



Edition 7

May 20th, 2020

GREATER CORKTOWN PROJECT UPDATES

Hello Corktown – We hope this newsletter finds you as well as you can be in a world turned upside down. Since we were last able to connect in person, things are very different, and they have been different for a while. That brings us to a simple but important decision – can we continue to hold off moving forward or do we try to figure out this new normal together?

Here is where we are at: when the pandemic hit, the Corktown Framework Team put a hold on everything to allow everyone to get their bearings. As a community, we collectively needed to support to those who had been hit the hardest by the pandemic either through illness, loss or other complications. Some are still working through those challenges and we want to respect that – our thoughts and prayers are with everyone. It's also very clear that for safety reasons we all we need to figure out how to connect with people without doing it in-person.

Thankfully, the Corktown team had a great pile of feedback to work through from our most recent round of meetings from the beginning of the year. We felt it would be unrealistic to ask residents to focus on urban planning and design while every news report brought dramatic and troubling new developments. We adjusted by focusing on the work for which we already had community input.

Unfortunately, that newsfeed hasn't changed, but the pace has become somewhat constant. We are taking steps toward adjusting to our new reality and things are opening up. The governor has eased restrictions on construction, you are hearing the sounds of construction again. Construction means that legislative and permitting bodies within the city itself have plotted a course to hold community and committee hearings online. In fact, some Corktown projects have already held hearings.

Things are happening, and the reality is that the most effective planning happens before changes are set in stone. Like it or not, our ability to hold off is sun-setting. We need to start the conversation again. Our work over the past few months has allowed us to refine the draft recommendations and implementation plan. These recommendations are based

solidly on the feedback we got from our large community “topic” workshops and smaller pop-up meetings, but it’s time for next steps.

Around this time, in the pre-COVID-19 schedule, we had planned to organize another large community meeting to share this material and gather more in-person feedback. As of this writing, it is not only illegal to hold this kind of meeting, it would be an unnecessary health risk. We have to acknowledge that the traditional methods of citizen engagement, put people at greater risk of infection. The ways we need to discuss framework that will guide the future of Corktown have to change, at least, for now.

So how do we move forward prioritizing resident safety and maximizing input? It isn’t going to be easy, and we won’t get it exactly right the first time. We humbly ask for your understanding as we are going to trip once or twice along the way. Here is what we propose:

1. A community-wide survey of the technological tools people are using to connect. You can access this survey by clicking on the following link, [Greater Corktown Framework Plan Citizen Engagement Survey](#).
2. Assess how far we can get with tools available
3. Determine ways to target groups that we can’t easily reach through internet technology
4. Review world-wide best-practices and innovative ideas on engaging in the real-world during pandemic imposed social distancing – outdoor distances activities, kiosks, selfie-voting, sidewalk posters, etc.

Many of these ideas are being piloted by the Planning and Development Department already and what works we will be shared across the city.

In addition, the Planning and Development Department in partnership with the Housing and Revitalization Department is actively exploring the possibility of applying for a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant (CNI). The decision to apply has been the direct result of feedback that we have heard at various community meetings around concerns of maintaining affordability, diversity, and inclusiveness within the Greater Corktown study area. You can find out more information about Choice Neighborhoods by selecting the following link, [Greater Corktown Mixed Income Housing Initiative](#).

As we work through project, we recognize that our occasionally updated webpage will have to become more of a hub for the project and be updated more frequently. Visit the [Greater Corktown Neighborhood Framework Plan project web-page](#) for recent updates and to view previous editions of this newsletter, workshop presentations, and pop-up meeting summaries.

Finally, we want to invite you to join the Department of Neighborhood’s weekly update meetings for the latest updates on the Information and resources available to the public, including updates from the health department, DPD and a gentle reminder that we will need as many recovery dollars as possible next year and filling out your census is the easiest way for you to make sure those dollars are available.



DetroitMI.gov/census

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Coronavirus Update

Please join the Detroit Health Department and the Department of Neighborhoods for a conference call at the times below. On the call, you will receive information on the coronavirus that you can share with your neighbors and friends.

All Districts

Monday, May 18 & 25, June 1 & 8 at 5 p.m.



May 18, 2020
Guest Speaker
Wayne County Commissioner
Alisha Bell

- 1 Call one of these numbers
1 (929) 436-2866
1 (312) 626-6799
1 (346) 248 7799

- 2 You should enter this meeting ID and then press #:
363 140 9738 #

For more information, contact your District Manager or Deputy District Manager or call (313) 224-4415.





Greater Corktown Neighborhood Framework Plan Citizen Engagement Survey

This public engagement survey has been created to identify the best methods to engage with residents of North Corktown and Historic Corktown. Due to COVID-19, the Planning and Development team has had to abandon the traditional methods of citizen engagement that you all have been accustomed to over the last few months of the Greater Corktown Framework planning process. First and Foremost, the most important priority to us is the safety our fellow residents. In an effort to resume the on-going planning study, it is essential that we are able to engage the community in a safe and convenient fashion.

Below is a list of various citizen engagement options. It would help us a great deal, if you can select which options that you prefer. In addition, if you have any creative ideas or wish to provide additional options that can assist with ensuring inclusive resident participation, feel free to include them in the comment box below. Lastly, the City has compiled a list of various resources regarding COVID-19 and has been actively involved in helping to mitigate the affects. Please let us know of any assistance that you make need. Thank you - Jonathan Trey Scott, Planner II, Central Region

Click the photo above to access and complete the Greater Corktown Neighborhood Framework Plan Citizen Engagement Survey

Stay Involved!

Contact the project team to learn more about the Planning Framework process and to receive information on upcoming events or visit our website at:

[Detroitmi.gov/greatercorktown](https://detroitmi.gov/greatercorktown)

In addition, if you have any additional questions, comments, or concerns about any of the information provided above, please feel to reach out to me using the contact information below.

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M-Th 9 AM-5 PM

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