

2nd Avenue Listening Session

2/17 Session Notes

Moderator: Cyril Stewart

Note Taker: Melody Gibson/Katherine Herrmann

Introductions of each participant and what brings them to meeting (5 mins.)

Shara Taylor, MDHA

Brian McCormick, Snuff Shop Business Owner

Tim Walker, Metro Historical Commission

Tom Turner

Melody Gibson, Civil Design Center (?)

Ellen Mrazek, member of the public

Cyril Stewart, Historical Comm. Task Force

Katherine Herrmann, Metro Planner 3

Do you have a favorite memory/experience from the 2nd Avenue area? (10 mins.)

- Ellen: 2nd Ave. was the very first place she ever visited when coming to TN with friends. Never forgot it!
- Tim: Good childhood memories of Spaghetti Factory with family and friends.
- Cyril: 2nd Avenue was the place people would go in Nashville to shop in the 1980s.
- Katherine: Lived in Nashville as a child; moved to Ohio and moved back 23 years ago. Missed visiting Spaghetti Factory for birthday parties on 2nd Avenue.

What makes the 2nd Avenue area unique? What are key characteristics to keep in mind as we move forward (12 mins.)

- Feeling of the structures
- Facades
- Building scale
- Streetscape makes you feel like you can be a part of the city. Likes the trees, facade, street-front buildings, oriented to pedestrian, welcoming to shoppers. Draws you in instead of intimidates.
- Unique mix of where the past meets the present.
- Walkability
- Not as crowded as Broadway

The feel and scale of the historic buildings; architecture of old buildings; walkability of street draws people in; other downtowns are often intimidating, but 2nd Avenue welcomes you to walk and shop; trees and streetscape; interesting building façades; unique and unlike any other downtown in America.

What changes could make the 2nd Avenue area a better place? (12 mins.)

- Limit automobile traffic during peak times
- More engaging streetfront facade for AT&T building
- Designated places for Uber and Lyft
- Taller building where Grumpy's is that reflect historic architecture
- Better connection to the river both line of sight and physical access
- Something more aesthetically appealing with the parking garage
- Missing tooth at 2nd and Church
- Better quality street trees
- Lighting in upper windows
- Cobblestones to slow down traffic

Limit traffic on weekends; add designated Uber pick-up and drop-off area; improve appearance of AT&T building with better architecture and façade materials; add mural to AT&T building side along 2nd Ave; remove parking lots; remove parking garage; improve sidewalks and remove metal grates; improve scale of smaller buildings so they blend in with other building (Grumpy's Bail Bonds); provide connection to riverfront; upper-story lighting of buildings, cobblestone street, add public bathroom.

What would you like to be able to experience in the 2nd Avenue area? Do you have any thoughts on opportunities or aspirations to consider? (12 mins.)

- Street closed to traffic especially at peak hours
- Experience the riverfront
- Public space with seating
- Live music in the streets
- Local artists
- More unique places for locals
- Short-term parking only
- Technology for curb access
- Uber/Lyft pick-up zones or don't allow them at all
- Designated bus lane
- Bring the free circuit back

Outdoor dining under twinkle lights; added bus lane; designate as an open container area; provide more unique shops and restaurants-no more chain restaurants; live music on street; maintain vibe of 2nd Avenue different from Broadway.

What do you think are the biggest obstacles to overcome? (12 mins.)

- Property owners and insurance companies
- Difference between what insurance is willing to pay and what property owners need
- Metro's financial situation - need the money to invest

Lots of government red tape; permit approvals will be required from several different government bodies/departments which could slow down rebuilding process; issues with property owners not agreeing on what should be rebuilt and what buildings should look like; issues with insurance companies and litigation slowing down reconstruction; increased taxes to help pay for reconstruction.

How should this area feel in relation to the river? (10 mins.)

2nd Ave. needs to be connected to river with multiple access points; provided clear signage; provide views of riverfront from 2nd Avenue; the riverfront is an asset that we aren't taking full advantage of now.

What did we not ask you that you would like to discuss more or learn more about? (8 mins.)

How will redevelopment of 2nd Avenue effect our homeless population along 1st Avenue and the riverfront? How do we address these issues?
(Asked participants to complete on-line survey.)