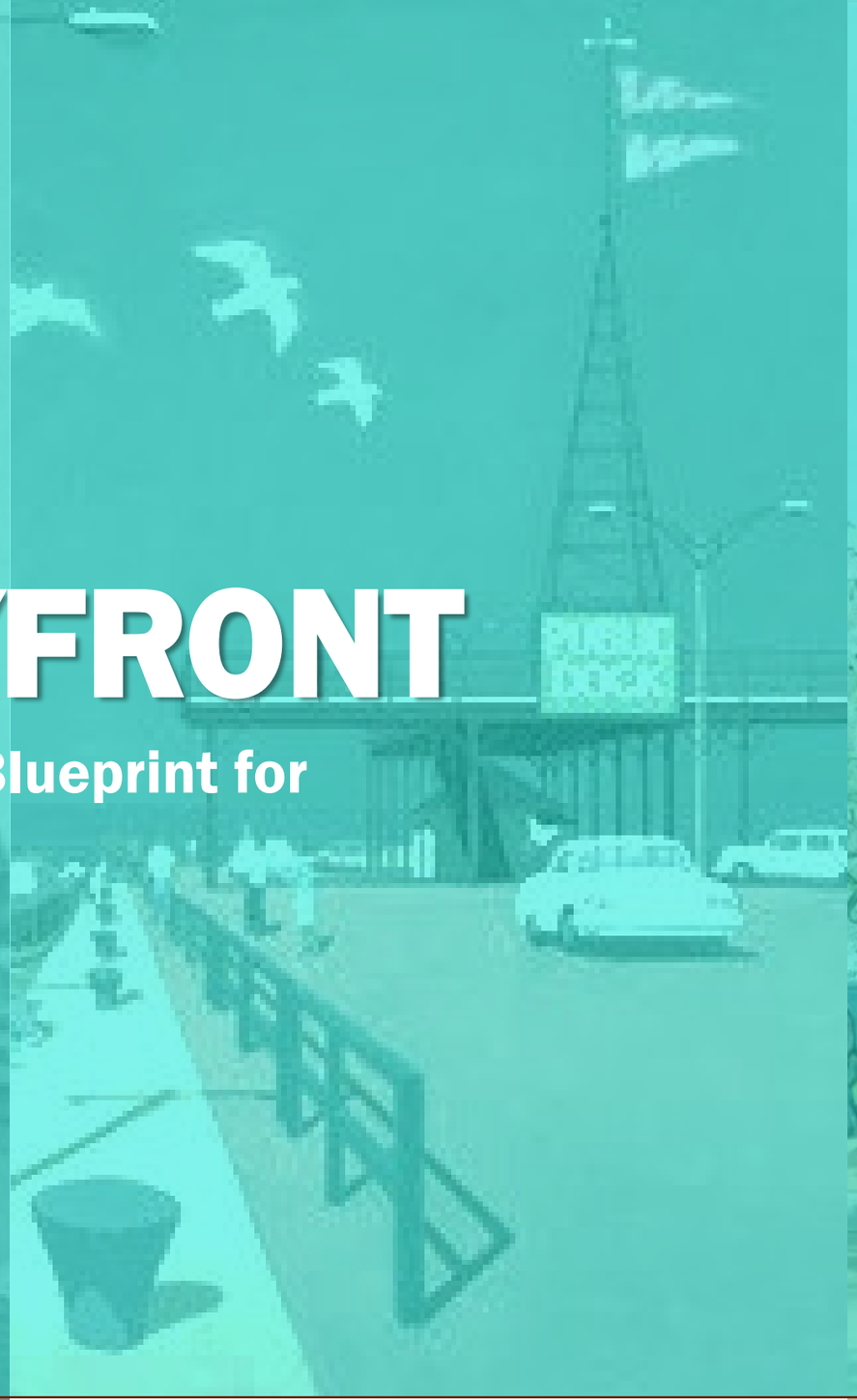
ONE BAYFRONT

A Community-Driven Blueprint for Erie's Waterfront

November 12 & 13, 2026







PLEASE NOTE:

None of the drawings, ideas, and concepts presented have been confirmed or decided.

All the drawings, ideas, and concepts shown are strictly ideas at this stage.

The images you see are strictly an attempt to visualize ways to respond to the vision and goals for the project that are supported by technical studies and public feedback during this project.

As we explore ideas and hear from you, please consider nothing set in stone, and the ideas subject to change.



Agenda

- Where we are
- What we heard
- One Bayfront Framework
- Building Momentum
- Exploring the Central Bayfront
- Your Ideas and Feedback
- Next steps

One Bayfront Facilitating Team

Project Schedule

Learning About the Bayfront

- We combine your feedback with previous plans, research, and current data.

Defining Our Values

- We clarify our shared vision, goals, and priorities for Erie's Bayfront.

WE ARE HERE

Exploring Ideas

- We develop and evaluate possible designs using our shared priorities.

Creating the Plan

- We create Erie's preferred plan based on what we've learned together.

Scan the QR code to visit our website

Our Vision and Goals



VISION STATEMENT

Erie's Bayfront is a year-round destination for residents, businesses, and visitors. It celebrates Erie's history, people, culture, and the natural beauty of Presque Isle Bay. It offers an affordable, high-quality waterfront experience that is uniquely Erie and can be enjoyed for generations to come.

GOALS

- Access & Connectivity
- Uniquely Erie
- Activities & Experiences
- Quality Design
- Economic Sustainability
- Environment



How We've Engaged

Over 700 responses on survey #1

Over 100 attendees at 6/25 open house

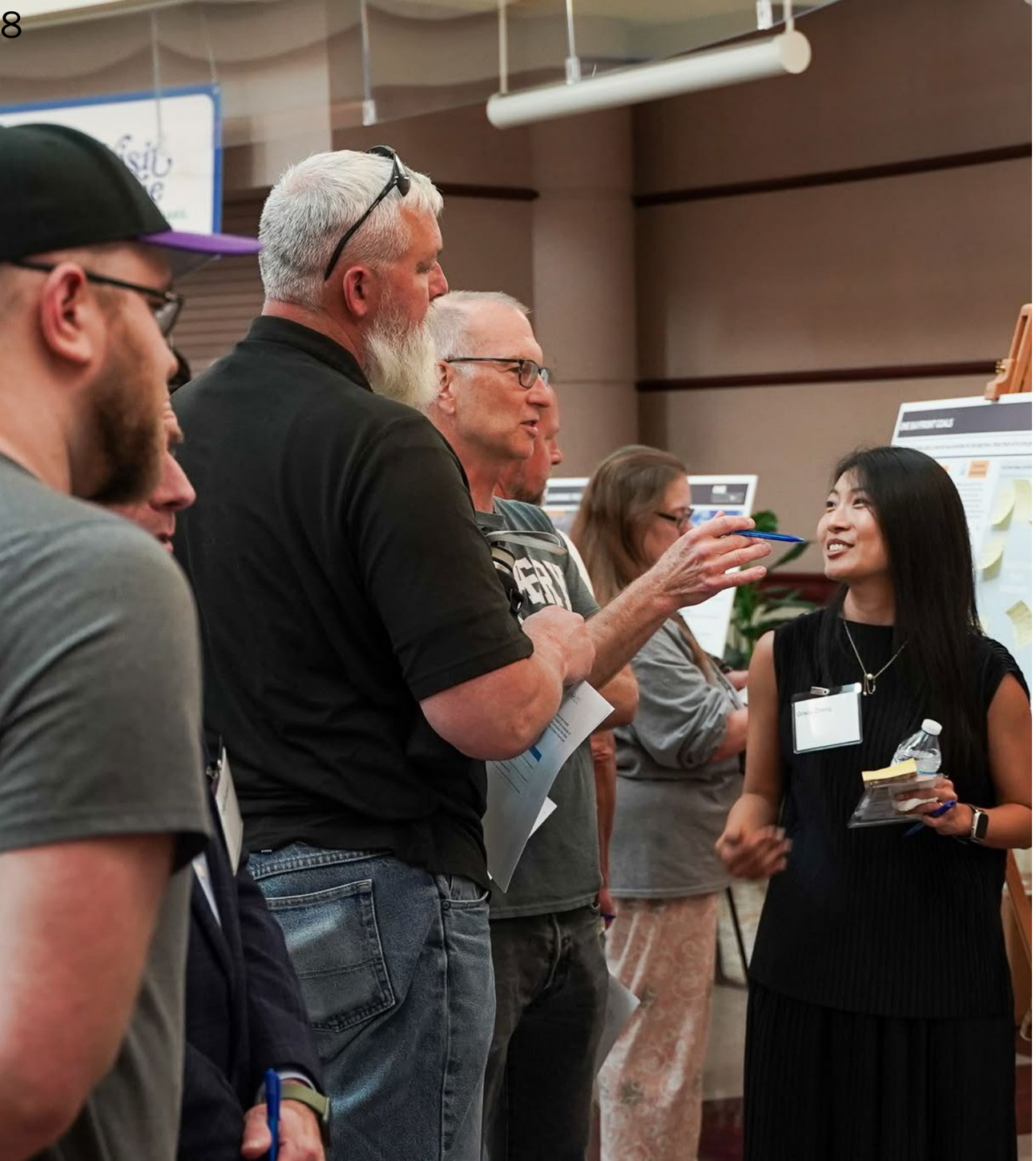
Over 70 responses at Celebrate Erie event

7 follow-up events where we came to you

- Erie Blues and Jazz Fest,
- National Night Out,
- Gem City Soul Night,
- Fiesta on the Square,
- New American Jamboree,
- Coffee Baklava and Conversation Welcoming
- Bayfront Walk & Talk x Dog Walk

What the Community Has Emphasized





In the Community's Words

"Easy pedestrian access from the bayfront neighborhoods to the water will be key."

"I envision more park space, ice cream shop, outdoor markets, coffee shop, etc. Make it walkable, diversified, and exciting to come to."

"I would provide more access to the water. I often feel like we have this massive, beautiful lake right in front of us, but so much of it is out of reach for most of us."

"A destination that anyone can spend the day. Shop, eat, relax, exercise, walk, visit with others..."

What We Heard from Bayfront Stakeholders



THE WATERFRONT HAS TO WORK

- Marine infrastructure, parking, circulation, access and operations matter.



ACTIVITY HAS TO LAST BEYOND SUMMER

- Seasonality affects businesses, jobs and investment.



DEVELOPMENT HAS TO WORK TOGETHER

- Public improvements, private projects and Port properties need coordination.



ERIE'S MARITIME ROLE SHOULD GROW, NOT DISAPPEAR

- Public access, tourism and development should reinforce boating, fishing, marine trades and maritime heritage.

What We Heard Across All Audiences

Success depends on getting four relationships right.

ACTIVITY + AUTHENTICITY

Add affordable, year-round experiences that strengthen Erie's maritime, natural, and industrial identity.

ACCESS + FUNCTION

Improve walking, biking, transit, and water access while accommodating parking, circulation, boating, and waterfront operations.

INVESTMENT + PUBLIC VALUE

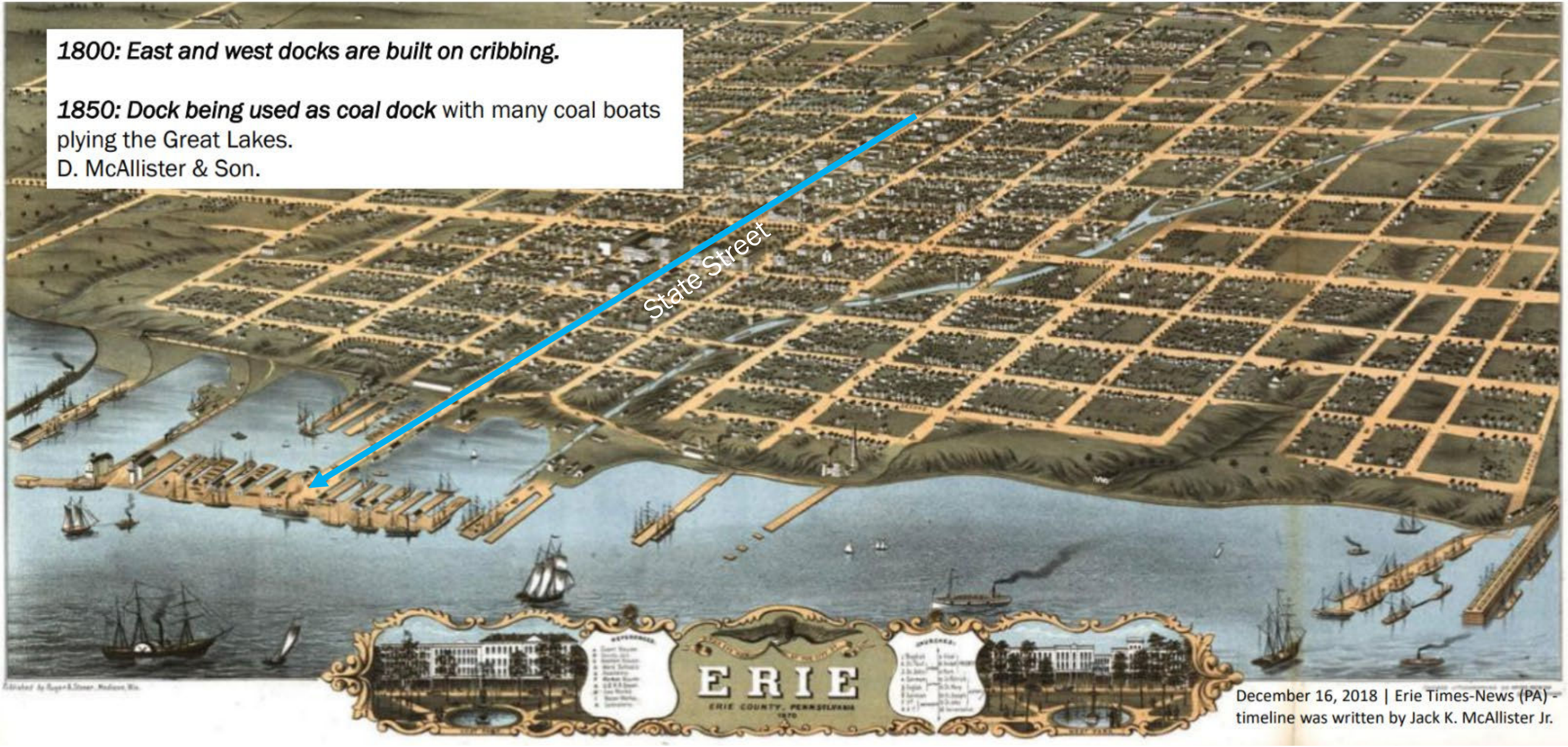
Coordinate public improvements, private development, Port properties, and maritime investment to deliver lasting community benefits.

ONE BAYFRONT + DISTINCT PLACES

Connect the waterfront as one experience while building on each district's unique assets and role.

The shared opportunity is not simply to add more. It is to make the Bayfront's places, activities, access systems, and investments work better together.

The Bayfront in History



December 16, 2018 | Erie Times-News (PA) - timeline was written by Jack K. McAllister Jr.

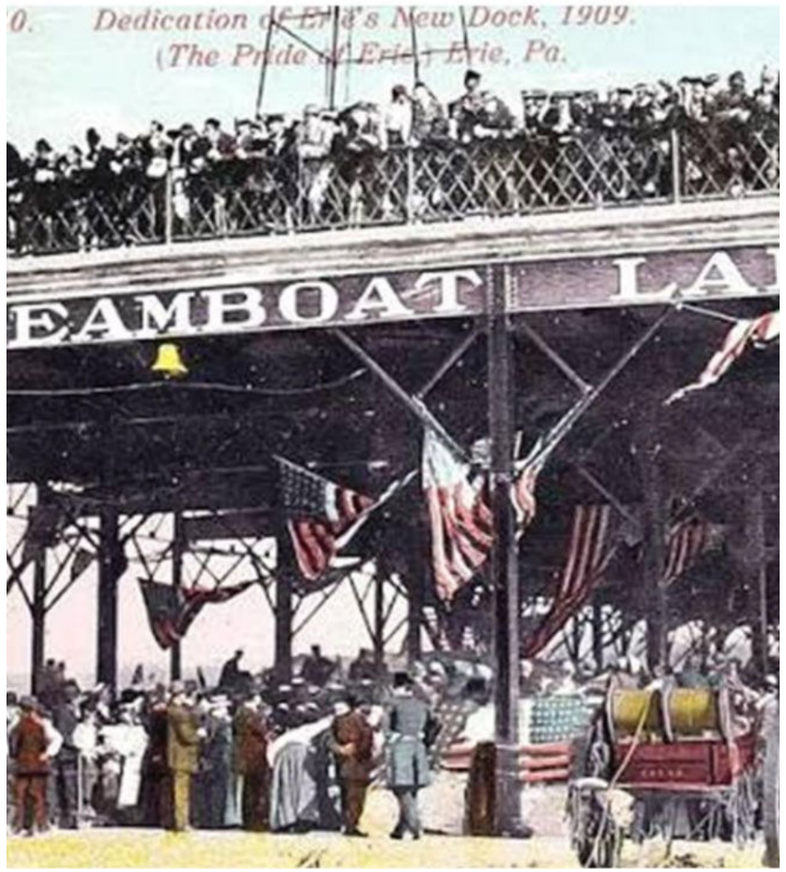
The Bayfront in History

1914: USS Wolverine, formerly *USS Michigan is moored at the Public Dock.*

1920: **Property used to house many fish nets** for the growing commercial fishing industry in Erie.



Public Dock in History



1909



1960s

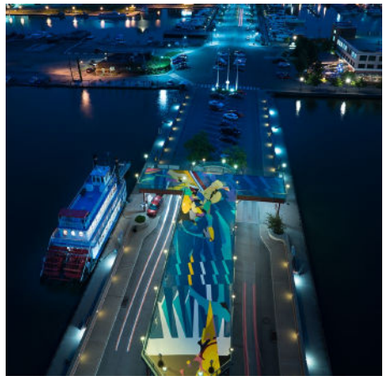


1980s

The Bayfront Today



Connecting the Places and Experiences on the Bayfront



Dobbins Landing



Presque Isle



U.S. Brig Niagara



Blasco Memorial Library



Bicentennial Tower



Convention Center



Outdoor Dining



Bayfront Bikeway and Promenade



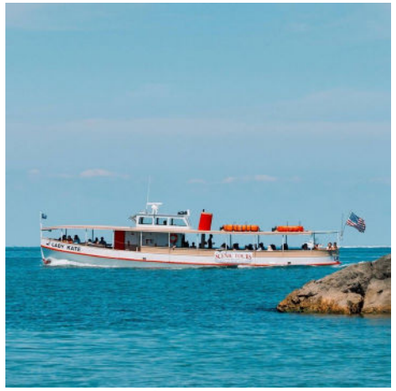
Ice Fishing



Mini Golf



Boating

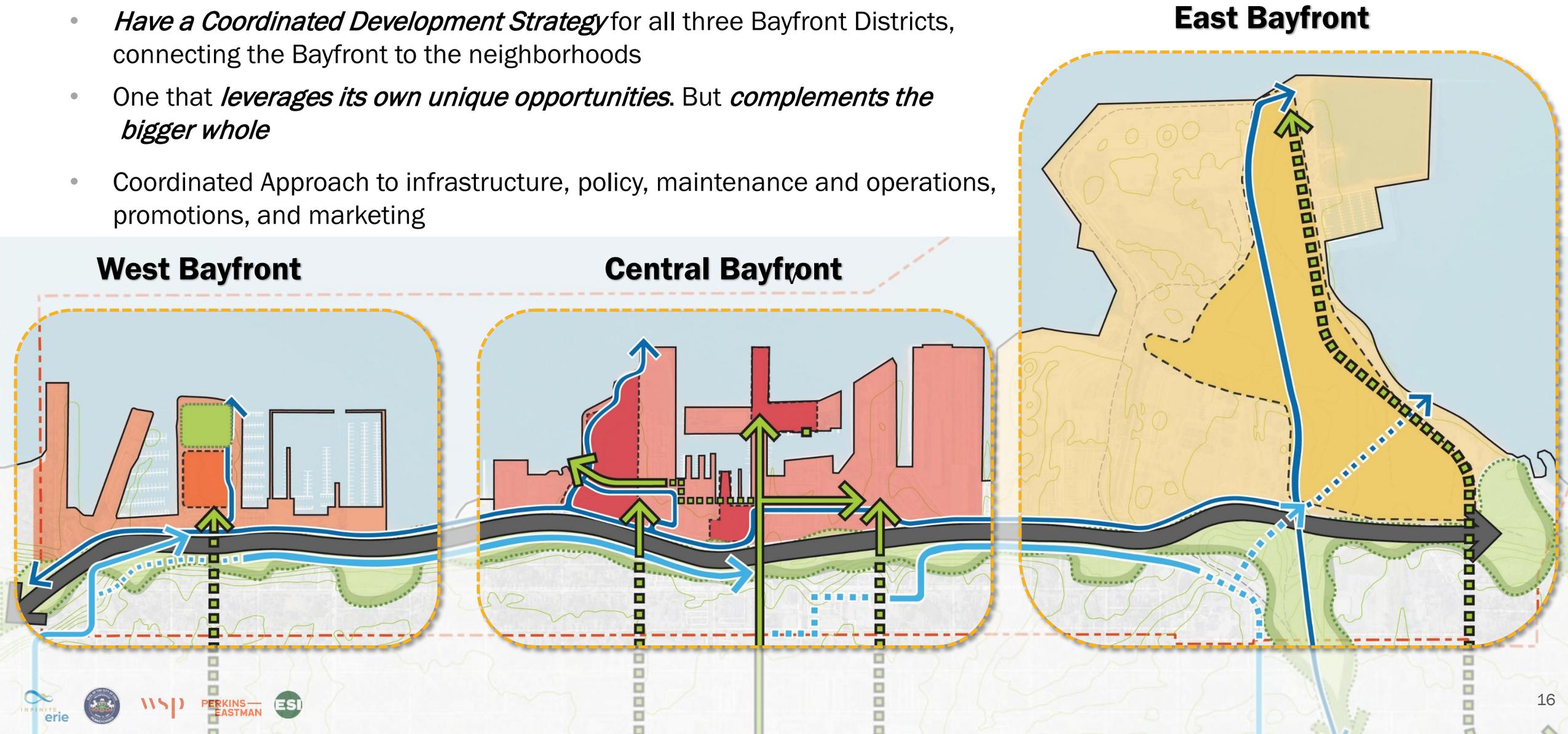


Water Tours

One Bayfront Framework

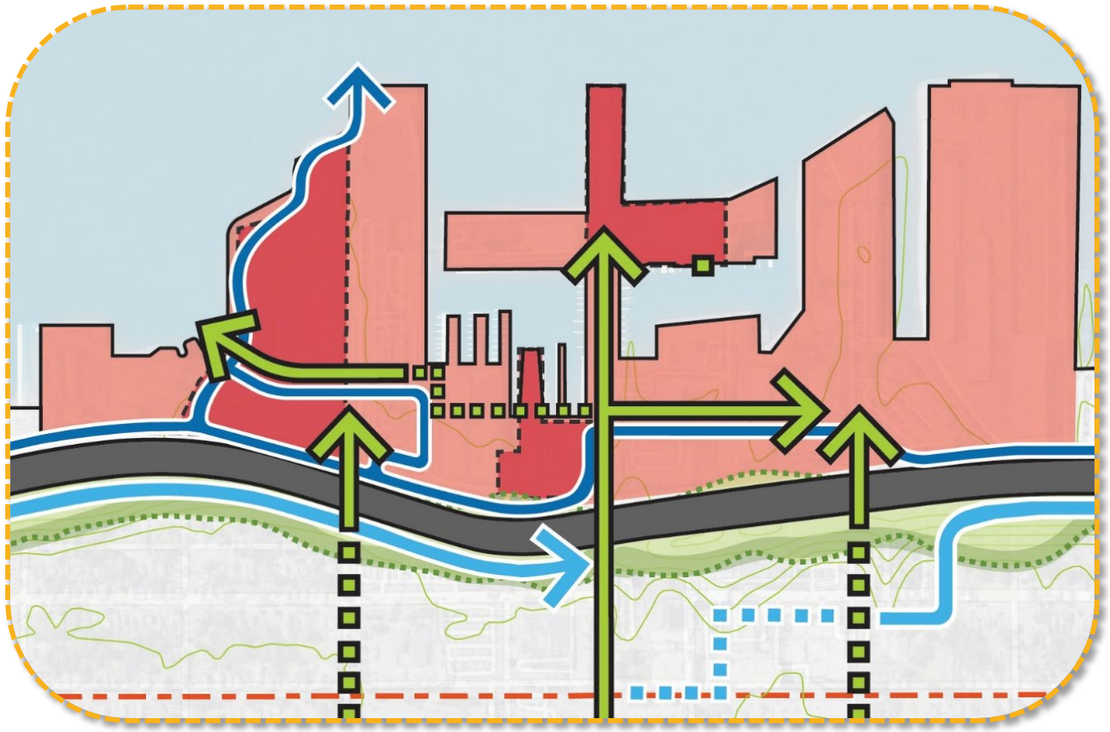
Leverage the unique opportunities within each district to enliven the Bayfront.

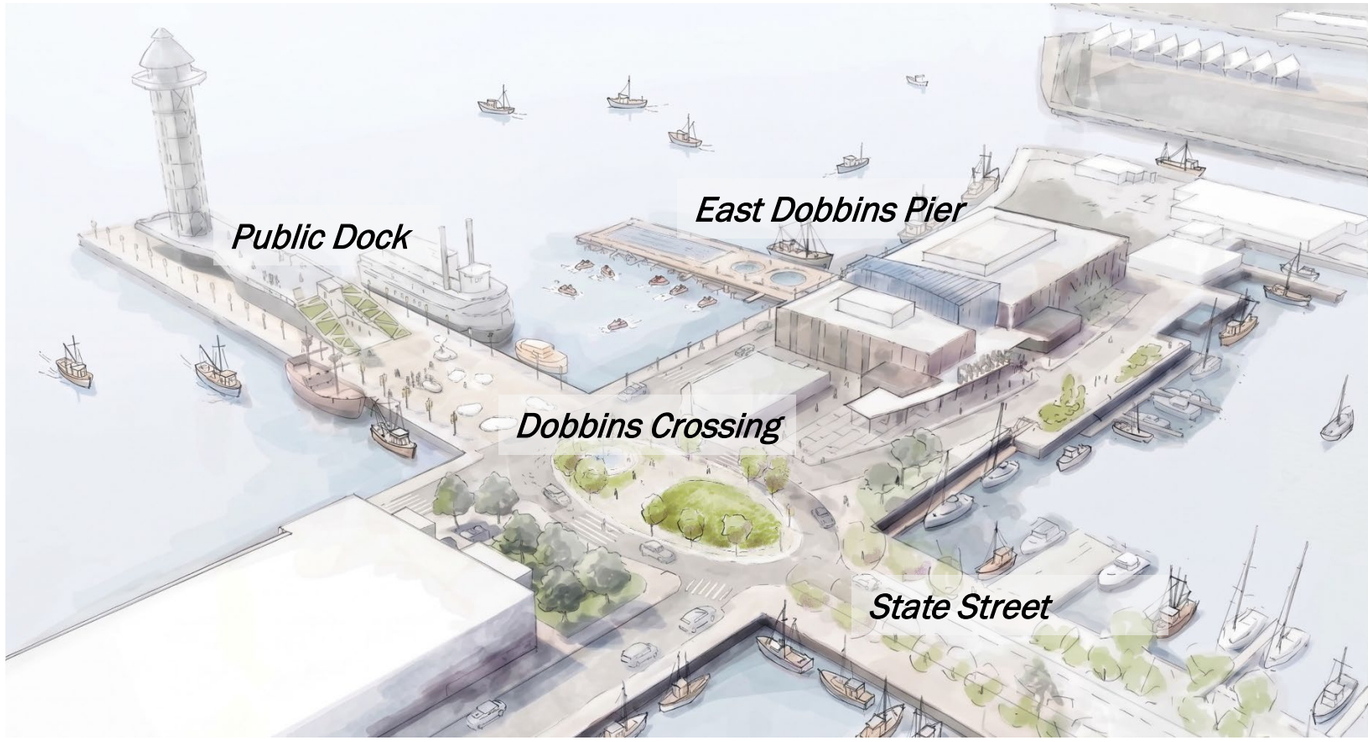
- *Have a Coordinated Development Strategy* for all three Bayfront Districts, connecting the Bayfront to the neighborhoods
- One that *leverages its own unique opportunities*. But *complements the bigger whole*
- Coordinated Approach to infrastructure, policy, maintenance and operations, promotions, and marketing



Central Bayfront

Create a public-serving waterfront destination around Dobbins Landing and East Dobbins.





PEOPLE FIRST

Put pedestrians first in vibrant public spaces and piers connected to the water and destinations

CATALYZE THE WHOLE BAYFRONT

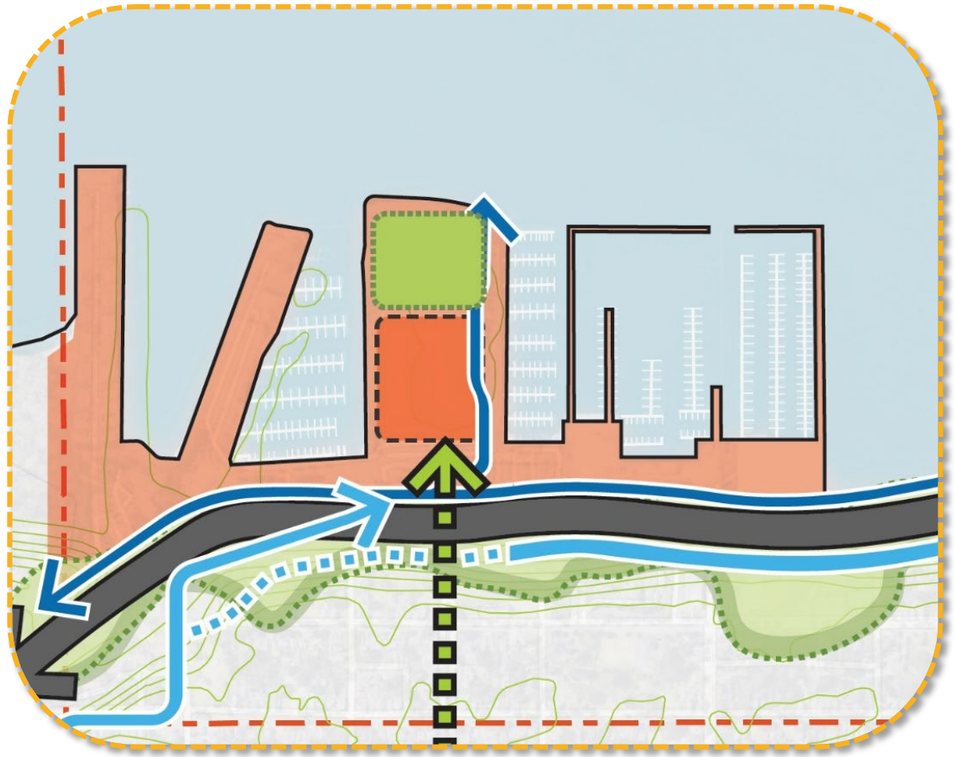
Major investments in the public realm create opportunities for development here and across the bayfront

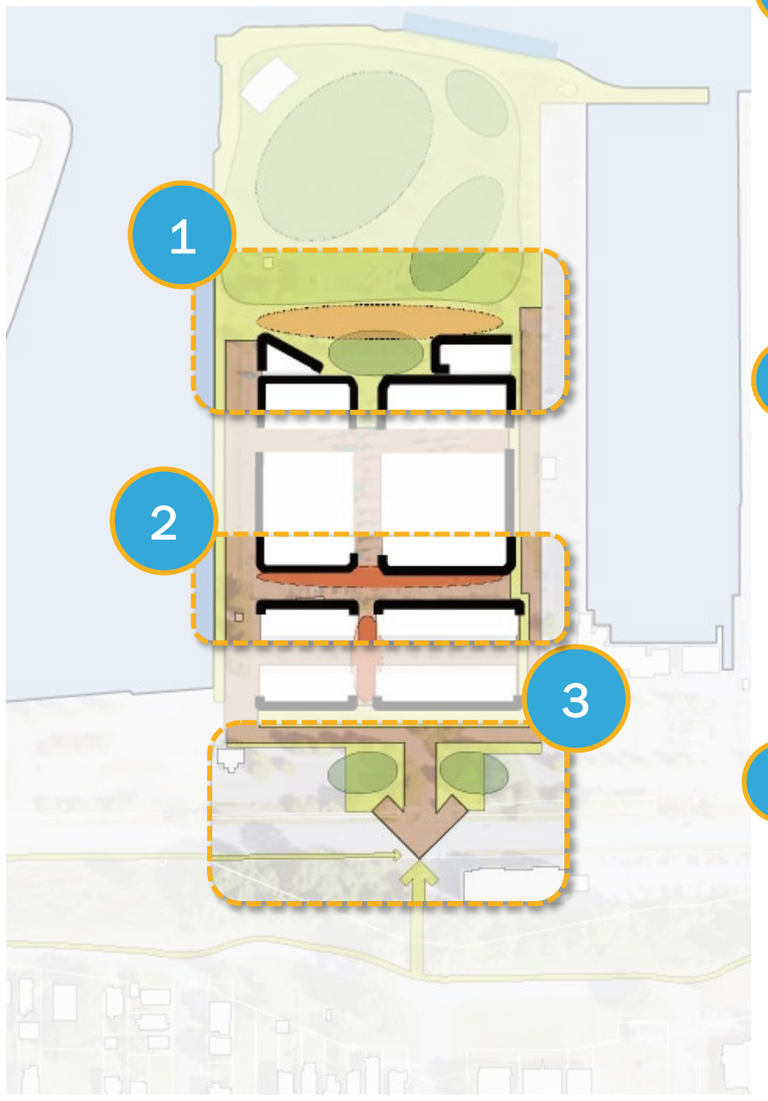




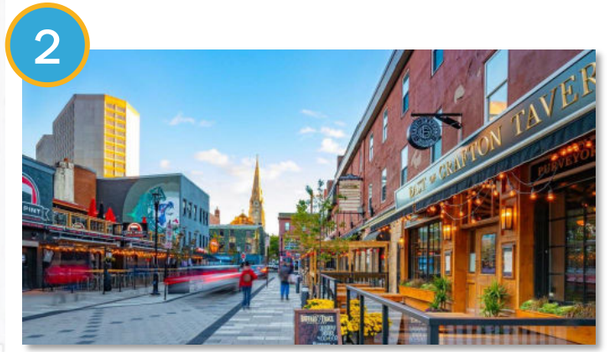
West Bayfront

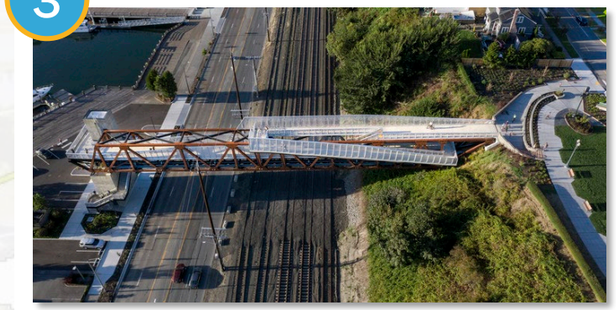
Extend the energy of Liberty Park into a new waterfront neighborhood.











HOUSING + ACTIVITY

Housing, local businesses, and active park edges create a lively waterfront neighborhood.

CONNECTIONS + PUBLIC REALM

Expanded public spaces and walking and biking connections link Liberty Park, the water, and surrounding neighborhoods.

East Bayfront

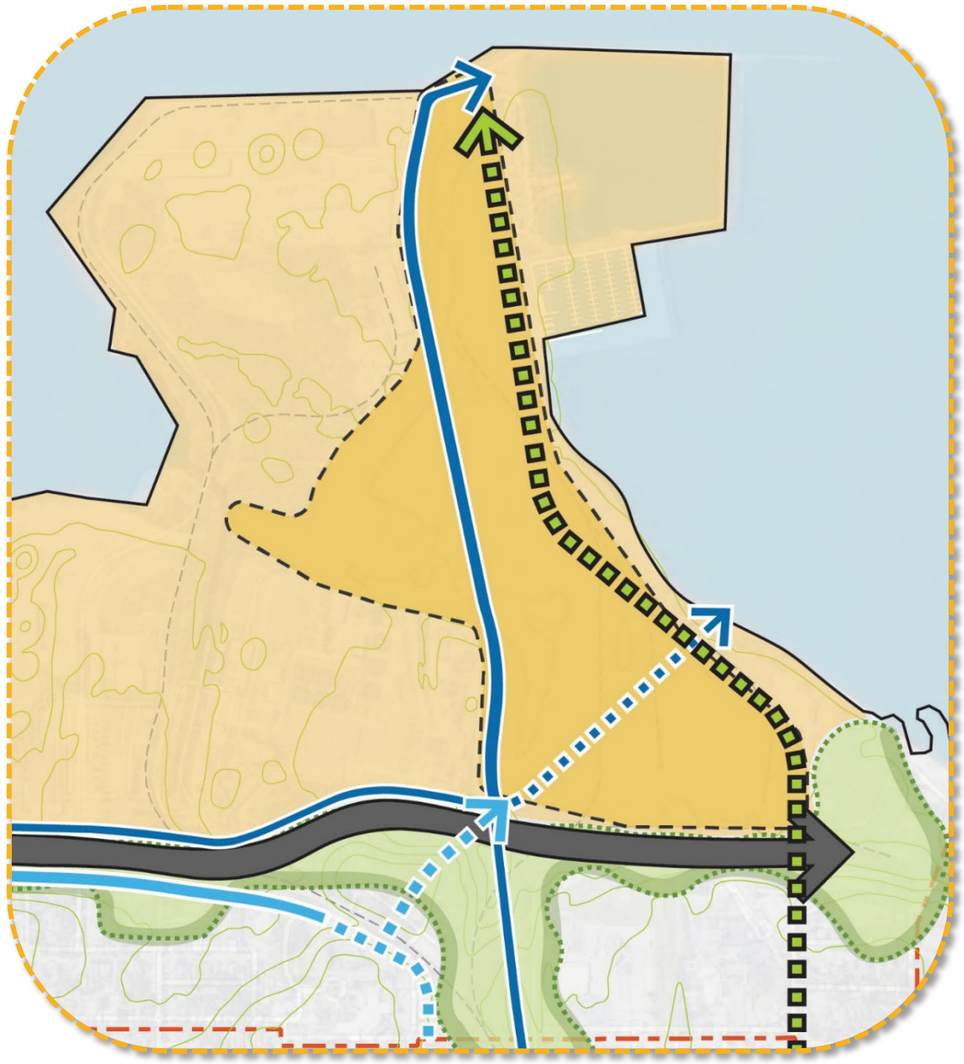
Revitalize Erie's eastern waterfront gateway, centered on the former Erie Coke site.

PUBLIC CONNECTIONS

Parks, trails, and waterfront access that reconnect East Side neighborhoods to the water, placing the public at the waters edge.

WORKING WATERFRONT

Marine support services and an expanded marina expands maritime activity, brings jobs, and generates new investment.





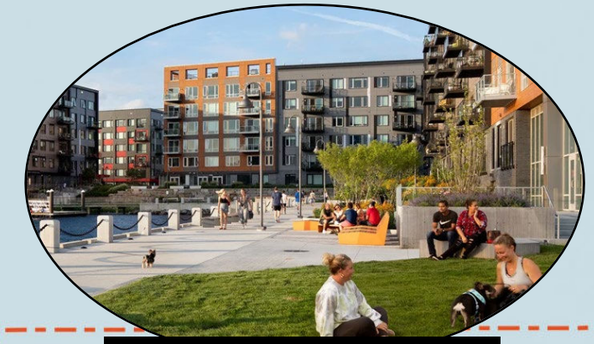




OVERALL FRAMEWORK

Increase Connections to the Neighborhoods

*Extend and create new connections to increase access to the **ENTIRE** Bayfront from upland neighborhoods*



Residential/Recreational



Entertainment/Destination



Working Waterfront

Liberty Park

Presque Isle Bay

Central Bayfront

Lampe District

Bayfront Trail

Bluffs Promenade

Bayview Park

Tom McCarty Memorial Park

West Bayfront

Downtown

East Bayfront

Liberty St.

Sassafras St.

State St.

Holland St.

Reed St.

East Ave.

E. 6th St.

Gridley Park

Perry Square

Wayne Park

LEGEND

- Primary Study Area
- Bayfront Parkway
- Existing & Planned Connections
- Proposed Connections

Building Momentum for One Bayfront

Start with public improvements that make the Bayfront work better today and create the conditions for future investment.

1 START WITH PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Improve the Bayfront experience now

- Strengthen walking and biking connections, Enhance crossings, landscaping, and public spaces
- Improve signage and wayfinding
- Make parking easier to find and use

2 BUILD MOMENTUM + VALUE

Show what is possible

- Improve access to existing destinations
- Build public confidence and support
- Test ideas and demonstrate demand
- Prepare key locations for future investment

3 LEVERAGE LARGER INVESTMENT

Deliver the long-term vision

- Expand public and private infrastructure
- Create permanent parks and waterfront connections
- Support new development and destinations
- Coordinate public and private investment

Start with Improvements People Can See and Use

Near-term actions can improve the Bayfront now, test long-term ideas, and build momentum for larger investments.



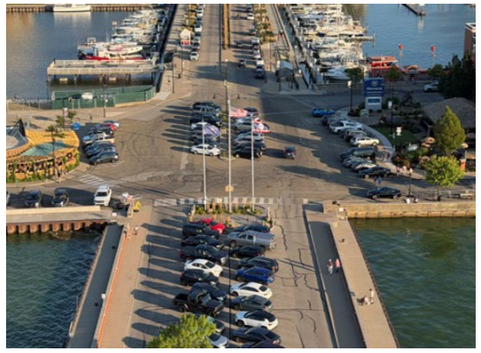
CONNECT

- Improve walking and biking routes
- Add safer, more visible crossings
- Link Downtown, neighborhoods, destinations, and the water



FIND YOUR WAY

- Create consistent Bayfront signage
- Direct people to parking and destinations
- Add walking and biking information



PARK + ARRIVE

- Make parking easier to identify
- Improve connections between parking and destinations
- Reduce unnecessary searching and circulation



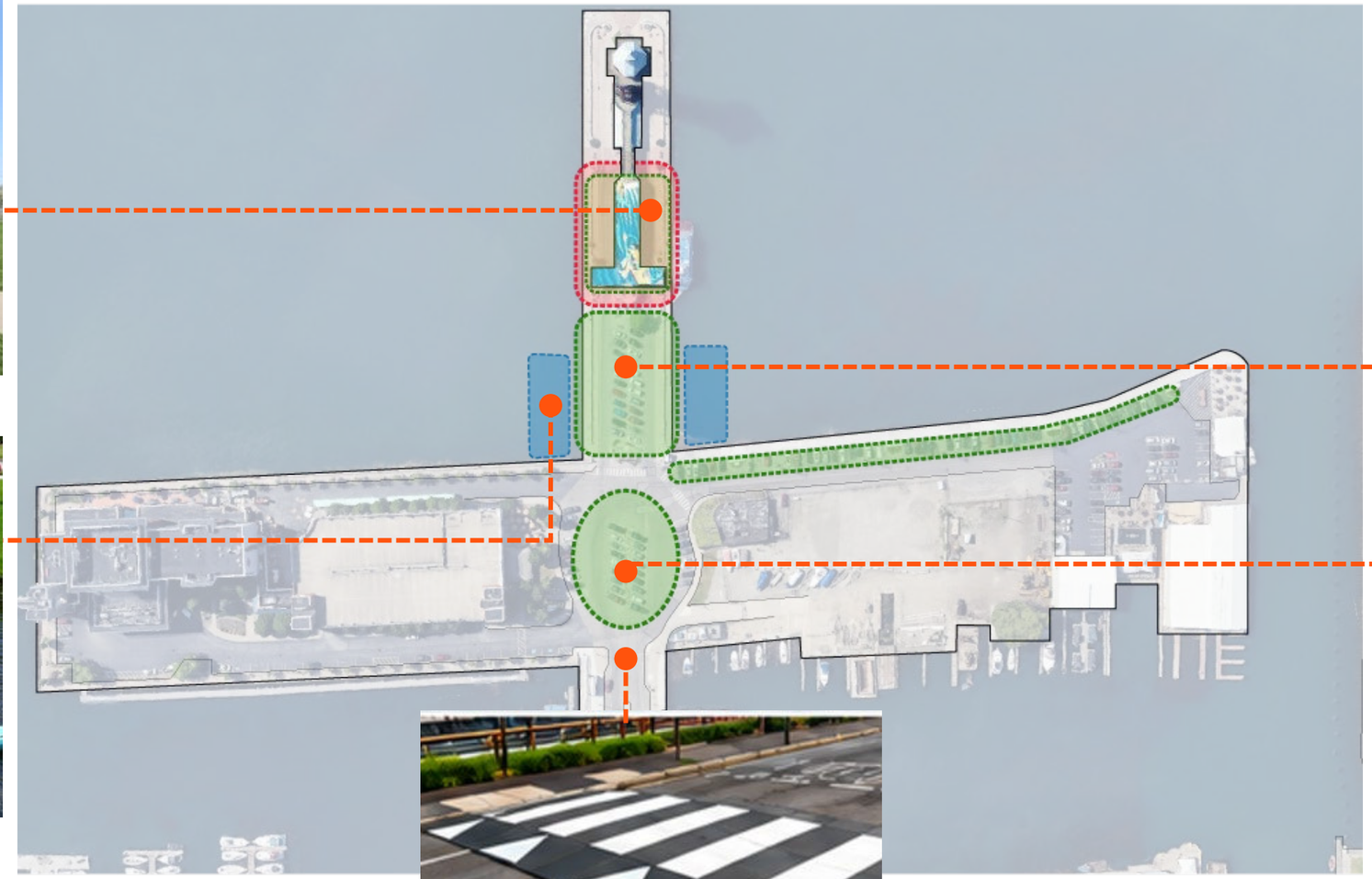
ACTIVATE

- Test temporary public spaces at Dobbins Landing
- Add movable seating, greenery, and family activities
- Support markets, events, and seasonal programming

Testing Long-Term Ideas Through Temporary Events: Spring/Summer

Partner with local institutions, vendors, and businesses to activate spaces in advance of major redevelopment.







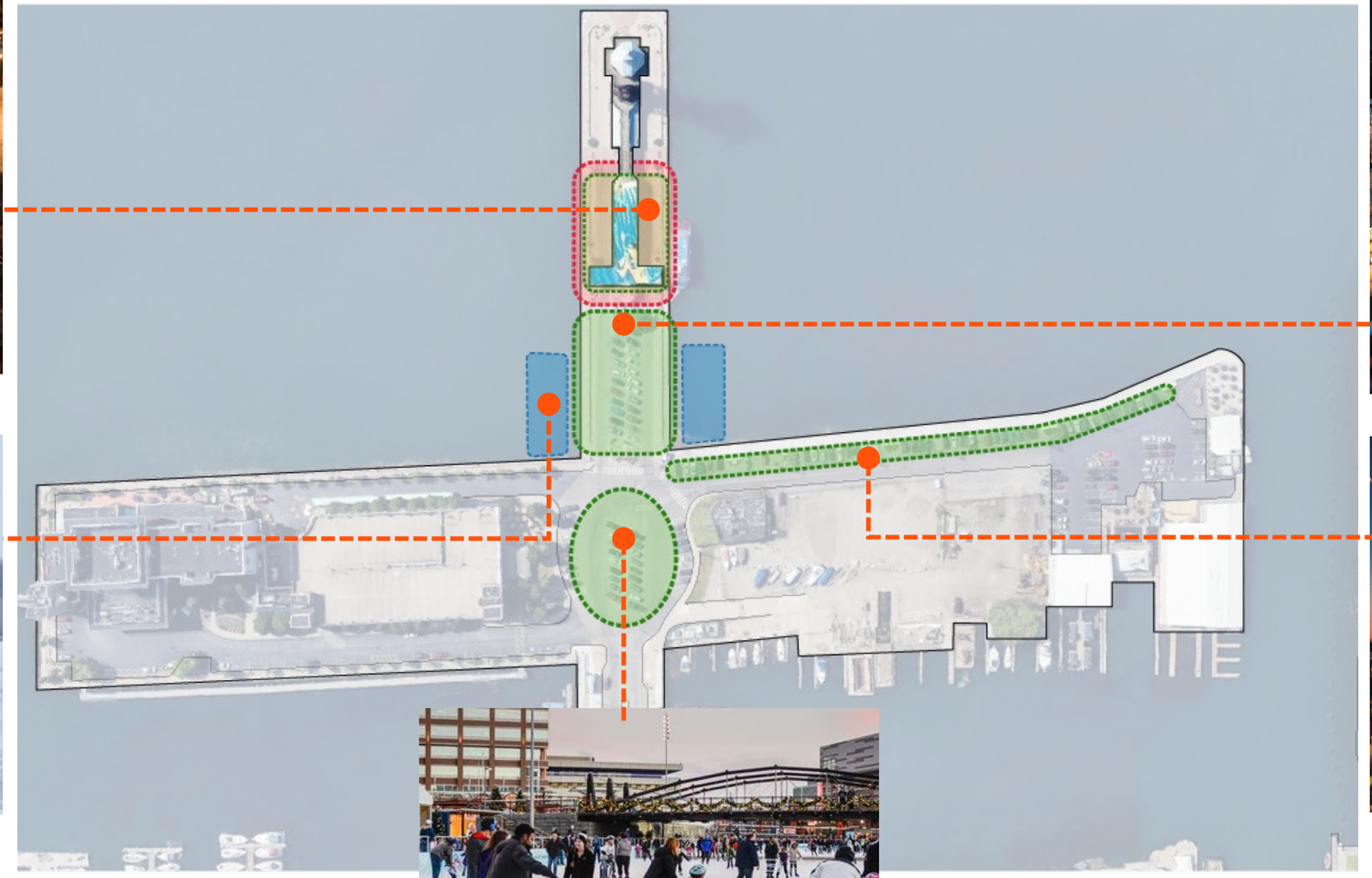




Testing Long-Term Ideas Through Temporary Events: Fall/Winter

Partner with local institutions, vendors, and businesses to activate spaces in advance of major investments.







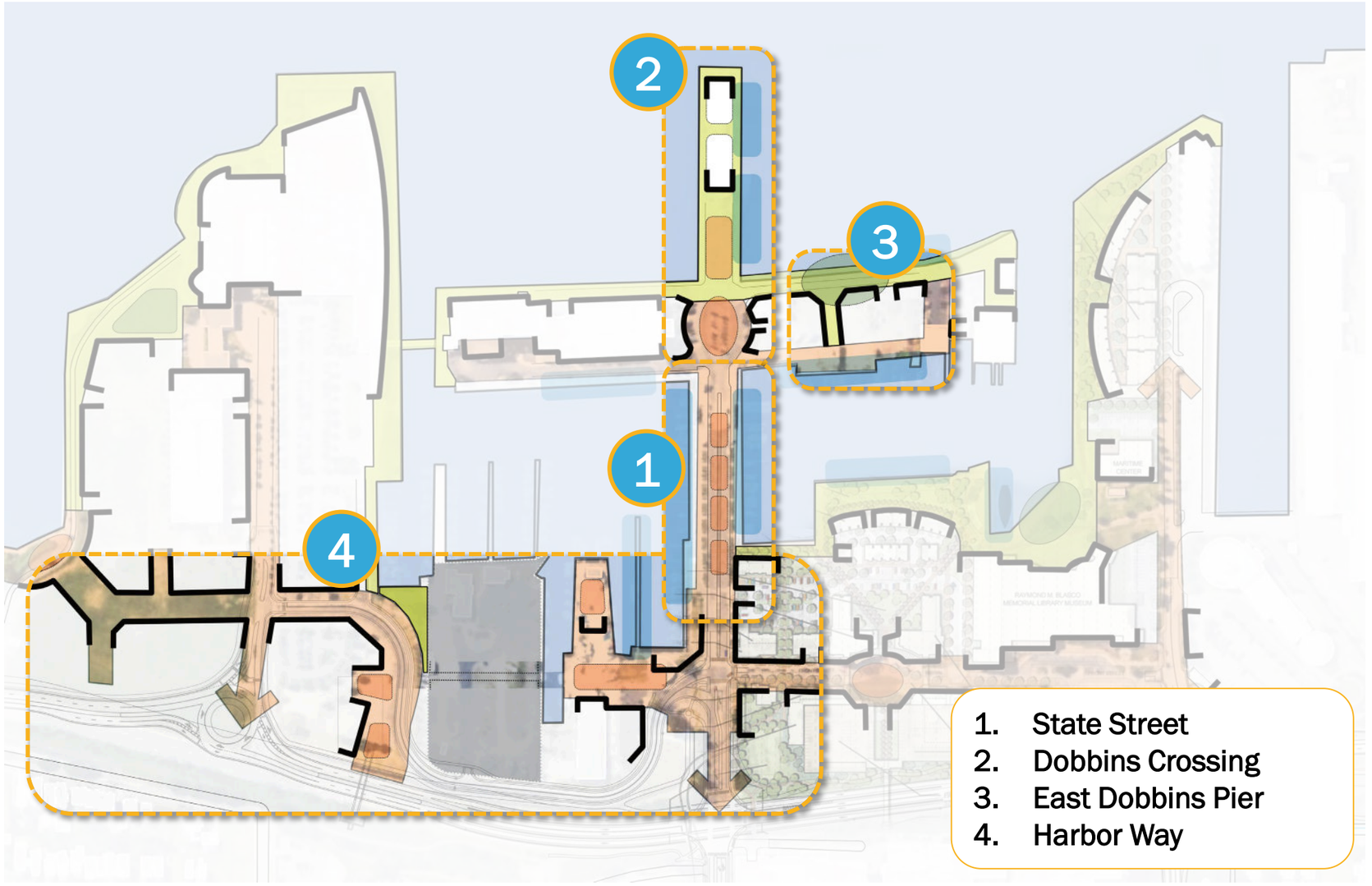




Central Bayfront District

Establish a series of connected public spaces for people at the heart of the Bayfront with supportive activities

- **State Street** as the ‘Main Street’ of the Central Bayfront
  - Establish high quality ‘experiential’ ***Pedestrian Connections between the destinations***
  - Create a ***compelling Public Realm***
  - Prioritize Pedestrians while maintaining automobile-convenience
- ***Dobbins Landing and East Dobbins*** are ***destination drivers***
- **Harbor Way** as primary east-west route connecting Dobbins District with Bayfront Landing and Holland Landing



STATE STREET
Existing Condition

Existing State Street is a Car-Oriented Street

- Oversized 16-ft travel lanes.
- Parallel parking on both sides of State Street.
- Only 18 ft total dedicated to pedestrians.



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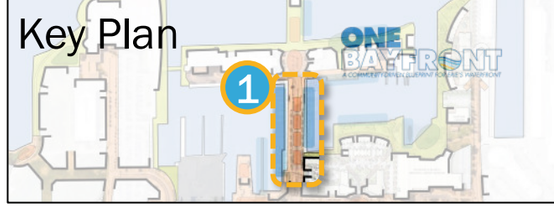
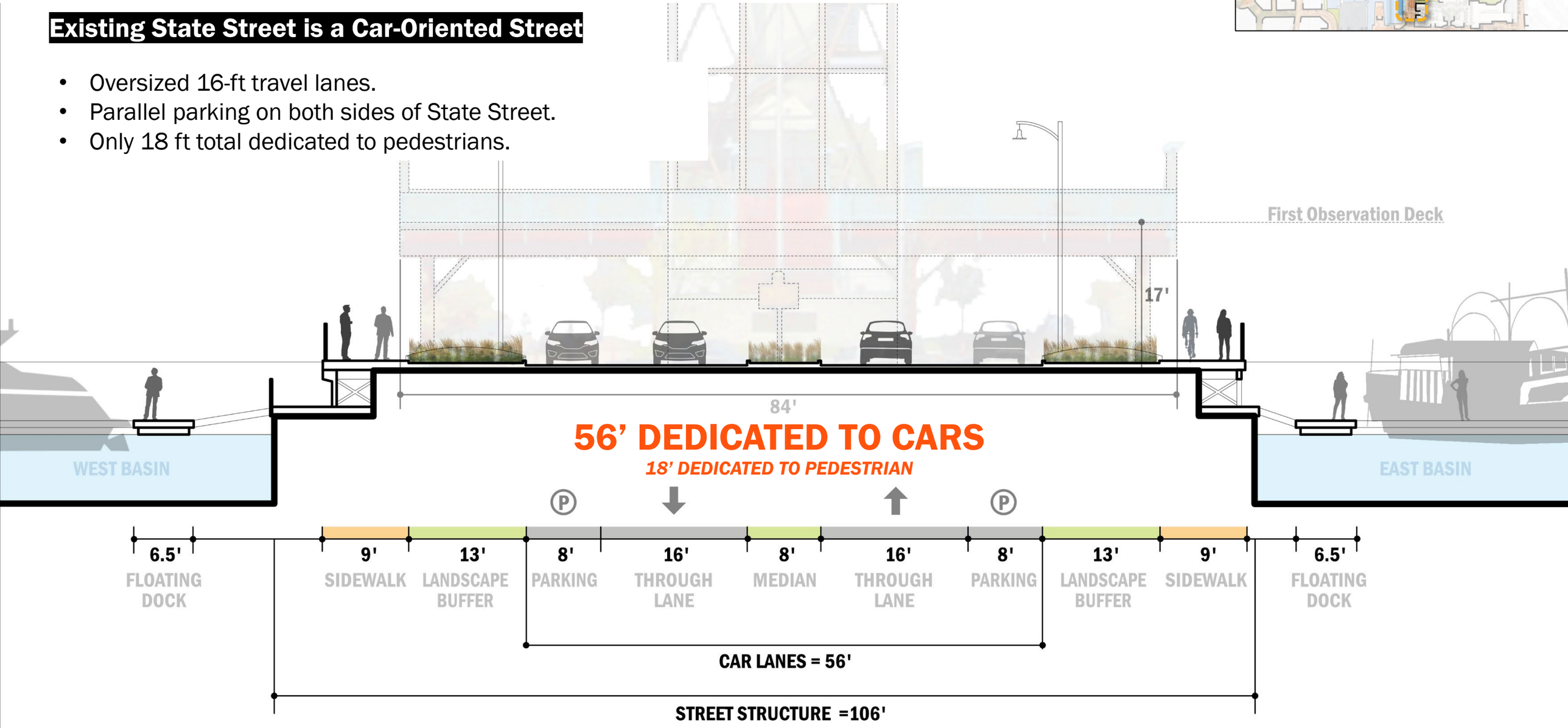
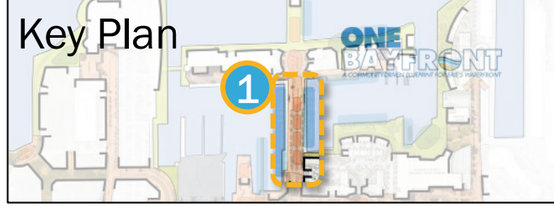


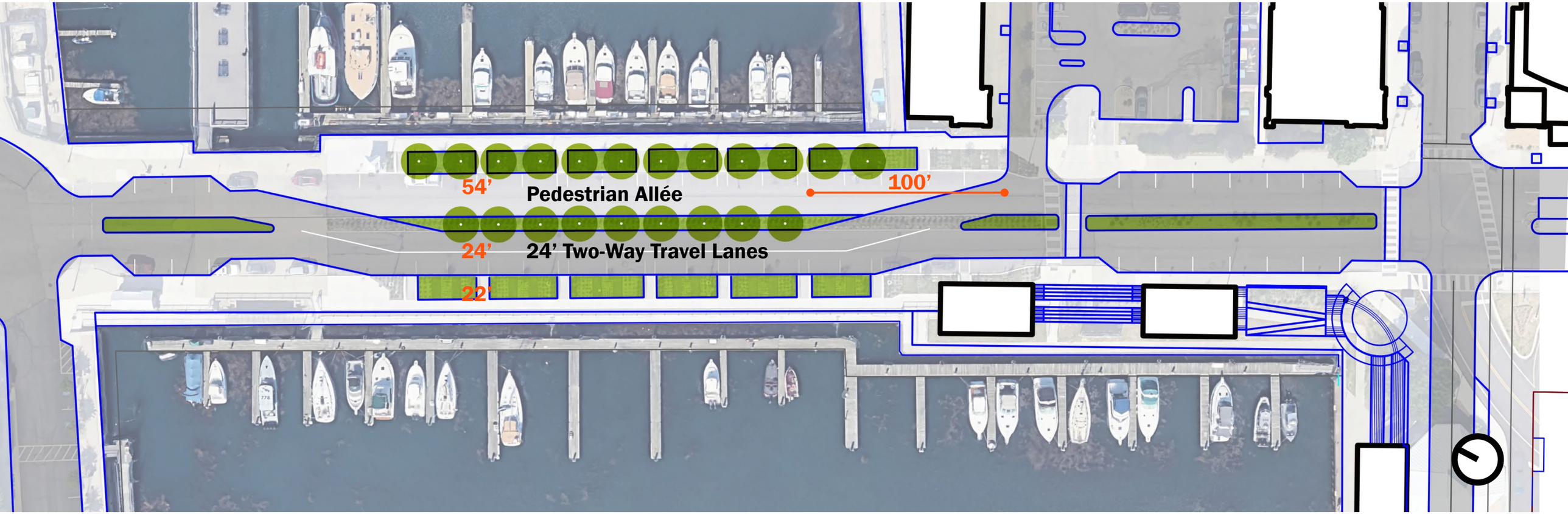


STATE STREET
Option: Asymmetrical Revamp

Increased Pedestrian Zones & Pedestrian Focused Streetscape

- Create a State Street pedestrian allée.
- Preserve existing medians and landscape buffers.
- Reduce travel lanes from 16 ft (oversized) to 12 ft.
- Maintain existing two-way traffic flow and capacity.





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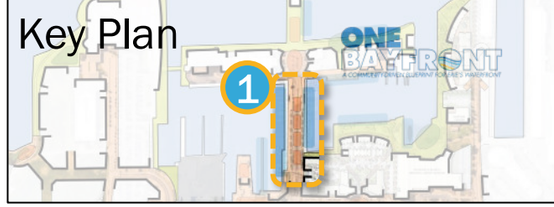

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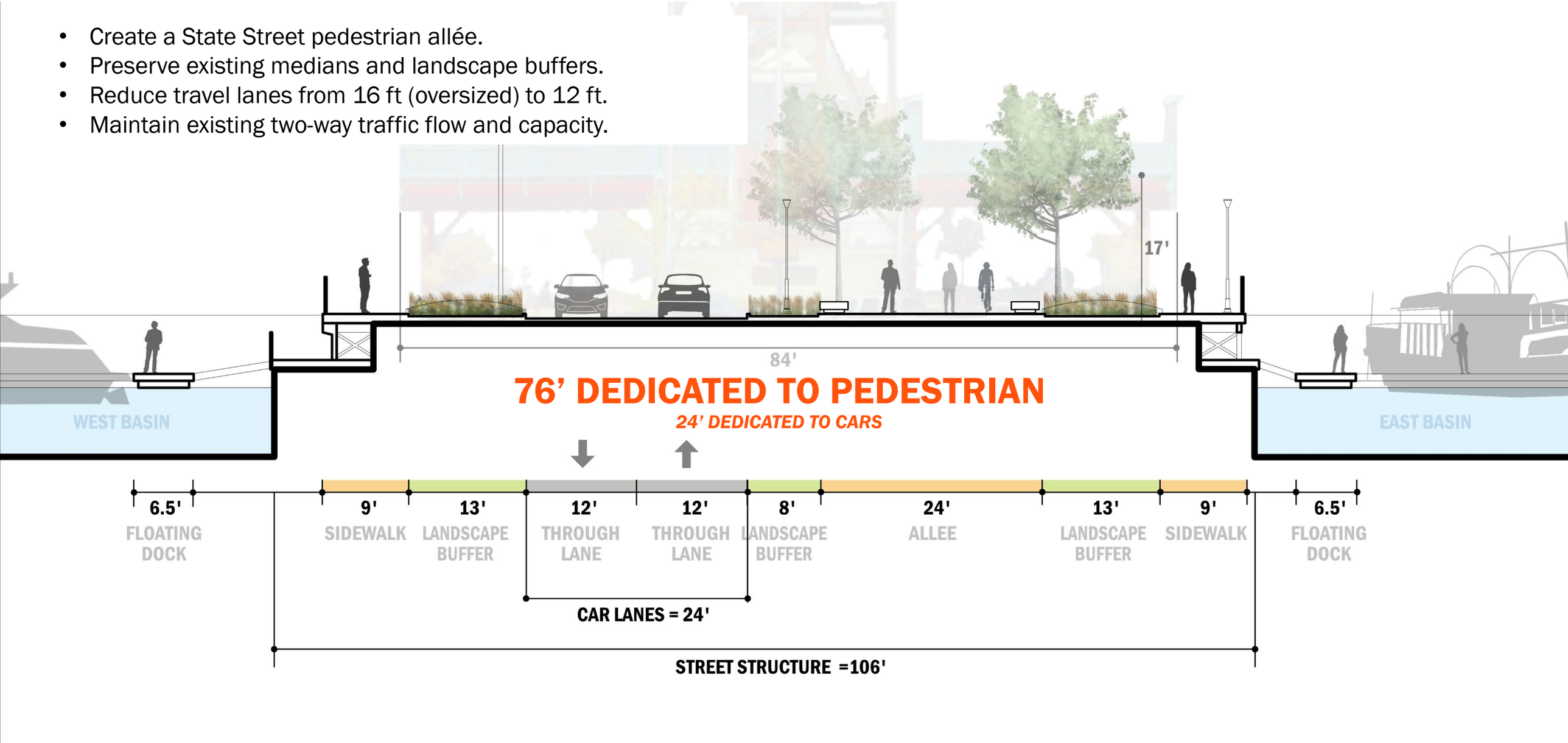

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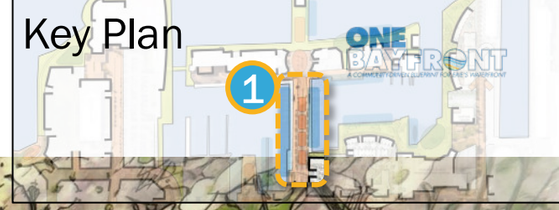

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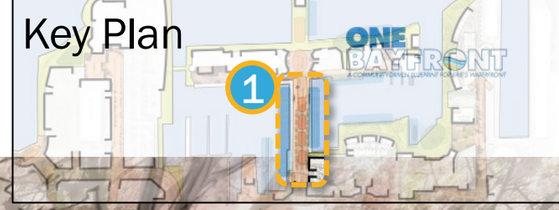
STATE STREET
State Street Allée: Spring





STATE STREET

State Street Allée: Winter





DOBBINS LANDING & EAST DOBBINS



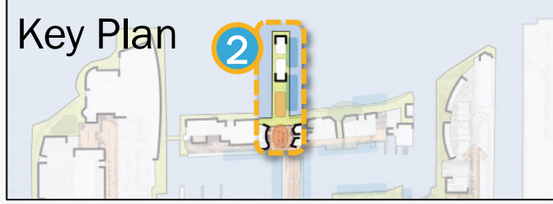
DOBBINS LANDING



DOBBINS CROSSING



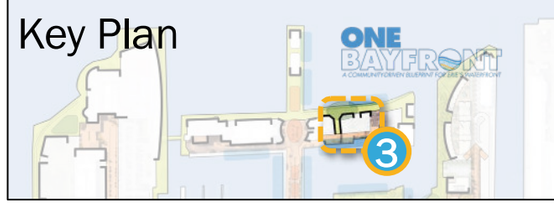
Civic Plaza



Village Green

EAST DOBBINS PIER
Aquarium (or Museum)



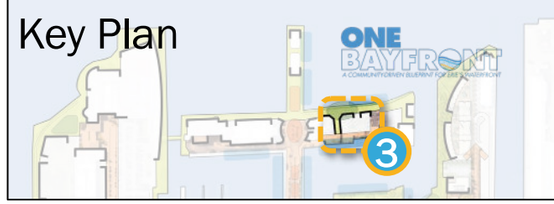




EAST DOBBINS PIER
Family Recreation



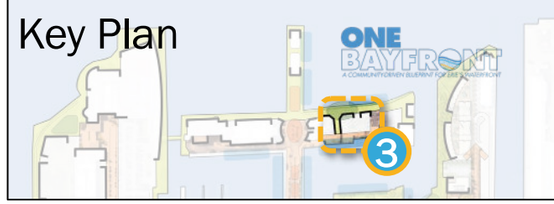




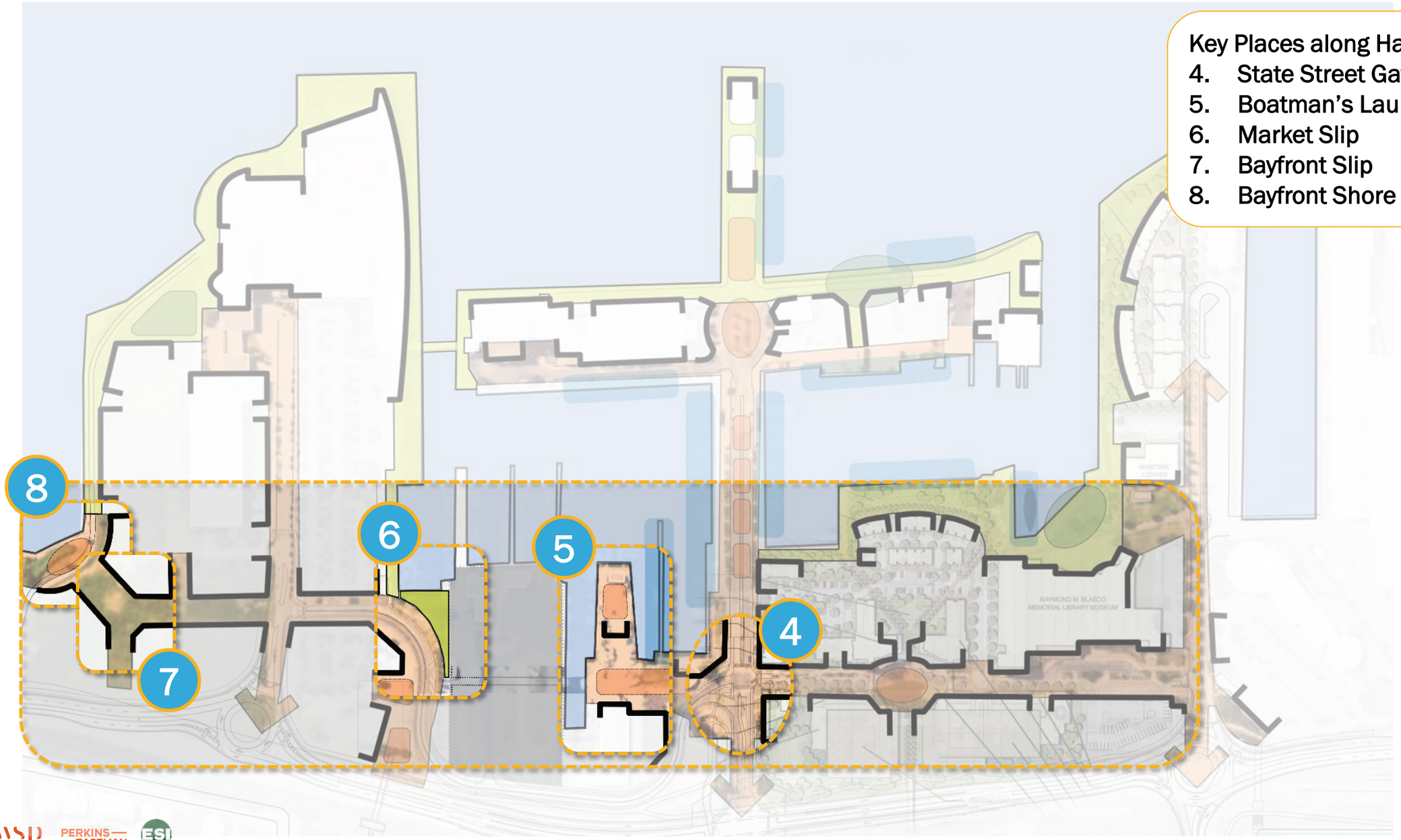
EAST DOBBINS PIER
Entertainment/Retail







Transforming Front Street to Harbor Way



Key Places along Harbor Way

4. State Street Gateway
5. Boatman's Launch
6. Market Slip
7. Bayfront Slip
8. Bayfront Shore

HARBOR WAY
A welcoming State Street Gateway to the Central Bayfront





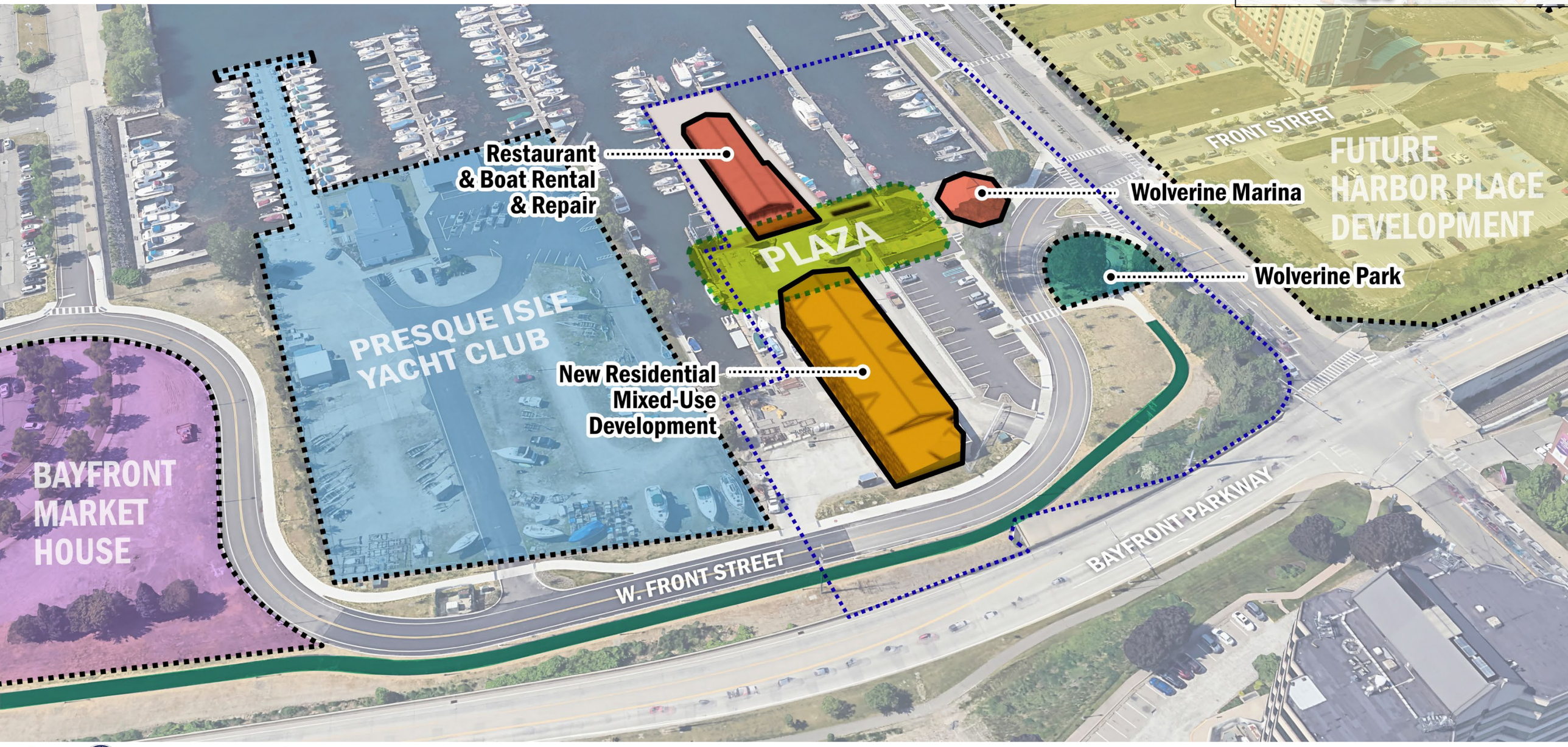
HARBOR WAY

Current Reality – It is challenging to travel on the curved Front Street.

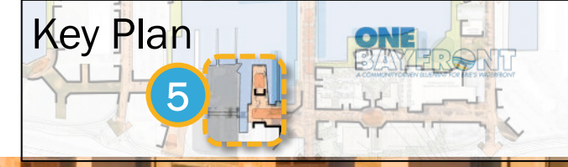




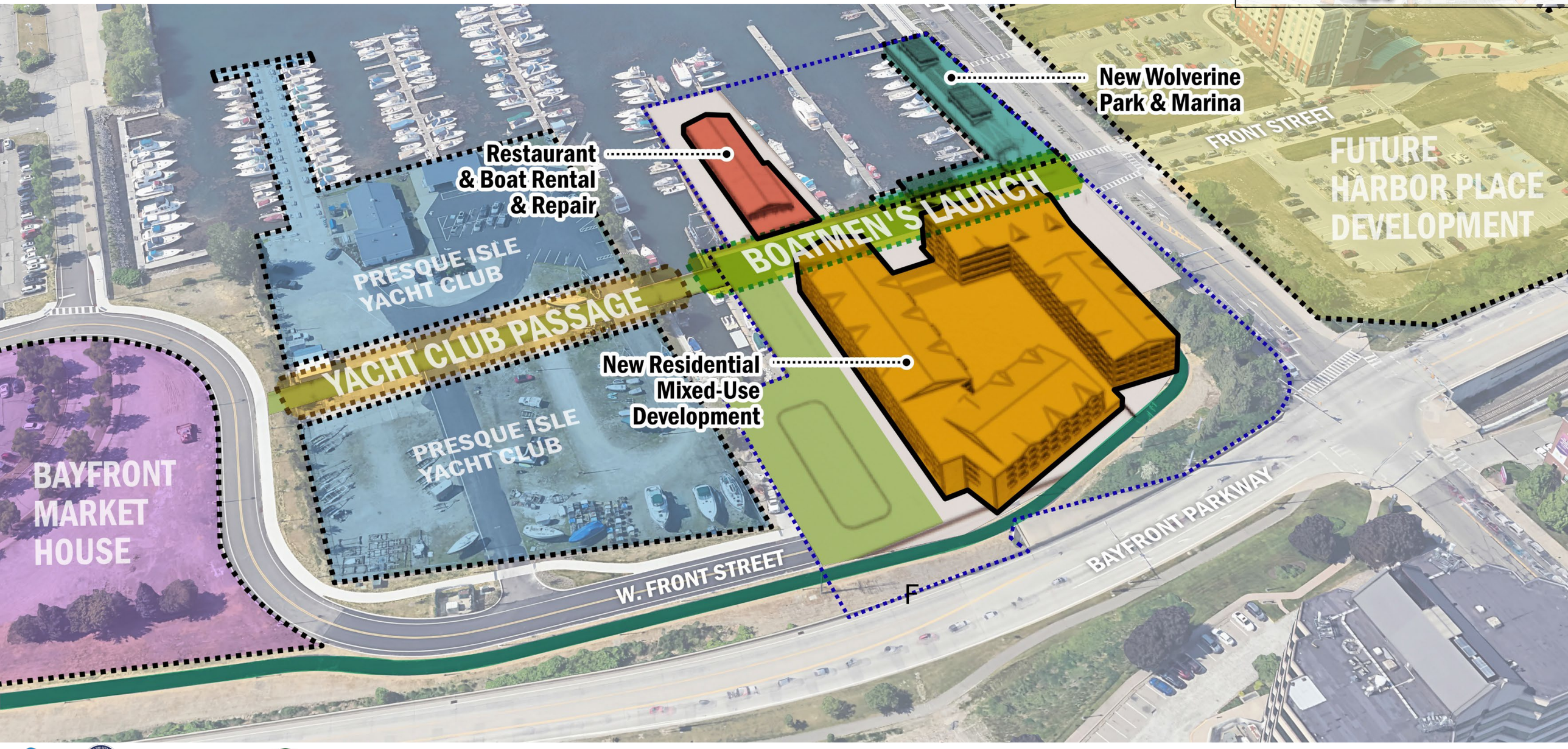
HARBOR WAY
Baseline Option: Keep Existing W. Front Street Alignment



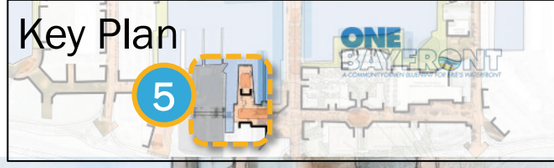
HARBOR WAY
Boatman's Launch



HARBOR WAY
New Development Option: Realign Front Street and Expand Developable Area



HARBOR WAY
Boatman's Launch (Looking toward State Street Gateway)



HARBOR WAY
Market Slip









Wilmington, NC



Lambertville, DE



HARBOR WAY
Bayfront Slip







HARBOR WAY
Bayfront Shore



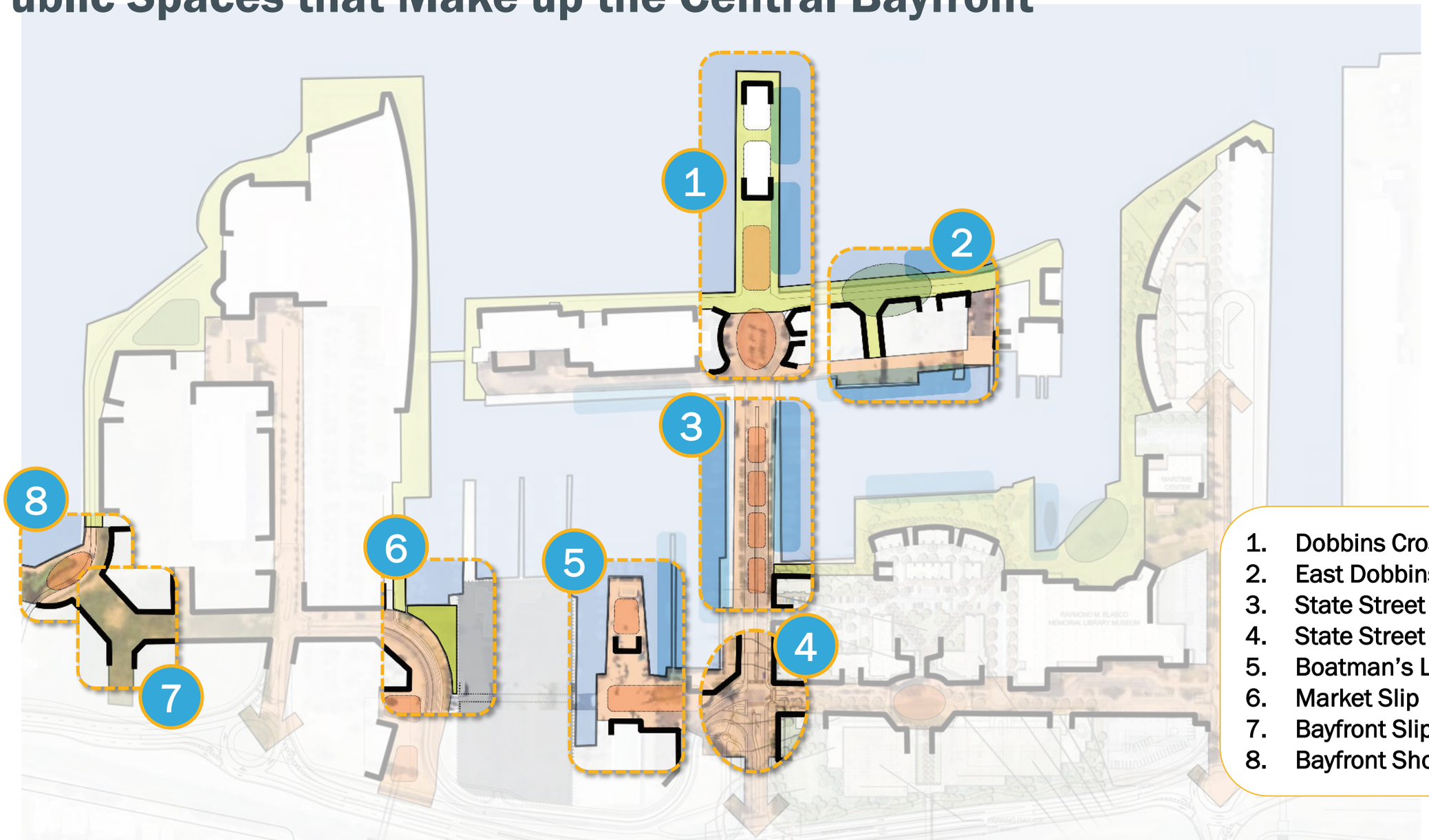






Key Plan

The Public Spaces that Make up the Central Bayfront

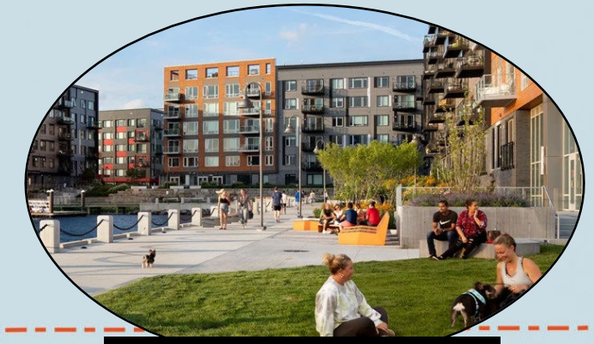


1. Dobbins Crossing
2. East Dobbins Pier
3. State Street
4. State Street Gateway
5. Boatman's Launch
6. Market Slip
7. Bayfront Slip
8. Bayfront Shore

OVERALL FRAMEWORK

Increase Connections to the Neighborhoods

*Extend and create new connections to increase access to the **ENTIRE** Bayfront from upland neighborhoods*



Residential/Recreational



Entertainment/Destination



Working Waterfront

Liberty Park

Presque Isle Bay

Central Bayfront

Lampe District

Bayfront Trail

Bluffs Promenade

Bayview Park

Tom McCarty Memorial Park

West Bayfront

Downtown

East Bayfront

Liberty St.

Sassafras St.

State St.

Holland St.

Reed St.

East Ave.

E. 6th St.

Gridley Park

Perry Square

Wayne Park

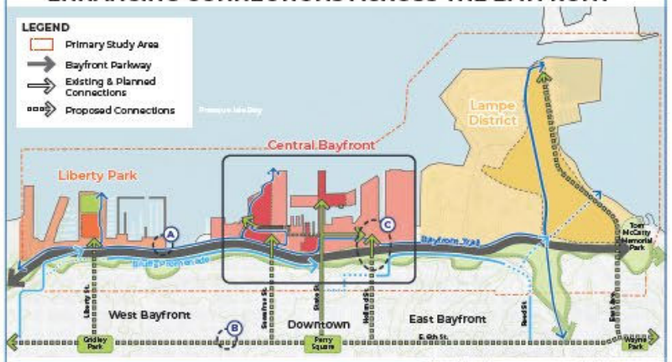
LEGEND

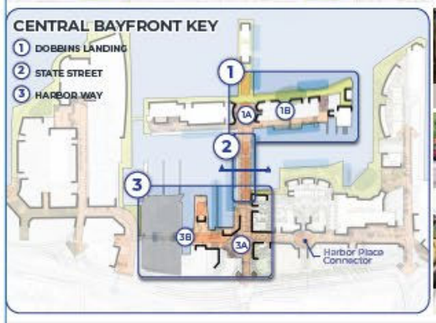
- Primary Study Area
- Bayfront Parkway
- Existing & Planned Connections
- Proposed Connections

Interactivity

DISCUSSION ON DRAFT CONCEPT OPTIONS

ENHANCING CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE BAYFRONT





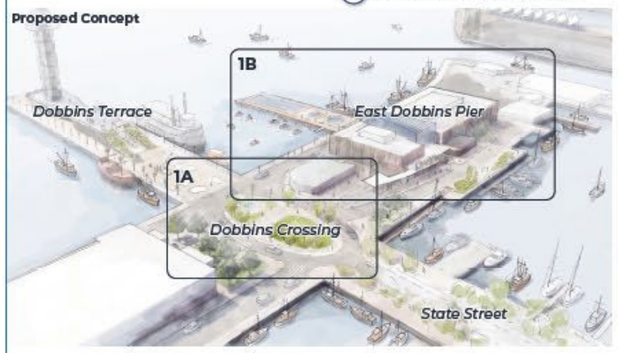

Landscaping and paint to improve the Bayfront Bikeway


Connect parks, neighborhoods to the Bayfront across Downtown


Enhance connections to planned and funded pedestrian bridges

LEAVE YOUR COMMENTS ON CONNECTIVITY HERE!

1 DOBBINS LANDING



1A: Dobbins Crossing


Option 1: Village Green
Village Green offering a green, waterfront mirror of Perry Square for passive and active use


Option 2: Civic Plaza
Civic Plaza offering more programmable space for concessions and events opportunities

1B: East Dobbins Pier

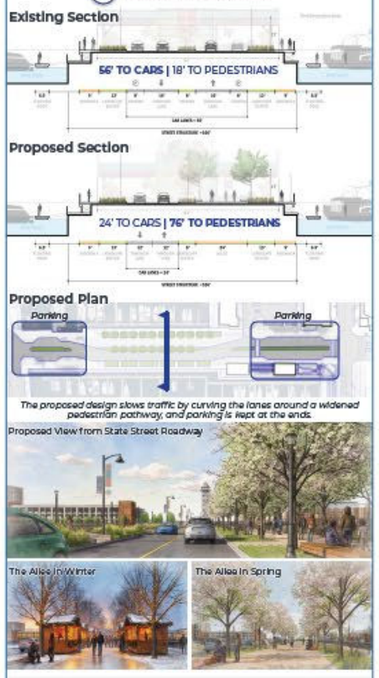

Option 1: Aquarium or Museum
Aquarium or maritime history themed museum for year-round family-friendly activities


Option 2: Family Recreation
Indoor and outdoor recreational space for year-round family activities


Option 3: Entertainment / Retail
A cluster of retail or entertainment establishments providing year round services both indoors and outdoors

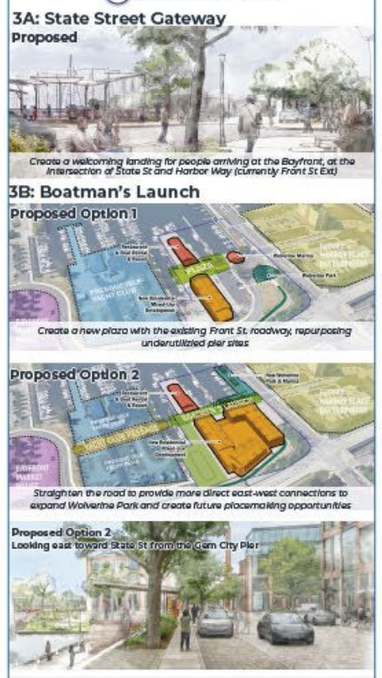
LEAVE YOUR COMMENTS FOR DOBBINS HERE!

2 STATE STREET



LEAVE YOUR COMMENTS FOR STATE ST HERE!

3 HARBOR WAY



LEAVE YOUR COMMENTS FOR HARBOR WAY HERE!

THANK YOU!

One Bayfront:
A Community-Driven Blueprint for Erie's Waterfront

November 12 & 13, 2026