

## Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Community Design Workshop 2

April 16, 2016

#### Today's Agenda

- 1. Welcome and workshop overview
- 2. The Russell Neighborhood Vision
- 3. Neighborhood and Housing Concepts
- 4. Break-out Discussions your opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on:
  - Vision
  - Neighborhood strategies
  - Neighborhood housing
  - Beecher Terrace transformation



# Capturing the Past...

# ...Cultivating the Future





#### Russell's rich history can help inspire the future



Lincoln Theater at 9th and Walnut



**Downtown Civil Rights Movement** 



Muhammad Ali attended Central High



Western Branch Library

# Building on our STRENGTHS

- Strong community
- Heritage and history
- Location
- Affordability
- Access to quality public transportation
- Architectural character
- Multiple neighborhood schools and community organizations

And more...











## Recognizing our CHALLENGES

- Crime, lack of safety
- Limited neighborhood retail, restaurants
- Vacant properties
- Litter and upkeep
- Poor street lighting
- School performance and travel time
- Access to jobs
- Concentration of poverty
- Economic opportunities









#### **Cultivating our OPPORTUNITIES**





Youth activities



Improved safety



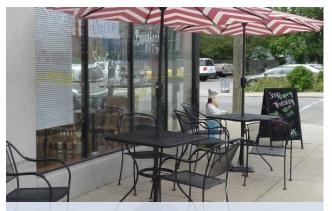
Housing choices



Connectivity



Gathering spaces



More retail & services





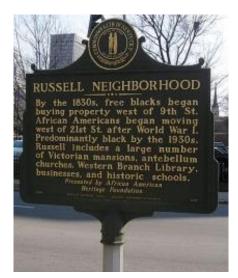
## 1. Reinforce neighborhood **IDENTITY**

- Place-Making
- Signage
- Heritage and history
- Art and culture
- A strong community













#### 1. Reinforce neighborhood **IDENTITY**

**Muhammad Ali Blvd at 13th Street – Today** 



#### 1. Reinforce neighborhood **IDENTITY**

#### Muhammad Ali Blvd at 13th Street - Vision



## 2. Improve actual and perceived **SAFETY**

- Address vacant properties
- Focus on "hot spot" areas that attract criminal activity
- Increase "natural surveillance" along streets:
  - Front doors for "eyes on the street"
  - Well-lit streets
  - Landscaping
  - Block clubs/social media
- Build partnerships between police + community + schools







## 3. Improve **CONNECTIVITY** and **TRANSPORTATION** options

- Improve pedestrian safety:
  - Visible crosswalks
  - Curb bump outs
  - Traffic calming
- Enhance transit stops
- Implement two-way streets
- Extend downtown circulator bus
- Add car-share services

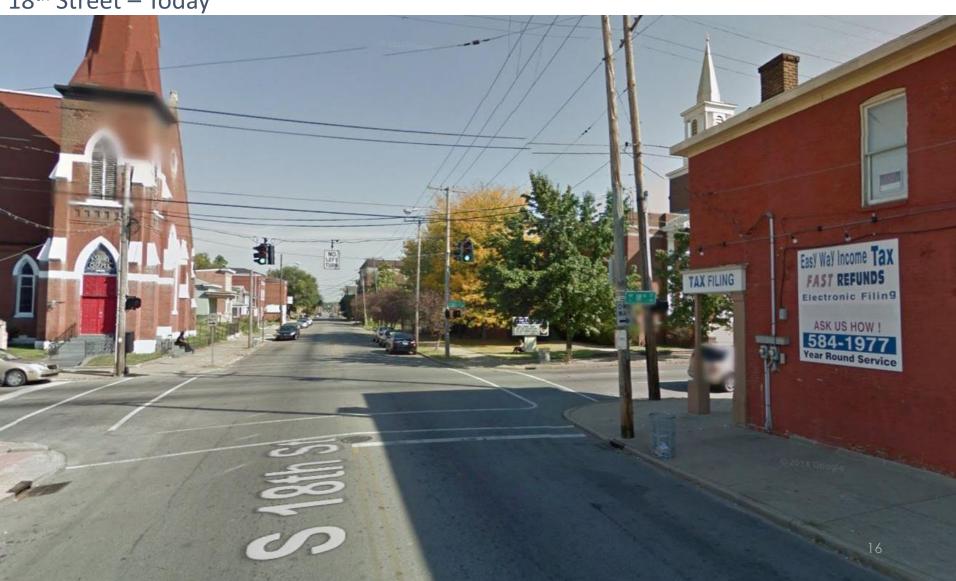






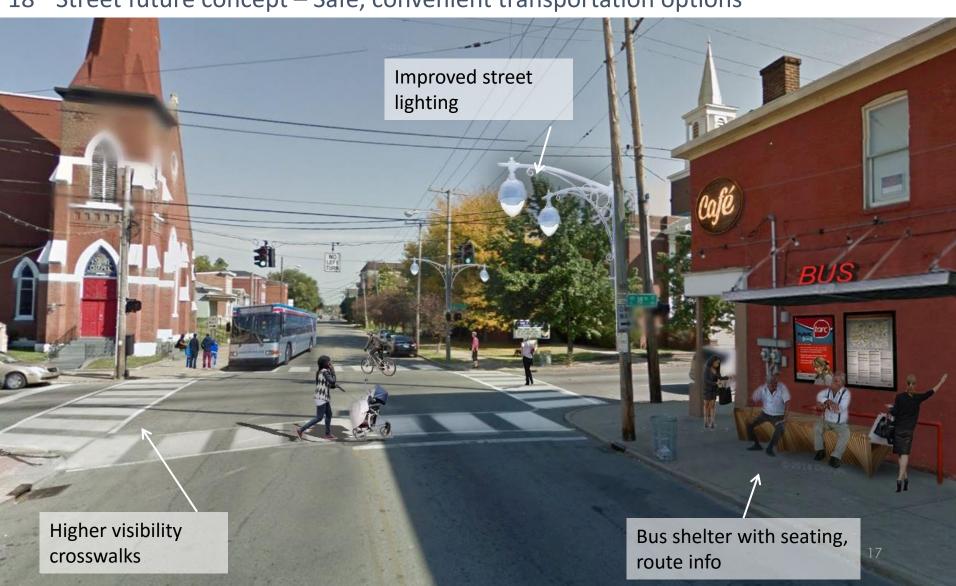
### 3. Improve **CONNECTIVITY** and **TRANSPORTATION** options

18<sup>th</sup> Street – Today



### 3. Improve **CONNECTIVITY** and **TRANSPORTATION** options

18<sup>th</sup> Street future concept – Safe, convenient transportation options



## 4. Re-create **STRONG RETAIL / SERVICE / ACTIVITY** centers

- Focus new retail & services around established retail clusters
- Add "pop-up" retail /services
- Coordinate with local hiring and business development initiatives
- Incentivize local small businesses



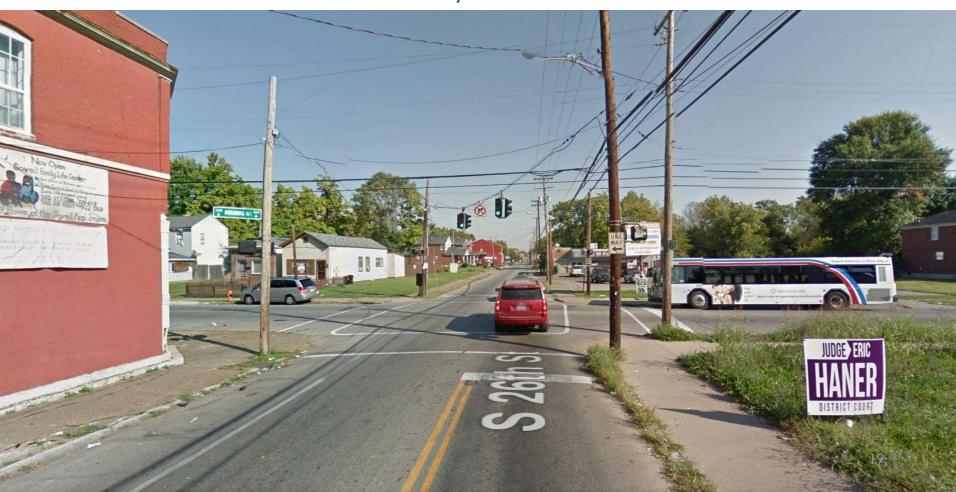






### 4. Re-create **STRONG RETAIL / SERVICE / ACTIVITY** centers

26<sup>th</sup> Street at Muhammad Ali Blvd – Today



#### 4. Re-create **STRONG RETAIL / SERVICE / ACTIVITY** centers

26<sup>th</sup> Street at Muhammad Ali Blvd – Future Concept – Active Neighborhood Center



### 4. Re-create **STRONG RETAIL / SERVICE / ACTIVITY** centers

Muhammad Ali Blvd at 18<sup>th</sup> St - Kentucky Center for African American Heritage - Today



#### 4. Re-create **STRONG RETAIL / SERVICE / ACTIVITY** centers

Muhammad Ali Blvd at 18<sup>th</sup> St - Kentucky Center for African American Heritage - Future Concept



### 5. Improve **PARK and RECREATION** network

- Lots of Possibility "Pocket Parks" & green spaces
- Community gardens
- Relocate and revitalize Old Walnut St.
  Park as multi-use sports park
- Renovating Olmsted parks







### 5. Improve PARK and RECREATION network

- Enhance access to existing Central H.S. pool, school playgrounds, YMCA
- Green network connectors: 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, Jefferson, Madison



### 5. Improve **PARK and RECREATION** network

9<sup>th</sup> Street today



#### 5. Improve **PARK and RECREATION** network

9<sup>th</sup> Street future concept



#### Park ideas









### 6. Preserve and enhance **EXISTING HOUSING**

- Incentivize repairs/upgrades by owners
- Expand ownership opportunities
- Provide renters means to grow assets
- Provide workshops on home repair, renovation, energy efficiency upgrades
- Incentivize renovation of vacant buildings





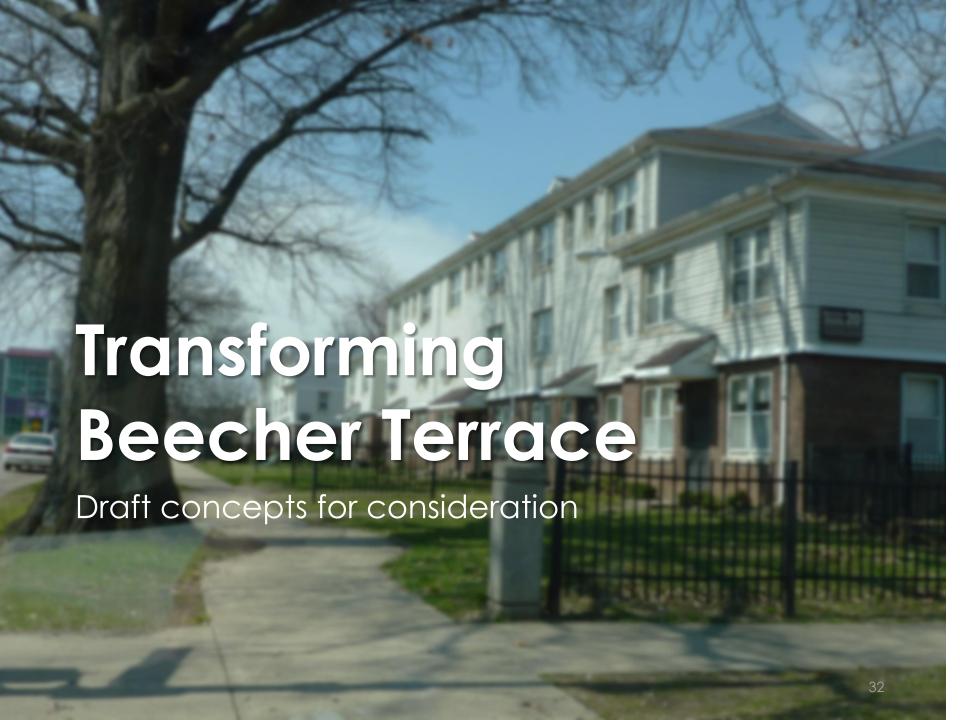
## 7. Develop sustainable **NEW HOUSING**

- Coordinate actions & partnerships by multiple development entities
- Redevelop larger strategic sites in neighborhood
- Transform Beecher Terrace into a vibrant mixed-income/ mixed-use community









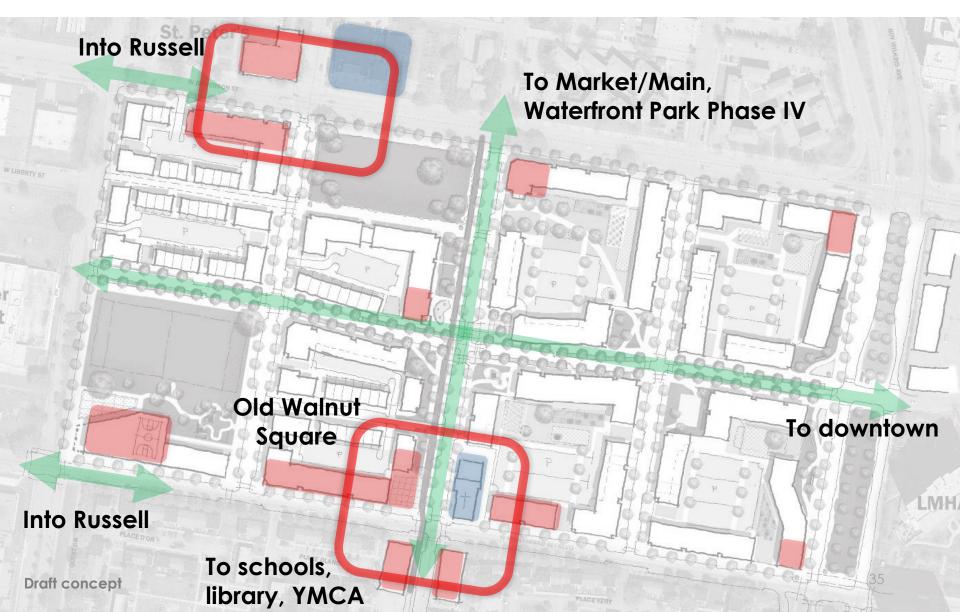
# Beecher Terrace doesn't meet resident needs



# Improved connections for residents to surrounding assets



# New centers for neighborhood retail and services



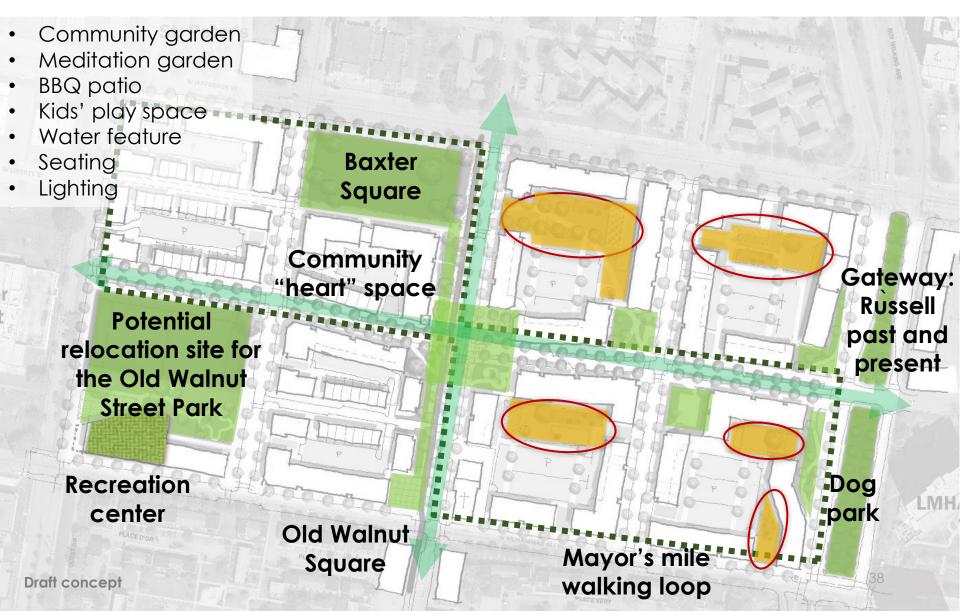
# New and renewed public places for recreation and gathering



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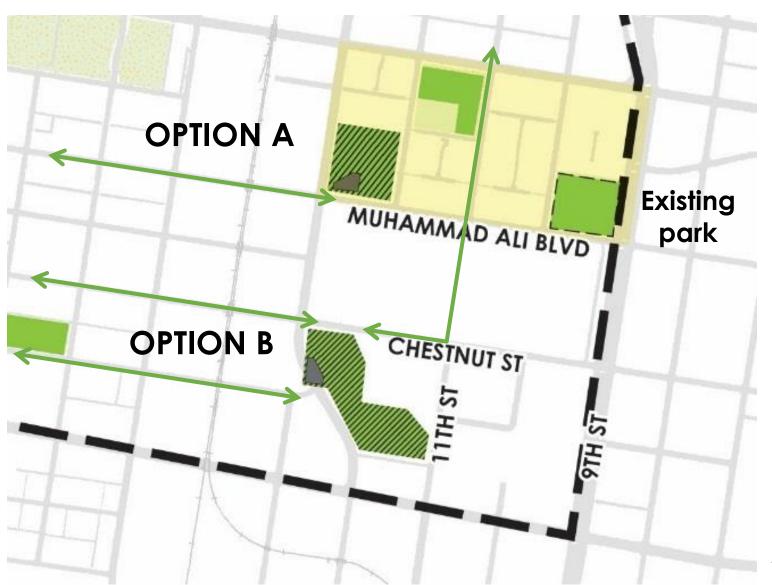
# Safe, attractive courtyards for residents to share



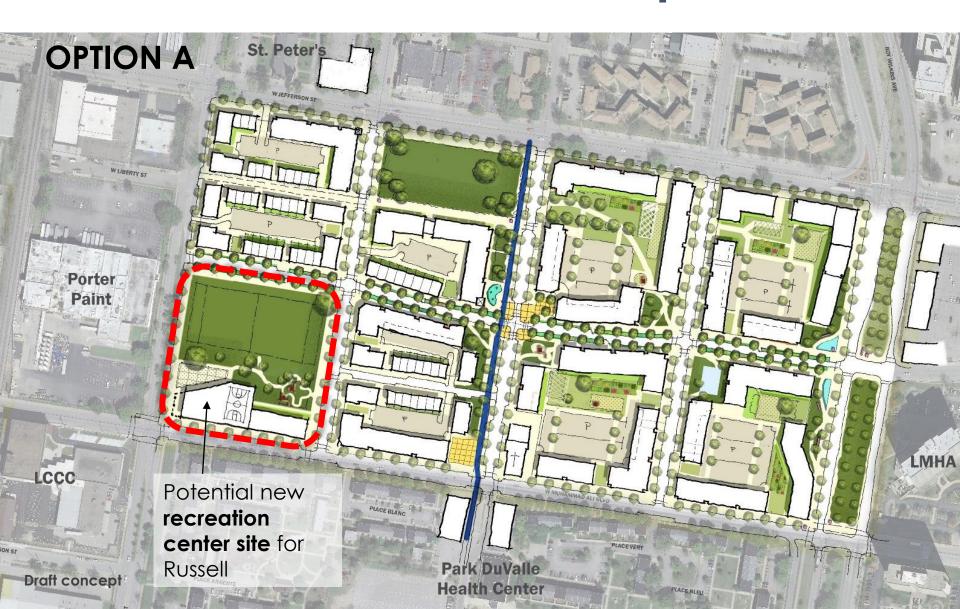
## Building heights that step down toward the neighborhood



# Options to improve park and make it more central to Russell



# Example Beecher Terrace transformation – Park Option A



Option B: move park near high school



## Example Beecher Terrace transformationwith park located off-site



## A variety of quality homes serving diverse households



## A variety of quality homes serving diverse households

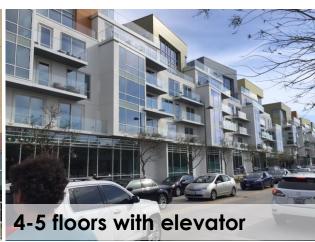












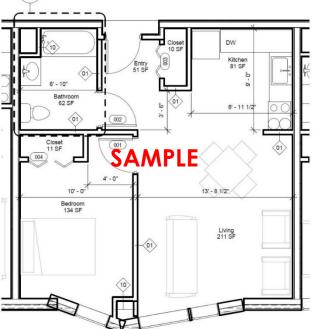
### Homes that meet your needs

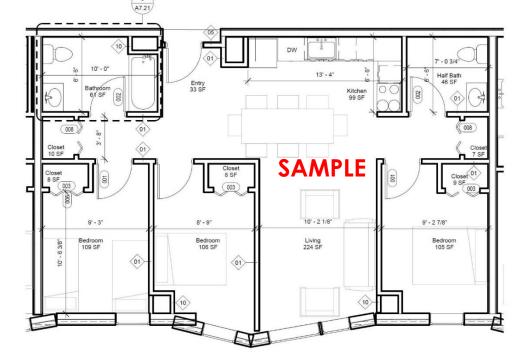














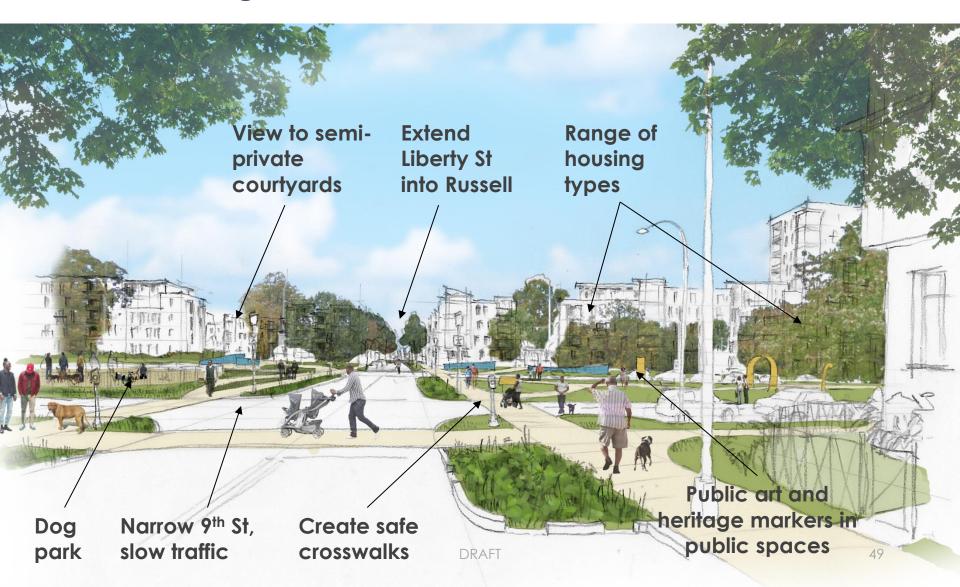
Liberty at 9<sup>th</sup> Street

## Today: Not welcoming - poor connectivity – little sense of place



Liberty at 9<sup>th</sup> Street

### **Vision:** Gateway to Russell - expressing identity - re-connecting to downtown



Liberty at 11<sup>th</sup> Street

#### Today: outdated housing model



Liberty at 11<sup>th</sup> Street

#### **Vision:** Vibrant – heart of the community



### New Liberty Street is an attractive, quiet neighborhood street for people



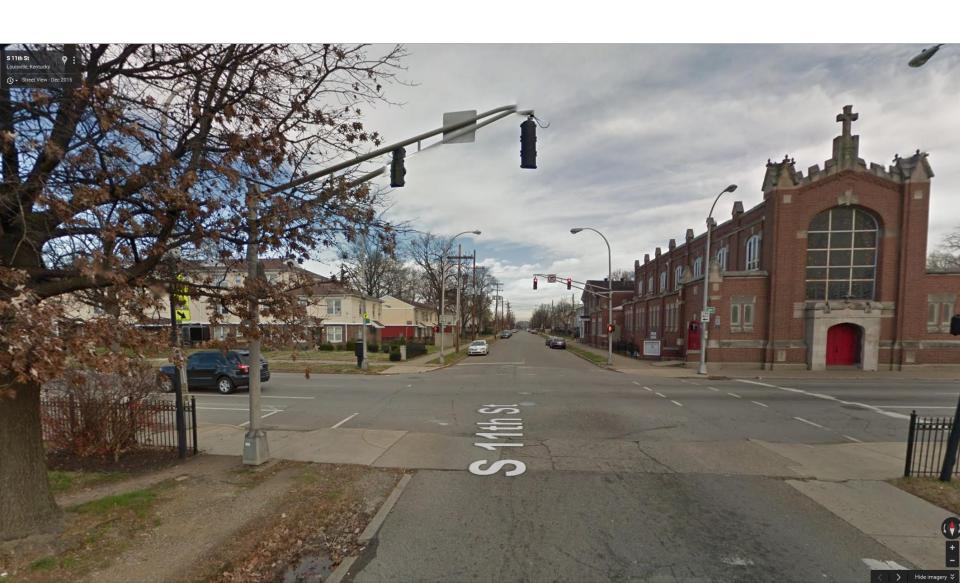






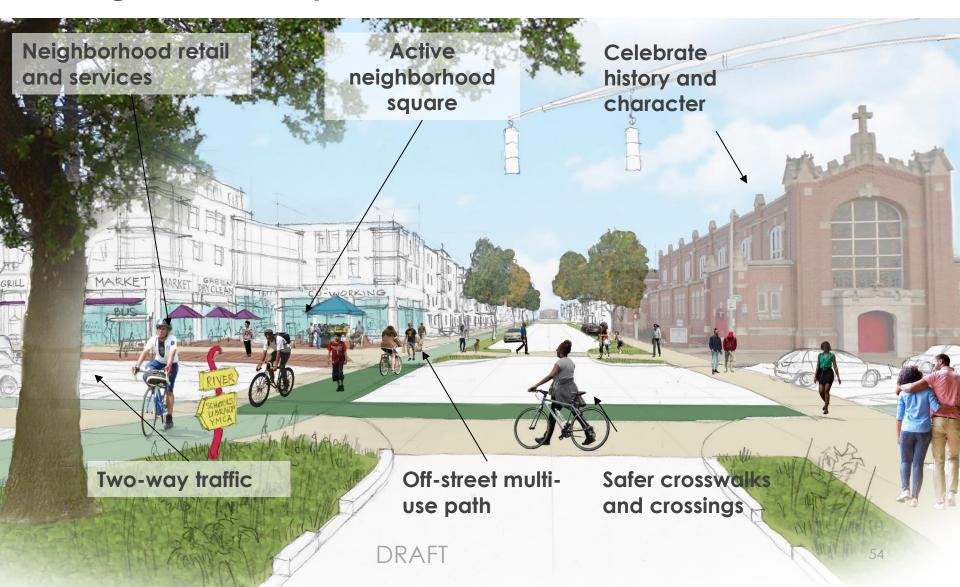
Muhammad Ali at 11th Street

## Today: Little street presence - limited retail and services - poor connectivity



#### Muhammad Ali at 11th Street

### **Vision:** vibrant retail - sense of place and history – strong connectivity



**Interior spaces** 

Today: not inviting, inactive, extensive maintenance needs



#### **Interior spaces**

#### Vision: safe, active and neighborly



### Meet your neighbors













#### **Break-out discussions**

- Visit any/all of four stations:
  - Vision
  - Neighborhood strategies
  - Neighborhood housing
  - Beecher Terrace transformation
- Ask questions
- Share your thoughts on what you've heard today
- Hear what your neighbors have to say



### THANK YOU!