

# Public Meeting 1 – Summary of Comments

## Open Space and Community Facilities

- › Call for more open space, pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the SBD (public green spaces, city gardens, public restrooms, recycling and garbage cans; bike racks, bike lanes)
- › Need for a welcome sign and welcome center, specifically at the corner at Front Street and Washington Avenue, along with other wayfinding measures. Current welcome sign is outdated.
- › Kingston needs to provide more affordable shopping and restaurants to support current residents, not just tourists (examples include pay what you want cafes, zero-waste groceries, locally resourced clothing stores)
- › Looking for a maker space/possibility studios (space for kids and adults to learn)
- › Academy Green is an underutilized park in need of improvement, including tables and lighting/more of a community square/long term planning
- › The Fireman’s Hall needs restoration
- › Address lack of mental health care facilities/safe use spaces (note to see Alms House proposal)
- › Night life and stores should stay open later, and would be interested in a theater and galleries, indoor and outdoor music venues, live theater
- › Interested in seeing a map of Kingston with landmarks etc. by local artists.
- › Support for the Pike Plan/Call to fix the canopies Versus call to take down the Pike Plan
- › Support for upgrading the facilities at Dietz Stadium and becoming ADA compliant
- › Favorite Places in Kingston: BSP, LGBTQ Community Center, Outdated Café, Forsyth Nature Center, The Yoga Center, The Farmers Market, Red Goat, Library, hiking trails, Pool, Boys and Girls Club

## Transportation and Mobility

- › Support for more bus stops/higher frequency service and Sunday service
- › Support for a bike-sharing / car-sharing program / safe bicycle facilities / bicycle infrastructure / sinkhole repairs
- › Protected bike lanes
- › Sidewalks are uneven and not maintained / owners need assistance from the City to maintain
- › Call for better public transit between Uptown and Rondout/Midtown
- › Need to preserve Uptown parking spots for visitors, not county employees / Call for free overnight parking for residents / more parking is needed in general
- › Taxi service is unreliable
- › Safety concerns at the entrance to Kingston Plaza / intersection of Greenkill and Route 32

- › Reassess stop signs/crosswalks/signage/traffic signals to increase efficiency and safety / divert truck traffic
- › Rush-hour congestion and need better access to Kingston Plaza
- › I-587 needs a road diet and direct access to Kingston Plaza
- › Bus station needs upgrading and more parking

### **Business and the Economy**

- › Tourism needs support and a city-wide plan or marketing plan. Tourists need amenities like bathrooms and signage
- › Retail businesses need more foot traffic and bike traffic
- › Encourage worker-owned coops
- › Develop a day trip transportation for tourists from NYC
- › Need support for businesses owned/run by minorities and businesses that are struggling to start up/small businesses/rent stabilization for small businesses
- › Keep affordable businesses Uptown/too much progression of affordable businesses replaced by higher end shops and restaurants
- › Public wifi would bring opportunities to more people
- › Study the growth of tech and creative industries/would like to see these industries grow/attract a big job center like Google or Amazon
- › Kingston has the potential to become a regional hub for science and medical/public health/education
- › Kingston residents need jobs that pay and provide benefits, not just service jobs for tourists
- › Support for social services, affordable programs for children with special needs, after school programs, health services, non-for profits
- › Need a more vibrant night life that stays open later
- › Need for work/share spaces
- › Need for a Film TV Sound Stage
- › Empower historic preservation groups versus need to prioritize jobs over aesthetics
- › Lower Central Hudson flat rate – utility expenses are high and hurting businesses. It is the highest rate in the State
- › Community solar project/community sharing resources/green jobs
- › Maintain historic resources/preserve the historic character of the area

### **Housing**

- › Better support for the elderly to age in place/senior home sharing
- › Call for a homestead/non-homestead tax structure
- › Taxes are high but earning power is low, meaning it is not affordable

- › Affordable housing IN UPTOWN, not on the outskirts of the City, including affordable homes as opposed to apartments, explore shared equity models, subsidized housing
- › Many comments expressing concerns about gentrification and affordability
- › Limit AirBNB
- › Need to attract more quality builders or professionals for renovating homes
- › Large need for housing, including outside of Uptown and middle-income housing
- › Code enforcement is needed
- › Need mixed use as-of-right regulations
- › Work on easements and maintenance of public structures attached to private residents

### **Visions Statement Comments**

- › Connecting disparate parts of town
- › Love the Pike Plan / Fix it or Take it Down
- › More attractive welcome for bus and drivers at the bus station with parking and access to Frog Alley
- › New Sidewalks
- › Help small businesses over private development
- › Figure out parking / charge more for parking during peak times
- › Co-working spaces and maker spaces
- › Job Growth
- › Bikes and Walking – Mobility w/o cars / Walkable, connected City
- › Business should not determine culture
- › Affordable Housing/ Senior Housing
- › Support for infrastructure and Water Department
- › Bring citizens with different interests together
- › More representation from women and minorities
- › What is "future growth"?
- › Maintain diversity of socio-economic status among residents
- › Support equity needs clarification
- › Diversity and opportunity for all of Kingston, not just Uptown. Development that serves the City, not just tourists and the wealthy
- › Expand retail diversity/multiplicity so there is more of a reason to visit the district
- › Make sure the plan supports the entire city – no trickle-down impacts
- › Comprehensive communication mechanism
- › Fix the tax structure
- › Mission statement should include enhancing the value of Kingston's historic resources