The goal of the Twin Cities Sustainable Harbors Initiative is to facilitate the development of long-term, sustainable strategies that enable the communities to maximize the benefits of their harbor and waterfront.
Project Study Area
Size

728 Acre Study Area

½ Mile Radius
Harbor Facts

USACOE classifies the port as a Harbor of Refuge and a regionally significant commodities receiving port.

Natural Depth: 3-6 Ft

Recreational Harbor Depth: ~14 Ft

Commercial Harbor Depth: ~21 Ft

>1.5 Miles of Maintained Channel

USCG St. Joseph Station

728 Acre Study Area

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Dredging

Outer Harbor
• 40,000 to 50,000 CY dredged annually @ $500k - $750k

Inner Harbor
• 30,000 to 60,000 CY every 3 to 4 yrs (~$1M)
Recreational Boating

$20 Million per year
Recreational boating on the St. Joseph River brings about $20 million into the local economy, but this relies on dredged waterways.

1600 Boat Slips
Few boat slips exist in Benton harbor, and most of the many boat slips in St. Joseph are not within easy walking distance to retail or restaurants – a missed economic opportunity.

35% Out-of-State Seasonal

Only 10 Transient Slips
Private marinas prioritized seasonal slips, so visitors arriving by boat have few dedicated transient slip options in the Twin Cities.

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Recreational Boating

$3,600 Per Year Average Boat Expenses:

53% Equipment and Service
Local marinas provide much of this service and sell equipment.

22% Fuel
On average, a Great Lakes boater spends 23 days annually boating.

17% Restaurants
The most successful port towns make it easy to walk from boats to restaurants.

14% Groceries
Local retailers can benefit if conveniently located near boats slips.

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Commercial Shipping

Lafarge receives 20 to 30 vessels per season

Dock 63 receives 10 to 20 vessels per season

~280,000 tons of materials shipped annually
Limestone, sand, gravel, stone cement, and salt.

Supports over 5000 regional jobs and $250M in personal income (primarily in construction and transportation related industries).
Driving Tour of the Study Area
Engagement Strategy

- Tours
- Presentations
- Facebook (@TwinCitiesHarborVC) & Webpage
- Print and Radio Media
- Focus Groups (Neighborhood Associations, Commercial & Recreational Harbor Interests, Environmental, Young Professionals, and Faith Based Organizations)
- Technical Meetings (Parks & Rec Commissions, Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards, DDA/COC)
- Design Charrette
Boat Tour of the Study Area
Commercial Harbor

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Twin Cities Harbor Visioning Charrette
Sept 19th Citizen’s Participation Update

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Community Engagement - Sept 19th
One **Word** to describe your Community **Today**
One **Word** to describe your Community in the **Future**
Mapping your Community Exercise
Community Mapped, Assets, Challenges and IDEAS
Top 3 **IDEAS** for each Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Top 3 Ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 0     | 1. Coordinated Plans  
2. Mixed-Use Development  
2. Waterfront Design  
3. Social Economic Diversity  
4. Income Housing |
| 1     | 1. Connectivity  
2. More Diverse Nodes  
3. Riverfront Canals | 1. Connectivity (Waterway)  
2. More Diverse Nodes  
3. Riverfront Canals |
| 2     | 1. interconnected multi-modal transit  
2. Dock being relocated, repurpose land  
3. Improved Water Use  
2. More Dock Use  
3. Joint Multi-Authority  
4. Promote Transparency in all Comm |
| 3     | 1. African Agriculture Center  
2. Co-op Grocery  
3. Entertainment | 1. Water Taxi  
2. Multimodal Connectivity  
3. Vaccine of Development and Public Space |
| 4     | 1. Improve transportation  
2. Water Taxi/floatable barge  
3. Multi-use housing complex  
4. Riverwalk | 1. Connectivity - All multimodal - plan + circulation  
2. Improvement of County Property  
3. Hard Use Corridors |
| 5     | 1. Lancing & Belling improvements  
2. Improve green space, improve port design  
3. Hard use of landmark architecture | 1. Connectivity - All multimodal - plan + circulation  
2. Improvement of County Property  
3. Hard Use Corridors |
Summary of Top IDEAS

1) DEVELOPMENT:

- Diverse Housing, Socio-Economic Diversity, Mid-Income Housing, Multi-Use Housing
- Destination Retail, Commercial Development
- Entertainment Venue
- Waterfront Development
- Mixed-Use Development
- Mixed-Use Corridors
- More Destination Nodes
- Amenities
- Re-Invent Canal
- Cultural Center – African-American
- Co-Op Grocery Store
- Dock 63 – Relocate and Repurpose Land
- Relocate County Buildings
- Year-Round Activity Center – Winter Playland
2) TRANSPORTATION:
- Improve Transportation
- Walking and Bicycling
- Public Transit
- Multi-Modal Transportation
- Marine Transportation Hub
- Water Taxi, Floating Pub
- Ferry to/from Chicago

3) CONNECTIVITY:
- Walkways
- Waterfront
- Riverwalk
- Multi-Modal
- All Municipalities - Plan and Circulation
Summary of Top IDEAS

4) ENVIRONMENT:
- Green Space
- Clean Environment
- Balance Between Development and Public Space
- Community and Recreation Water Use

5) GOVERNMENT:
- Zoning – Uniform
- Coordinated Plans
- Functional / Shared Government
- Transparency in Development
- Code Enforcement
- Equal Partners - Joint Municipal Authority
- Promote Transparency in all Communities
VISIONING CHARRETTE – OCT 9
Exercise #1 “Build Your Own”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Twin Cities Harbor Visioning Charrette</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilitator Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSING</td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Family Housing</td>
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<td>Entry Level Housing</td>
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<td>Senior Housing</td>
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<td>Condos</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

sustainablemallharbors.org communites/st-joseph-benton-harbor
Exercise #1 “Build Your Own”

• Starting with Housing, have your table discuss where they believe it is needed.

• Have them add the Yellow Dots on the map.

• Using the black marker, mark the Dots with the code to identify the specific type of Housing.

• When completed, move to Commercial using the Red Dots and repeat the process.
“Build Your Own" Community
Exercise #2 “Connect the Dots”

Twin Cities Harbor Visioning Charrette

Facilitator Name: ________________ Table #: _____

Exercise 2: “Connect the Dots”

Facilitators - Use 4 different colored markers to label the following transportation designations below under circulation.

Now that we have mapped out our land plan uses on our map, we will now connect them. Each line will designate a different mode of transportation. Have the participants use the designated color for each specific line, starting with walks & trails and moving on to each mode one at a time. Have them mark on the map where they would want the proposed route to connect the colored dots from exercise 1. Use the connectivity planning color code scheme from your sheet.

Connect the Dots - Connecting assets. Consider pedestrians of all ages and abilities (universal design), cyclists, public transportation, vehicles, and boating using the 4 colored markers designated by its corresponding use on the exercise sheets.

CIRCULATION: Please draw below a color designation for each line using a different color for each line with the 4 markers on your table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walks &amp; Trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bike Lanes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Public Transit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Goal: To map out circulation patterns for the different types of modes of transportation.

Time: 30 minutes

Closing: Thank everyone for their valuable input. Invite them and their friends back on October 10th.

5 minutes

Table Facilitators

Gather all materials from your table to convene in the main meeting room.
Exercise 2 – “Connect the Dots”

• Starting with Walks & Trail, have your table discuss where they would be needed to connect the land uses.
• Have them take turns to mark the routes on the plan.
• Continue to each mode of transportation.
• Add notes to the plan as needed.
Circulation Plan
Thank You!