

Fort Sanders Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting
June 3, 2010
3:00-4:30pm
UT's Visitors' Center

Meeting Notes:

Agenda Item I:

Welcome and introductions were made and Stakeholders introduced themselves.

Agenda Item II, Long Range Planning Draft Document Update:

Mark Donaldson, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), presented information regarding the plan and its adoption process. Mark noted that the One Year Plan has already been amended to reflect the plan recommendations through the OYP process that occurred earlier this year. Additionally the plan document will be considered by MPC at the regularly scheduled June 10th meeting in the City County Building. If given a positive recommendation the document will proceed to City Council for adoption. Also contingent upon MPC's action is an update to the Sector Plan to reflect this plan. MPC will also be conducting work this fiscal year to 1) to look at R-3 high density residential requirements and make recommendations/amendments to that zoning; 2) update the existing NC-1 neighborhood conservation overlay district; and 3) work on creating a new NC-1 district on the western portion of the neighborhood.

Agenda Item III, Cumberland Ave. Corridor Update:

A. Streetscape:

Bob Whetsel provided an update on the streetscape project which included discussing the option that the city has selected for detailed design from the public meeting held in April. This option recognizes that there are 5 less feet of right of way to work with than originally anticipated. The city plans to maintain 15-16 foot wide sidewalks through the district, two travel lanes and a center turn lane. Traffic will be slowed by this process and some diversion is likely. Kick off with the consultants will start next week. There will likely be another public meeting in six months and construction could start as early as 2012. The city would like to see the project constructed within 18 months and only impact one start of school/football season and only one winter construction season. Councilman Pavlis asked about improvements to alleys for bikes and pedestrians, the city will consider the alleys as part of this plan, but improvements will add to the project costs.

B. Form Code:

Anne Wallace gave a brief update regarding the Cumberland Avenue Corridor Form Code. The city has heard back from its independent consultants, Code Studio of Austin, TX, and some significant changes will need to be made to the structure of the draft code prior to any effort to adopting this code. The city staff

who has been developing this code will be meeting next week to discuss next steps.

Agenda Item IV, KUB Substation Update:

Gabe Bolas gave an update regarding this proposed project at the corner of Dale Avenue and 17th Street. The purpose of this substation is threefold, 1) to handle UT's additional load from news structures, 2) to increase reliability for the Ft. Sanders neighborhood, and 3) to provide for additional load from Dow Chemical Corporation. The local Dow office has been very supportive of the project and the parties involved are about 95% to an agreement regarding land acquisition. KUB plans to start grading work this summer or fall and hopes to start building in the spring of 2011 and complete the substation level later that summer. The public feedback was helpful and has been incorporated into the design of the exterior portions of the site and to minimize impacts of wiring throughout the neighborhood. KUB will seek additional input on the design as their plans are finalized.

Agenda Item V, Ft. Sanders Code Sweep Discussion:

Robert Moyers from Neighborhood Codes Enforcement discussed the pilot project in the Park Ridge neighborhood with accompanying media blitz where neighborhood codes staff noted violations and handed out pamphlets of information to property owners. This was an educational and courtesy call to help reduce or prevent violations. There were 12-14 people including police and zoning officers to walk through the neighborhood. The success of the project was increased voluntary compliance. We anticipate the codes sweep occurring in September to educate the new student population and offer friendly reminders to landlords. Typically trash and rental issues are most commonly identified by this process. This is just an outside sweep. Councilman Pavlis asked about the metrics of success on the Park Ridge sweep and Robert Moyers noted that they didn't specifically have quantitative numbers but there was a lot of good will and positive feedback from the neighborhood.

Agenda Item VI, Stakeholder Updates:

Issues in the 2200 block of Laurel Ave. have subsided with current tenants moving out with the end of the school year.

University representatives noted that school starts back on August 18 and move in is scheduled for the weekend prior August 14.

Fort Sanders Regional noted that their new medical office building is still on track for the first tenants to move in November of this year. Between the parking garage at the corner of Laurel and 19th and the new garage associated with this building the hospital will have increased the number of parking spaces by about 900. Additionally, the City is still working on a lease agreement for public parking on the surface lots owned by the hospital between 19th and 20th adjacent to White Ave.

Traffic engineering is looking at Fort Sanders' neighborhood as a whole in terms of traffic issues, but does not anticipate making any significant changes to the traffic until the impacts of the Cumberland Ave. Corridor Project can be assessed. Also traffic engineering has been working with UT, KAT, Policy & Communications regarding changes to the Metron Center Way light and the Alcoa Highway on ramps in order to reduce congestion at these intersections. KAT will be changing their trolley route in August and a new striping pattern should be implemented at the same time.

The Henley Street Bridge closure is still on track for closure and construction work starting in January 2011.

VII. On-going structure of the group

No changes were made at this meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 2 at 3:00pm in the UT Visitors' Center on Kingston Pike.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.