

Fenkell Ave Corridor Action Plan: Community Engagement Summary

The recent community meeting on the [Fenkell Ave Corridor Action Plan](#) brought together residents, community leaders, faith-based organizations, and City representatives to discuss ongoing efforts and future commitments for improving the corridor. The meeting emphasized collaboration, economic development, youth engagement, safety, and infrastructure improvements. Community members expressed appreciation for the City's focus on this corridor, acknowledging that this micro-corridor study has provided much-needed attention to an area that has long sought investment and support.

- **Collaboration and Advocacy**
An elected official underscored the importance of collaboration and advocacy, commending the efforts of community members and organizations working to enhance the corridor. These efforts were recognized as essential to securing the resources and improvements needed for long-term success.
- **Economic Development and Retail Diversity**

The first comment raised at the meeting stressed the importance of economic development, with a specific focus on increasing retail diversity along the corridor. Residents expressed a strong desire to attract businesses that meet the community's needs and improve commercial vibrancy.

- **Youth Engagement and Opportunities**
A youth summit was suggested as an opportunity, and the Planning & Development Department (PDD) is supporting efforts to launch a Fenkell Area Youth Summit in partnership with New Life Family Church and other local organizations to help ensure young people are meaningfully engaged in shaping the future of their neighborhood.
- **Appreciation for City's Attention, Funding Concerns**
Residents expressed gratitude that the City is focusing on the corridor and acknowledged that this action plan is a step in the right direction. However, they also stressed that additional funding is needed to sustain improvements and implement meaningful changes.
- **Cleanliness and Activities for Youth**
A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the importance of maintaining cleanliness along the

corridor and creating more youth-friendly activities. Residents called for structured programs and recreational spaces that can serve as safe and positive gathering points for young people.

- **The Role of Community in Driving Change**

A local faith leader emphasized that revitalization efforts require a village approach, highlighting that the community, City, and local organizations must work together to make meaningful progress.

- **Vacant Lots and Neighborhood Beautification**

Residents raised concerns about **vacant lots** and their impact on neighborhood aesthetics and safety. The City responded with commitments from the **General Services Department (GSD)** to maintain vacant lots and encouraged residents to explore purchasing side lots through the **Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA)**. Faith leaders also offered their spaces for collaborative efforts aimed at improving neighborhood conditions.

- **Infrastructure and Street Resurfacing Concerns**

Residents noted that recent street resurfacing has led to drainage issues, causing flooding in certain areas. The City acknowledged

these concerns and committed to connecting with the **Department of Public Works (DPW)** and the **Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD)** to explore solutions.

- **City Budget and Funding for the Corridor**

An elected official highlighted the upcoming budget season, stating that community priorities must be uplifted to secure funding for infrastructure and other necessary improvements.

- **Commitments to Safety and Neighborhood Engagement**

A resident emphasized that safety must remain a top priority, particularly as it relates to deterring youth crime and addressing truancy. They also shared efforts to maintain open spaces for the neighborhood, despite facing challenges such as repeated lawn damage and stolen fencing. The City responded by encouraging residents and neighborhood groups to pursue grants through the [Neighborhood Beautification Program](#) and exploring alternatives such as boulders instead of fencing to maintain accessibility while enhancing security.

- **Support for Beautification and Green Space**

A local resident who previously purchased land through DLBA raised concerns about vandalism and requested additional boulders for protection. The City committed to making a request through GSD to provide these materials for improved site security.

- **Faith-Based Organizations as Partners**

Local faith-based institutions reaffirmed their willingness to host community meetings and youth programs, encouraging collaboration among organizations to strengthen resources and outreach. Additionally, partnerships with initiatives like **Life Remodeled at Durfee Innovation Society** were highlighted as valuable opportunities for engagement.

- **Strengthening Community Networks**

Local organizations, including **the DeSoto Ellsworth Block Association (DEBA) and the Fenkell Business Association (FBA)**, continue to meet regularly and are seeking broader community participation. Block clubs were also identified as essential partners in ongoing efforts to enhance neighborhood engagement.

- **Crime Prevention and Environmental Improvements**

Residents are encouraged to report problems and concerns by contacting their District Managers—**Kim Tandy (District 2)** at tandyk@detroitmi.gov or (313) 236-3494, and **Alexia Davis (District 7)** at alexia.davis@detroitmi.gov or (313) 236-3516. Additionally, issues such as illegal dumping, blight, or property maintenance can also be submitted directly through the City's online reporting system at [SeeClickFix](#).

- **Commitment to Continued Collaboration**

In response to a question about how often stakeholders should convene, the community collectively decided to meet monthly to track progress and maintain momentum. The City committed to supporting these ongoing engagements and working alongside residents and business owners to ensure the successful implementation of the Fenkell Ave Corridor Action Plan.

Conclusion

The meeting reinforced a shared commitment to revitalizing the Fenkell Ave Corridor through collaborative action,


economic growth, youth engagement, and infrastructure improvements. The City and community stakeholders will continue working together to secure resources, implement improvements, and create a safer, more vibrant corridor for all.

Community Resources & Contacts – Fenkell Ave Corridor (Districts 2 & 7)

Department of Neighborhoods (DON) – District Manager Contacts


District 2 – Kim Tandy, District Manager

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Planning & Development Department (PDD) – West Design Region

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**West Design Region – Dave Walker,
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 **PDD West Design Region Webpage:**
detroitmi.gov/pdd-west

 **Helpful Community
Resources**

- **SeeClickFix – Report Dumping, Blight, or Maintenance Issues**
<https://seeclickfix.com/detroit>
- **Neighborhood Beautification Grant (Detroit 608 Grant Portal)**
<https://detroitmi.gov/nbg>
- **City of Detroit – Department of Neighborhoods**
<https://detroitmi.gov/don>
- **City of Detroit – Property Search & Ownership Info**
<https://detroitmi.gov/How-Do-I/>
- **District Information & Maps**

<https://detroitmi.gov/webapp/inter-active-district-map>