

City of Las Vegas

AGENDA MEMO

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2009

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ITEM DESCRIPTION: DIR-35929 - DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

**** CONDITIONS ****

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: NO RECOMMENDATION

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**** STAFF REPORT ****

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a progress report by the Planning & Development Department regarding the development of walkable community and corridor plans including a summary of the first three community meetings held.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<i>Related Relevant City Actions by P&D, Fire, Bldg., etc and Property Sales</i>	
03/23/09	At the Joint City Council and Planning Commission Workshop, walkable community and corridor plans were discussed as contributing to the implementation of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, and also assist with sustainability goals and improving the quality of life of residents.
07/23/09	Planning & Development provided an update on the development of walkable community plans, outlining the six areas of the city to be targeted for such plans.
<i>Neighborhood Meetings</i>	
08/20/09	The first community meeting for the Village Square Walkable Community Plan was held at M.J. Christensen School.
09/22/09	The first community meeting for the W. Charleston Corridor Plan was held at the Charleston Heights Arts Center.
09/30/09	The first community meeting for the Meadows Walkable Community Plan was held at the Bill & Lillie Heinrich YMCA.

ANALYSIS

The Planning & Development Department has proposed the development of walkable community and corridor plans as tools for implementing many of the goals of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan. The first two walkable community plans are being developed in Wards 1 and 2 and are centered around Village Square and Meadows Mall respectively. The first corridor plan is covering the area along West Charleston Boulevard between Martin L. King Boulevard and Rainbow Boulevard. The primary purpose of these plans is to facilitate walking and biking within neighborhoods and to encourage reinvestment in developed urban areas of the city. The first round of community meetings has been held for these plans to collect the public's opinions about what should be addressed in these plans. A summary of each follows.

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Village Square

The first of a series of community meetings was held on August 20, 2009 at the M.J. Christensen Elementary School. The purpose of the meeting was to survey the community interest in the development of a walkable community plan and to find out what the public wanted addressed in such a plan. Although the turnout was relatively low, many valuable suggestions were received. The top three areas of concern were:

1. The need to install sidewalks where none are present to complete the sidewalk network around the neighborhood;
2. Install additional crosswalks along Fort Apache Road and make the existing ones safer; and
3. Reduce vehicle lane widths in order to reduce the speed of traffic.

Additional items of concern mentioned included the need for additional street trees, shaded bus shelters, and the removal of obstacles, such as utility boxes, from sidewalks. Staff will address these concerns in a draft plan that will then be presented to the community at another public meeting in the near future.

West Charleston Boulevard

The first community meeting for the West Charleston Boulevard Corridor Plan was held on September 20, 2009 at the Charleston Heights Arts Center. The meeting was attended primarily by property and business owners along the corridor. Many were concerned that plans were underway to extend the right-of-way. Staff clearly stated that this was not being planned and that any improvements would take place in the existing right-of-way. However, it was discussed that easements may be requested for bus turnouts when properties are being redeveloped in the future. The top three concerns raised at this meeting were:

1. Reduce travel lane widths to provide for additional sidewalk widths;
2. Most were opposed to the addition of any new medians as they felt that these would limit access to existing businesses; and
3. Enhance the landscaping of existing raised medians.

The overall mood of the meeting was one of excitement that the city was taking notice of the problems along West Charleston Boulevard. Improvements of the aesthetics were generally supported as long as the street trees did not block signage. A petition was submitted from nine business owners in the Village Center at the northwest corner of Valley View Boulevard and Charleston Boulevard. They would like the existing raised median to be modified to allow a left turn to be made by vehicles traveling east on Charleston Boulevard into their center.

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Meadows

The first of two scheduled community meetings was held September 30, 2009 at the Bill & Lillie Heinrich YMCA at 4141 Meadows Lane. Councilwoman Tarkanian, neighborhood leaders and several residents attended. All were excited about the potential improvements that could be included in the walkable plan being developed by staff. The top three areas of concern that residents would like addressed are:

1. The installation of a sidewalk on the south side of Meadows Lane;
2. The installation of a crosswalk on Meadows Lane; and
3. Widen sidewalks along Bedford and install shade trees.

Other areas of concern included the need for additional bus stops and shelters in the neighborhood and the need for additional pedestrian access to Meadows Mall from the neighborhood.

Now that staff has heard what the community wants and does not want in their respective plans, draft plans can be developed. Once the plans have been developed and reviewed by the appropriate city departments, a series of second community meetings will be held for public input.

NOTICES MAILED

NEWSPAPER ONLY

APPROVALS

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PROTESTS

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