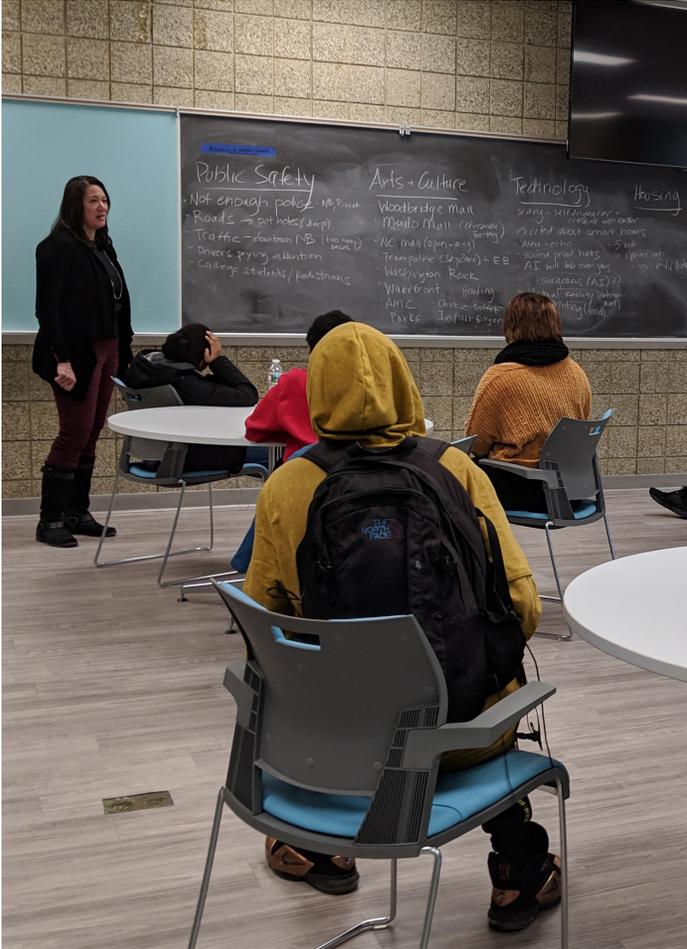


DESTINATION 2040

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ♦ NJ
MASTER PLAN



Destination 2040 Phase 2 Outreach March-April 2019

Summary of Outreach to High School Students

Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School, Piscataway Campus
Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School, East Brunswick Campus
Carteret High School

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Introduction

Middlesex County is interested in obtaining feedback from a variety of people, including the county's youth for Destination 2040, the update of their master plan, since they represent potential and hopeful future residents, employees and/or students of Middlesex County. Rutgers Public Outreach and Engagement Team (POET) facilitated discussions with high school teenagers in Middlesex County to solicit information to inform the county on what topics are most important to them. Using the *Set the Table!* kit as a guide for the discussion, Rutgers POET engaged with teenagers from three high schools within the county: Middlesex County Vocational & Technical School in Piscataway, Middlesex County Vocational & Technical School in East Brunswick and Carteret High School.

Phase 1 of the Public Engagement Plan for Destination 2040 included general outreach to the public at events, feedback boxes at libraries throughout Middlesex County and online asking what they like and what they would change about the county. Phase 2 outreach involves more detail feedback on twelve specific elements or topics of the master plan (arts & culture, economic opportunity, environment, historic preservation, housing, land use & development, parks & open spaces, public health, public safety, public services & facilities, technology & innovation, and transportation).

Recruitment

Using professional contact information from the county and Rutgers POET, various high schools throughout Middlesex County were called to host one classroom period to discuss priorities and ideas for Destination 2040. After numerous calls and follow up emails, Rutgers POET was able to secure participation from Middlesex County Vocational & Technical High School at both Piscataway and East Brunswick campuses, which pulls students not only within those municipalities but also from surrounding municipalities (e.g. Edison, South River, etc) and from Carteret High School. At all three schools, students were selected by the contact person at the school (teacher) to participate in the discussion, and they were pulled out of their regularly scheduled class for one classroom period of approximately 45-50 minutes.

Format for Discussions

Rutgers POET staff facilitated discussions with high school students during a regular class period in which the teacher was also present throughout each discussion. To begin the discussion, students were asked to introduce themselves, indicate what town they live in and what year in high school they currently are. No names were written down for research purposes, mainly just for the Rutgers POET facilitators who led the discussion. Three to four "Food for Thought" cards (facts and figures about Middlesex County) were passed out to each of the students, who were asked to read the cards that were randomly passed to them and pick one card that was most interesting to them to read out loud to the group. These facts stimulated discussion about which of the five out of possible twelve topics, which included housing, land use & development, economic opportunity, environment, arts & culture, transportation, public health, parks & open space, historic preservation, public services & facilities, technology & innovation, and public safety. Topics were displayed and read in no particular order and by a show of hands and majority vote, five topics from each high school discussion were selected for further discussion and feedback. At Carteret High School, which had a large number of student participants, the class was broken up into two groups, each covered six topics randomly selected, and discussions for each group were facilitated separately by Rutgers POET staff.

Lessons Learned

High School students understood the format of the discussion and were actively engaged during the activity. Some students were more vocal than others and a concerted effort was made to try to engage with all of the students. Smaller groups of students (10 and less) were easier to engage in the activity, because it was more of a casual, less formal format and students felt more comfortable participating. Carteret High School had a large number of students (about 20) and breaking them up into two groups made discussions more manageable and all topics were able to be discussed.

At all three schools, the contact person at the respective high school (teacher/adviser) selected the students to participate in the discussion, presumably to eliminate facilitators from having to discipline or manage potentially disruptive students. All of the students who participated were both respectful and engaging in the classroom activity.

In the instances where topics were selected through a show of hands and majority vote, students had more difficulty determining which topics and in some cases there were ties which took more time. Pre-selecting topics would have been easier and less time consuming as was the case at Carteret. One class period time of 45-55 minutes was sufficient for five topics.

Lastly, although the students understood the classroom activity, the questions that were asked and the fact questions, they were unsure how the Master Plan process works and how their feedback is incorporated into it. In fact, at Carteret High School, a few students were interested in being part of a student advisory group for the county to participate in the master plan process, either as a volunteer or possible intern.

Summary of Topics Discussed

At two of the high schools that participated in the facilitated outreach discussion, the students picked five topics for further discussion. Since there was a large number of students participating at Carteret High School, the students were broken up into two groups and each group covered six topics, covering all 12 topics.

Technology & Innovation: Students indicated feeling both a sense of excitement and worry about existing and future innovations such as artificial intelligence, 3D printing, and smart homes. Students have access to reliable internet, if not at home they have access at school, however they wanted a more robust internet network. Students discussed a variety of existing technology important to them, including high-quality cameras, increasing use of tablets, and fuel-efficient vehicles. Students also noted a number of exciting new technologies, including driverless vehicles and smart homes, but also have privacy concerns. Students expressed a desire for more software training in school.

Arts & Culture: Students gave examples of places in Middlesex County that they frequently visit or enjoy, such as malls, restaurants, and parks. Students

Selected Topics by Frequency

Topic	Frequency of Selection
1. Technology & Innovation	3
2. Arts & Culture	3
3. Public Safety	3
4. Land Use & Development	2
5. Housing	2
6. Public Health	2
7. Environment	2
8. Parks and Open Spaces	1
9. Economic Opportunity	1
10. Transportation	1
11. Historic Preservation	1
12. Public Services & Facilities	1

noted a number of parks in Middlesex County that offer opportunities for socializing and recreation, including Buccleuch Park, Kennedy Park, Butterfly Park, and Merrill Park. However, students also expressed a desire for more places for young people to gather, especially during the winter. Students would also like to see more opportunities to create art like public murals, as well as more community events including street fairs. Many would also like to more and better arts programs in school.

Public Safety: Students mainly discussed road safety issues such as potholes, bus traffic, distracted driving, car crashes, better street and sidewalk lighting and pedestrian safety. Students were also concerned about other public safety concerns such as home and vehicle break-ins, stalking and cyberstalking. Students also noted a need for greater police presence in certain communities, as well as better relationships between law enforcement and the community. Some noted that a collaboration between law enforcement and community members, especially youth.

Land Use & Development: Students expressed a desire for more natural open spaces for recreation and exercise. Additionally, students wanted more lively downtowns with mixed-use development, retail and restaurants. Students noted that while some places in the area are walkable, many are not, which poses a problem for those without cars. Some students proposed a pedestrian bridge to connect Carteret and West Carteret.

Housing: Students prioritized being near job opportunities within their chosen field, and near family while others prioritized peace and quiet. Students discussed the need for more affordable housing in the area, noting it is often too expensive for most residents. They also feel that housing is located too far from shopping.

Public Health: Students agreed that finding fresh healthy food where they live is difficult as they would need to drive. They noted the need for more farmers' markets and greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Students also discussed the need for more organic and healthy food options, indicating that fast food is often the most convenient choice. They also mentioned the role of exercise and active lifestyles in maintaining good health. Students noted the need for improved reproductive health services and sex education.

Environment: Students expressed concerns over air, water and noise pollution as well as littering. Suggested improvements to the environment include planting more trees, expanding community gardens, promoting composting, and increasing education and awareness on recycling and water quality.

Reports

The attached reports provide detailed answers received from the high school students which were recorded on large post-its or written on white/chalk boards in the classrooms. No names, addresses or other information were collected from any of the high school discussions.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, PISCATAWAY CAMPUS

Date: Monday, March 18, 2019

Location: Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools, Piscataway Campus, 21 Suttons Ln, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Rutgers POET Staff: Trish Sanchez, Lisa Cintron

Event Summary

There were 12 students who participate in the facilities outreach event. All students currently live in Middlesex County and were either juniors or seniors at the high school. Students were selected by the contact person (teacher/adviser) at the high school, and the teacher was present during the entire facilitated discussion. The students selected five topics for further discussion: technology & innovation, arts & culture, land use & development, housing and public safety.



Feedback Summary

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Questions: How do you see technology (such as electric vehicles, smart homes, telecommuting innovations, etc.) changing the way you live, work and get around Middlesex County? Do you have access to reliable, quality internet connectivity at home? What new technologies are you most excited about?

Students indicated feeling both a sense of excitement and worry about existing and future innovations such as artificial intelligence, 3D printing, and smart homes. Students all had access to reliable internet, if not at home they had access at school.

- Scary—self driving car crashed with another
- Excited about smart homes
- Alexa and Echo
- Sound proof walls
- AI will take over jobs
- Surgeons replaced by AI??
- Virtual reality for entertainment
- 3D printing of food

ARTS AND CULTURE

Questions: *What is your favorite thing to do in your area on the weekend? Where is the first place In Middlesex County you would take a new visitor?*

Students gave examples of places in Middlesex County that they frequently visit or enjoy, such as malls, restaurants, and parks.

- Woodbridge Mall
- Menlo Park Mall and Cheesecake Factory
- NC Mall (open and airy)
- Trampolines at Sky Zone in East Brunswick
- Washington Rock
- Waterfront
- AMC
- Parks
- Bowling
- Chinese Buffet
- In-N-Out Burger

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Questions: *Describe your ideal community. Is it important to you to have stores, jobs, and/or recreation within walking and bicycling distance from your home?*

Students discussed their opinions on ideal land uses in the county. They emphasized natural, open spaces, mixed use development, and recreation.

- Garden
- Peace and quiet—no cars in background

- Pool
- Waterpark
- Open trees and space
- Racetrack (cars)
- Walking distance to workshops
- Not all housing—mixed use

HOUSING

Questions: *Do you plan to stay in Middlesex County for the foreseeable future? Why or why not? What is the most important factor for you when choosing a place to live?*

Students named the places they would like to live and what factors determined their choices. Some prioritized being near job opportunities within their chosen field, and near family while others prioritized peace and quiet.

- Be on your own—independence
- Culinary/acting in NY and LA
- NJ boring—go somewhere else
- GA is quiet
- Atlanta, Puerto Rico, FL
- Somewhere with open space, peace, and quiet
- London or CA
- FL has more opportunities for mechanics and pay is better
- Community connections
- Family
- Less traffic and people
- Museums
- Sugar Factory
- Need Disney World/fun places to retire

PUBLIC SAFETY

Questions: *Do you feel safe in your community? What would make you feel safer? What is your greatest safety concern where you live? Are you satisfied with the police presence in your community? Why or why not?*

Students mainly discussed road safety issues such as potholes, bus traffic, distracted driving, and pedestrian safety.

- Not enough police in New Brunswick or Piscataway
- Roads have deep potholes
- Too much traffic, too many buses in downtown New Brunswick
- Drivers paying attention
- College students/pedestrians

MIDDLESEX COUNTY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, EAST BRUNSWICK CAMPUS

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Location: Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools, East Brunswick Campus, 112 Rues Ln, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Rutgers POET Staff: Trish Sanchez, Dan Swain

Event Summary

Rutgers POET staff facilitated a discussion with seven high school students at the East Brunswick campus of Middlesex County Vocational & Technical High School. Students were selected by the contact person at the high school (teacher/adviser) who was also present during the entire facilitated discussion. Students selected lived within Middlesex County and were either juniors or seniors at the high school. Five topics were selected by the students to discuss further: technology & innovation, public health, public safety, arts & culture, and environment.



Feedback Summary

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Questions: How do you see technology (such as electric vehicles, smart homes, telecommuting innovations, etc.) changing the way you live, work and get around Middlesex County? Do you have access to reliable, quality internet connectivity at home? What new technologies are you most excited about?

Students discussed a variety of technology-related topics, including high-quality cameras, increasing use of tablets, and fuel-efficient vehicles. Students also noted the need for a more robust internet network.

- Virtual reality game—feels like someone is teaching you
- New cameras—better quality

- Flexible tablets and phones
- Draw on tablets/art
- Self-lacing shoes
- Bluetooth speakers
- Fuel efficient cars (so as to not waste gas)
- Makes life easier but makes people lazier
- Prosthetic limbs
- Internet slowdown school (steal internet)
- Wait for internet–depends on location
- Shared internet–short times
- Floating shoes, hoverboards
- Flying cars
- Cars change from land/air/water (wheels change)
- Animals speak to you

PUBLIC HEALTH

Questions: *Do you feel it is easy to lead a healthy lifestyle in Middlesex County? What would make it easier?*

Students agreed that finding fresh healthy food where they live is difficult and they would need to drive. They noted the need for more farmers' markets and greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables. They also mentioned the role of exercise and active lifestyles in maintaining good health.

- Hard to find healthy food – farmers' markets and fresh food
- Too many fast food restaurants
- Keeping active/lots of sports
- Fruits, vegetables, exercise

ARTS AND CULTURE

Questions: *What is your favorite thing to do in your area on the weekend? Where is the first place in Middlesex County you would take a new visitor?*

Students noted a number of parks in Middlesex County that offer opportunities for socializing and recreation, including Buccleuch Park, Kennedy Park, Butterfly Park, and Merrill Park. However, students also expressed a desire for more places for young people to gather, especially during the winter. Students would also like to see more opportunities to create art like public murals, as well as more community events including street fairs.

- Games—open world, realistic games
- Painting clubs
- More places to hang for kids—outdoor/indoor (especially during winter)
- More murals—like in New Brunswick (Sayreville)
- Hiking, more trails
- Exploring areas
- Buccleuch Park, New Brunswick
- Kennedy Park
- South River downtown—restaurants
- Butterfly Park (East Brunswick)
- Merrill Park
- Sightseeing and drawing
- Woodbridge Mall/Menlo Park Mall
- Arts projects—drawing and painting
- Bowling
- Street fairs/sports festival (East Brunswick)
- Garage sale on street
- Trampoline park (Woodbridge)
- Urban Air (Milltown)
- Softball, basketball (Boro or EB Tech)

PUBLIC SAFETY

Questions: *Do you feel safe in your community? What would make you feel safer? What is your greatest safety concern where you live? Are you satisfied with the police presence in your community? Why or why not?*

Students discussed a variety of public safety concerns, including distracted driving, home and vehicle break-ins, stalking and cyberstalking. Students also noted a need for greater police presence in certain communities, as well as better relationships between law enforcement and the community.

- Coyotes
- Distracted driving
- Seatbelts
- Pepper spray

- House break-ins
- Car break-ins
- Stalking and cyberstalking
- Not enough police (Sayreville)
- Police take too long to respond
- Woodbridge police don't care, they don't stop doing what they're doing
- Walk to someone's house to say hi

ENVIRONMENT

Questions: *How can the county help make your community more environmentally friendly? What kind of environmental issues (such as pollution, air quality, water quality, etc.) affect where you live and how do they impact your community?*

Students expressed several concerns related to the environment, including littering, water pollution, air pollution, and noise pollution. Students noted a need for more recycling bins to encourage community members to recycle.

- Clean up parks–Bucleuch and St. Peter's
- Picking up trash
- Shells in beaches
- Smells in ocean
- More recycling bins
- More outside activities–no more phones
- Smoking, factories, car emissions
- Water quality
- Too loud in New Brunswick

CARTERET HIGH SCHOOL

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019

Location: Carteret High School, 199 Washington Ave, Carteret, NJ 07008

Rutgers POET Staff: Trish Sanchez, Dan Swain

Event Summary

There were about 20 high school students who participated in the facilitated discussions with Rutgers POET staff. As a result, the class was broken up into two groups of approximately 10 students each – freshmen and sophomores were in one group and juniors and seniors were in the other group. The group of juniors and seniors discussed the following six topics with one Rutgers POET staff member: economic opportunity, land use & development, parks & open spaces, technology & innovation, the environment, and public safety. The other group of freshmen and sophomores discussed the following topics with another Rutgers POET staff member: public health, arts & culture, historic preservation, housing, transportation and public services and facilities. Discussions of the six topics took slightly longer than one class period of 50 minutes and discussions ended after one hour and 15 minutes.

Feedback Summary

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Questions: *What jobs, shopping or recreation opportunities would you like to see in Middlesex County that are not currently abundant here? How can we better prepare students and jobseekers for the workplace?*

Students expressed a desire for more training classes, such as courses in financial life skills, business, or law. Many also noted the difficulty in finding jobs and summer internships in the Carteret area.

- More business courses (B. Law)
- Finance life skills (checkbook, taxes, W2 forms, etc.)
- Manage time wisely
- More jobs for young people (16 years old)
- Partnerships with businesses
- Summer internships
- Have to go outside Carteret to get jobs
- Struggled at college
- Focus is not on academics, uniforms
- ROTC programs don't prepare you for the armed forces
- Young people from NYC should come to MC
- Attract millennials
- Need more entrepreneurs
- Training classes

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Questions: Describe your ideal community. Is it important to you to have stores, jobs, and/or recreation within walking and bicycling distance from your home?

Students expressed a desire for more open space for recreation and exercise. Additionally, students wanted more lively downtowns with retail and restaurants. Students noted that while some places in the area are walkable, many are not, which poses a problem for those without cars. Some students proposed a pedestrian bridge to connect Carteret and West Carteret.

- Open space!
- Exercise
- Building too much housing. Schools are getting crowded
- Need retail
- Downtown—offer more stores, restaurants, diners, IHOP
- Make sure buildings are safe
- New development
- Break down old buildings
- Sports—outdoor/indoor, winter
- Money for redevelopment
- Parking is needed
- Walking to restaurants is fine but need to drive elsewhere
- Good education
- Petting zoos/animals
- Downtown is walkable
- Convenience
- Pedestrian bridge to connect West Carteret and Carteret

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Questions: What activities would you like offered through the county parks system? What is your favorite park, greenway or trail in the county? Why?

Students mentioned several parks in the area that provide opportunities to engage with nature, play sports, and join community events.

- Sewerage – near water, (??)
- Carteret – close
- Johnson Park – animals
- Woodbridge – blind horse!

- Merrill Park
- More animals
- Nature
- Sports – volleyball, tennis
- Each town has a park
- Nicer – fix playgrounds, cleaner
- Waterfront
- Carnivals, movie nights – outdoor

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Questions: *How do you see technology (such as electric vehicles, smart homes, telecommuting innovations, etc.) changing the way you live, work and get around Middlesex County? Do you have access to reliable, quality internet connectivity at home? What new technologies are you most excited about?*

Students noted a number of exciting new technologies, including driverless vehicles and smart homes, but also privacy concerns. Students expressed a desire for more software training, as schools increasingly rely on technology for educational purposes.

- Chromebooks–no more paper
- Internet–spotty, blocked
- WiFi–not just Chromebooks
- Access to blocked sites
- Training on how to use the Microsoft Suite (Google only)
- More EV charging stations
- Solar panels
- Driverless vehicles–scary, crashes
- Bike paths
- Privacy
- Transportation focus–explore NYC, Philly, DC
- Smart homes

ENVIRONMENT

Questions: *How can the county help make your community more environmentally friendly? What kind of environmental issues (such as pollution, air quality, water quality, etc.) affect where you live and how do they impact your community?*

Students expressed concerns over air and water pollution where they live. Suggested improvements to the environment include planting more trees, expanding community gardens, promoting composting, and increasing education and awareness on recycling and water quality.

- Pollution—factories, smells, air pollution
- Water pollution (factories dumping)
- Arthur Kill waterfront—dirty water and trash (wildlife?)
- Clean environment—enforce fines
- More trees!
- Recycling is a joke
- Wildlife preservation (deer)
- Community service in exchange for scholarships
- More animals
- Community gardens
- Petting zoos, dog parks
- Composting
- Education on recycling and water testing and about waterfront
- More nature trips and awareness
- Political power struggles in general

PUBLIC SAFETY

Questions: *Do you feel safe in your community? What would make you feel safer? What is your greatest safety concern where you live? Are you satisfied with the police presence in your community? Why or why not?*

Students noted a variety of safety concerns, including car crashes and limited street lighting. Some noted that a collaboration between law enforcement and community members, especially youth, might help improve the perception of safety in the Carteret area.

- Water main pipe
- Spray park is all concrete—so unsafe
- Cars and pollution/crashes
- Crowding
- Better roads and terrible traffic (improve efficiency)

- Potholes
- Personal safety (perception of Carteret is bad)
- Light rail from Carteret to Woodbridge (like in Jersey City)
- Little crime
- Police presence is good, but bored
- Collaboration of police and younger kids
- More lighting by waterfront and streets
- Youth Advisory Board of MC (Empower Somerset)

PUBLIC HEALTH

Questions: *Do you feel it is easy to lead a healthy lifestyle in Middlesex County? What would make it easier?*

Students noted the need for improved reproductive health services, as well as more sex education. Students also discussed the need for more organic and healthy food options, indicating that fast food is often the most convenient choice. Students also felt that Carteret needs greater access to medical care facilities.

- Sex ed needed
- Too much use of Plan B instead of prevention
- Fast food is most convenient
- Organic food is expensive
- Unhealthy food cheaper
- Nothing but Shoprite–salad bar
- Expensive school lunch options, sometimes produce is bad or expired
- Lots of fast food
- Only one drugstore, forever to get prescriptions
- Time for cooking is limited
- Farmers' market shut down
- Emergency services lacking
- Hospital 25 minutes away, should be closer
- Only one ambulance, borrowed from Perth Amboy
- Urgent care only open 8-3
- One doctor, very long wait
- Not many healthcare services in Carteret, even simple services not there
- Nearest sexual/reproductive health is in Perth Amboy

ARTS AND CULTURE

Questions: *What is your favorite thing to do in your area on the weekend? Where is the first place In Middlesex County you would take a new visitor?*

Students discussed the need for more arts programming in their communities, such as afterschool classes and arts festivals. Many would also like to see better arts programs in their school.

- Arts theater never got built
- AENJ made it better, more activities
- Nobody advertises
- To do some arts you have to leave your school
- Double enrollment
- Schools don't offer enough art
- Kids hang out at gas stations
- Parents had more classes
- No bus for afterschool activities
- Woodshop and cooking should be offered
- No art you can go to in town
- No cultural fests or parades except one
- Madison has week for arts/culture, nothing like that here
- Everything fun is in Woodbridge
- County is diverse but events are not
- Should have more cultural events and activities at high school
- Other towns have more events, like Woodbridge
- Should be more teen activities
- Took out bowling, skating, theater, replaced with fast food

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Questions: *Do you think it is important to preserve historic buildings and places? Why or why not? How can we better inform residents and visitors about Middlesex County's history?*

Students discussed the need for more education on local history, suggesting that this topic be added to the school curriculum.

- Don't keep building without improving on old buildings
- Can be excuse to just not fix things
- Only places are Blazing Star and the high school

- Abattoir/slaughterhouse next to temple
- Don't learn about MC history except George Carteret
- No sense of history, historic committee doesn't talk to public
- There are like two plaques
- Only learn little facts
- Put local history in school curriculum
- Should advertise history events

HOUSING

Questions: *Do you plan to stay in Middlesex County for the foreseeable future? Why or why not? What is the most important factor for you when choosing a place to live?*

Students discussed the need for more affordable housing in the area, noting that while much new housing has been built, it is often too expensive for most residents. They also said that housing is located too far from shopping.

- Apartments get built quickly, too expensive to live in
- Not enough local services in towns in MC
- Won't stay in Carteret
- Taxes too high to stay
- Can't imagine buying house
- Turning school into apartments but school is needed
- Factors when choosing a place to live:
 - Taxes vs. services actually provided
 - Close to shops
 - Able to get around
- Housing sprawled, all shops downtown
- A lot of things aren't close to housing
- Building huge houses but not fixing up existing ones
- So many gas stations, not enough of anything else
- City cares about appearance of houses, not actual issues

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Questions: *Does your area have adequate waste and recycling collection? What could make it better? How prepared do you feel for another natural disaster? What could the county do to make you feel more prepared?*

Students noted the need for more public infrastructure maintenance, citing frequent water main breaks and damage from Superstorm Sandy that has still not been addressed. Students also noted the need for more trash pickup, citing littering as a problem.

- Not repaired from Sandy
- Water mains break every year
- Not prepared for another disaster
- EMS squad cut
- School has cockroaches
- Woodbridge has better trash pickup
- Have to buy your own trash can, some can't or don't
- School too smelly
- Trash everywhere
- One trash day/week/one truck
- No confidence in city if power goes out
- Gas gets contaminated after storms
- Track not done

TRANSPORTATION

Questions: *Is it safe for children to walk and bike to school in your area? If you could choose how to get around what would you prefer (walk, bike, train, drive, etc.)? Are you ever concerned about safety when you are getting around by car, transit, bike or walking? In what way?*

Students noted the need for more busing, especially after school, as well as more transportation options in general. They discussed the need for more bicycle infrastructure, such as bike racks at schools and on buses. Students would also like to see streets made safer for walking.

- School trips are expensive by bus (yellow buses charge as much as coach)
- Need busing for after school
- Nearest Planned Parenthood is in Perth Amboy
- Easiest thing is Uber or driving
- Bus is not easy to take
- Schedule is tough, changes too much

- NJ Transit bus not bad, often on time
- Have to get bus schedule on internet, not posted anywhere
- Kids need more busing
- Should be bike racks
- Bike racks on buses
- Sidewalks are bad
- Snow not plowed
- Need more crossing guards
- Streets flood after rains
- Too much flooding
- Need busing for dual-enrollment
- So many walking long distances to bus stops or school, traffic is dangerous
- Doesn't feel safe to walk alone, sexual harassment
- Little kids have to walk too far alone (more than 15-20 minutes)