• Introduction
• Existing Conditions Review
• Public Survey
• Recommendations
Introduction

• Goals
  • Improve Pedestrian Connections
  • Improve Facility Designs
  • Connect Cultural, Retail, and Commercial Uses

• Consider Immediate Station Area and Surrounding Blocks

• Team of volunteer planning professionals from the American Planning Association New Jersey Chapter (APA-NJ)

• Support from North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)
Existing Conditions

- Many Planning Efforts in Last 20+ Years
- Increased Development in Station Area
- Renovation of Library
- South Avenue Improvements
Public Survey

• Conducted February 26 – April 12, 2021

• 4 Questions
  • Change what?
  • How do you use the station area?
  • Change where, exactly? (map it)
  • About you (asked this last)

• Over 1,000+ Fanwood and nearby residents participated
Change What?

- Respondents asked to rank priorities for Station Area
- Top Three
  - Better Walking Connections
  - More People Downtown
  - Cultural Activities/Destinations
How do you use the Station Area?

- Station Area usage expected to remain fairly consistent
  - Slightly less train utilization expected post COVID
Change Where?

• Respondents asked to map and comment on locations ideal for change

• Comments Grouped by Topic:
  • Ideas
  • Places
  • Safety
  • Walking

• Over 1,500 individual comments and locations mapped in survey
Train station should be surrounded with pedestrian-friendly activities especially shops, fast-food, ice cream, care, the type that people actually go to. But also keep room for local businesses.

Use the lawn areas as a passive park using art and sculpture to engage people on the North Avenue side of the downtown.

Keep the buildings in scale, insist on quality materials and landscaping: built in benches and planters maybe.

I think some shops would be nice. Maybe things like a coffee shop, record store, escape room, sit-down restaurant etc.
There should be dedicated bike lanes throughout the town and connecting to cross-plains and Westfield.

People drive way too fast.

If you live west of Martin's, there is no crosswalk to safely cross South Avenue. I have to play Frogger every time I need to catch the train.

Many residents prefer to walk under the bridge over the tracks to avoid traffic and long waits by crossing the street.

Crosswalk/traffic control at either Sheelens or 2nd Street would be helpful. Nearest crosswalk is Martin's.
About You

• Respondents were:
  • Over 60% women
  • Over 50% between 25 and 50
  • Overwhelmingly Fanwood residents
  • Mostly come to Station Area weekly
Recommendations

• Revise Historic Designations of Train Station, South Parking Area, & Martine Avenue Bridge
  • Current historic designations are excessive for station area and revisions would allow for future flexibility

• Increase Programming at Historic Train Station
  • Increase programming partners
  • Add seating and purpose to area surrounding historic train station
  • Provide creative placemaking elements at the historic train station
Recommendations

• Update Fanwood Complete Streets policy
  • Connect update to upcoming Master Plan
  • Add Vision Zero policy with update
• Consider Ciclovia and Open Streets events
  • Draw interest in non-auto movement around Station Area
• Improve wayfinding for locations in and around the Station Area
  • Consider opportunities to use technology
Recommendations

• Develop Safe Pedestrian Crossings of South Avenue
  • Ideally at 2nd Street or Sheelen’s Crossing
  • Additional crossings needed between Sheelen’s Crossing and Terrill Road
  • Utilize comments from survey as support to push NJDOT
  • Pedestrian crossings should be based on Complete Streets and Vision Zero standards

• Improve pedestrian safety and environment on Sheelen’s Crossing & Martine Avenue bridges
Recommendations

- Further consider transfer of South Avenue from NJDOT to Borough
  - Better local control of roadway
- Consider ways to improve corridor connectivity between Fanwood & adjoining communities
  - Encourage non-auto connectivity
- Explore use of street murals, medallions, and other items to “brand” Fanwood

Branding mural example from Ocean City, NJ
Recommendations

- Further study of improvements to Train Station area such as:
  - Relocate museum in historic train station to library
  - Explore partners for re-use of historic train station building
  - Consider replacement of south side train station building with coordinated redevelopment of south side parking area
  - Improve pedestrian connectivity across railroad trains at station
Questions/Comments?