

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Task Force concentrated on items with a likelihood of implementation, aligning the desired action items with the best possible long-term future. From this viewpoint, a series of short-term recommendations emerged, defined as those items that can be implemented in the next five years.

SHORT-TERM GOALS

Optimizing Land Use

- DCP will promote a new land use policy that encourages the growth and expansion of the food-related industry while seeking to protect the adjacent residential neighborhood. This new policy will discourage the expansion of waste-related uses in sensitive areas.
- The remaining vacant parcels within the Food Distribution Center will be marketed by NYCEDC to attract new food-distribution/manufacturing companies and ancillary services for the food markets.
- The City will work with the Produce Market on plans to redevelop its antiquated market into a more competitive and environmentally-friendly facility.
- To further encourage compliance with environmental standards and regulations, the City will develop a business education campaign.
- Depending on the final recommendations of the forthcoming Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, NYCEDC and the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) will work with the Task Force to identify a re-use plan for the Marine Transfer Station site.
- To promote the productive reuse of vacant, underutilized or contaminated sites, the City will apprise community and business organizations of brown-field programs and grant opportunities, publicize financing tools that can assist in remediating contamination, and encourage participation in New York State's Brownfield Cleanup Program.

Workforce

- SBS will take the lead in funding and developing Hunts Point Works, a new employment and training demonstration project in Hunts Point. Hunts Point Works ("the center") will be managed by HPEDC.
- Hunts Point Works will serve as a liaison between local job seekers and businesses. For businesses, the center will recruit and screen potential employees and coordinate training programs. For job seekers, the center will provide assessment, referrals to training, job placement assistance and other services.
- Community-based organizations (CBOs) and other community partners will play a central role in this program, both in referring individuals to the center for services and in receiving referrals from the center for training and other services. The center will also work extensively with the Bronx Workforce 1 Career Center.

Creating Connections

- Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC) will pursue the implementation of a commuter van service to improve the connection between local residents and workforce opportunities.
- The City will continue to work with the MTA to provide new bus service in Hunts Point, particularly in the western-most sector of the peninsula.
- Gateways at the major entry-points to the peninsula are planned as part of

NYCEDC's streetscape implementation project. This will be done in coordination with HPEDC and Greening for Breathing.

- In addition to the two new parks—Riverside Park and Barretto Point Park—that are being developed on the waterfront by New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (City Parks), the Task Force identified a third priority site for waterfront access—at the southern-most tip of the peninsula. The implementation of these waterfront improvements will be done through City Parks and NYCEDC's South Bronx Greenway project.
- NYCDOT will improve crossings to the new waterfront parks under construction.

Traffic Safety & Efficiency

- NYCEDC, in coordination with NYCDOT, will make the streetscapes and sidewalks more pedestrian-friendly by improving lighting, landscaping and paving surfaces.
- NYCDOT and NYPD will redirect truck routes to provide both a more efficient and safer circulation pattern.
- NYCDOT will reconfigure and make improvements to critical intersections.
- NYCEDC, in coordination with NYCDOT, will pursue implementation of large truck way-finding signs.
- NYCEDC will pursue the reconfiguration of Food Center Drive to allow for intersection improvements, one-way circulation and a new bike lane.

LONG-TERM GOALS

Long-term recommendations—those that will take six to 20 years to implement—continue the effort of the short-term goals in addressing transportation, green space, waterfront development and economic growth.

Long-term transportation solutions in Hunts Point depend greatly upon whether the Bruckner/Sheridan Interchange project, overseen by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), is implemented. The Bruckner and Sheridan expressways are the major traffic arteries running adjacent to the peninsula, and they play a vital role in the inbound and outbound movement of people and goods. The construction of a direct highway link from the expressways to Hunts Point is perhaps the most critical infrastructure project in shaping Hunts Point's future. It is recommended that the Bruckner/Sheridan project be expedited at all levels—community, borough and citywide.

The Hunts Point Task Force strongly stated its interest in developing the Hunts Point waterfront into an asset for residents and businesses alike. Recommended actions include the commitment to completing both the Bronx River and the South Bronx greenways, and to constructing a pedestrian bridge between Hunts Point and Soundview Park. Additionally, many community and business members stated that they would like the City to eventually close or relocate the Marine Transfer Station and the Prison Barge.

In an effort to promote economic growth in line with the City's 20-year Vision Plan, opportunities to redevelop Oak Point, grow the Food Distribution Center and attract new food-related and eco-industrial businesses should be vigorously explored.