



**RCI Topical Workshop #2: Transportation, Streets and Placemaking**  
**Garment Industry Development Corporation**  
**193 Centre Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**May 8, 2003**  
**TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED COMMENTS**

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Buses

- Chatham Square residents will not accept a drop-off area for tour buses on Park Row
- Proposal for mixing tour buses with long-distance buses on Forsyth (but would be away from the core)
- Should explore ties with WTC tourists (a fancy charter bus terminal is planned for the WTC site)
- If no complete solution is possible, look at what time of day buses could be parked with minimum disruption
- 3 layers of experience—tour buses, shuttles, pedestrians—compromise by using shuttles to bring people in from remote tour bus drop-offs
- What about Baxter Street by the Tombs as a tour bus drop-off/pickup area?
- Long-distance buses—where should they lay over and pickup and drop-off?
  - Once bridge construction is done, Canal and Forsyth will be a good location for the bus terminal

Proposed Redesign of Chatham Square

- St. James—too narrow to accommodate increased traffic from Bowery?
- Mott Street pedestrianization—too controversial?
  - Mott doesn't have to be pedestrianized for the new configuration to work
- DOT—what's the economic impact of doing a pedestrian mall on Mott?
- Bowery and Park Row were originally one road—with Park Row closed, traffic has been shunted to Worth, thence to Broadway. Traffic hasn't been using St. James, because it doesn't connect with where people want to go (i.e. Broadway).
- Kimlau Square was an attempt to simplify the intersection—a major investment
- Community is still fighting to reopen Park Row—not ready to give up this fight
- Primary movement southbound on Broadway will be a right turn on Worth

Pedestrian Streets, Public Spaces

- Little Italy experience—pedestrian mall did make a difference, had 20 percent increase in business, 15 new restaurants
- What about closing the streets around Columbus Park and having events, vendors?
- Reclaim plaza north of Confucius Plaza for some sort of public use
- What is the long-term future—will Chinatown continue to expand—or will it be like Little Italy?
- Immigrant tendencies are different for Asians vs. Europeans—this Chinatown has the historic impacts, “marks and scars of 150 years in America”
- Open, outdoor theater at Confucius Plaza
- East Broadway needs wider sidewalks
- For any improvements on East Broadway, would have to get buy-in from the large Fukienese population in the area—very important to have some specific outreach to this community.