

Village Chats

BRCC/ MID CITY

The **BRCC/Mid City Village Chat** was one of five community conversations conducted to gather the ideas and visions of residents in neighborhoods across Baton Rouge. There were commonalities across communities; however, each community had a unique viewpoint when considering the questions being asked. Below, we present the comments from the BRCC community members that represent the issues that differ from other communities.

Infrastructure

BRCC participants discussed infrastructure more than any other group. They believe the city has a lot of work to do that is related to **building better communities**. The state of the streets – potholes, street lighting, bridges, and excessive traffic – was a huge concern to community members. They also believe that issues like the cost of living and the low minimum wage should be addressed by city leaders. When this Chat was conducted, the impact of high gas prices was visible in the comments made by participants. Lastly, diverging concerns about the police were salient. On one hand, community members asked for more police; while on the other hand, they believed there were too many police.

Two areas of significant concern with regard to infrastructure were **inequality** and **public transportation**. BRCC community members mentioned “differential access” to resources and job discrimination as issues that shape their experiences within their communities. They also discussed differences in education stating that “some opportunities are not afforded to ALL schools.” Discrimination at polling places was another point of contention that emerged during this community conversation. Participants in the BRCC Village Chat also pointed out the current state of public transportation as a barrier to achieving their community vision. They advocated for improvements in **communication, timeliness, number of routes, and access** to different parts of the city.

Stakeholders

The information gathered at the Village Chat held at BRCC was also unique in the way they determined who should or needs to be involved to help co-create a more vibrant community. They focused a lot of attention on city and community leaders. They believed there should be “More community leaders who listen to the community and advocate more.” Community members want this leader to come from *within* the community. Participants also called for the involvement of the mayor, governor, city council, and those with “Higher leadership roles within the community” to work with the community to build a place to live that is **thriving**.

The overwhelming relevance of infrastructure and leaders as stakeholders to BRCC community members is unique. This Village Chat takes more of a **whole-city approach** to the idea of a neighborhood than the other four Chats. Many of the issues and solutions discussed can be applied across Baton Rouge.

To read the full Village Chat Report, click [here](#).