

The North Flint Grocery Store Project began with the goal of documenting the situation at the time and identifying new solutions for improving access to healthy food within the City of Flint. The original approach was to document the grocery demand that would serve to attract a large grocer to North Flint, using the data and resources/connections provided by Streetsense. However, the conclusion, upon review of the data, was that the cost of a larger national grocer would not be sustainable without subsidy, and that the presence of a large chain would damage the viability of existing, smaller grocers. With this in mind, the project shifted to identifying alternative full-service grocery store offerings that included opportunities to serve and improve standards for existing local grocery stores.

During Phase II of this initiative, Streetsense investigated conditions of existing local grocery stores in North Flint and made recommendations and action plans for possible improvements that would improve conditions and products at these stores to better meet the needs of residents seeking healthy food options. The Phase II audit results included prioritized improvements for the four stores that were assessed, totaling just over \$1.1 million in total recommendations.

The only eligible applicants for funding were the four existing grocers who were identified and participated in early phases of the grocery store market analysis – Hutchinson’s, Mr. B’s Foodland, Landmark Food & Drugs, and The Local Grocer. The Chamber continues to work with multiple partners to maintain a pool of funds for the existing grocers and to support the construction of two new grocers.

High Priority: Store Expansion, Exterior Improvements, Redesign Cart Barrier, Trash Compactor Ventilation, Restroom Repairs
Secondary Improvements: Parking Lot, Ceiling/Walls, New Aside Signage
Tertiary Improvements: Plastic Carts, New Shelving

Store 1 

High Priority: Storefront/Entry, New Pylon Sign, Internal Surface Meat Prep
Secondary Improvements: Parking Lot, Relocate Recycling, Narrow Aisles, Replace Ceiling Tiles, New Aisle Signage
Tertiary Improvements: LED Lights 

Store 2

Recommended Improvements: Street sense

High Priority: New Partition, Resurface Coolers, Upgrade Internal Lighting
Secondary Improvements: Reorganize Entrance, Improved Produce/Meat Departments, Parking Lot, Ceiling/Walls, New Pylon Sign
Tertiary Improvements: Uniforms 

Store 3

High Priority: Windows
Secondary Improvements: Business Model, Internal Signage, Coffee Concept
Tertiary Improvements: Benchmark Hart’s 

Store 4