**West Side Flats Stakeholder Meetings**

**Common Themes/Comments**

**Community Identity**

* The current WSF Master Plan is seen as a West Side community-based plan rather than a downtown neighborhood plan.
* The West Side’s broad cultural mix and history should be reflected in multiple ways in the WSF, including physical design, open spaces, types of businesses, economic development and neighborhood identity opportunities.
* Crime is an issue to be dealt with through better design of streets and buildings.
* More interest in fine-grained projects rather than large-scale projects (ie. WSF Apartments vs. The Bridges).
* Places for people to live, work and play here.
* Connecting the existing neighborhoods to the river.
* Retain and grow job opportunities in WSF.

**Land Use**

* There is a desire to see future multi-family affordable housing in the WSF area.
* Preserve and grow employment opportunities in the WSF area.
* Community gardens/urban agriculture should be considered.
* Buildings along the levee/riverfront should incorporate active ground level uses (entertainment, retail, restaurant) and publicly accessible outdoor spaces.
* Places for people to live, work and play here.
* Existing industrial buildings are increasingly outdated and difficult for business expansions.
* More commercial and entertainment land uses along the riverfront.

**Built Form**

* More interest in fine-grained projects rather than large-scale projects (ie. WSF Apartments vs. The Bridges).
* Preserving river, downtown skyline and bluff views are important.
* Community understands the desire/need for dense development in the WSF.
* Building height is a sensitive issue to be addressed in the master plan.
* The Flats are seen as an extension of the West Side neighborhood to the river rather than an extension of downtown.
* Historic traditional street grid should be restored.
* Critical Area regulations should be considered.
* Development in the river valley should be human scale.
* The WSF master plan needs to be flexible enough to encourage new and denser redevelopment without negatively impacting existing businesses.
* Better design and management of parking areas.

**Movement**

* Need to define the future role/character/structure of Wabasha and Robert Streets.
* Quality, convenient transit services are needed in the WSF area.
* Enhance connectivity through the WSF, local and regional, walking and biking.
* Parking is an important issue to resolve. Free parking in the Flats is seen as an asset.
* The lack of transit options is seen as a detriment to current businesses.
* WSF/Riverview is not an easily accessible location and not very visible.
* Consider future transit hubs at Wabasha/Fillmore and Robert Fillmore
* Consider vertical circulation from Robert St Bridge to river esplanade.
* Provide better connections between bluff neighborhoods and flats area.
* Provide better connections between WSF and downtown attractions.

**Public Realm**

* Enhance connectivity through the WSF, local and regional, walking and biking.
* Robert and Wabasha Streets need to be made more pedestrian-friendly.
* Restore an urban forest/tree canopy by planting trees in the river valley.
* Outdoor spaces along the riverfront should be publicly accessible.
* Consider Raspberry Island as part of the West Side Flats.
* Public realm should reflect the cultural diversity of the West Side community.

**Sustainability (environment, economic, social equity)**

* Preserve and grow employment opportunities in the WSF area. Consider life-cycle business opportunities (startups and well-established businesses)
* The West Side’s broad cultural mix and history should be reflected in new development opportunities.
* Incorporate cultural connections through design.
* There is a desire to see future multi-family affordable housing in the WSF area.
* Community gardens/urban agriculture should be considered.
* Maintain the integrity of the levee.
* Restore an urban forest/tree canopy by planting trees in the river valley.
* Consider the benefits of green roofs for future buildings in WSF area.
* Address potential flood events through design of buildings and infrastructure.
* The cost of environmental cleanup of contaminated soils is seen as a barrier to development.
* The cost of geotechnical construction required by poor soils is seen as a barrier to development.
* Consider green infrastructure/stormwater management strategies.
* Energy efficient design of buildings and infrastructure.