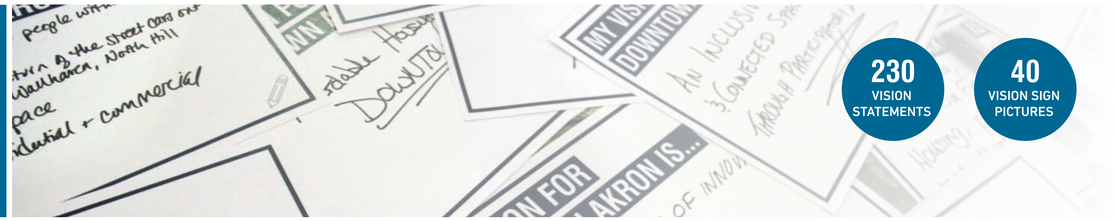
PUBLIC MEETING 1: WHAT WE HEARD

AKRONITES WANT A DOWNTOWN THAT IS...

- **VIBRANT**, with more things to do
- **LIVABLE**, with neighborhoods for everyone
- **CONNECTED**, with better mobility
- **PROACTIVE** in reaching our goals

MY VISION FOR DOWNTOWN AKRON IS...



WHAT WE HEARD

DOWNTOWN AKRON VISION + REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

WHAT WE HEARD: A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN

MORE THINGS TO DO

+ Provide **more green and open spaces** throughout downtown
+ Downtown needs **entertainment and dining** options for the entire community
+ Make downtown a **retail** destination
+ Showcase Akron's **art scene and rich heritage**

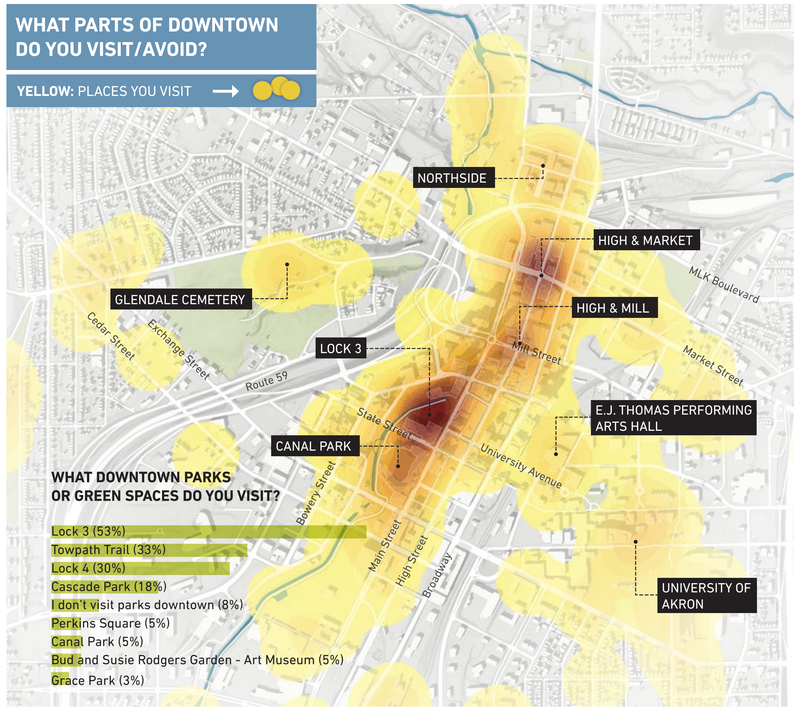
"Housing, grocery store, restaurants, open on the weekend, lots of foot traffic"

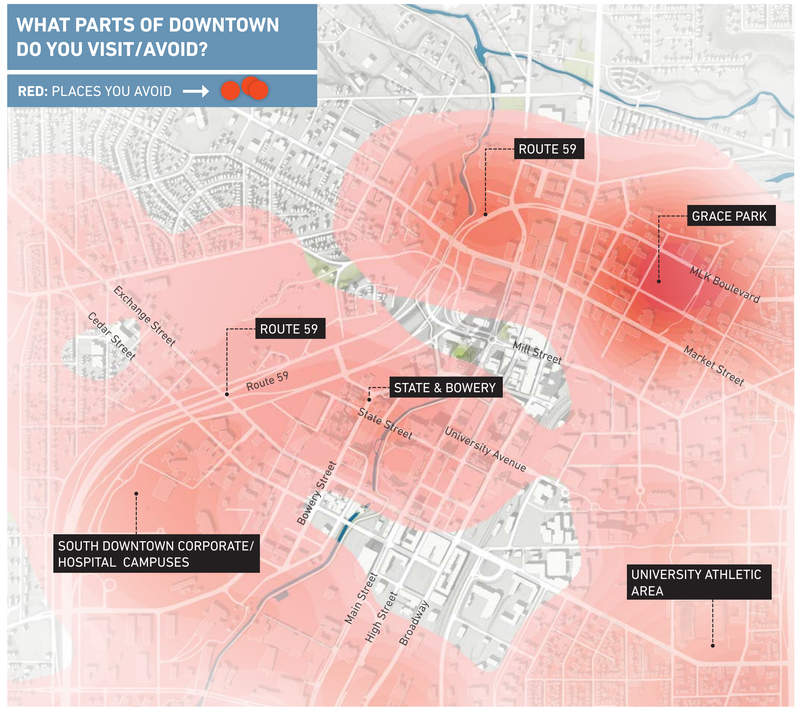
"More vibrant city with things to do 7 days a week"

"More Open Green spaces and shopping and heritage and living"

"Lively and fun nightlife with the ability to work downtown, experience great food, with an easy way to transport"

"Innerbelt is a gold mine - housing, mixed use, food hub, farmers market, connect to Canal"





WHAT WE HEARD: A LIVABLE DOWNTOWN

AN INCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD

+ **Downtown is for everyone** - it should showcase the region's diversity and **bring people together**
+ Downtown housing should be **affordable for all Akronites**
+ **Attract families** to downtown, both for living and for events
+ Downtown must feel **safe and be clean**
+ Streets must feel **lively** with activity and pedestrians

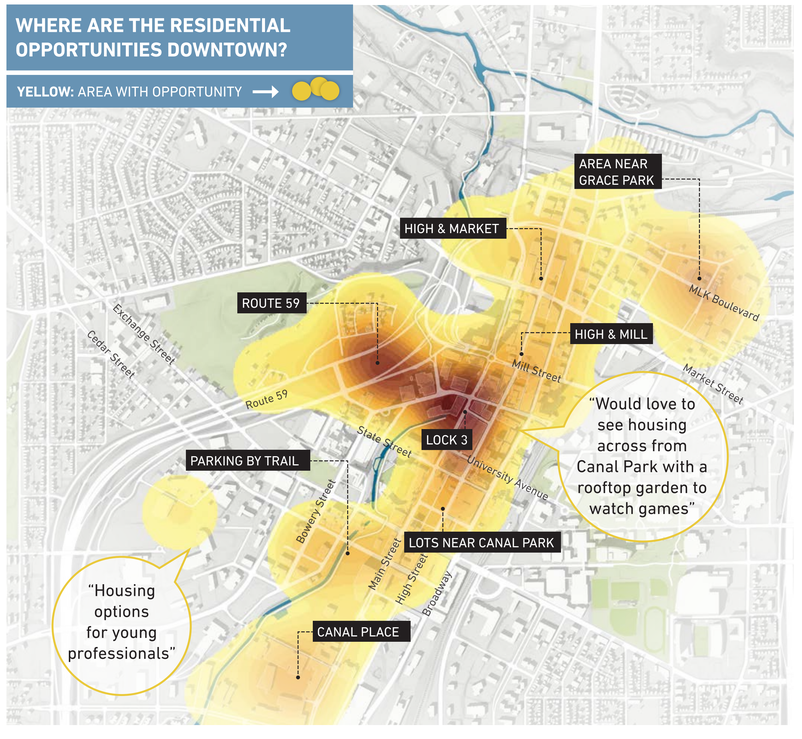
"A showcase of innovation, family, and diversity"

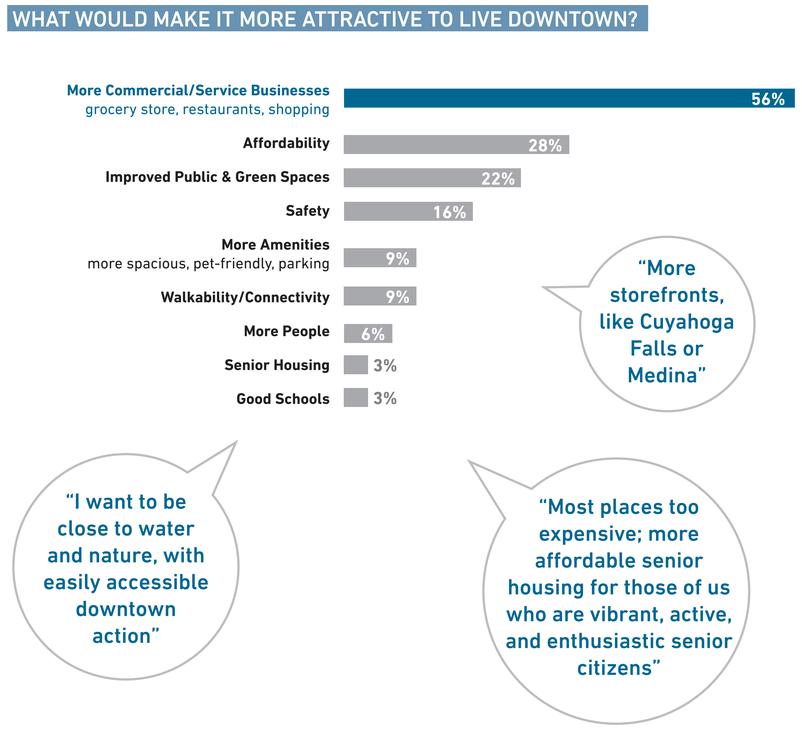
"A place people can afford to live and work in"

"A safe, bright, active, and diverse place that easy to enjoy for residents from all over the city"

"A place that is self-sustaining where there is street activity day and night"

"Diversity, cultural, safe, family fun, unity, connecting the residents of Akron"





WHAT WE HEARD

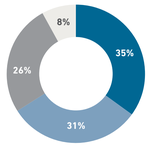
DOWNTOWN AKRON VISION + REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

WHAT WE HEARD: A CONNECTED DOWNTOWN

BETTER MOBILITY

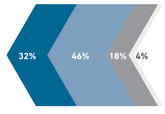
+ Bike Friendly
+ Walkable
+ More and better transit options
+ Improved Parking
+ Complete Streets
+ Eliminate One-Way Streets
+ Improve Traffic and Roadway Conditions

PARKING DOWNTOWN IS...



- 35% Not an issue
- 31% Easy
- 26% Difficult
- 8% So hard it makes me not want to come downtown

HOW MANY BLOCKS ARE YOU WILLING TO WALK TO YOUR DESTINATION?



- 32% Over 3 Blocks
- 46% 2 - 3 Blocks (± 1,000' - 1,500')
- 18% 1 Block (± 500')
- 4% 0 (park directly at destination)

"It starts with Main Street. Park the car and walk. Complete pedestrian areas"

"More frequent and reliable bus routes"

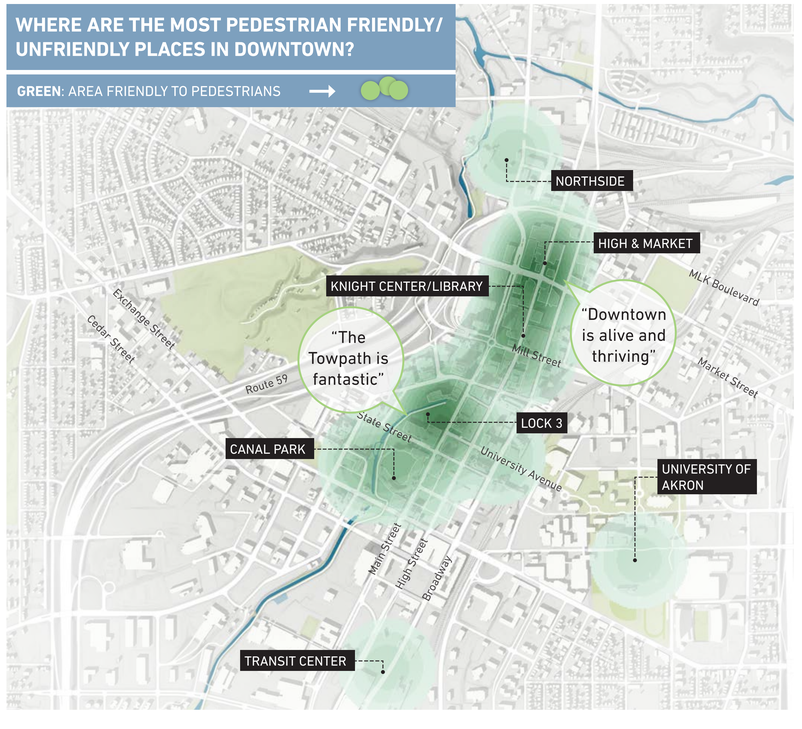
"Make downtown for people, not cars"

"Focus on pedestrian friendly city"

Dense area of housing with good bike and walk connections so that it could expand in the future"

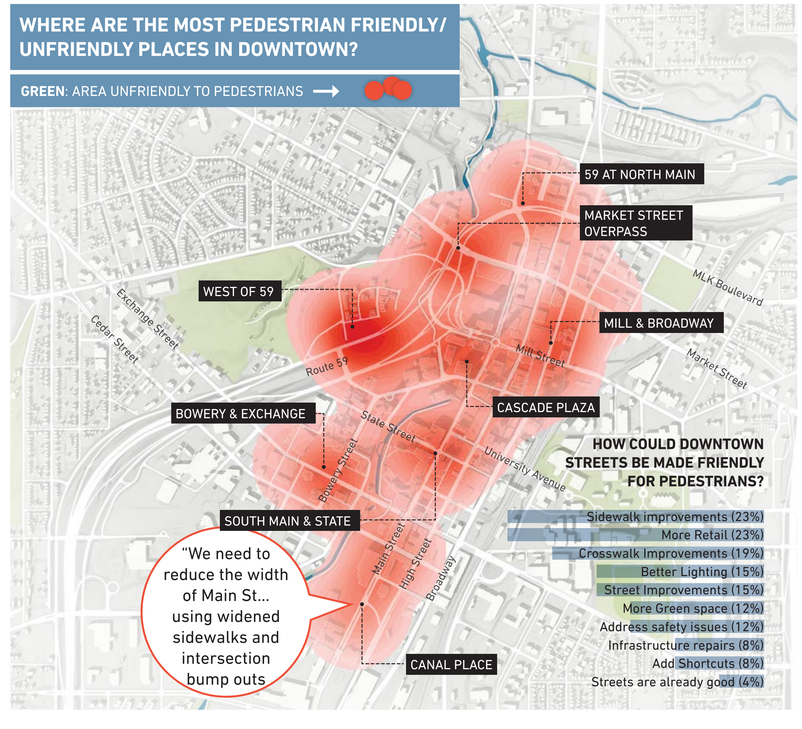
WHERE ARE THE MOST PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY/ UNFRIENDLY PLACES IN DOWNTOWN?

GREEN: AREA FRIENDLY TO PEDESTRIANS →



WHERE ARE THE MOST PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY/ UNFRIENDLY PLACES IN DOWNTOWN?

GREEN: AREA UNFRIENDLY TO PEDESTRIANS →



HOW COULD DOWNTOWN STREETS BE MADE FRIENDLY FOR PEDESTRIANS?

- Sidewalk improvements (23%)
- More Retail (23%)
- Crosswalk Improvements (19%)
- Better Lighting (15%)
- Street Improvements (15%)
- More Green space (12%)
- Address safety issues (12%)
- Infrastructure repairs (8%)
- Add Shortcuts (8%)
- Streets are already good (4%)

WHAT WE HEARD: A PROACTIVE DOWNTOWN

FOCUSED ON REACHING OUR GOALS

+ Provide Activities and Programming
+ Promote Mixed Use Development
+ Preserve History
+ Revitalize and Reinvest
+ Connect with Neighborhoods
+ Create a Downtown Neighborhood
+ Increase Employment Opportunities
+ Attract Visitors - Promote Tourism

"Rehab and re-use historic buildings instead of tear down"

"The Canal and Towpath activated with fun activities"

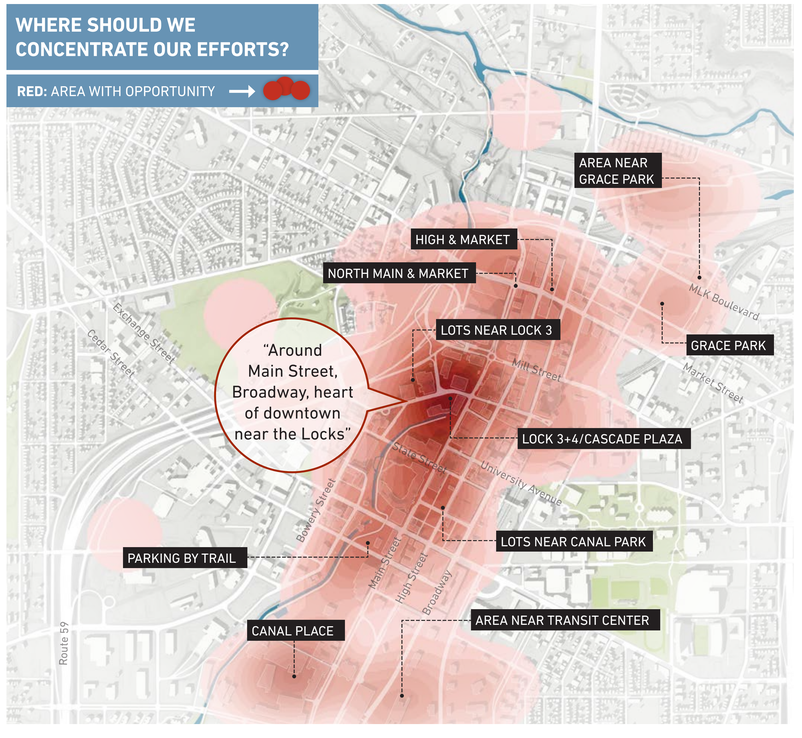
"Walkable & bikeable, creative, artsy, more green, more jobs - bring them back from the 'burbs"

"Maintain the character of our history while encouraging the next chapter of our future"

"A connected community with events that draw many people from the community to participate"

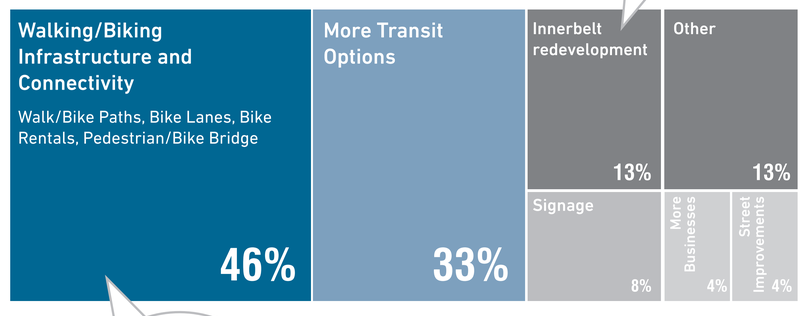
WHERE SHOULD WE CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS?

RED: AREA WITH OPPORTUNITY →



HOW COULD DOWNTOWN BE BETTER CONNECTED TO SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS AND NEARBY ACTIVITY CENTERS?

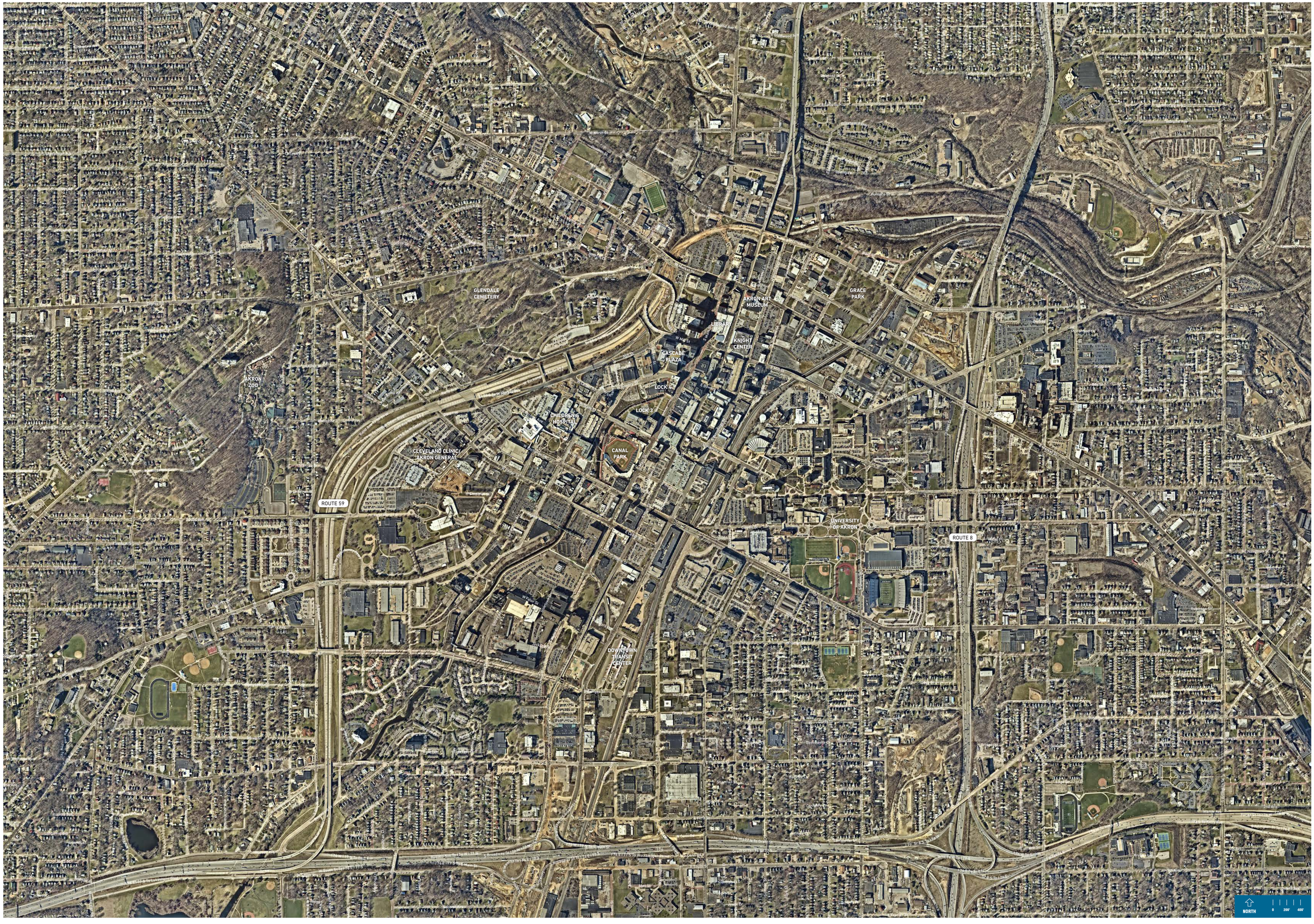
"They should develop a huge park in the Rt 59 greenspace"



"Physically connect its surrounding neighborhoods in safe and friendly ways!"

WHAT WE HEARD

DOWNTOWN AKRON VISION + REDEVELOPMENT PLAN



DOWNTOWN AERIAL

DOWNTOWN AKRON
VISION + REDEVELOPMENT PLAN