

1. Environment and Open Space

LIKES

- The riverfront
- Access to river-walking and grass
- The greenbelt
- Waterfront
- Picnic Areas
- Beautiful Environment
- Walking Areas and Event spaces
- Abundance of trees/landscaping
- Small Parks
- Ware's creek
- Trees
- Walkways and Parks
- Lighted tennis courts

CONCERNS

- No recreational areas, parks, bike paths, trees, etc.
- Rossi park is empty
- Not enough recreational areas or things to do
- Need small parks, playground, food vendors
- Need parks along the river front with residential housing, limited to 2 stories, place higher buildings further from the river
- Not Enough bike racks, bike paths, bike friendly

IMPROVEMENTS

- A safe environment- reality and perceived
- Fountain area for focus/gathering
- Gathering areas on weekends. BBQ area, park benches, etc.
- Better lighting at night
- Increased police presence, esp. at night
- A riverfront recreational path that stretches west to east for walkers, bikers, rollerblades

2. Transportation (Roads, Walkability, Parking)

LIKES

- Hometown feel-walk around Downtown
- Abundance of parking, easy access to current businesses
- Narrow Roads
- Trolley systems
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian friendly
- It's Walkability
- Access to walkers, bikers
- Look and feel of the historic district, free parking
- Trolley-15th street west to 15 street east to MLK to river
- Full-time trolley mass transit
- Re-paved streets

CONCERNS

- Lack of parking
- No electric trolley
- 1 way pairs thru downtown
- Traffic jams
- Lack of parking
- Traffic, lack of activity on main street
- Pedestrian interconnections
- Poor Sidewalks
- Traffic on Main Street, foot traffic only!
- Poor pedestrian conditions
- Not enough shade to walk comfortably
- Slow down traffic so they have a chance to see
- Less one way streets
- Clean public transportation
- More parking for residents and guests
- Intimidating walkways and streets for pedestrians, bikers
- Walkability- safety, landscaping, signage
- Traffic-SR 64 cuts downtown area in ½ (pedestrian walkway)

IMPROVEMENTS

- Trolley-15th street west to 15 street east to MLK to river
- Full-time trolley mass transit
- Bike racks, bike paths, bike friendly
- Better traffic lights at 9th and 14th, Eliminate homeless
- Re-paved streets
- Unique Transportation System
- Pedestrian friendly intersections are needed to encourage people to move throughout the entire downtown. Could include light and reduced speed.
- Some towns have adopted a Barnes Dance, named after , I believe, a traffic engineer in Denver (home of the infamous Denver Boot) it stops traffic in all directions and lets pedestrians cross the street in any direction, including diagonally. It must be

coupled with severe enforcement, for both cars and pedestrians.

- Better visibility of parking- there is a perception that there is no parking or its unsafe
- Walkways above heavy traffic areas
- Traffic calming/ re-routing to not disrupt downtown
- Two way Manatee Ave. People just go through to get some place else. Need to make Bradenton a Destination
- Public transportation in a defined area. This could include a trolley which would ring the affected area, and also go into other areas of interest, such as up-graded Tamiami Trail and the Village of the arts. It would run from 15th East (Heritage Village) along portions of the waterfront (and include the Riverwalk), to Barcarrota Blvd, 14th to at least 17th Ave, back through again. (Tying in the Riverwalk, It might also make sense to make a trip across the Green Bridge to a point in downtown Palmetto.)
- Downtown trolley like on AMI connecting Village of the arts, library, palmetto, antique district, Fogartyville café,
- Move loud gas powered buses away from courthouse-set up new transportation center- 14th St?
- Possible east/west train service, trolley?
- Divert downtown thru traffic around downtown
- Transit system
- Eliminate race-way through our downtown
- More pedestrian friendly feeling
- Bike Racks so the cars are discouraged
- Improve pedestrian/bike usage around town and across river Pedestrian friendly intersections are needed to encourage people to move throughout the entire downtown. Could include light and reduced speed.
- Some towns have adopted a Barnes Dance, named after, I believe, a traffic engineer in Denver (home of the infamous Denver Boot) it stops traffic in all directions and lets pedestrians cross the street in any direction, including diagonally. It must be coupled with severe enforcement, for both cars and pedestrians.
- Need better parking
- 2 hour limit on parking or metered
- Better Pedestrian accessibility
- Traffic Flow
- Thought out pedestrian traffic i.e. moving through shopping and restaurants
- Making a restoration rather than a drive through
- Better traffic lights at 9th and 14th,

3. Retail and Restaurants

LIKES

- Abundance of parking, easy access to current businesses
- Main street shops at pedestrian scale
- Book Store
- Commerce- day and night open hours
- Well established businesses
- Commercial businesses
- Willingness/cooperation of businesses for unity
- Small grocery
- Old Town Marketplace
- Proximate parking
- On Street parking

CONCERNS

- Thought out pedestrian traffic i.e. moving through shopping and restaurants
- Alcohol consumption on Main street,
- No store with Milk, etc. within walking distance,
- Dead at night
- Lack of critical mass of entertainment/retail
- Not enough restaurants, shops-particularly weekends, no grocery
- No nightlife or decent restaurants
- Lack of housing/retail/restaurants
- Lack of street level shops
- Lack of major retail shopping
- Nothing open in evenings but bars
- Offices that do not attract anyone but their customers and close off main street
- Shopping options-retail, restaurants, entertainment
- Reasons to go other than governmental offices
- Retail shopping center effect will overtake locals businesses
- Need pharmacy and small grocery store
- Need a Grocery store
- Restaurants, hotel or resort
- More boutiques and small restaurants
- Not enough Dining
- Retail outlet to anchor downtown- grocery store
- Need More varied retail to bring people downtown
- Night time entertainment
- Need "personality"- restaurants, shops- common location of these- Main Street?
- Main Street should have businesses that attract walking traffic. The empty, underutilized buildings should be offered with incentives to attract defined businesses. Intentionally courting businesses and stores to be downtown. They need to see and opportunity to make money needs encouragement.
- Lack of businesses
- Need Longer evening hours on weekends
- Inadequate Shops, Restaurants, Bike Racks, Activities

IMPROVEMENTS

- A place to buy a quart of milk, a loaf of bread
- Cinema
- Entertainment
- Increased retail-newsstand/bookstore/grocery
- Longer evening hours on weekends and a movie theatre
- Publix Food store
- Stores, esp. grocery
- Book/coffee/tea shop. Small art theatre
- More variety of shops
- Specialty food shops
- Don't forget entertainment in the retail/restaurant mix
- More quality restaurants
- Retail outlets, dept. store, grocery store
- Hotel/conference center
- Official marketing responsibilities w/in city and/or DDA
- A downtown club for socializing
- Businesses which include the arts, entertainment, small shops and restaurants that attract
- Visitors should be encouraged and "incentivized".
- More Urban Feel – dynamic shops
- More variety of shopping options
- Grocery store
- Upscale dining and "boutique" stores
- More density for buildings... improve retail feasibility
- Restaurants demanded by greater # of people
- Restaurants that are open until 9 or 10 pm.
- Mix of additional retail/entertainment, rest., music venues, bookstore, internet café, ice cream shop
- Need a general store type business in the downtown (CVS does not qualify for the downtown we're taking about) such as a Walgreens or CVS. There is currently no place for someone to buy any food items without journeying to 39th street west or Cortez. A whole foods type of market will appeal to a gentrified group, but your struggling young adults can't afford a steady diet of Whole foods prices.
- Friendly shops, a destination spot.
- A place to buy a quart of milk, a loaf of bread
- Increased retail-newsstand/bookstore/grocery
- Unusual stores

4. Art and Cultural Venues

LIKES

- Library, Theatre, Museum, Marina
- Accessibility to Library, Theatre, etc
- Waterfront, Main street, Theatre/Playhouse
- Accessibility to Library, Theatre, etc
- Close proximity to interesting places-water, planetarium, village of arts, antique shops
- Places to go-Library, Theatre
- Central Library (Free)
- City Hall as the town govt. center
- Village of the arts, Public Library
- Village of the arts movement
- Manatee Riverfront Theatre
- Twin Dolphins
- A strong showing of the arts
- Quality Entertainment
- Cultural Center, Village of Arts, museum, art center, manatee players, library, Fogartyville Antique District
- Theatre, museum, Arts Center
- Manatee Players
- Riverfront Theatre
- Art Center Manatee
- Events and closing off Main street
- Walking areas and event spaces

CONCERNS

- What will replace Manatee Players Theatre?
- Entertainment district
- Cultural places need more people to support them
- Anything the city takes care of...Museum, Planetarium are our best assets
- Need Symphony, Theatre, Stadium, half shell, Like the open air Shakespeare Theatre in Central Park
- Open access to library, Village of the arts
- Need Movie Theatre
- Lack of youth activities
- Lack of people before and after 5 pm
- Lack of weekend events to keep people here, traffic
- Regular traditions to attract people-Spring Regatta, Outdoor concert series
- More street events to get people downtown
- needs events to bring people downtown
- outdoor concert or arena with trees
- These residents also need services to be there. Currently there is little or no attempt to attract businesses to service them.
- Bringing new people

IMPROVEMENTS

- Public art/Art festival focus/music, etc.
- Need to hold a jazz fest annually
- More public art, art shows, small cinema, different entertainment venues, small cafes w/music
- More downtown population to fill the planetarium, village of the arts, museum, etc.
- Improve the cultural buildings that are here

- Entertainment-Dining, movies, shopping
- Need to allow live music and music outdoors in the evenings /night
- Movie Theater where the current Manatee Players are now.
- Special entrances (archway over the roads) at the entrances to the village of the arts
- A place to house the performing & visual arts
- Independent Cinema or a concert hall for nighttime entertainment
- Downtown local cinema
- Public art/Art festival focus/music, etc.
- Rochester, NY, situated on the NY State Barge Canal, has an annual International Canal Conference. That Bradenton hold a conference for cities located on rivers. First for Florida cities, two years later for all US Cities, two years later an international conference. This would spotlight the accomplishments of our five year plan.
- Other recreational activities, craft fairs, antique fairs, etc.
- Main street events frequently

5. Governance and Coordination

LIKES

- An unusual opportunity for growth
- Willingness/cooperation of businesses for unity
- Government is focused on making a successful downtown
- Strong neighborhood inclusion in decision making
- Community Outreach

CONCERNS

- Too many social services compared to tax revenue properties
- Vagrants are prevalent
- Need increased police presence
- My highest concern is our present method of new development being reviewed. Residents in the surrounding area of a proposed development are not advised of the plans until proposal goes before the planning board.
- Change public bldg and offices to public use, shopping, etc.
- Schools/museums, public investment!
- Palmetto, Lakewood Ranch, Sarasota are developing. Bradenton is just sitting here building condos.
- Increase pedestrian safety and activity, performing arts hall
- Lack of garbage containers
- Reduction of church owned property downtown
- Lack of coordinated marketing efforts
- Most things happen without a plan
- Rochester, NY, situated on the NY State Barge Canal, has an annual International Canal Conference.
- Dark, under-policed
- Bradenton won't follow through and get anything done
- Homeless population hanging around all day/night

IMPROVEMENTS

- A unique personal that gives Bradenton a unique identity
- Marketing image to outside of community
- Play up "Home of Tropicana"- the cities industry leader
- More inviting to people
- Creation of central medical district close by the hospital. Residential /offices mix use
- Coordinate existing amenities
- Need some Business Enticement
- Creating and Advertising an inviting/intriguing image
- That Bradenton hold a conference for cities located on rivers. First for Florida cities, two years, later for all US Cities, two years later an international conference. This would spotlight the accomplishments of our five year plan.

- Main Street should have businesses that attract waking traffic. The empty, underutilized buildings should be offered with incentives to attract defined businesses. Intentionally courting businesses and stores to be downtown. They need to see and opportunity to make money needs encouragement.

6. Waterfront / Public Access

LIKES

- Optimism and energy about Downtown redevelopment,
- Waterfront views
- Riverwalk,
- Friendly personality
- The waterfront and boats
- Waterfront, Main street, Theatre/Playhouse
- Proximity to waterfront and access to two bridges north
- Location on shore of Manatee River has great potential
- Potential for having a lively Downtown waterfront
- The River
- Library, Theatre, Museum, Marina
- Riverfront space...for walkers and cafes
- Public access to waterfront
- Waterfront available to all the people
- Waterfront Access
- Proximity to water
- Twin Dolphin Marina
- River, River access, docks

CONCERNS

- Tie into Wares creek for kayaking
- Boat ramps downtown
- Not enough access to waterfront for public
- The waterfront should be for ALL people, all additions should be across the street from the waterfront.
- Waterfront blocked in some areas
- Government uses on waterfront

IMPROVEMENTS

- Improve use and access to water, build concepts around river
- More riverfront park areas, not just walkway
- More water access, retail, cruises, boat rentals, kayaking
- Public docks for boaters to visit and shop and eat. Kayak and canoe rental, launch area
- Bike Rentals
- Water taxi-day docks
- Riverfront area-enhance walk/park along river
- Move police dept. from Prime waterfront location

7. Residential Development

LIKES

- Potential for infill/Workforce housing/increased density
- Residential to support hospital
- Residential to support retail and cultural venues
- Financially attainable housing for young professionals
- Residential variety, particularly workforce housing
- Much more housing, we need people living downtown
- Affordable and mixed income housing
- Acceptable and affordable housing/residential areas,
- Intensification-Higher density/more comm.
- Infill housing, redevelopment that fits
- More housing/variety
- Variety of housing for all incomes... Affordable housing attracts young people to city centers where we can work, live mingle . Then businesses will come.
- Attainable housing available/attractive to young professionals, which means density and height is necessary and desirable

CONCERNS

- Parks along the river front with residential housing, limited to 2 stories, place higher buildings further from the river
- Lack of housing/retail/restaurants
- No affordable housing, not for young people
- No affordable housing for young professionals
- more residential (diversity), not just high rises
- Seeing the possibility of diminishing returns on this.
- Riviera Southshore/highrise
- All the condominiums taking over the waterfront
- Need affordable housing
- City office/Police Dept. needs to go back to Manatee Ave-old city hall area

IMPROVEMENTS

- Less condos, more restored older buildings
- Attainable housing available/attractive to young professionals, which means density and height is necessary and desirable
- More housing/variety
- Variety of housing for all incomes... Affordable housing attracts young people to city centers where we can work, live mingle. Then businesses will come.
- Affordable housing
- Consider the new construction east of 9th street West (out of official design)

8. Image and Beauty

LIKES

- The character and the potential
- Grid streets and friendly people
- Old Florida Charm
- Small Town America feel
- Small Town America attraction, old court house, on the mouth of river
- Starting to clean up and look good
- A quaint historic district
- Main Street, Waterfront, Historic Buildings
- Small, homey, intimate
- Quaint shops, older homes
- Attention and enhancement to streetscaping, design standards, landscape/tree plan
- Riverfront area-enhance walk/park along river. Improve pedestrian/bike usage around town and across river
- Keep remaining historic buildings-unique churches and historic courthouse
- Low building heights better "Old Florida" image
- Main street, Little Village
- Old Buildings, Large trees
- Accessibility and the quality of life
- Historic Look and Feel
- Visual access to River, Bridges, Riverwalk
- Historical Value
- Waterfront, bricked walkway and parks
- The city Pier, City Hall
- History
- The historic buildings
- Cultural places, library, museum, theatre
- 14th street
- Architecture, Character
- Any historical resources
- Picturesque, Quaint ambiance
- Historic Homes
- Look and feel of the historic district, free parking
- The pier
- The old courthouse
- The professional building & post office
- Old Main Street
- Historic Feel
- Small city feel

CONCERNS

- Making a restoration rather than a drive through
- Need "personality"- restaurants, shops- common location of these- Main Street?
- Better lighting at night
- Architecture, style of buildings
- Surrounding neighborhood blight
- Overflowing trashcans and poorly maintained green areas
- Dirty, bricks stained, trees not lit, tree area trampled
- Boring
- No bond with rest of city
- Visible, vibrant gathering places

- Maintain Architectural Integrity and character of "town"
- Not "walling off" corridors- graduated heights
- Manhattan.
- Utilize, incorporate old buildings- make new ones compatible
- Lack of theme/design, architectural design
- Courtyard Square looks awful-cluttered, junkie
- Homeless men loitering, sleeping- Riverwalk, public park areas.
- Prostitution, drugs- Village of the arts
- Appealing to a younger crowd
- Homelessness, drugs, prostitution flourish downtown
- Not enough pride of ownership

IMPROVEMENTS

- Rehab old buildings
- Encourage green building ideas w/ RFP's including using grey water to flush toilets
- More trees, underground utilities, cleaner look
- Saving our historical appearance
- Historical significance of our area and more city residential feel of ownership or inclusion
- Maintain trees, add more,
- Lighting for pedestrians,
- Trolley round village, river, Main street, sidewalk cafes
- Public art
- A unique personal that gives Bradenton a unique identity
- The grounds of the court house are poorly maintained and laid out,
- More Arts
- Beautification on 9th Street, W from Manatee Av. W.

- Needs trimming, weeding, gutters cleaned
- Need more foliage/flowers,
- Need more palm trees and flowers