# 2014 FLATS FORWARD FRAMEWORK PLAN



#### PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW SEPTEMBER 25, 2014



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## CREATION OF THE FLATS FORWARD ORGANIZATION

### **Flats Forward Board of Directors Objectives:**

- 1) Create a new or expanded organization that can convene, collaborate and coordinate
- 2) Hire an experienced, visionary leader to serve as the head of the Flats Forward effort
- 3) Establish an advisory board to guide the work of the new organization and its leader
- 4) Continuously engage the public in the planning and implementation of projects and initiatives that support the revitalization of the Flats
- 5) Create a master/land-use plan that outlines and prioritizes key projects and highlights opportunities for and barriers to success.



## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

### Why We Need a Plan:

- Flats Forward was established in 2012 as a guiding organization for potential redevelopment opportunities in the Flats, representing the various stakeholders as a unified voice
- Through stakeholder engagement, the need for a framework plan was identified as a key priority to provide an guiding document
- A Flats Forward Framework plan will synthesize primary projects and planning efforts of Flats stakeholders
- Recommendations will include proposed development, zoning considerations and key infrastructure investments on land and water

FLATS FORWARD

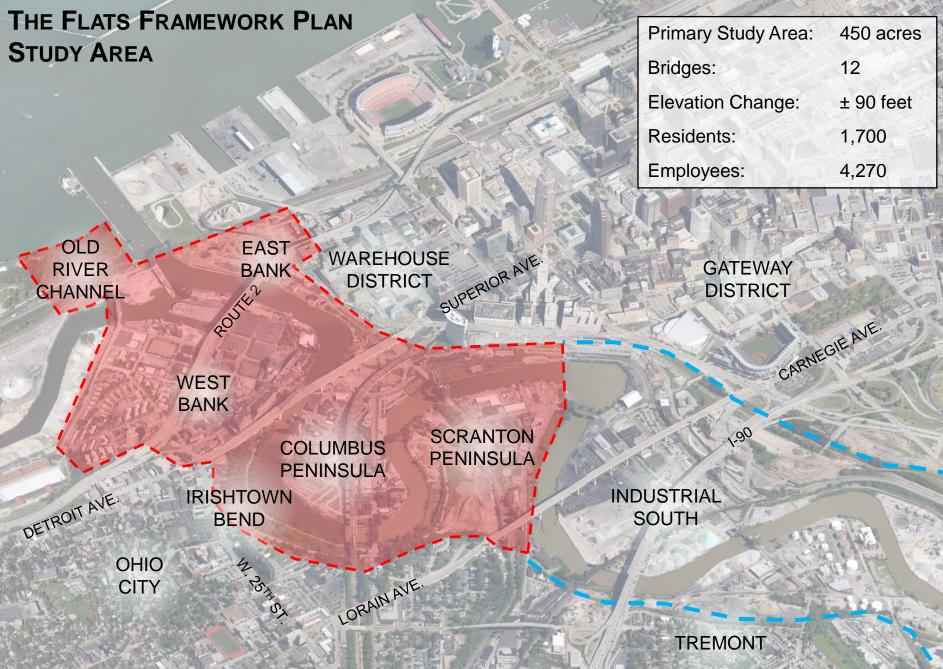
### **PLANNING PROCESS**

## **UNDERSTAND & INVESTIGATE**

APRIL - MAY	Tasks	Process
REDISCOVER	<ul> <li>Examine The Flats' role in the region</li> <li>Identify important characteristics about the study area</li> <li>Understand all user groups and their needs</li> <li>Study the roadway network, potential improvements and the community's goals</li> <li>Organize and understand the many initiatives that are ongoing / planned</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reviewed and analyzed existing conditions and program for the development of the plan</li> <li>Conducted series of targeted stakeholder meetings / public outreach</li> </ul>
	PRESERVE & ENHA	NCE
JUNE		
CHALLENGE	<ul> <li>Create a framework plan that considers multiple corridors, enhances connections and takes advantage of underutilized land</li> <li>Establish goals / objectives that are reflective of the planning process and responsive to feedback</li> <li>Set a framework for The Flats that can be used to make future decisions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Identified key planning objectives</li> <li>Established roadway typologies and</li> <li>Developed a connections strategies plan</li> </ul>
	<b>ENVISION &amp; IMPLEI</b>	MENT
JULY		
TRANSFORM	<ul> <li>Outline roadway reconfiguration options that provide safe travel for pedestrians, cyclists, automobiles, and trucks</li> <li>Ensure incremental improvements are organized to maximize value and impact</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Produce a complete Community Framework Plan and a Land Use Strategy that relates to the City of Cleveland's 2020 Citywide Land Use Plan</li> <li>Prepare a final report and presentation materials to be used for the review with the general public</li> </ul>

AUGUST

**Final Presentation and Report Preparation** 



While the Flats Forward Service Area extends far down the navigable channel, the Study Area was identified as having the greatest potential for ongoing change.











## SURROUNDING INFLUENCES

- \$4.5 billion have been invested in Downtown Development since 2010
- 6 new hotels are under development
- Over 95% of downtown housing is occupied with nearly 12,000 residents, with anticipated growth to 15,000 by 2015
- Nearby Ohio City, Detroit Shoreway, Tremont, Warehouse District neighborhoods are thriving
- Increased shipping traffic in and out of the Port of Cleveland
- MetroParks and The Trust for Public Land have developed several plans for parks and trails along the Cuyahoga Valley Corridor that runs through the Flats, some of which are funded





#### WHY DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE FLATS?

- Maximize value of waterfront property and multiple types of access
- Take full advantage of being centrally located
- Historical significance the birthplace of Cleveland
- Emerging mixed-use neighborhood that can develop in a sustainable manner
- Well-established industry that is vital to the city's economy
- High demand for downtown residential spaces
- Expanding multipurpose trail network can bring new types of visitors

The Flats are a critical part of Cleveland's history and demonstrate immense opportunity for future growth



# FINDINGS & QUESTIONS

Stakeholders Said:

"Trucks and the general public have issues locating the few entry ways into the Flats, as well as finding the highways when it is time to leave."

- What can we do to improve wayfinding?
- How can we enhance connections & visitors' experiences?

#### "Riverfront is a huge asset that feels underused."

- Currently has limited accessibility to the public
- Develop both active and passive activities

#### "We need and demand public transit access."

- 1,000+ employees already in the area
- Parking will be greatly reduced after the completion of Canal Basin Park
- Would greatly reduce need for parking and potentially allow property to be re-imagined

## **EMERGING PLANNING OBJECTIVES**

### 1. DEVELOP BRAND & IMAGE

- What is The Flats role in its neighborhood, city, region?
- How do we preserve the unique industrial nature and maintain the Cuyahoga River as an active shipping channel?
- What do The Flats want to be?

#### 2. ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY

- How can we make it easier for visitors to find The Flats?
- What improvements will help people navigate through The Flats?
- What can we do to take full advantage of the riverfront as a commercial & entertainment asset?

#### 3. DESIGNATE POTENTIAL LAND USES

- What is the best way to determine the locations and types of redevelopment?
- How do we integrate new uses to take advantage of market trends?
- Where can complementary uses and attractions be added to extend visits and support residents?

### 4. IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIONS

- What actions can we take to upgrade the physical network within The Flats?
- How might the roadway network be organized to accommodate different types of traffic?

## **DEVELOP "BRAND" & IMAGE**

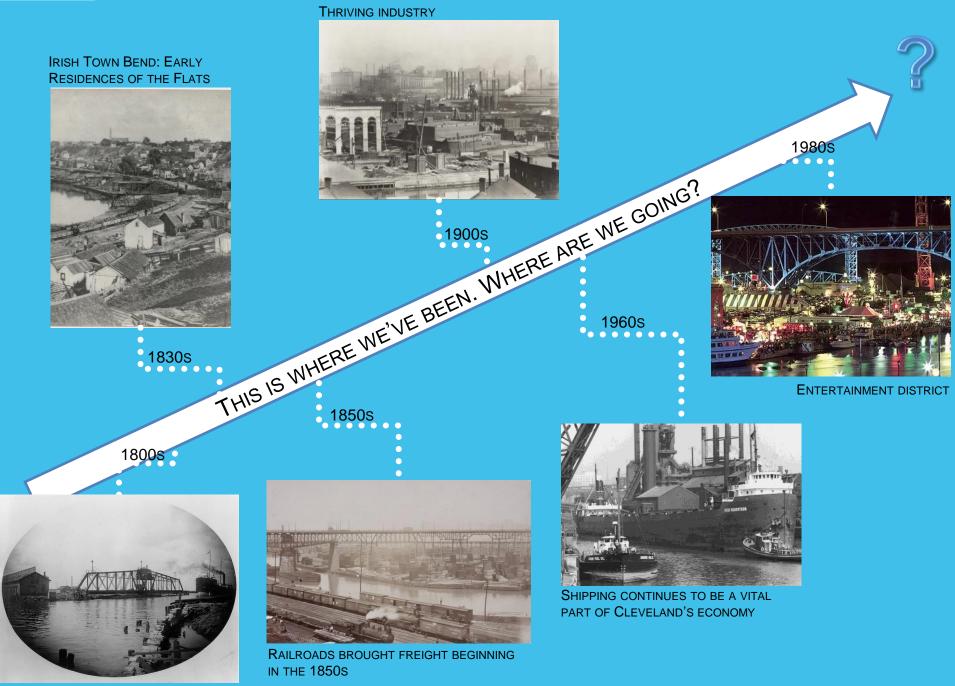
PROMOTE UNIQUENESS OF THE FLATS' HERITAGE & CHARACTER

MAINTAIN THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE / ASPECTS THAT MAKE THE FLATS UNIQUELY "CLEVELAND"

REACTIVATE THE CUYAHOGA RIVER AS AN ENTERTAINMENT VENUE WHILE IMPROVING IT'S ABILITY TO FUNCTION AS AN ECONOMIC ASSET

**IMPROVE PERCEPTION OF SAFETY** 

GENERATE NEW BUSINESS, ACTIVITIES & USES

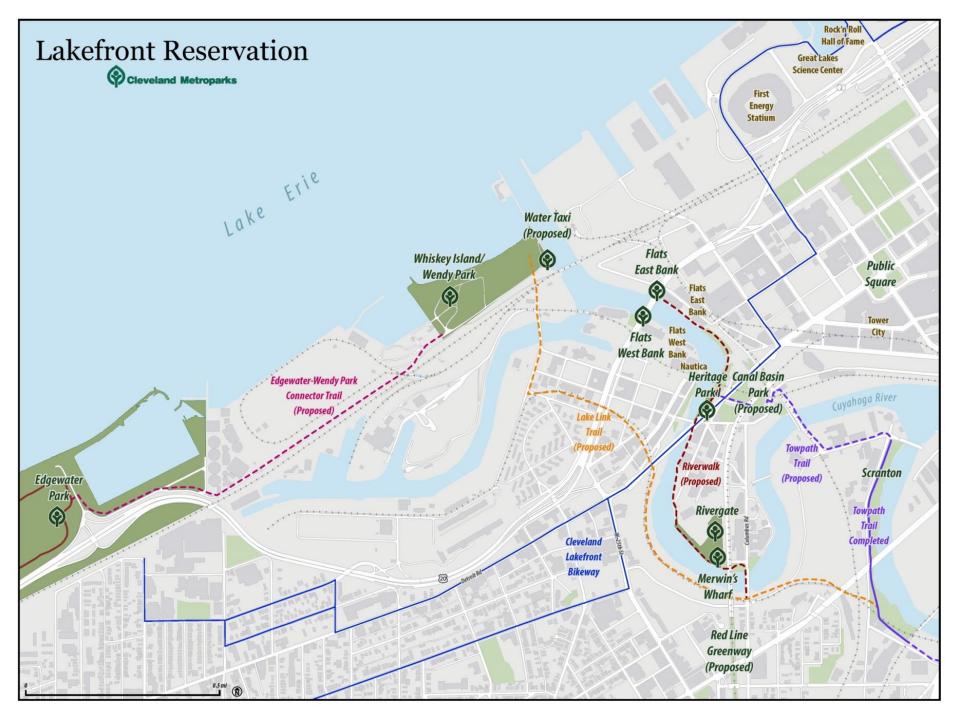


OHIO & ERIE CANAL INCREASED LAKE SHIPPING

## INFLUENCING THE FLATS CHARACTER

**EXISTING STAKEHOLDER PLANS AND ONGOING INITIATIVES** 







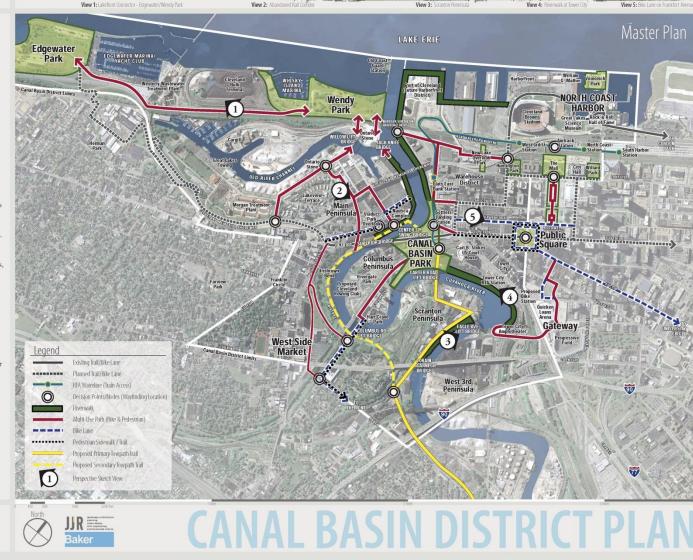


#### Guiding Principles

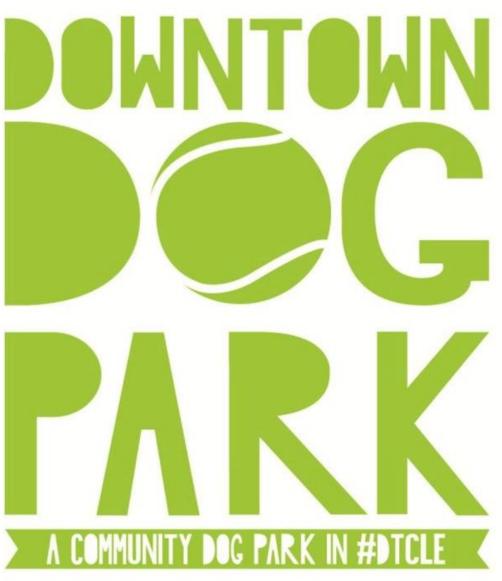
- Emphasize Canal Basin Park as a primary destination/hub.
- Establish a linkage hierarchy with the Towpath Trail as the primary trail.
- Integrate and connect surrounding attractions/destinations.
- Encourage/facilitate local neighborhood links and related regional systems to the primary system.
- Prioritize the "family" experience as the primary target bike user.
- Emphasize the historic significance.
- Establish dedicated off-street bicycle and pedestrian path systems, wherever possible.
- Establish links to complementary transit modes, including the GC RTA rail and bus transit and the proposed Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.
- Separate incompatible transit modes for improved safety and user experience.
- Integrate a network of support amenities (bike rentals, lockers).
- Establish the system as a model of sustainable design.
- Base design decisions on an implementation strategy that maximizes flexibility, cost effectiveness and ease of phasing.

Downtown

Cleveland Alliance



### TRAIL HEAD FOR THE TOWPATH & LINKAGE TRAILS - COMPLETION IN 2017

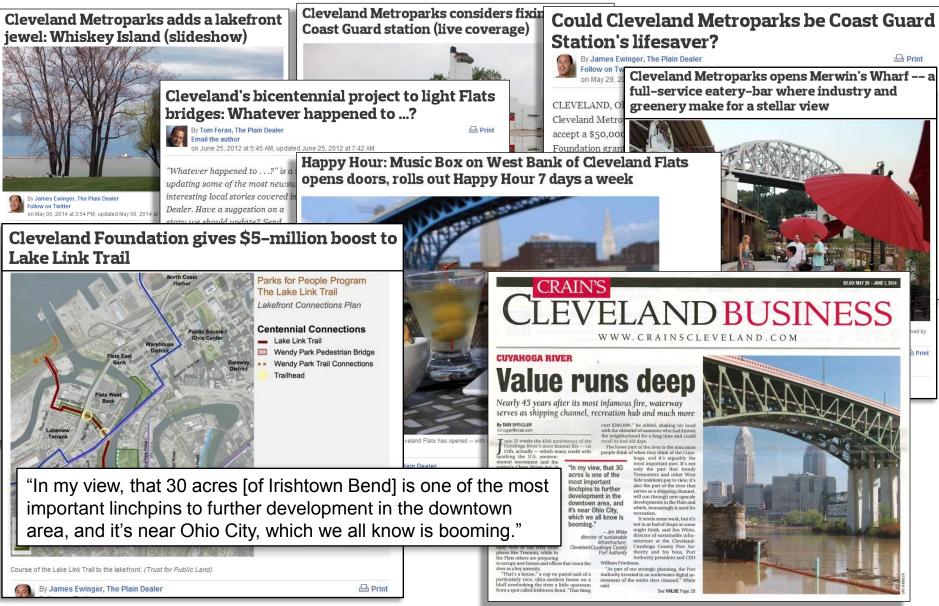


We're raising funds to create nearly 4,500 square feet of fenced space at the base of West Superior Avenue for your furry friends to enjoy - complete with waste receptacles and seating for humans. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 from the Downtown dog-loving community, which DCA will match, dollarfor-dollar, to make this project a reality.



# THE FLATS IN THE NEWS

#### MOMENTUM IS CAPTURING THE MEDIA'S ATTENTION. WHAT IMAGE IS BEING PORTRAYED?



# MOVING FORWARD

Setting a framework for next steps

#### STUDY

- Conduct a market analysis to better understand target markets
- Sell and market the waterfront experience as unique

#### MAINTAIN

• Establish partnerships to clean up and maintain appearance of streets, sidewalks and tree lawns

#### **DEVELOP A COHESIVE "FLATS BRAND"**

- Old River Channel East Bank West Bank Columbus Peninsula • Scranton Peninsula • Industrial South
- Capture the character and promote what makes The Flats special

All of these components define "The Flats" and should be considered and marketed as a complete package...







## ACCESS

IMPROVE WAYFINDING IN AND AROUND FLATS

ACTIVATE THE SHORELINE WITH MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

ENHANCE ACCESS TO & VISIBILITY OF THE WATER FOR ALL USERS

PROVIDE AND ENCOURAGE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION USE



**Roadway Network Typologies:** 

- = Highway Regional Connector
- ----- = Arterial District Connector
  - = Neighborhood Link

Lakefront Connections:

🜟 = Pedestrian / Bicycle Path

(West 65<sup>th</sup>, West 76<sup>th</sup>, Lake Avenue)

 $\checkmark$  = Full Service Intersection (West 73<sup>rd</sup>)

#### **REGIONAL ANALYSIS:** NAVIGABLE CHANNEL

As a functioning shipping channel, the Cuyahoga River is vital to the Flats' Industrial Economic Base. It's use as a recreation and entertainment destination must be balanced with necessary ongoing maintenance of bulkheads and dredging.

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#### NEIGHBORHOOD ANALYSIS: PUBLIC TRANSIT

Flats is underserved with only proximity to transit nodes at Detroit and West 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Settlers Landing.

26,45

GREEN, BLUE, WATERFRONT

20, 21, 22, 26, 35, 45, 45A 79A, 79B, 81

55

20, 21, 22, 35, 45, 79A, 79B

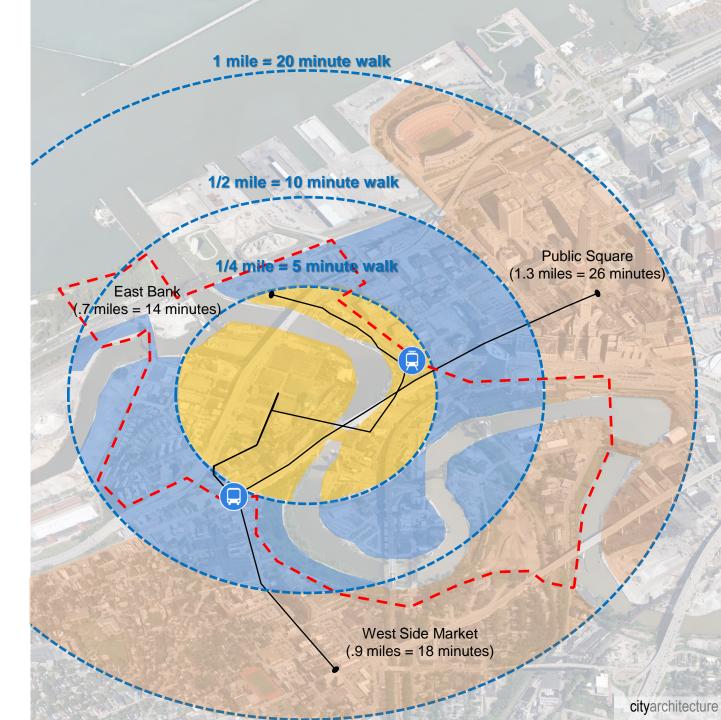
81

**RED LINE** 

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#### DISTRICT ANALYSIS: PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY

- Direct connections to neighboring districts and attractions are limited to the north and east
- Walk distances are increased by approximately 1/2 mile to cross Detroit Superior Bridge
- Direct connections are strongest to Ohio City / Market District / Gordon Square



# MOVING FORWARD

Setting a framework for next steps

#### WAYFINDING

- Increase wayfinding on both the macro and micro levels.
- Identify surrounding "decision points" where signage for The Flats may be integrated
- Add new signs throughout the city to direct people into The Flats and how to reach their destination once they arrive.

#### WATERFRONT

- Expand existing park space, promenades, boardwalks, places to engage the water.
- Implement both active and passive recreational areas.
- Educate users on safe practices.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

 Engage GCRTA to establish a public transit route that regularly circulates to places people are going within The Flats

A successful future of The Flats relies on attracting people, expanding access to the waterfront and improving users' experiences...



## LAND USE

MAINTAIN EXISTING INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL USES THAT ARE THRIVING & SUSTAINABLE

IDENTIFY UNDERUTILIZED AREAS WHERE NEW USES WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE FLATS IMAGE & ECONOMY

INFUSE STREETS, BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC SPACES THAT CREATE A BALANCED NEIGHBORHOOD

#### Neighborhood Analysis: Residential Development



#### District Analysis: Major Activity Generators

- Greater Cleveland Aquarium
- Jacob's Pavilion at Nautica
- Voinovich Bicentennial Park
- Cleveland Rock Hall
- Great Lakes Science Center
- Cleveland Medical Mart and Convention Center
- West 9<sup>th</sup> Street Entertainment District
- Cleveland Gateway District
- Horseshoe Casino Cleveland
- West Side Market
- West 25<sup>th</sup> Street Market District
- HingetownRowing Club
- Wendy Park at Whiskey Island



Emerging Flats Neighborhood can help establish the Flats as a mixed-use urban community

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Gateway District Approx. 2,000 residents



Nautica Apartments



Greater Cleveland Aquarium,

Windows on the Rive

**Jacobs** Pavilion

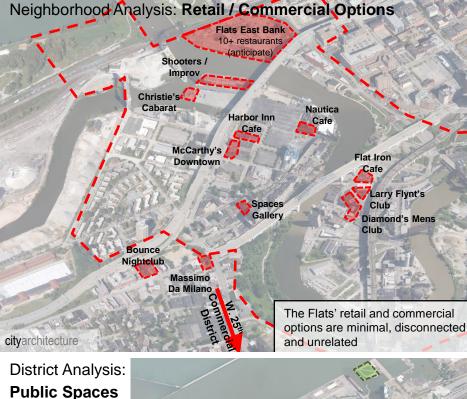


**Riverbed Street Development** 









- Flats East Bank Park
- Heritage Park / Canal Basin
- · Settler's Landing Park
- Public Square / Mall
- Voinovich Bicentennial Park
- River Gate Park & Proposed Skate Park
- Market Square Park
- Wendy Park at Whiskey Island
- Edgewater Park
- Cuyahoga River Urban Habitat Restoration
- Surrounding public spaces have limited waterfront access and are disconnected
- Neighborhood-scaled green spaces can help redefine the Flats





Main pedestrian access in front of Flats East



Werth Same

AT A

West Bank Boardwall



McCarthy's Downtown

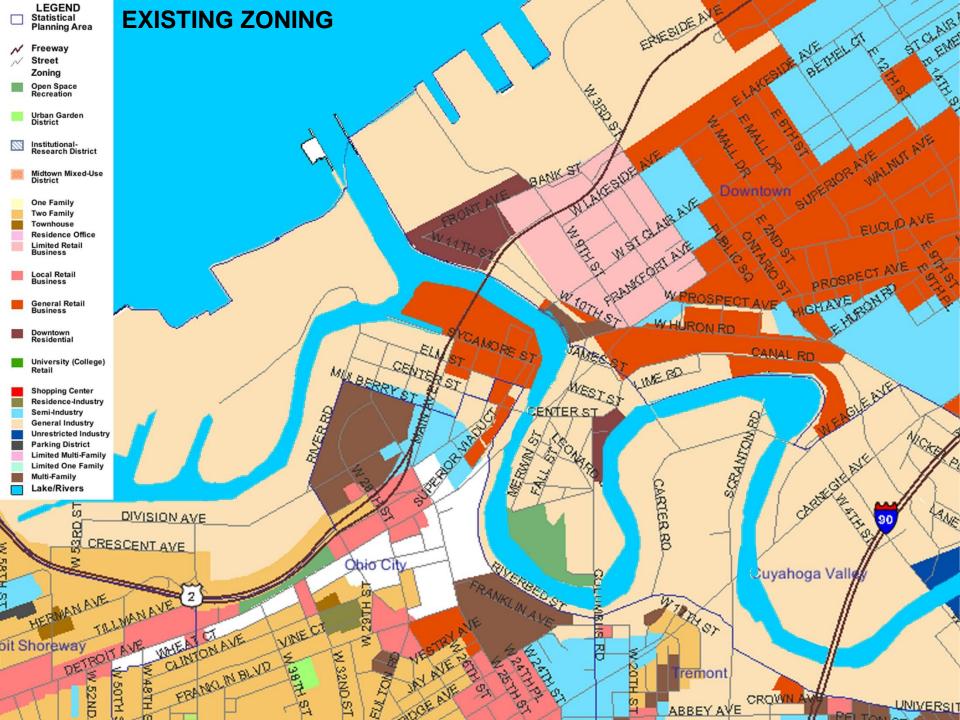






Looking south along new towpath trail

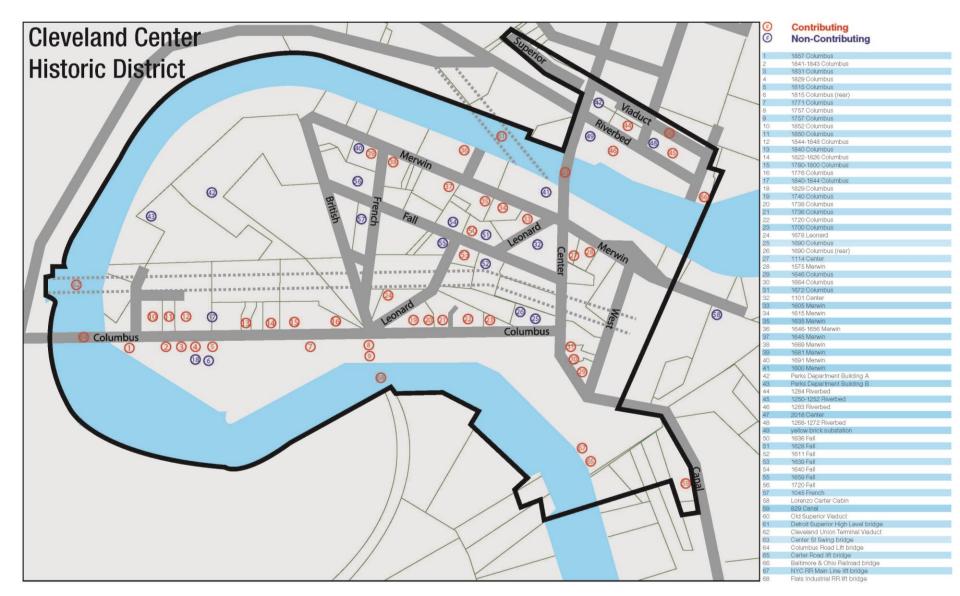
### SINGLE / TWO FAMILY **CONNECTING CLEVELAND 2020 CITYWIDE PLAN** MIXED USE: DOWNTOWN TOWNHOUSE **PROPOSED LAND USE** MULTI FAMILY MIXED USE: RESIDENTIAL + RETAIL/OFFICE MIXED USE: LIVE-WORK OFFICE RETAIL COMMERCIAL SERVICES LIGHT INDUSTRY HEAVY INDUSTRY INSTITUTIONAL RECREATION/OPEN SPACE/LANDSCAPE TRANSPORTATION / PUBLIC UTILITIES PARKING (DOWNTOWN ONLY) 500 1,000



## CLEVELAND CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT

COLUMBUS ROAD PENINSULA & SECTIONS OF WEST BANK NOW

ARE A HISTORIC DISTRICT; NOW TAX-CREDIT ELIGIBLE.



## INFLUENCING THE FLATS CHARACTER

EXISTING STAKEHOLDER PLANS AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

#### FLATS EAST BANK | CLEVELAND, OH



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# INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIONS

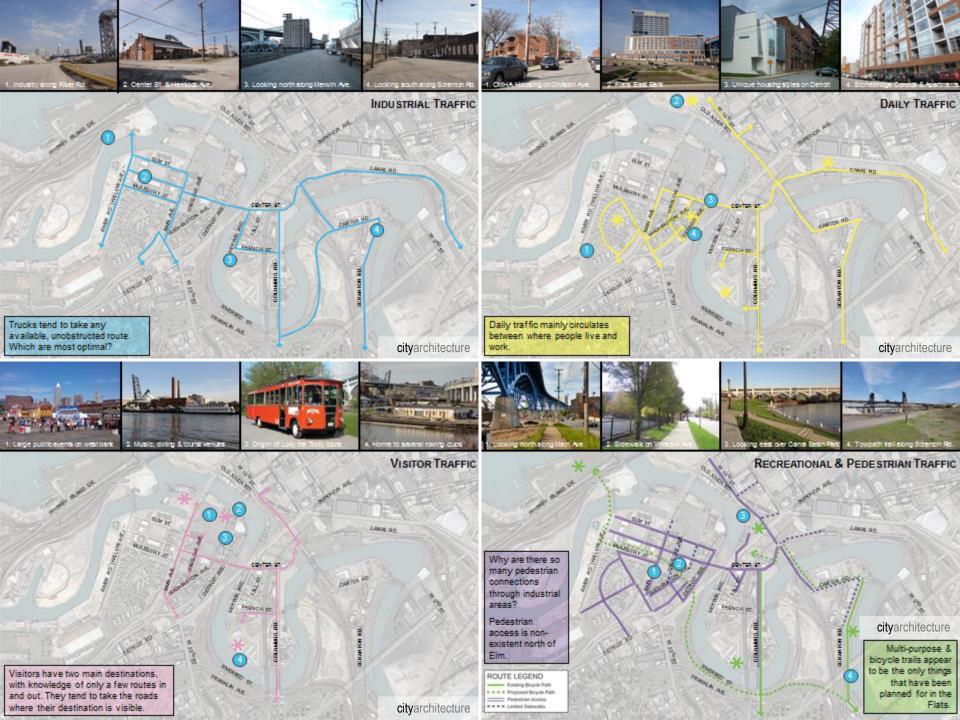
MAINTAIN THE CUYAHOGA RIVER AS A MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ARTERY

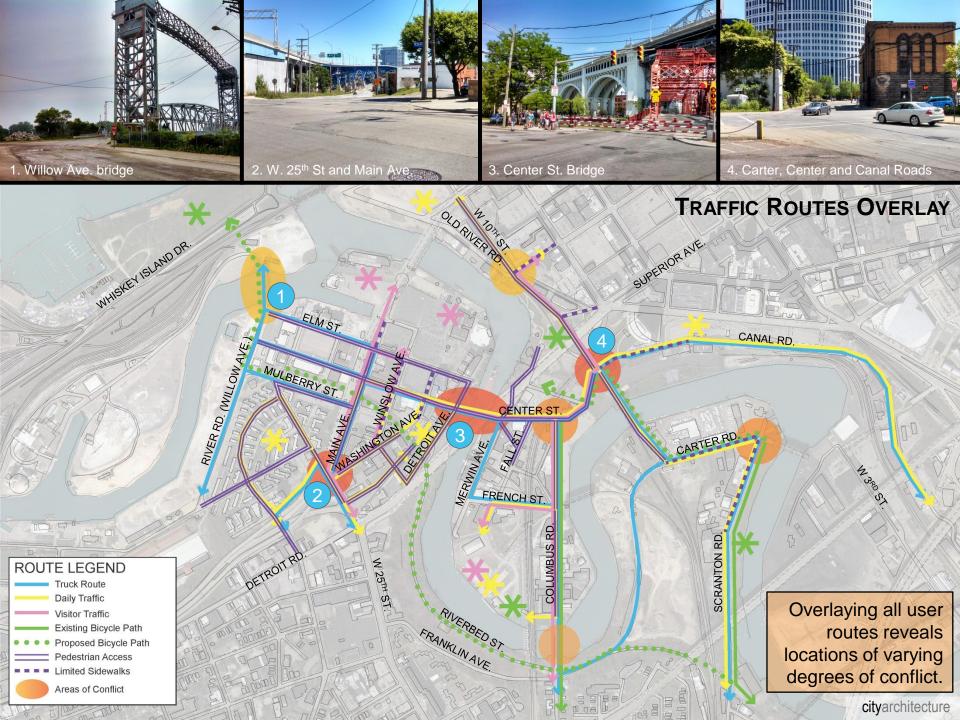
ESTABLISH A LOGICAL ROADWAY NETWORK THAT IMPROVES SAFE TRAFFIC FLOW

DIRECT VARIOUS USERS TO USE APPROPRIATE STREETS

INSTALL STREET LIGHTING AND OTHER STREETSCAPE ELEMENTS TO INCREASE A SENSE OF SAFETY, VISIBILITY AND WALKABILITY

**IDENTIFY ROUTES AND THEIR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY USES** 







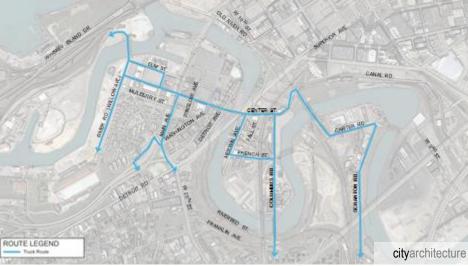
# FINDINGS & QUESTIONS

- Considering the various traffic flow routes and types individually helps us understand how the roads are used
  - Where are areas of concern or conflict between types of traffic and how might they be addressed?
  - How can routes be identified to better manage flow throughout The Flats?
  - Which routes should be primarily used for industrial, visitor, resident, daily, pedestrian or bicycle travel?
  - How can each of those uses "intersect" safely?
- Roadways can be reconfigured to best accommodate and promote their desired use and travel type
  - What attributes make for a good "industrial route"?
  - Where does on-street parking belong to serve existing demand and anticipate future redevelopment?
  - How can bicycle traffic be integrated and help transition off-street / dedicated paths to a shared roadway?

#### PROPOSED TRUCK ROUTES

There are certain roads trucks must take to transport their loads Using this as the basis for redistributing traffic, we can easily see which roads will be heavily trafficked and which are available for alternative uses. Starting with the industrial traffic is also symbolic of how industry has been long established as the primary function of The Flats and how it has been built up over time.





#### PROPOSED VISITOR TRAFFIC ROUTES

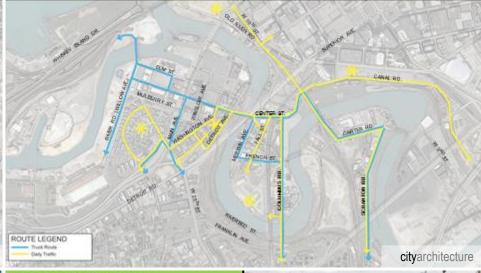
Understanding where the visitors are going and when special events are taking place is important to figuring out where they fit in among The Flats' traffic. Especially when considering that many of these people are driving in from places across the region, they will gravitate towards the straightest, most direct routes...



#### PROPOSED DAILY TRAFFIC ROUTES

People who live and work in The Flats are considered the daily users. They are the most familiar with the area and are familiar and comfortable navigating the area. While there is a fair amount of overlap between them and the trucks, they are the users that can be pulled off of the main routes whenever possible and redirected along smaller, more neighborhood-scale streets.

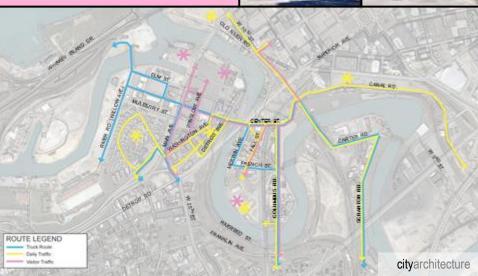


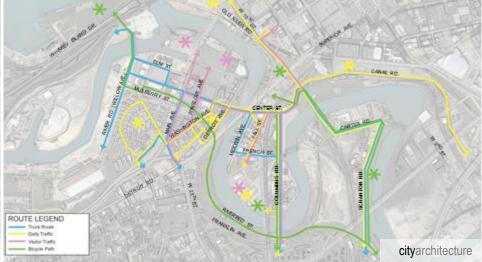


#### ROPOSED BICYCLE PATHS

seems that multi-purpose and bicycle trails have been the mos omprehensively planned out element in The Flats. With the scent acquisitions of land by the MetroParks and The Trust for buils Land, oreenspace connections have been increasing.



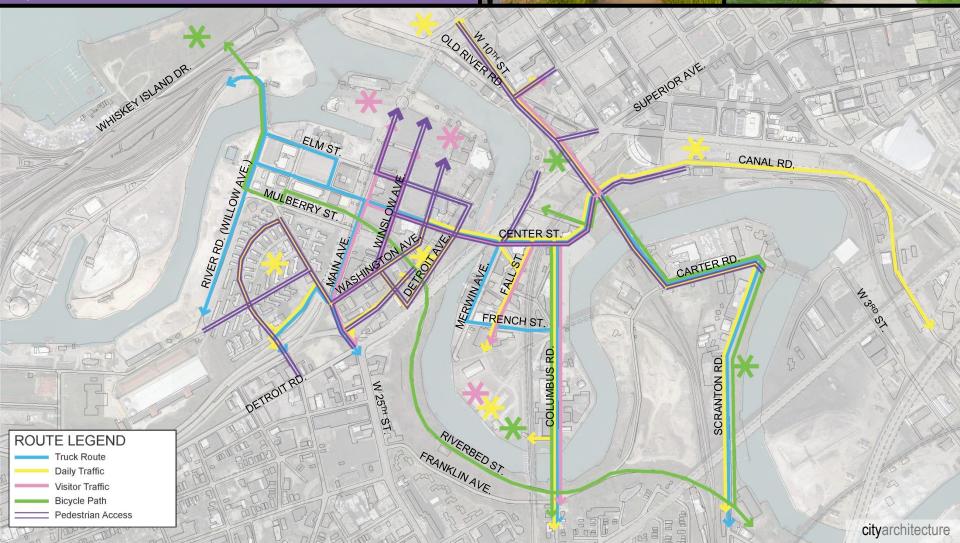




#### **PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN ACCESS**

Our analysis showed that there were many underutilized sidewalks in industrial areas where pedestrians were few and far between. There are also several underserved attraction and event locations that should have comfortably walkable access. By focusing resources on select areas instead of the broader number of streets, we can create a quality pedestrian experience.





# ROADWAY CLASSIFICATIONS

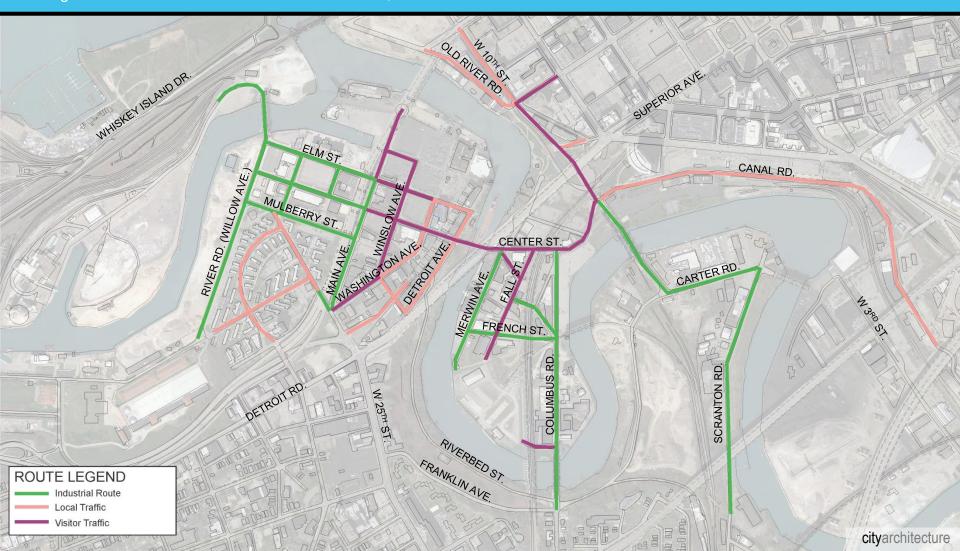
Establishing Typologies Based on Usage and Travel Type

Road	Primary Use	Secondary Use	Proposed Road Type
Center Street (west of Main)	Truck / Shipping	-	INDUSTRIAL
Elm Street (west of Main)	Truck / Shipping	-	INDUSTRIAL
Eugene Ct.	Truck / Shipping	-	INDUSTRIAL
French Street	Truck / Shipping	-	INDUSTRIAL
Hemlock Avenue	Truck / Shipping	-	INDUSTRIAL
Merwin Street	Truck / Shipping	-	INDUSTRIAL
Mulberry Street	Truck / Shipping	-	INDUSTRIAL
Spruce Avenue	Truck / Shipping	-	INDUSTRIAL
River Road / Willow Avenue	Truck / Shipping	Resident / Employee	INDUSTRIAL
Scranton Road	Truck / Shipping	Resident / Employee	INDUSTRIAL
Columbus Road	Truck / Shipping	Resident / Employee	*In Progress
Carter Road	Truck / Shipping	Bicycle	*Towpath Extension
Main Avenue	Truck / Shipping	Event / Destination	A + B
Winslow Avenue	Event / Destination	Pedestrian	VISITOR
Elm Street (east of Main)	Event / Destination	Pedestrian	VISITOR
Canal Road	Resident / Employee	Event / Destination	VISITOR
Center Street (east of Main)	Resident / Employee	Event / Destination	VISITOR
Fall Street	Resident / Employee	Event / Destination	VISITOR
Robert Lockwood	Resident / Employee	Event / Destination	VISITOR
Old River Road	Resident / Employee	Event / Destination	LOCAL
West 10th Street	Resident / Employee	Pedestrian	LOCAL
West Superior Avenue	Resident / Employee	Pedestrian	LOCAL
Detroit Avenue	Resident / Employee	Pedestrian	LOCAL
Washington Avenue	Resident / Employee	Pedestrian	LOCAL
Superior Viaduct	Resident / Employee	Pedestrian	LOCAL

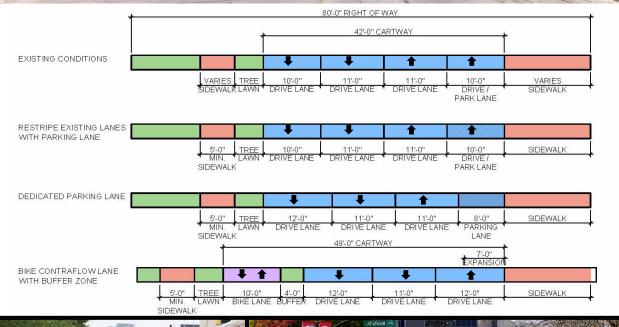
#### COMPLETE ROAD TYPE NETWORK

Through a series of meetings and surveys, stakeholders identified roadways and traffic as a key issue in The Flats, specifically regarding the intermingling of different users and keeping everyone safe. Their feedback determined that a complete street network is needed. Existing conditions, including topographic changes and limited bridge connections pose challenges for the area. Since infrastructure is limited, it is critical

to maintain a balance between the industrial economy and promoting the potential for mixed-use development. This desire lead to developing plans for directing users onto different streets when possible and allowing for multi-modal connectors when users are coming together. Ultimately, this network of roadway types will act as a framework that helps determine future land uses for The Flats.







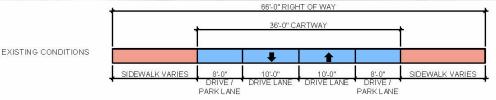
#### MAIN AVENUE

- Widest road in The Flats
- Gateway into the West Bank
- Currently used by all traffic types as a result of being the central artery on the west bank
- Development is limited to eastern side of the road
- Major connection to Route 2
   and Ohio City
- Future use should be focused towards industrial traffic, with the bulk of visitors arriving during non-peak hours









RESTRIPE EXISTING LANES WITH TRUCK QUEUE			<b>I</b>			
	SIDEWALK	8'-0''	. 10'-0"	10'-0"	8'-0''	SIDEWALK
		TRUCK QUEUE	DRIVE LANE	DRIVE LANE	TRUCK QUEUE	

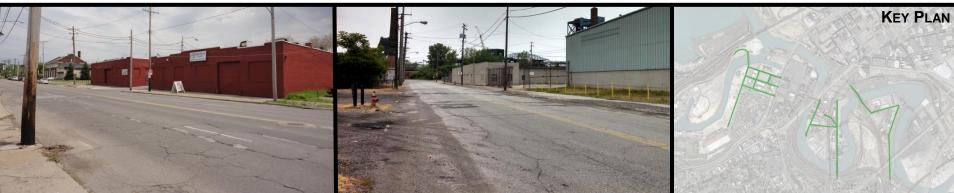
WIDE DRIVE LANES THAT ACCOMMODATE QUEUE		ŧ	<b>†</b>	
	SIDEWALK	18'-0" DRIVE LANE	18'-0" DRIVE LANE	SIDEWALK

TWO PRIMARY DIRECTION LANES WITH SINGLE LANE		<b>↓</b>	<b></b>		
IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION	SIDEWALK	12'-0"	12'-0"	12'-0"	SIDEWALK
		OPPOSING DRIVE LANE	PRIMARY DRIVE LANE	PRIMARY DRIVE LANE	18 1

#### INDUSTRIAL

- Some roads on the West Bank and Columbus Peninsula should be focused towards industrial users
- Most residents and visitors will not have a need to use these streets
- Wide lanes are needed to accommodate large vehicles
- Proposals include options for truck queue lanes and focused traffic direction to reduce congestion on these and surrounding roadways







	66-0" RIGHT OF WAY						
	3	1	36'-0" C	ARTWAY		t	
EXISTING CONDITIONS			♦				
	SIDEWALK & TREE LAWN VARIES	8'-0" PARKING LANE	10'-0" DRIVE LANE	10'-0" DRIVE LANE	8'-0" PARKING LANE		WALK & WN VARIES
RESTRIPE EXISTING LANES			¥	1			
	SIDEWALK & TREE LAWN	8'-0" PARKING LANE	10'-0" DRIVE LANE	10'-0" • DRIVE LANE	8'-0" PARKING LANE		WALK & E LAWN
TWO SIDED PARKING LANES WITH BUMP-OUTS			₽				
	5'-0" TREE MIN. LAWN SIDEWALK	8'-0" PARKING LANE WITH BUMP OUT	10'-0" DRIVE LANE	10'-0" DRIVE LANE	8'-0" PARKING LANE WITH BUMP OUT	LAWN	5'-0" MIN. SIDEWALI
ONE-SIDED PARKING WITH SHARROW DRIVE LANES			+	<b>↑</b>			
unnensistensuurne suspremensiudelintidele sies…ohei	5'-0" TREE MIN. LAWN	DRIVE / BI	KE LANE <sup>®</sup> DRI	14'-0" VE / BIKE LANE TH SHARROWS	8'-0" PARKING LANE	LAWN	5'-0" MIN. SIDEWALI

#### **LOCAL & VISITOR**

- Maintaining some on-street parking in The Flats is important, especially along residential roads
- Some streets will have a more multi-modal scheme that accommodates bicycles
- Wider, more open lane configurations will be more attractive and comfortable for visitors to pass through
- Residential-focused streets will have a quieter, calmer layout

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# MOVING FORWARD

Setting a framework for next steps

#### PRIORITIZE

- River infrastructure needs & ongoing improvements
- Determine which streets / routes are most critical to advancing The Flats
- Create partnerships / coalitions to better organize and approach the City of Cleveland, NOACA, Cuyahoga County for funding

### PLAN

 Prioritize an overall street improvement strategy / timeline based on current conditions, usage and potential redevelopment opportunities

### FUND

- Identify funding sources and establish a budget for infrastructure improvements
- Determine what public private partnerships can be formed to spur investments

Investing in an organized and coordinated roadway network has the ability to create safe routes and improve conditions simultaneously...









## RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS FOR THE CREATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE FLATS FORWARD MASTER PLAN:

- Designate and adopt Roadway Typologies to guide future improvements (Meet with City officials, Department of Engineering / Traffic, NOACA, etc.)
- Identify and apply for additional funding for planning efforts (NOACA – Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative [TLCI], USEPA – Brownfields Area-Wide Planning, etc.)
- 3. Engage with a marketing / branding firm (Determine marketing message, logo, signage types / locations)
- 4. Determine market demand and potential land uses through an Economic Study of the entire Flats Forward "service area" (Hire a market analysis firm or engage Cleveland State University to investigate regional demand, opportunities, target markets, etc.)