

Cesar Chavez Robert Street Development Planning Community Engagement Discussion - 2011

What is your vision for the Robert and Cesar Chavez intersection?

An active, vibrant, beautiful place...

- *Something dazzling at the intersection.*
- *Coop with offices above, European - design.*
- *Grouping of restaurants, vitality, height and physical beauty.*
- *Astor site. Major post-secondary educational institution. Visual arts college. Arts school focus. Studio & gallery space that would be shared resource. Public art in plaza spaces.*
- *Businesses retail convenience outlet (drugstore, laundry, bakery) An oasis of culture, arts, and business. Places to serve youth; businesses that cater to youth.*

A safe, secure place...

- *Safe pedestrian access & crossing*
- *Slowing down cars*
- *Transit stop at congress – organization of development*
- *Redevelopment at Astor Theater will generate more peds*
- *What to do - "3" streets - retain access to develop site*
- *Senior usage at Astor Theater*
- *Pedestrian refuge on all 4 intersections at R/CC*
- *Sidewalk improvements between CC/George*

A green, natural, rooted place....

- *River valley / bluff area exposed & cultivated / outreach*
- *Gateway to community -> betterment & beautification*
- *Aesthetic / public art integration -> local artists*
- *Public / community gardens through art*
- *Viaduct greenway opportunity for redevelopment*
- *Needs to be local / resident focused*
- *Need anchoring neighborhood or speciality boutiques / stores*
- *Access to parks, benches / eating areas in green areas*

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What physical changes would encourage walking in District del Sol?

Measures to calm traffic...

- *Slowing the traffic along Cesar Chavez and also Robert Street.*
- *Culture on the streets to slow traffic (Portland, OR)*
- *Street changes – traffic calming*
- *Define the pedestrian realm – the sidewalk gets lost*
- *Pedestrian crossing buttons needed at Jerry's auto-service*
- *Extending walking lights*
- *Crossing signs in Spanish & English*
- *Pedestrian crossing signs... better driver awareness*

Improvements to the Pedestrian Experience...

- Small plaza areas are very appealing
- Green space is pretty but the walk is long
- Benches, vending machines, public water fountain
- Wider sidewalks, level sidewalks, clearer sidewalks
- More lighting for night

Aesthetic Enhancements to the Public Realm...

- Visual aesthetic/ public art
- Murals -- promote, celebrate, attract more people
- Snoopies... something unique in District del Sol
- Add more colors to the area

Activities to Attract People...

- More things for people to do, like events and community projects. Opportunities to see public art as you walk in District del Sol.
- Places to sit and enjoy natural areas with family
- Lemonade stands randomly
- More small shops, more art

Repair and Maintenance...

- Less trash, nicer weather; fix up empty buildings
- Put in new sidewalks or repair cracks and damages
- Clean, weed-free sidewalks

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In what ways would a commuter express bus stop at the intersection of Cesar Chavez and Robert change your perception of this place?

More active, more connected...

- Transit Station, attract nice businesses
- Easier to get to. More people might show up. It'd be busier and more populated.
- More people may come to the intersection, or when riding by something may catch someone's eye.
- Nice for westsider to catch a bus to West Saint Paul.
- It would diversity the west Side.

More congested, more problems...

- Exacerbates the present problem.
- It would mess up traffic. There's already a lot of bus stops around here.
- Smashed windows
- Issue if it doesn't stop for residents; high capacity traffic without access to transportation.
- Why?

Other thoughts...

- Must transform either side of Cesar Chavez to make people want to stop.
- Move express bus to Isabel and Robert St. with Park & Ride.
- Bike racks
- Impacts on pedestrian flows and safety.
- Traffic calming technique option investigation.
- No wind shelter. Just needs more places for bus stops, and walk-ways

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What would make Robert and Cesar Chavez a unique destination that people would return to again and again?

Add venues attractive to youth...

- Night life - clubs
- Coffee shops
- GLBT places
- Rec Center
- Dancing places
- Places for bands to perform
- Music/entertainment venue thing in the empty building
- Arcade with laser tag, skating rink, fun zone

Add venues attractive to adults...

- Playgrounds buit for adult sized people,
- Theater, murals,west side cultural center, restaurants with terrace to view downtown skyline.
- Art, movie venues, clubs family-owned stores
- Playgrounds buit for adult sized people,

More ideas...

- International community: Oakland, CA pilot
- Inspiration for businesses & residents & others... restaurants with Native American & global focus.
- Representation of historic presence... architecture, community history, natural & ecological resources.
- Educational opportunities throuhgout the neighborhood.
- Connections to community and gardens, farmers.
- Statues
- Festive, bold buildings
- Unique park in place of the demolished building

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Where do you do most of your grocery shopping?

Rainbow

Byerlys

Riwds

El Burrito (mentioned 5 times)

BC Square Bread

West Saint Paul strip

Outside of West Side... coops, etc. Try to shop local

Coopers, Mississippi Market

Nothing here to shop at with produce, local food, etc.

Coops because community based, selection of products, access to local, organic products.