

OPEN HOUSE MEETING SUMMARY

Far East Community Area Plan Community Meeting #2

Meeting Date: November 17th, 2022
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Location: Copernicus Community Center

Planning Staff & Consultant Team

David Powell, Project Manager
Chris Ryerson, AICP, Planning Administrator
Jacob Howard, Senior Planner
Gretchen Roufs, AMS Consultant
Priscilla Rosales-Pina, Planning Manager
Sidra Schimelpfening, Senior Planner

Therese Ybarra, Executive Secretary to Director
Krystin Ramirez, MIG Consultant
Debora Gonzalez, Senior Planner
Bridgett White, AICP, Director of Planning
Channary Gould, Planning Coordinator

Meeting Objectives:

The purpose of the second open house was to gather input from the public, to refine the community's Vision and Goals, and collect feedback on the draft focus areas and draft future land use map. 35 attendees signed in at the sign-in table, and several engagement activities, facilitated by Planning staff, were available for participants to record their feedback. The project manager was also conversing with attendees, at various stations, throughout the meeting.

Meeting Format

The meeting had no formal presentation and was entirely an open house. At the entrance to the Gymnasium, a sign-in table was set up where attendees were encouraged to sign in and sign up for updates related to future public meetings, as well as general infographics related to the plan area and the SA Tomorrow planning process. The Gym was also organized with stations to collect input and ideas from attendees, for the future of the area.

Draft Vision and Goals

The first station displayed the draft Vision and Goals for the area. Attendees were encouraged to write their thoughts or ideas on the draft Vision and Goals. On the next page are the draft Vision and Goals, along with the associated comments:

Draft Vision: *The Far East Community Area is comprised of safe and inviting neighborhoods with diverse, quality, and affordable options for housing, dining, shopping, medical services, healthy food, and community gathering spaces, all organized around quality parks and the area's own walkable arts, entertainment and shopping district. Residents of all ages and incomes can get around easily using well-lit and well-maintained sidewalks, trails, bicycle facilities, and transit amenities lined with trees and landscaping, green stormwater treatments, and public art.*

The responses for the vision include:

- Improve Roads
- Priority: add city sewer for all residents new and old
- Less industrial companies on 410 South & North – more restaurants, dining facilities, hotels, family-oriented businesses
- Closure: Truck drivers / 18-wheelers driving through neighborhoods
- Private incentives for restaurants, hotels to build and no more industrial uses

Draft Goals

Goal #1: *Improve comfort and safety throughout the area with improved lighting, signage, and enhancement of parks, trails, sidewalks, and other community assets.*

- More lights in the Dellcrest Area – too dark

Goal #2: *Increase access to healthy food and health care for all residents.*

- Specifically note: Hospital
- Large grocery store: need healthy food/vegetables display at front of store

Goal #3: *Facilitate development patterns that include local employment and entertainment opportunities in one or more mixed use urban centers or arts districts that are highly walkable and connected and serve as an area destination.*

- **No comments for Goal #3**

Goal #4: *Increase equitable access to parks, open space, trails, community gathering facilities, and recreational amenities.*

- With security

Goal #5: *Create housing, employment, goods and services that serve, support and are accessible to a variety of income levels, age groups, and multi-generational households.*

- Reference: Fire Station & Charter Schools
- Affordable Housing
- Jobs Target: Livable Wages



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Goal #6: Encourage commercial development to be less auto oriented and more walkable and provide a greater diversity of locally serving restaurant and retail options.

- More Kid Friendly

Goal #7: Improve comfort, safety and aesthetics throughout the Far East Area with tree-lined streets, other urban greening, and integration of sustainable infrastructure.

- No comments for Goal #7

Goal #8: Expand the amount and variety of multi-modal networks throughout the Far East Area.

- No comments for Goal #8

Community Assessment Board

A board was displayed asking community members to rate the Housing and Economic Development options available in the study area. Participants were encouraged to mark their opinion with a dot. The results area as follows:

Housing	Weakness	Neutral	Strength
Range of Housing Options	1	1	0
Options for Seniors	7	0	0
Options for Young Adults	1	2	0
Options for Young Families	4	1	0
Availability of Affordable Housing	5	1	0

Economic Development	Weakness	Neutral	Strength
Shopping & Dining Options	6	1	0
Range of Healthcare Options	8	0	0
Employment Opportunities	5	1	0
Access to Parks & Open Spaces	3	2	2
Access to Public Transportation	3	3	1

Focus Areas

The third station displayed aerial images of the draft focus areas, and attendees were asked to write their feedback on a post-it and attach it to the associated area.

Focus Areas

E Houston St.:

- High crime in area; have police substation in area



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- The areas surrounding E. Houston corridor need more lights; source of red lights – use of poles vs. wires

E Houston St/ & Loop 410:

- Have to travel a long way to get to restaurant / Sunday dinner; want a sit-down restaurant; no convenience
- Eastgate: not getting improvements; taxes doubled; don't see my neighborhood being improved, no neighborhood commercial
- High crime area – low police activity
- Eastgate on Peggy – need speed bumps towards E Houston St; nothing convenient – no medical, restaurants, grocery stores; exercise facility – higher taxes – for what?
- Add off ramp at Peggy Rd. area is the closest one
- At Peggy – sidewalks, curbs, add bus services, continue bus down to Peggy via Houston St. – need new apartments – no stores on Peggy

S WW White Rd. and Martin Luther King Dr.:

- More city lights for security and general appearance
- Against Urban Mix Uses more retail stores throughout WW White will bring more traffic issues.

Wheatley Heights:

- It should be affordable; jobs needed; better roads; infrastructure needs improvement
- High concerns about crime at Brooksdale and Rice Rd.

Dellcrest Forrest:

- Rambling Dr. we have new curbs and sidewalks (common areas cleaned up) and lighting not just on corners in middle of the blocks
- Why can't the old landfill be a community garden?
- Drainage in front of business along WW White going south. Lighting in front of spotted areas – darks areas.

Roland Rd. Corridor:

- No comments

Loop 410 Corridor:

- No engine brakes city ord. 410 north and south bound between Houston and Sulfur Springs Rd.

Foster Rd.:

- Nature Park at E Houston St. & Foster Rd.
- Against Heavy Industrial Health Hazard too close to residential. Keep existing businesses only.
- Full services VIA; lighting; sidewalks; drainage; sewer infrastructure; water lines from SAWS; Build infrastructure for future developments

IH-10 Corridor:

- No comments
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Loop 1604 & IH-10:



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- No heavy industrial; frontage of property medical offices, restaurants, etc.; charter school; homes with community center; fire department; no light industrial
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Future Land Use

The final station displayed a series of maps that included a breakdown of each land use category and the percentage of existing stock in the plan area. The final map was a copy of the draft future land use map. Attendees were asked to indicate on the map any changes or concerns. Feedback included:

- No specific changes was received at future land use station, however, several related comments were captured at adjacent stations:
 - Against Urban Mix Uses more retail stores throughout WW White will bring more traffic issues.
 - Against Heavy Industrial Health Hazard too close to residential. Keep existing businesses only.
 - No heavy industrial; frontage of property medical offices, restaurants, etc.; charter school; homes with community center; fire department; no light industrial
 - Have to travel a long way to get to restaurant / Sunday dinner; want a sit-down restaurant; no convenience
 - See my neighborhood not being improved, no neighborhood commercial
 - Eastgate on Peggy – need speed bumps towards E Houston St; nothing convenient – no medical, restaurants, grocery stores; exercise facility
 - At Peggy - need new apartments
 - Several verbal comments from attendees supported favor for the draft future land use map.
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Survey

A survey was created for Planning Team Members to share with the community, and was posted to the sub area website, SA Speak Up and the Planning Department's social media. A link to the survey is located here: <https://saspeakup.com/fareastplan-survey2>

Next Steps

Staff will review feedback from the community meeting and the survey results (after the survey closes) to further refine the draft Vision & Goals, draft focus areas, and draft future land use map.

This meeting summary, along with all previous meeting recordings and summaries can be found on the sub area page's resource page: <https://fareast.sacomplan.com/documents/?active=community-meetings>

The third community open house is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 22nd, 2023.

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Photos from the Open House

