This Visioning Voices event was held Downtown along the proposed route of the Empire State Trail. A total of 70 city residents and community organization members participated in a series of activities that focused on how to activate proposed urban trail systems to impact quality of life in the city.

Participants went on a walking tour of downtown along a segment of the proposed Empire State Trail and heard from a variety of speakers about the challenges and opportunities Downtown Syracuse faces in accommodating a wide array of people - walkers, bikers, and shoppers. Jeff Olson gave a motivating presentation sharing inspiration from the work of Alta Planning and communities across the country. During the workshop, participants were able to take the ideas and lessons and work together to propose their ideas for how the new investment in trails can engage community, create safe space for people and ecology, and promote economic development. Many participants enjoyed meeting, sharing ideas and making connections with other people passionate about the topic.

“Excellent way to engage in the city’s culture and future.”

“Made several important contacts & new acquaintances with several old colleagues.”

“You can never be reminded enough to use your imagination when tackling new projects!”

- Event survey responses

STAY CONNECTED! The Visioning Voices Speaker Series will be hosting another event on the topic of Urban Trails in Spring 2019 in the Eastside neighborhood. Additional events will be held in Fall 2019. If your neighborhood is interested in becoming a host neighborhood for future events, or would like to suggest topics and/or future speakers please email the Center for Community Design Research at ccdr@esf.edu

A special thanks to the Speaker Series Organizing Committee, Downtown TNT, and community partners who helped with the preparation of the first Visioning Voices Speaker Series, and our sponsors that helped make this event happen:

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