

4.8.08 COLUMBUS BRAINSTORM

What are the major problems/issues facing the city?

1. **The Need for Better Public Transportation**
 - Street cars
 - Develop areas without considering how to incorporate transportation
- Zoning issues
 - Everybody wants somebody else to pay for it
 1. You want it but you didn't vote for it
2. **Affordable Housing in the core of the city**
 - Priced out young professionals and first time home buyers - condos are in the \$300,000 range
 - Lack of mixing rental with ownership
 - Market is there but the developers are not meeting the demand for rental options downtown.
3. **Downtown competes and loses to municipalities**
 - its harder to pass issues and zoning because of the bureaucracy downtown versus the suburbs
 1. example - Dublin Ohio is getting it right
 - Competing instead of working together
4. **Arts and Culture**
 - Arts are struggling against the Buckeye football
5. **Need for a Brand**
 - Who are we? What do we have to offer to YP's

Solutions

- As future developments are consider
- Informational sessions and keep momentum going on the 2012 Commission.
 - ii. Educating the public on what Columbus is going to be like for the Bicentennial
 - iii. Help everyone share the vision of what the city is exploring

Solutions for Public Transportation

- a. Portland, New York, Boston, Chicago are doing it right
- b. Light rail from Cincinnati to Columbus to Cleveland.

Solutions for Affordable Housing

- a. Rent to Own Options - Baby steps toward purchasing your new home
- b. LifeStyles Communities Condos have been a success in the suburbs are now building downtown and relocating their headquarters to downtown.

4. In a Dream World what would we do?

- a. Light rail to Cincinnati to Columbus to Cleveland
- b. Light rail from the suburbs into the city
- c. Go Back into history and rethink the early city planning preventing the suburban sprawl

- d. Better convention center, hotels, and retail options in the downtown area to attract major conventions.

Prioritizing

1. Public Transportation

What would it mean if, in twenty years, Columbus were healthy. What would that look like?

A vibrant downtown that is connected with its surrounded communities via public transportation making Columbus one large community.

REPLY FROM FLINT

Observations

Columbus's problem don't stem from poverty issues like our's

We are in 2 different stratasphere's!

Columbus would love our cultural center

We are far behind Columbus in catering to yp's

Flint has strong identity (for better or for worse!), Columbus should embrace their buckeye heritage!

Sports & culture can co-exist

Columbus can use one lane of interstate for mass transit

Maybe we can implement some sort of mass transit here (outside of the bus)

Light rail is a magnet for sprawl, look at land use plan first