

## **Your LIC: Comprehensive Neighborhood Planning: Mobility and Sustainable Infrastructure** (see full transcript of workshop notes [HERE](#))

This is a summary of key takeaways and recommendations by participants in community engagement activities focused on Comprehensive Neighborhood Planning: Mobility and Sustainable Infrastructure. This outreach was conducted by the Your LIC team, and includes online submissions on this topic by the public at [YourLIC.nyc](http://YourLIC.nyc) and a 90-minute webinar with more than 80 participants on March 9, 2020. Because of the declared State of Emergency by Governor Cuomo due to COVID-19, the planned in-person public workshop on March 9, 2020 was changed to an online webinar, which included real-time questions and comments from the community. You can read a summary of the expert presentations and key takeaways from the webinar, including concerns voiced by participants, along with a full video of the webinar [here](#). Additional Q&A has been uploaded onto the Your LIC Mobility and Sustainable Infrastructure community engagement [webpage](#).

**Next Steps:** The Your LIC team will use the aspirations and suggestions to inform planning for mobility and sustainable infrastructure for the waterfront development project.

**Takeaway 1: Sustainable and resilient infrastructure is a priority and should extend beyond the 28-acre site.** Participants called for the use of as many strategies for resilient and sustainable infrastructure as possible to create comprehensive protection for the Long Island City waterfront.

*“What should our goals be in terms of sustainability? What is the global best practice?”* – Workshop 4 Participant

*“You guys gotta stop with the silo thinking. Comprehensive planning means looking at development holistically, comprehensively. This is somewhat interesting but not meaningful.”* – Workshop 4 Participant

### **Summary of Participants’ Input** (see full text [HERE](#))

- **Efforts for the 28-acre site need to be tied to a comprehensive resiliency and sustainability plan:** The aspirations of many of the participants is to go beyond efforts for the 28-acre site and provide benefits for a larger segment of Long Island City community. Participants want to see as many strategies in use for resilient and sustainable infrastructure as possible. There was little participant response to the proposed reduction in daily water usage or carbon footprint, the use of district-wide energy generation, or pedestrian safety or waterfront access.
- **Participants emphasized the need for a stronger link between sustainability efforts and the proposed density of the site:** Questions from participants ranged from issues of comprehensive planning for the East River (“...bring in the [Army] Corp of Engineers and the State”) to questions about the relationship of density to the resiliency efforts (“You cannot talk about infrastructure in the abstract”), to specific technical questions about NYC requirements for building in a flood zone.

**Takeaway 2: Mobility and connectivity is important to the future of Long Island City and expanding mobility options to neighboring NYCHA housing developments is a priority.** Participants actively engaged in questioning the structure and future of mobility measures in the 28-acre district and beyond. Some participants wanted to understand how public transportation actions are determined.

*“I’m really missing a mapping of increased mobility from and to all NYCHA housing in Queens West.” – Workshop 4 Participant*

*“How far along are the developers in talking with the MTA about these transit improvements? Is the MTA on board?” – Workshop 4 Participant*

### **Summary of Participants’ Input** (see full text [HERE](#))

- **There is a significant lack of public transportation to NYCHA housing developments:** A significant gap noted by participants in all the current transportation maps shown at the beginning of the session was the paucity or lack of public transportation from nearby NYCHA housing developments and the 28-acre site. Possible solutions discussed included multi-modal approaches, such as protected bike lanes that link NYCHA housing developments to a wider mobility network, along with the role of the waterfront esplanade as a key connector that can be used by pedestrians, bikes, and less traditional methods of transportation such as scooter.
- **Participants wanted more information on possible changes to existing transportation conditions:** One participant asked if there were plans to build new roads in and around the site. A Your LIC representative noted that the roads will be improved compressively throughout the district and that streets can be modified to enhance connectivity, such as making streets wider and more friendly for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Many participants were concerned about role of public transportation on the waterfront:** Several participants had questions about public transportation and the status of talks with the MTA. One participant asked if having a subway station closer to the waterfront was a possibility. The Your LIC team noted that these decisions are controlled by the MTA, and another participant rejected the idea of having the subway closer to the waterfront.

**Takeaway 3: The role of density is critical to understanding sustainability measures and water environmental mitigation strategies.** Participant questions about water centered less on the proposed water usage reduction, water reuse, and water environmental mitigation strategies than on the relationship of number of residents, building any structure, and a long-term future horizon for any building along the water in New York City.

*“How does the system of pulling water from the river for heating and cooling differ from similar methods that have drawn criticism from environmentalists and river advocates when it has been done at nuclear power plants?” – Workshop 4 Participant*

*“So, if what Mr. Loiselle is saying regarding the limitations of sustainable planning are true, then why would you build so densely in a flood zone?” – Workshop 4 Participant*

## Summary of Participants' Input (see full text [HERE](#))

- ***Desire for more in-depth understanding of the principles behind the proposed water management systems:*** Specifically, one participant wanted to understand how the system pulling water from the river for heating and cooling would differ from methods used at nuclear power plants, which have been criticized for their environmental impacts. A Your LIC representative provided more information on the process, emphasized that there would be no contamination of the water and that the magnitude needed for a nuclear power plant is much higher than for a residential or commercial building, and detailed the overall positive environmental impact of the use of water from the river for temperature regulation.
- ***Any efforts for sustainability or water management need to take density into account:*** Importantly, many participants noted that it is difficult to discuss infrastructure in the abstract, and that these discussions should be connected to proposed plans and density. Your LIC representatives noted that these are efforts to explore best practices in sustainable infrastructure to decide what makes sense to implement in a comprehensive plan, and also noted that density will be the primary focus of the next and final workshop.