

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #2

July 29, 2026

Summary Report | August 2026



INTRODUCTION

The second community Open House for the Lockport Greater Downtown Plan was held at the ROXY Lockport on the evening of July 29, 2026. More than 60 community members participated in the workshop to review share feedback on draft planning recommendations for Greater Downtown Lockport. Community input at this stage will help the project team finalize planning recommendations for Greater Downtown Lockport related to land use and zoning, transportation and mobility, and character and identity. This summary highlights key takeaways from the event.

GREATER DOWNTOWN TAKEAWAYS

Creating a clear and united vision for Greater Downtown Lockport's future.

The July Open House considered ideas initially heard at previous engagement events and developed into draft plan recommendations. This latest feedback will help shape the final plan.

Greater Downtown Objectives: Objectives for the Greater Downtown study area that emerged as priorities from the workshop activities and discussions include:

- Build on and emphasize the creation of experiences, including community events, outdoor dining/increased dining options, and other activities
- Promote a pedestrian-friendly environment by reducing traffic hazards and enhancing pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure
- Reduce truck traffic in the greater downtown
- Support development that brings opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship to the community

- Promote housing that supports older homeowners' ability to remain in town and supports new homeowners looking to move into/stay in the community
- Promote housing that fits with Lockport's existing character
- Maximize use of vacant land through redevelopment and infill development.
- Create a more engaging downtown via festival streets, activated alleyways, public art, property enhancements, new development opportunities, and other site-specific interventions

Big Picture Takeaways for Downtown's Future: Overarching themes and takeaways about the future Greater Downtown study area that emerged from the workshop activities and discussions include:

- Growth in Greater Downtown should fit the existing charm and character of Lockport's Historic District, which is an important part of Lockport's identity. Development and enhancements to the study area should complement the historic core.
- People want to spend time in the downtown, and more events, dining experiences, and other activities would help them do so
- Activities, events, and spaces to spend time are a high priority for bringing people to Downtown. However, visual enhancements are still a priority, especially for areas beyond the Historic District.

PLAN OBJECTIVES

Participants could vote on their top three objectives for three different topics.

Which *Access and Mobility* Objectives are the most important to you?

Key Takeaways: Participants most commonly identified the “Evaluate options to reduce truck traffic or reduce the impact of truck traffic” as an important objective for Access & Mobility. Incorporating more parking and pursuing infrastructure enhancements to promote pedestrian and cyclist safety were the second and third most popular, followed by maximizing transit use.

Which *Character and Identity* Objectives are the most important to you?

Key Takeaways: Building on and emphasizing the creation of experiences, such as community events, dining opportunities, and historic buildings, held a strong majority of votes. This priority was reflected throughout different stations and feedback heard during the Open House. Also prioritized was the objective to improve how historic assets are accessed and enjoyed and to improve the physical appearance and appeal of Greater Downtown. Wayfinding signage appeared as a lower concern.

Which *Land Use and Zoning* Objectives are the most important to you?

Key Takeaways: Four Land Use and Zoning objectives stood out as particularly important to participants: 1) support development that brings opportunity for employment & entrepreneurship, 2) establish a creative or innovative district, 3) support older homeowners/those downsizing, and 4) maximize use of vacant/underutilized land. Closely following these was the objective to support investment in existing housing stock.

DESIGN TOOLBOX: DOWNTOWN & TRANSPORTATION

Participants could vote on their preferred design improvements for public and private spaces, and on design elements aimed at improving transportation in and around Greater Downtown Lockport.

What types of public space improvements would you like to see in Greater Downtown?

Public space interventions encompassed potential projects that could enhance space that is publicly owned or accessible. Of these interventions, a *festival street*, which is a street that is engineered for flexible pedestrian use for things like events or markets, received an overwhelming majority of votes. This was followed by an *activated alleyway*, which is an alley that is improved for both service and pedestrian use, and then *public art*. Less popular tools were *municipal parking lot design* and *streetscape enhancements*.

How would you like to see Lockport support and shape the look and feel of private spaces in Greater Downtown?

Property & facade enhancements and *creating development opportunities* were the most popular private space tools that participants want to see. *Outdoor dining* also received a significant number of votes. Less popular as a tool for enhancing private spaces was *new/updated business signage*.

What type of transportation improvements would improve your experience navigating areas in Greater Downtown Lockport?

Transportation improvements prioritized by participants highlighted *width restrictions to traffic lanes*, which received a majority of votes. Comments echoed concerns and suggestions heard throughout the event, such as improving traffic along the 9th street bridge and increasing pedestrian and cyclist safety.

"Widen bike trail with designated lanes for walkers + bikers." – workshop comment

"Move stop lines back from intersections." – workshop comment

"Work to rebuild or restore the bridge on division street." – workshop comment



FOCUS AREAS

Attendees were asked to give input on four focus areas: **North State Street**, **South State Street**, **Historic District**, and **Heritage Residential**. Each focus area was displayed on a map that visualized proposed locations of design toolbox elements. A vision statement was paired with each focus area, and participants voted on whether the statements fit their view of what the area should be. Space was given for participants to leave unstructured comments on each focus area.

North State Street

A majority of respondents were in strong agreement that the North State Street focus area serves as a gateway to Greater Downtown with a pedestrian friendly, well-connected environment, and a thoughtful blend of residential and commercial development. Comments highlighted additional thoughts on how this area should be developed, emphasizing affordable housing for new homeowners, increasing safety for people travelling through the area, and the importance of historical landmarks.

"Don't support on street parking here." – workshop comment

"St. Joseph Parish should not be overlooked for its historic relevance." – workshop comment

"Missing middle housing that the average family can afford." – workshop comment

South State Street

Respondents were greatly receptive to South State Street as a walkable area with a mix of housing types. A concept for a mixed-use residential building on the Division/State Metra Lot was part of the visioning for this focus area. Comments emphasized the importance of prioritizing events/activities over visual upgrades (a priority also shown in the responses to the design toolbox interventions) and expressed concern about the type of development that could happen in this area.

"It would be nice if there were more things to do on this side of town." – workshop comment

"Not a supporter of additional condos & apartments." – workshop comment

Historic District

The Historic District focus area received the largest amount of free response comments, ranging from suggestions on public art, pedestrian safety, and appropriate architectural styles for the

area. A majority of respondents felt the vision statement, which envisioned the area as a place with strong social fabric, where context-sensitive development should occur, fit the area. Prioritizing a pedestrian-friendly environment was strongly supported by participants. Comments emphasized a desire to create a holistic approach to pedestrian and traffic safety including policing, alternative truck routes, and safer crossings at intersections.

"Architectural style of new development is crucial." – workshop comment

"There has to be a safer way for people to cross 9th Street & State Street." – workshop comment

"Work with the historical society through development." – workshop comment

"I'd love to see more hand painted murals downtown!" – workshop comment

Heritage Residential

Respondents felt the vision statement for the Heritage Residential focus area fit the area. The vision statement described the area as a place defined by strong identity, sense of community, and supportive relationship to the Historic District's shopping and dining core. People supported the idea that the area preserves the diversity and affordability of its housing stock, and that it provided safe and comfortable connections to various community destinations.

LETTERS TO THE MAYOR

Big Picture Takeaways: In writing *Letters to the Mayor* mad-libs, respondents emphasized the value of local events, expressed concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety, and shared thoughts on how new housing should be approached downtown.

Top Themes:

- Pedestrian safety
- Housing for new homeowners and aging residents
- Local events and things to do

Representative comments:

"I would spend more time it... there were 'art shows' or other events"

"it felt less like walking along a highway"

"there were more third spaces"

Challenges Noted:

- Lack of pedestrian safety caused by high-speed traffic
- Lack of third spaces and activities
- Preserving downtown while also allowing for intentional change and growth

Representative comments:

LOCKPORT GREATER DOWNTOWN PLAN
LETTER TO THE MAYOR

Dear Mayor Streit,

I am a Resident I'm excited to write to you to help make
Greater Downtown Lockport a better place.

Walking around downtown would be nicer if bike trail had more access to state st.

I would spend more time at Lincoln Landing or Heritage Village if permanent toilet facilities

I think living in a new townhome, apartment, or condo downtown would be a great option for young + old

In 50 years, I hope Greater Downtown Lockport will be still be here

Signed,
A Greater Downtown Lockport Fan

Example mad-lib "Letter to the Mayor"

"would be nicer if there was a way to feel less like walking along a highway"

"I hope to still recognize the town I grew up in"

"would be nicer if expanded further downtown State St or side streets"

Reasons people would spend more time downtown:

- Events and things to do
- Accessibility

Representative comments:

"permanent toilet facilities"

"a public pool for Heritage Village would be a good fit"

"more rotating events"

How New Housing Could Benefit Downtown:

- Create housing for young and aging residents
- Provide market rate housing

Representative comments:

"[new housing] would be a great option for business owners or as starter places for young residents"

"first time homebuyers that are looking for homes in the \$200K-\$300K"

"great option for young and old"

Hopes for the Next 50 Years:

Hopes for the next 50 years continue to reflect what has been heard at previous meetings, and what was heard throughout the July Open House.

- Safety and accessibility for pedestrians
- Increase local events and places/businesses to visit
- Continue Lockport's historic charm and small-town character

Representative comments:

"thriving yet preserved"

"a place where everyone wants to be outside with one another"

"safe, beautiful, well maintained"

WORKSHOP STATION BOARDS

STATION
1

PLAN OBJECTIVES:

OBJECTIVES DEFINE THE CITY'S DESIRED OUTCOMES ACCROSS SEVERAL THEMES

FOCUS AREAS

GREATER DOWNTOWN LOCKPORT Focus Areas

- Project Area Boundary
- Metra Heritage Corridor (HC)
- Parks & Open Space
- I&M Canal Trail

VOTE FOR YOUR PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

Which Objectives are the most important to you?
Add dots to your top 3 objectives.

ACCESS & MOBILITY

Pursue infrastructure enhancements that support non-motorized travel by reducing the need for pedestrian & bicycle barriers & creating a safer environment.

VOTE HERE

Maximize transit use (reducing the need for travel by car) by increasing transit options.

VOTE HERE

Evaluate options to reduce truck traffic or reduce the impact of truck traffic.

VOTE HERE

Incorporate needed parking (on site or off site) to support existing and new businesses in the Greater Downtown.

VOTE HERE

Improve how historic assets like the Lockport Historic District, I&M Canal & Trail, and Route 66 Interpretive Corridor are accessed, and enjoyed.

VOTE HERE

Expand on the existing gateway, wayfinding, and streetscape concepts to establish a more cohesive design and visual identity across Greater Downtown.

VOTE HERE

Continue to implement City design guidelines and standards to elevate Greater Downtown's physical appearance and appeal.

VOTE HERE

Build on and emphasize the creation of experiences as much as shopping and dining (such as community events, dining opportunities, historic buildings, etc.).

VOTE HERE

CHARACTER & IDENTITY

STATION
1

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VOTE FOR YOUR PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

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LAND USE & ZONING

Allow for a mix of housing & commercial types in the Greater downtown to expand housing options for the community.

VOTE HERE

Support development that brings opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship to the community.

VOTE HERE

Establish a creative or innovation district in the downtown area between the railroad and I&M Canal.

VOTE HERE

Coordinate with Metra to right-size commuter parking levels and pursue TOD projects on reclaimed parking areas.

VOTE HERE

Support investment in existing housing (Heritage Residential District) stock for first time homeowners seeking affordable starter homes to build equity.

VOTE HERE

Support older homeowners or those downsizing to maintain the character and livability of their homes and enable a new generation of homeowners.

VOTE HERE

Maximize use of vacant and underutilized land through redevelopment, infill development, and adaptive reuse.

VOTE HERE

STATION
2

DESIGN TOOLBOX: WHAT NEW IMPROVEMENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN GREATER DOWNTOWN?

TOOLBOX: PUBLIC SPACES

What types of public space improvements would you like to see in Greater Downtown?
Add dots to your top two choices.

STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS
(LAMP POSTS, STREET BANNERS SEATING)

GATEWAY FEATURE

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

PLAZAS OR PARKLETS

FESTIVAL STREET

ACTIVATED ALLEYWAY

MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT DESIGN

PUBLIC ART

TOOLBOX: PRIVATE SPACES

How would you like to see Lockport support and shape the look and feel of private spaces in Greater Downtown?
Add dots to your top two choices.

BUSINESS SIGNAGE
(I.E. REFURBISHING HISTORIC SIGNS OR INSTALLING NEW SIGNAGE)

AL-FRESCO DINING & OUTDOOR SEATING

PROPERTY & FACADE ENHANCEMENTS

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
(I.E. DEVELOP UNDERUTILIZED SITES, VACANT PARCELS OR ADAPTIVE REUSE OF BUILDINGS)

FREE SPACE

LEAVE A COMMENT WITH YOUR FEEDBACK

STATION
3

DESIGN TOOLBOX: HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVED IN GREATER DOWNTOWN?

TOOLBOX: TRANSPORTATION

What type of transportation improvements would improve your experience navigating areas in Greater Downtown Lockport?
Add dots to your top two choices.

ROAD DIET

INTERSECTION SHIFTS

ON-STREET PARKING

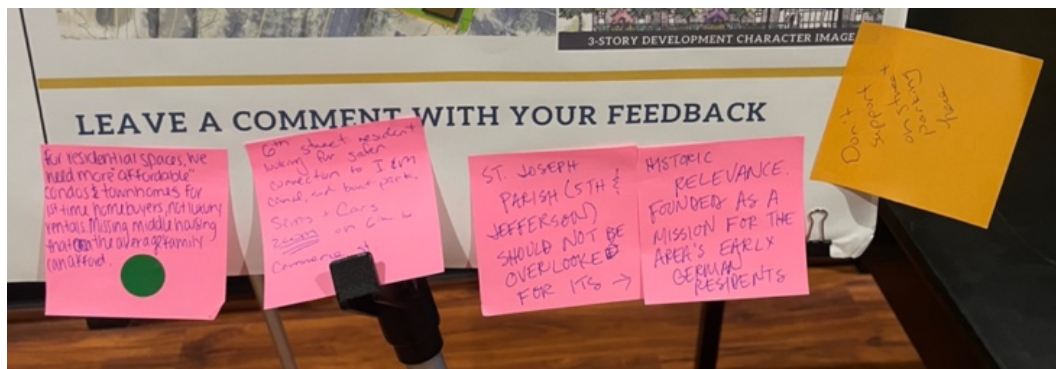
WIDTH RESTRICTIONS

ELEVATION SHIFTS

LANE SHIFTS

FREE SPACE

LEAVE A COMMENT WITH YOUR FEEDBACK



Comments from North State Street focus area board.

STATION 4 FOCUS AREAS: ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF THESE AREAS + HOW DESIGN TOOLS GET USED AND WHERE

SOUTH STATE STREET

VISION STATEMENT

Does this vision fit with your view of what this area should be? Add dots to vote and leave sticky notes with your comments below.

The South State Street focus area is an inviting southern gateway that blends neighborhood living with a vibrant downtown environment. A walkable streetscape, mix of housing types, and context-sensitive development create a comfortable place to live while strengthening connections to the nearby Historic District. Proximity to the Metra station and its location along State Street encourage transit use and position the area as a convenient entry point for residents and visitors. Access to the I&M Canal Trail and nearby Dellwood Park further supports recreation, mobility, and quality of life. South State Street will continue to evolve as a livable, connected district that anchors the Greater Downtown from the south.

Opportunity Site: Metra Lot Division/State

Does this concept fit with your view of what this area should be? Leave your comments below.

DESIGN TOOLBOX

PUBLIC SPACES

- Public Plaza or Parklet
- Public Art
- Gateway Feature
- Wayfinding Signage
- Streetscape Enhancements

PRIVATE SPACES

- All-Season Dining and Outdoor Seating
- Business Signage
- Property and Facade Enhancements
- Development Opportunity

TRANSPORTATION

- Improved Pedestrian Crossing
- Bike Parking or Storage
- School Area Traffic Calming
- Dedicated Trolley
- Truck Traffic Routing
- Road Diet
- On-Street Parking
- Lane Shift
- Width Restriction
- Innovation Shift
- Intersection Shift

OPPORTUNITY SITES

- Metra Commuter Parking Lots:** The Metra parking lots provide an opportunity for redevelopment due to underutilization based on decreased usage.
- Corners of 18th/State:** Local developer is making progress to redevelop this area with a more cohesive plan for multiphase redevelopment.
- Area West of I&M Canal:** Similar to the Star Innovation District, this area presents an opportunity to potentially create another special district with new spaces for creativity, innovation, and recreation.

LEAVE A COMMENT WITH YOUR FEEDBACK

Not a supporter of additional condos or apartment - Agreed?

It would be nice if there were more things to do on this side of town to attract the people who go to Hell's Gate and the train station!

want more things to do on this side. Not "walkable" streetscape.

All that for only 28 units most residents can't afford! Hard pass

Comments from South State Street focus area board.

ments

Outdoor Seating

Enhancements
unity

Crossing
e
es
ge

Architectural style of new development is crucial. Needs to complement without imitating

more police enforcement of the Housing Cess Surveys. Case case with support. Community Plan Task

Underground Truck Route?
Call it the new Canal

work with the Historical Society through development to keep history alive and well preserved

CRISTINA GARCIA & State Street Local Street Improvement You'll be into the street - don't match a vision of walkability and the 100 block

There has to be a safer way for people to cross 9th Street & State Street (Reduction in bridge)

Pedestrian Friendly is priority.

LEAVE A COMMENT

On January 10, 2012, we will have a safe transition for pedestrians. Like people are with in the community.

Hand Painted Murals Around Town!

Now a separate and needed for Point "E" West of canal - Just a generic command. The West Side House - a family should be around

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