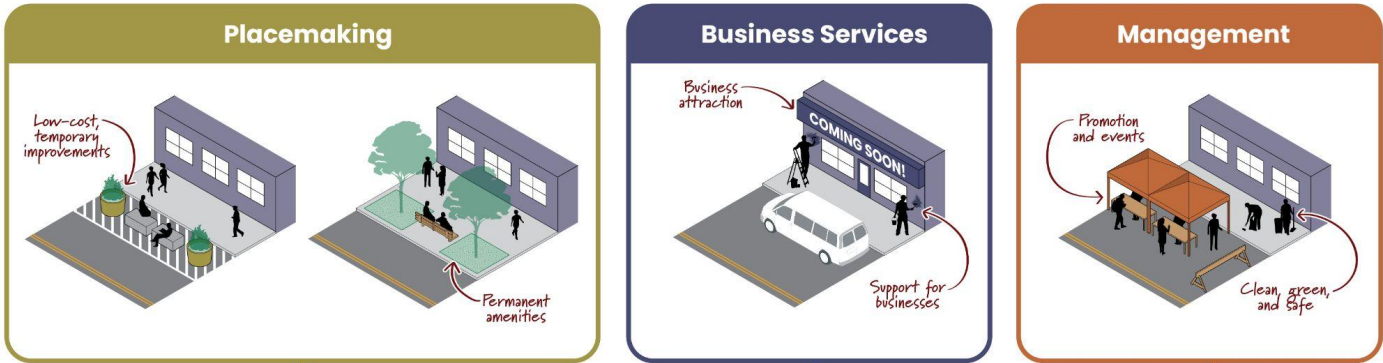


GOAL 3 Business and Neighborhood Hubs

Encourage neighborhood-serving retail, food, services, and activities that support basic needs and community life.



Strategies for Business and Culture in the Hill



Neighborhood Commercial Hubs

Example of a Hub: Kimberly Square

The most significant existing commercial hub in the community. There is an existing plan for Kimberly Square (rendering presented here), and it includes all of the elements called for in this plan.



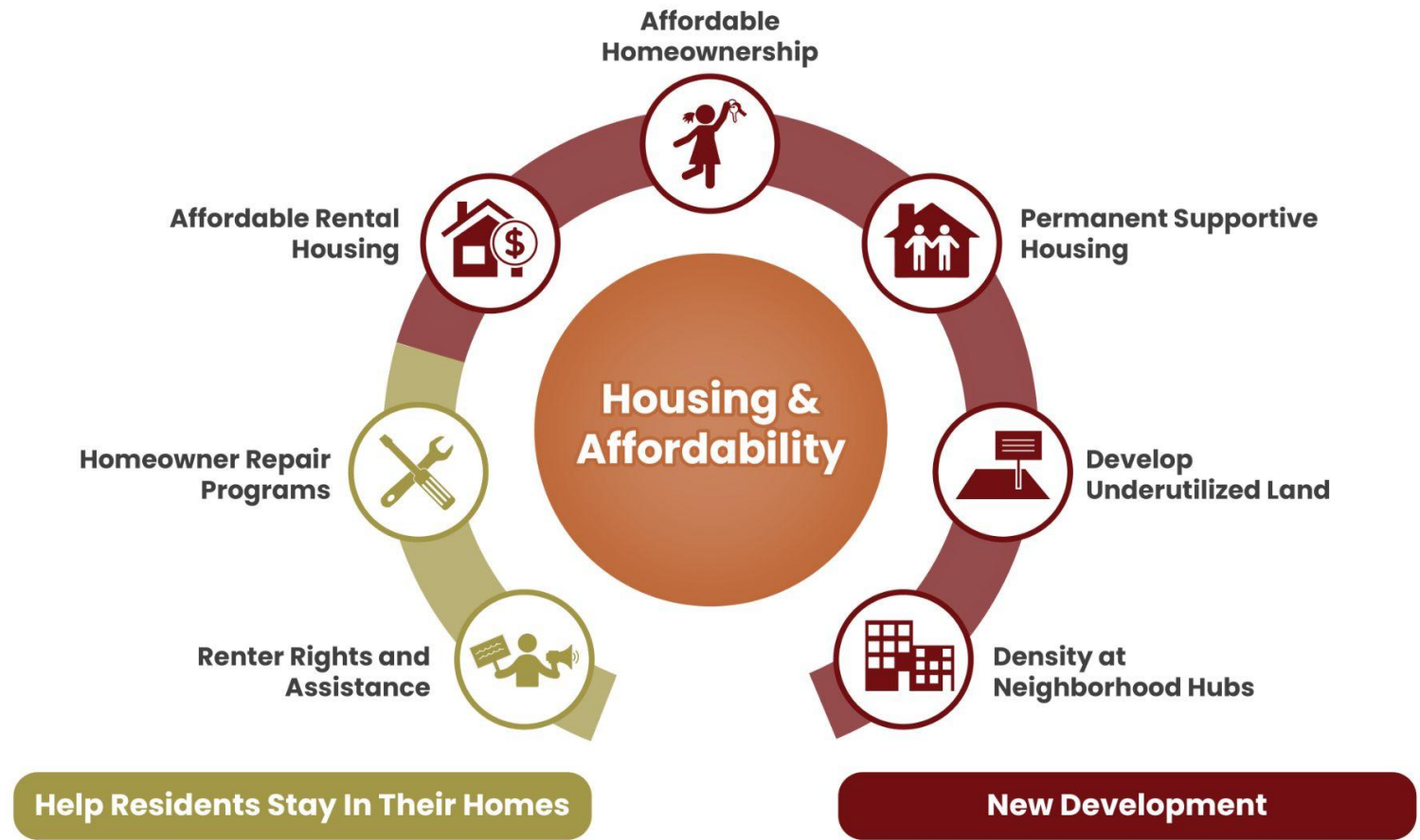
GOAL 4

Housing and Affordability

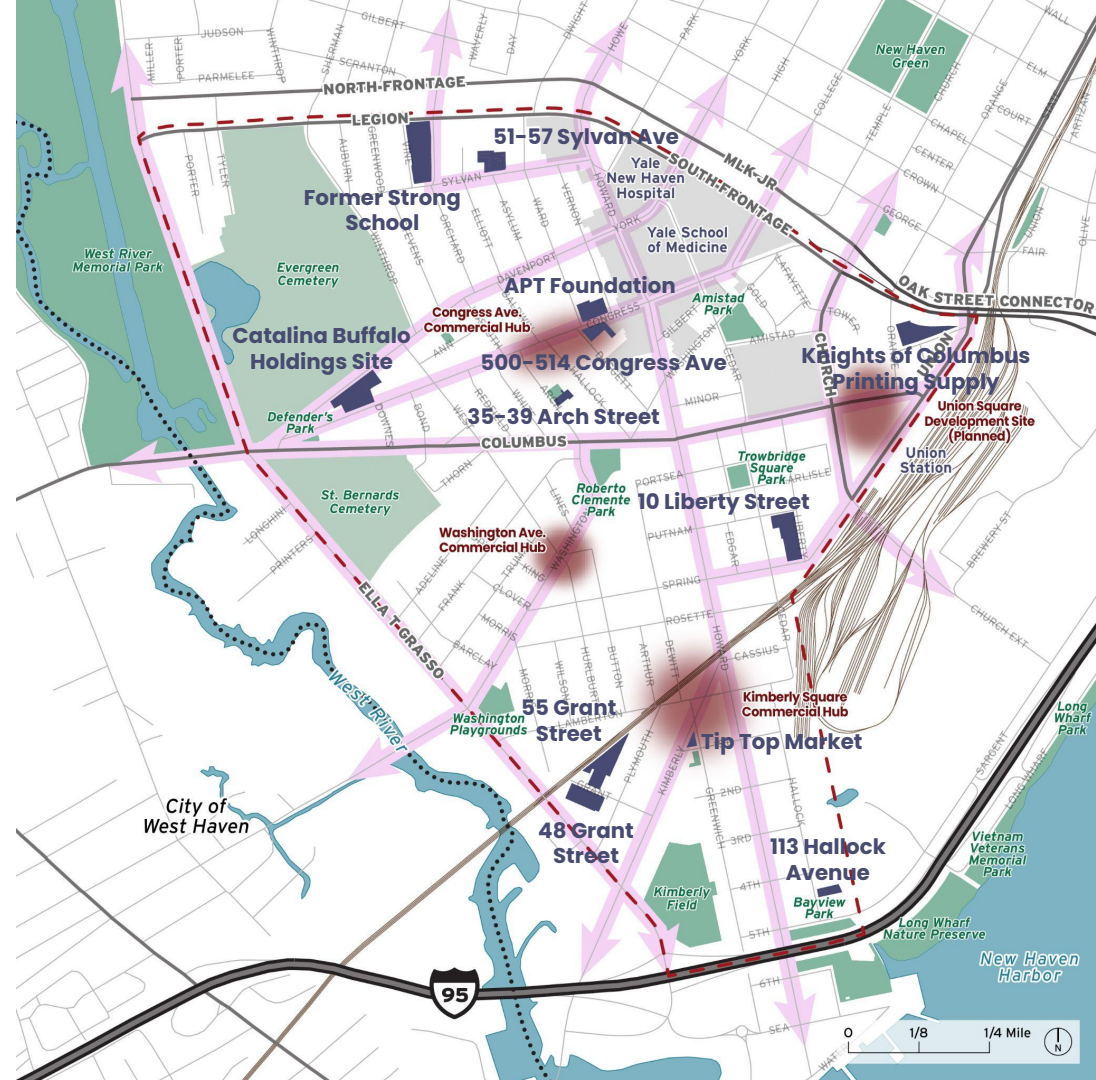
Increase the supply of affordable and high quality homes for the homeowners and renters who want to stay here.

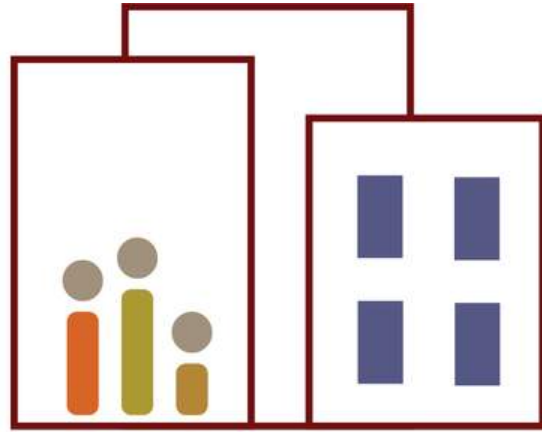


Strategies for Housing & Affordability in the Hill



Opportunity Sites Across the Neighborhood





UNION SQUARE

A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

HOUSING TRANSFORMTION PLAN



For More Information Visit
UNIONSQUARECHOICE.COM

THE HOUSING TRANSFORMATION PLAN

The Housing Portion of the Transformation Plan is broken up into two major parts:

1. The Planning Process

- How did we get to this point?
- Explains the engagement process and how we received your feedback

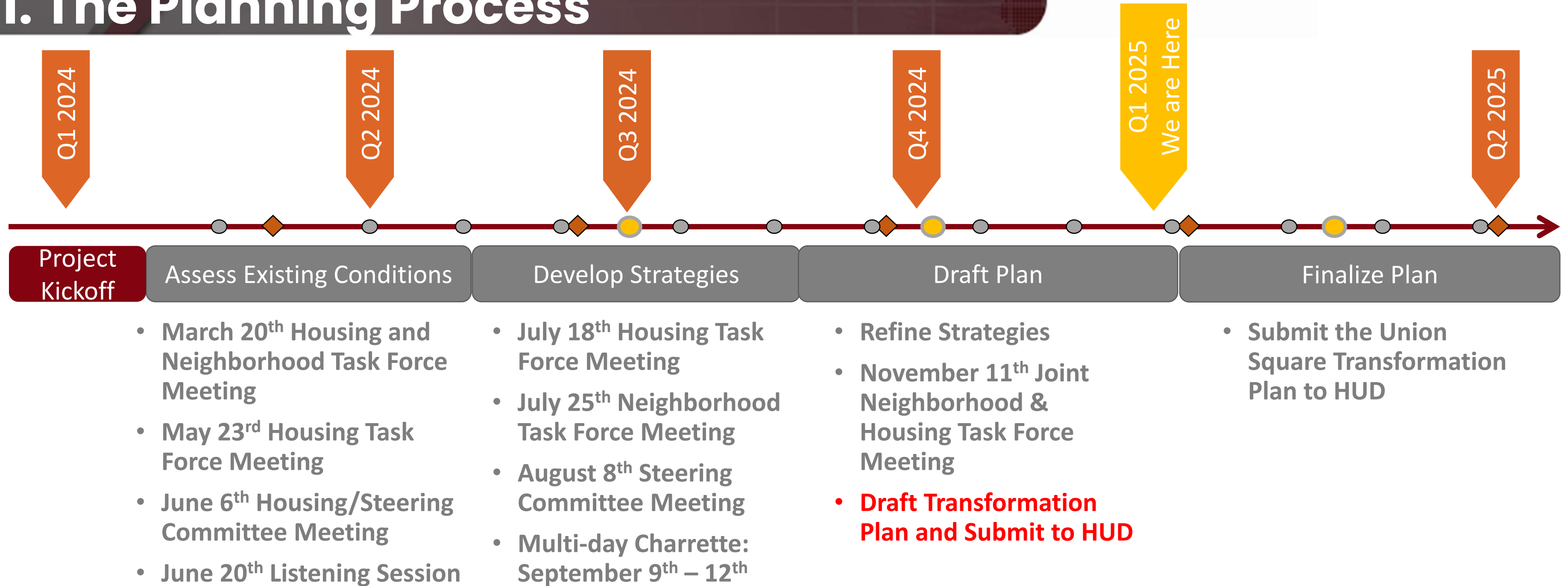
2. Housing Strategies

- From your feedback, we created goals and have written the plan as a road map to achieve those goals



www.unionsquarechoice.com

1. The Planning Process



WHAT WE'VE HEARD:

“Union Square will be the Front Door to the City of New Haven”

“Improve access to public transportation and parking”



“Create clean, walkable, safe housing”

“Create a bigger affordable housing community”

“Open space to come together as a neighborhood”

“Create spaces for people of all ages”



“We want to de-isolate and connect the community”

“Offer community-focused Amenities and Retail”

2. Housing Strategies

- Six Housing Plan Goals were developed in collaboration with the residents, stakeholders, and the larger Union Square Neighborhood.

1.0 Right to return for current Robert T. Wolfe Residents and former Church Street South residents

2.0 Provide affordable, safe, and high-quality housing choices

3.0 Provide new infrastructure for flood resiliency, pedestrian connectivity, parking, and access to public transit

4.0 Provide amenities for community gathering, social support, and recreation

5.0 Design space for retail and commercial development

6.0 Create job training opportunities

Strategies

1.0 Right to return for current Robert T. Wolfe Residents and former Church Street South residents

- **Transparent** Process
- Listen to and include **feedback** from residents



2.0 Provide affordable, safe, and high-quality housing choices

- Housing **diversity**
- **Modern**, up-to-date homes
- Private **outdoor** space
- Designing **safe** places



Strategies

3.0 Provide new infrastructure for flood resiliency, pedestrian connectivity, parking, and access to transit

- Designed **to prevent flooding**
- **Connect** Union Square to The Hill and Downtown
- Design **safe** and **comfortable** outdoor spaces – good lighting and landscaping
- **Transit** access
- Sustainable energy systems – **geothermal**



Strategies

4.0 Provide amenities for community gathering, social support, and recreation

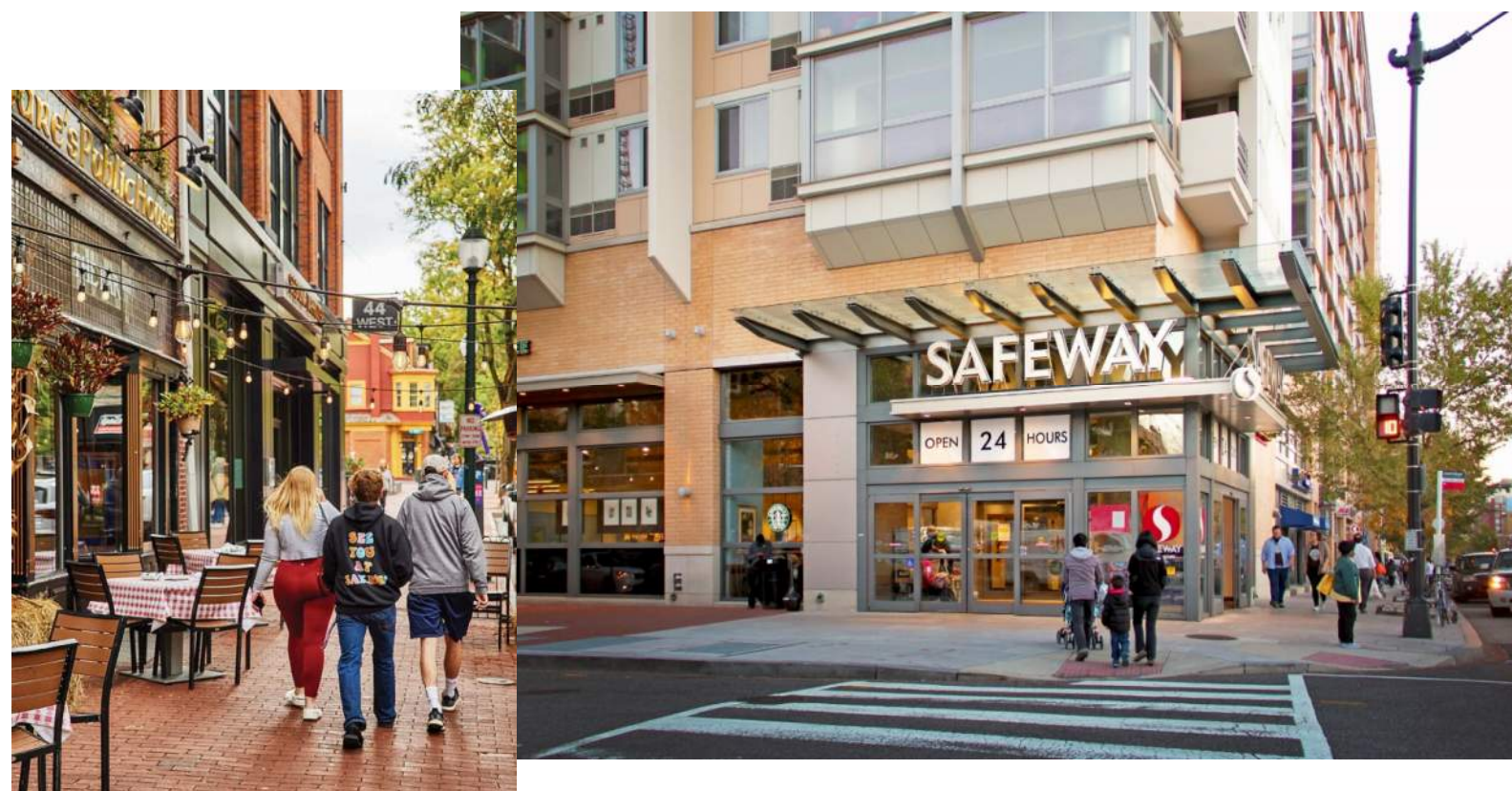
- Community **open space** for festivals, farmers markets, etc.
- Design space in the buildings for community use – **daycare**, senior and after school **programs, incubator** space
- Space for **kids** of all ages



Strategies

5.0 Design space for commercial and retail development

- **Retail** stores around the Central Green
- Bring a **grocery store** to Union Square
- Incubator retail, support **small business**



6.0 Create job training opportunities

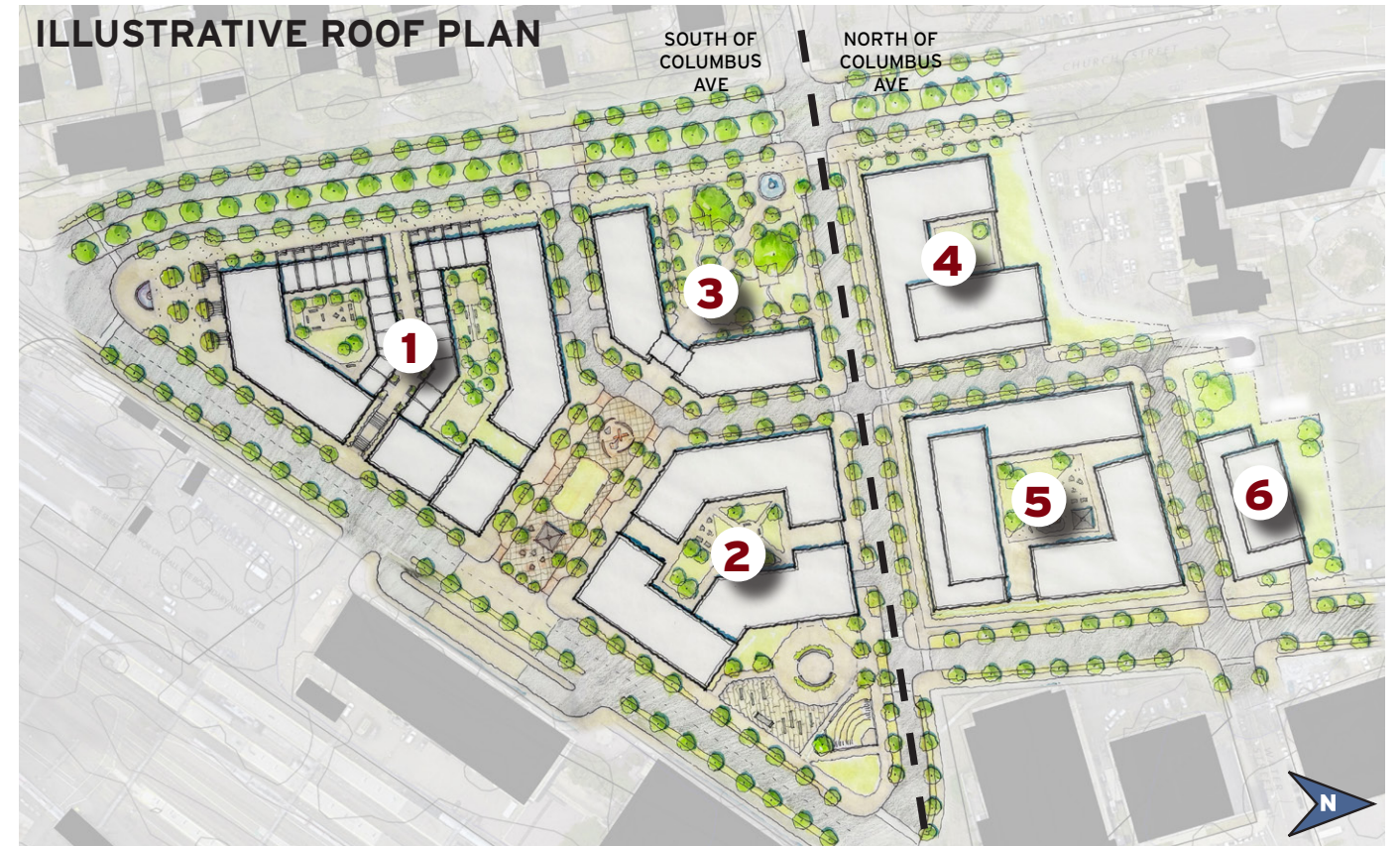
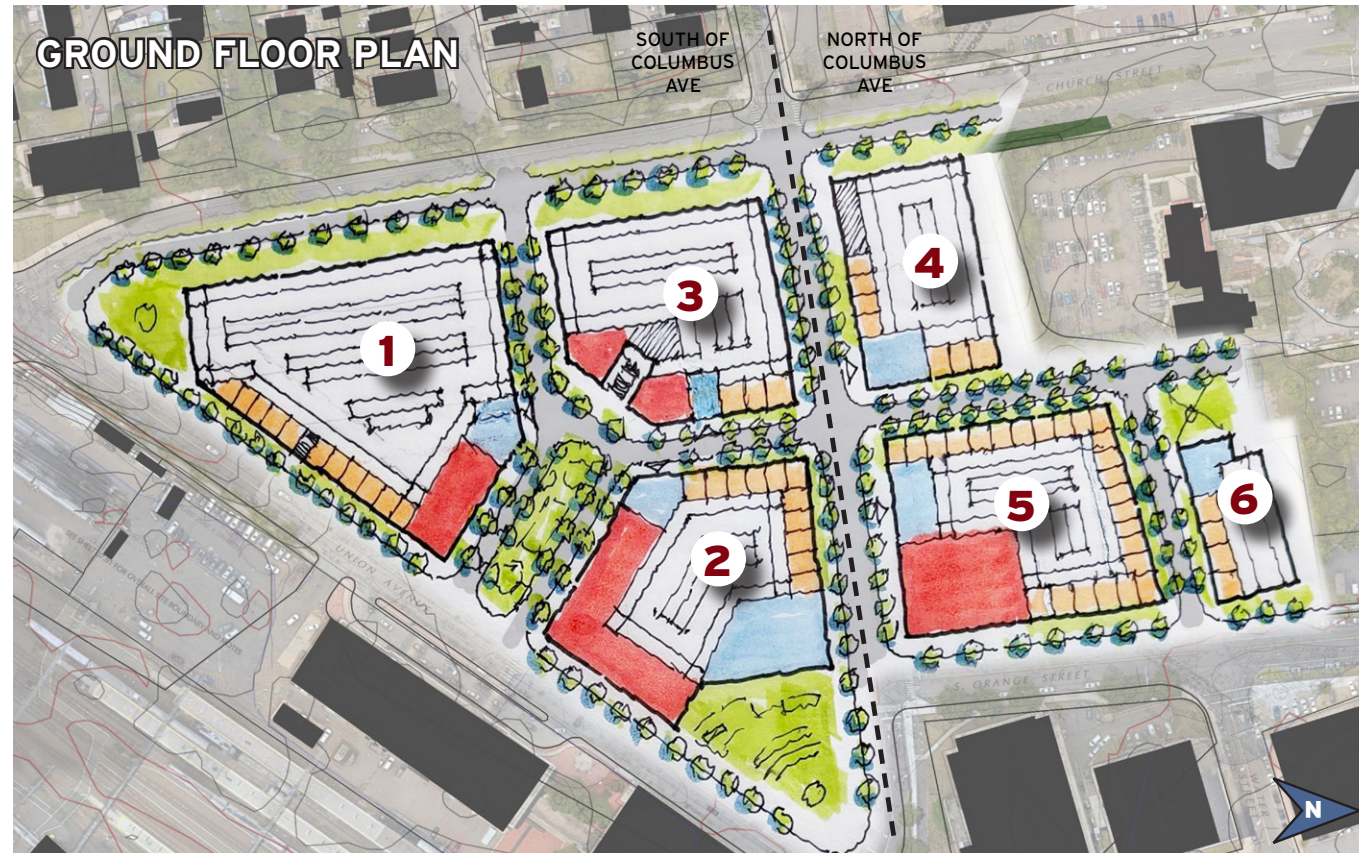
- Business and **entrepreneurship** opportunities
- Coordinated with the **People Plan**



PLAN UPDATES

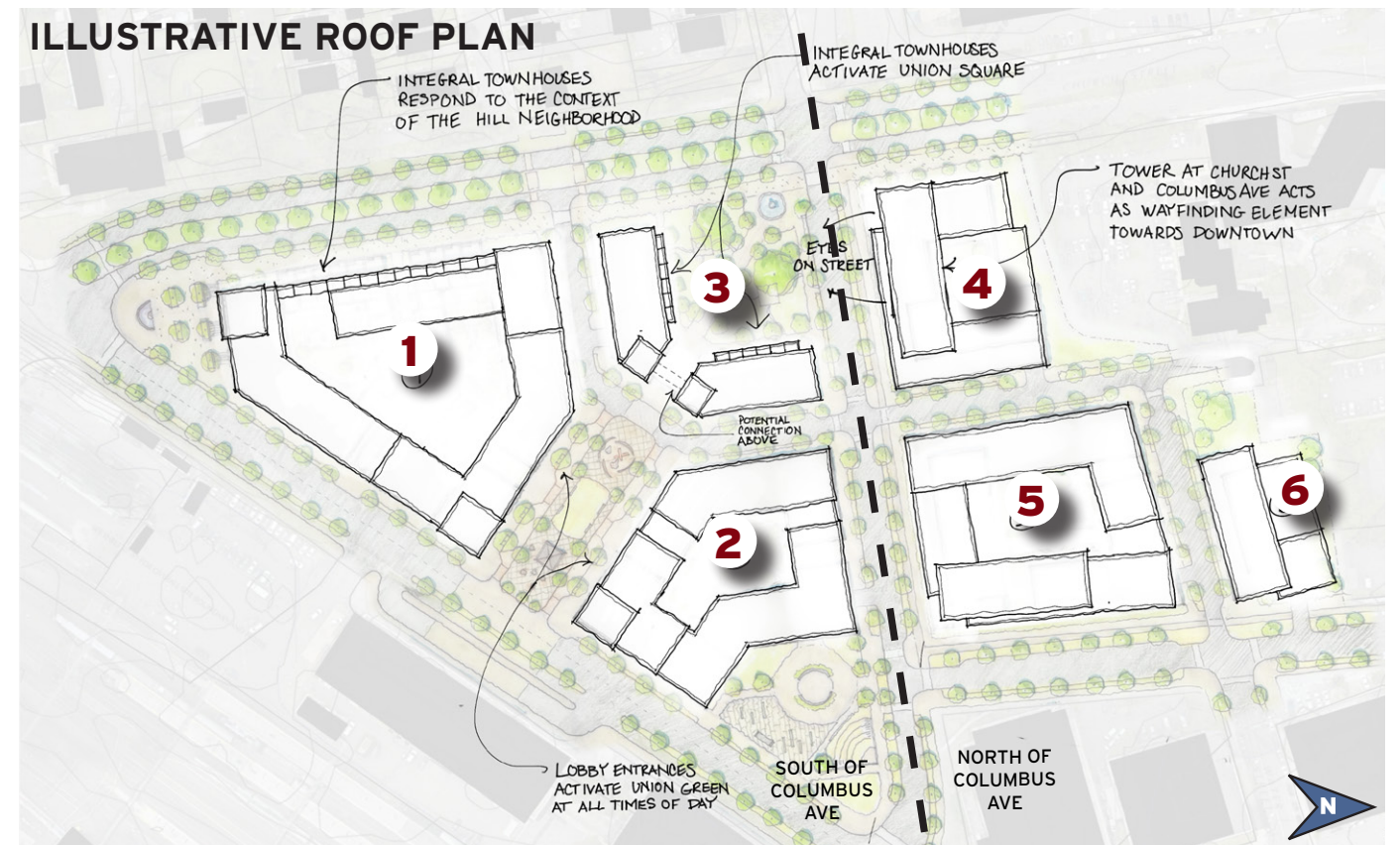
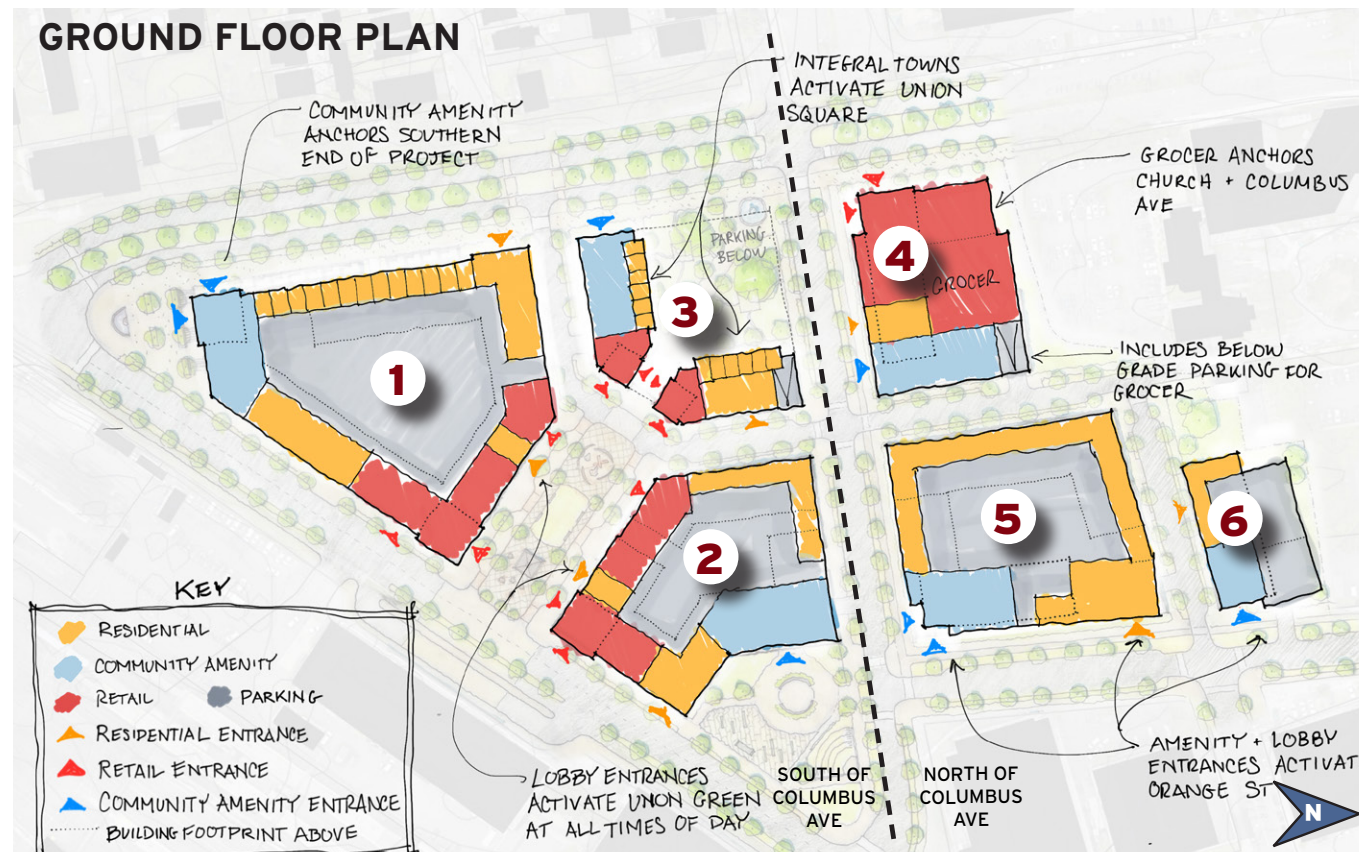
CHARRETTE SCHEME

2000 UNITS



UPDATED SCHEME

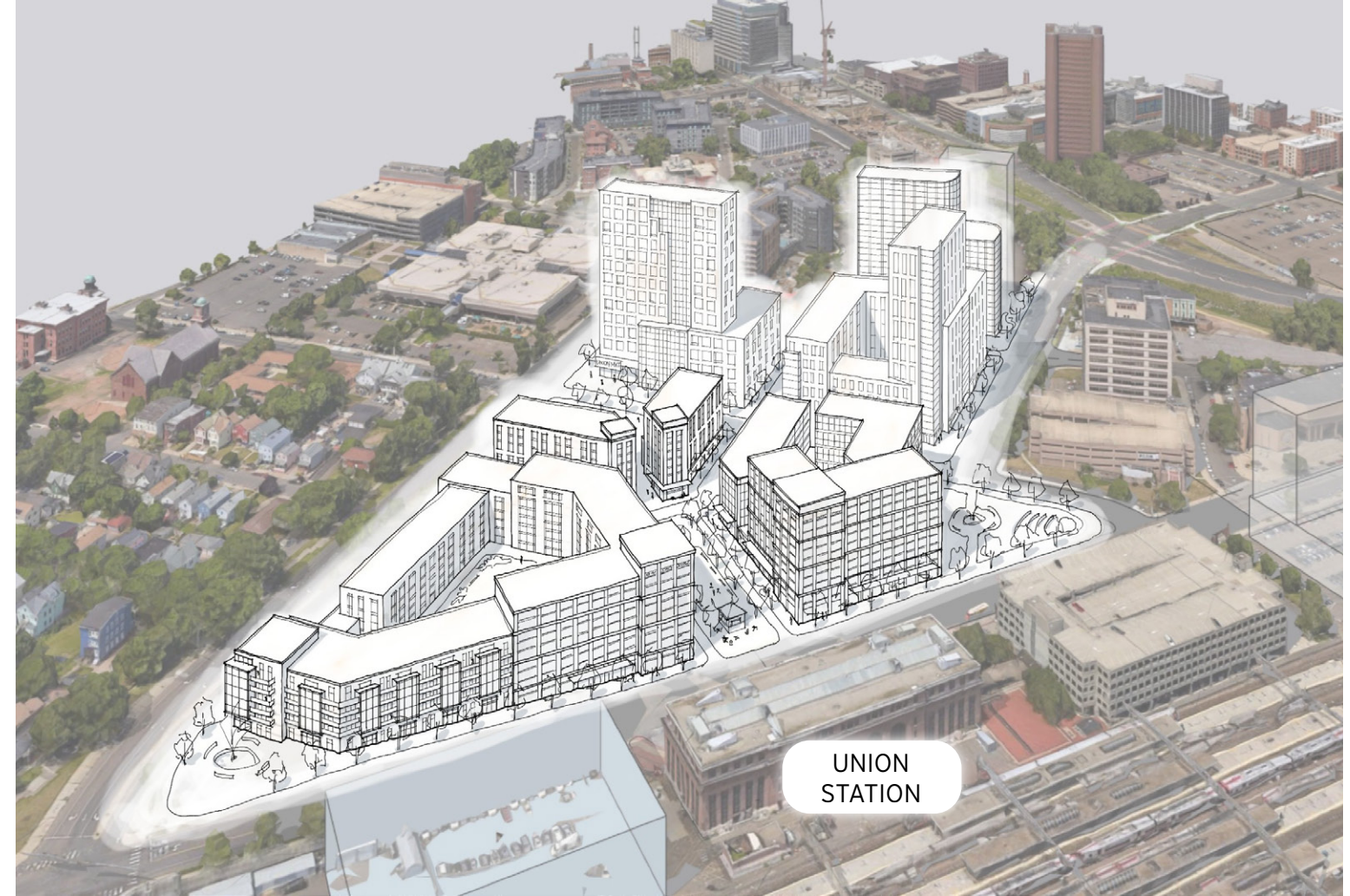
2500 UNITS



PLAN UPDATES



**CHARRETTE
SCHEME**
2000 UNITS



**UPDATED
SCHEME**
2500 UNITS

