Urban Houston Framework
Values Workshop
December 4th - December 5th | 1475 West Gray Street, Activity Room 2, Houston, TX 77019
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petersgroup consulting
Agenda

Greetings

Presentation
- Project Overview
- SAC Meeting #1 Recap
- Current Conditions
- Introduction to Urban Center Tiers
- Review of challenges

Break-out session
- Refine characteristics of urban centers
- Discuss and prioritize characteristics

Concluding Map Exercise
Project Overview
Overview

Purpose of Urban Houston Framework

• discuss “urban centers”
• develop a framework for urban areas that encompasses regional sustainability principles of live, work and play.
Overview

How is Urban Houston Framework different from the other recent H-GAC Livable Centers case studies?

- **considers challenges** to development throughout the corporate limits of the City of Houston
- encompasses a much larger area – the **entire city of Houston**.
- will include **existing and future urban areas** that are not on the currently planned Light Rail Transit Corridors
2012 Schedule

October
- Project Kick Off

November
- Needs Analysis

December
- SAC Meeting
  Dec. 4th, 9-11am
- Values Workshop
  Dec. 4th, 5th
- Online Poll Begins
  Dec. 7th
- Benchmarking

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2013 Schedule

**January**
- SAC meeting
  - Jan. 10th, 3-5pm
- Pilot Project Analysis
- Online Poll Ends
  - January 30th

**February/March**
- SAC Meeting
  - Feb. 13th, 9-11am
- Vision Workshop
  - Feb. 13th, 14th
- SAC Meeting
  - March 22nd, 9-11
- Draft Document

**April**
- SAC Meeting
  - April 11th, 9-11
- Implementation Workshop
- SAC Meeting
  - April 26th, 9-11
- Final Document

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Stakeholder Advisory Committee
Who We Are

- **Linda Porras-Pirtle**, Planning Commissioner (Chair)
- **Keiji Asakura**, Planning Commissioner
- **Antoine Bryant**, Planning Commissioner
- **Filo Castore**, AIA
- **Diane Schenke**, Greater East End Management District
- **Toy Wood**, GHBA
- **Jeff Taebel**, H-GAC
- **Ashby Johnson**, H-GAC
- **Veronica Chapa-Jones**, Housing and Community Development
- **David Crossley**, Houston Tomorrow
- **Bill Huntsinger**, HREC
- **Bob Collins**, HREC
- **Joshua Sanders**, HRG
- **Amanda Timm**, LISC
- **Kim Slaughter**, METRO
- **Clint Harbert**, METRO
- **Marlene Gafrick**, Planning and Development
- **Mark Loethen**, Public Works and Engineering
- **David Robinson**, Super Neighborhood President
- **Shon Link**, ULI
- **Irma Sanchez**, Westchase District
Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)

Why We Met

- confirm **framework goals**
- discuss **challenges and opportunities**
- confirm project **schedule**
- determine **next steps**
Next Steps for Values Workshop…

- **determine characteristics of urban centers**
  - major
  - regional
  - neighborhood

- **identify challenges**
  - policies
  - Infrastructure

- **discuss solutions**

Regional Center must have:

- Bus Stations
- Public Parks
- Condos
- Large Grocery Stores
Current Conditions
Bikeways
Civic Amenities

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Jobs Density
Dwelling Units Density
What happens when you overlay jobs and population?
What happens when you overlay jobs/population/rail?
What happens when you overlay jobs/population/bus lines?
Current Land Use
2040 Land Use

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Urban Houston Framework Goals - Community

A **diversity of housing choices** for:

- people of all ages,
- incomes,
- family sizes.

Better **quality of life** for different neighborhood types.

- walkability

Support to enhance existing **neighborhood character**.

Support for **existing communities** such as:

- transit-oriented, mixed-use development
- community revitalization.
Are we on the right track with community goals?
Urban Houston Framework Goals - Economy

**Economic competitiveness** by encouraging:
- reliable/timely access to employment centers,
- educational opportunities,
- services and other basic needs of workers, and
- expanded business access to markets.

**Coordination of policies** to help:
- remove challenges to collaboration,
- leverage funding, and
- increase accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth.

Added value to communities and neighborhoods by investing in **healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods**.
Are we on the right track with **economic** goals?
Urban Framework Goals - Environment

A more **walkable** and **bikeable** network to connect:
- Jobs,
- Housing, and
- Recreational destinations.

Economical **transportation options** that:
- decrease household transportation costs,
- improve air quality,
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- promote public health.

Maintain or improve **water quality**

Limit **impervious surfaces** when applicable

Maintain and expand **green space**
Are we on the right track with **environmental** goals?
Urban Center Tiers
What is an Urban Center?
Urban Center Concept
Optional

• A characteristic that is **recommended but not required**.

Prerequisites

• A characteristic that **must be met** prior to developing an urban center.
Tier-1: Major

Draws in residents, shoppers and workers from outside the community

Mixture of transit
- heavy rail
- light rail
- bus

High density residential
- multi-family housing
- high-rise condominiums
- dense single family (townhomes, brownstones)

Destination commercial, retail and civic uses
- corporate office headquarters
- medical districts
- educational districts
- lodging
- entertainment (theaters, art galleries, clubs)
Tier-1: Major

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Tier-1: Major

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Tier-2: Regional

Primary centers of economic and cultural activity in a city

Mixture of transit
  • rail
  • bus
  • bike

Medium density residential
  • single-family housing
  • multi-family housing

City-serving commercial, retail and civic uses
  • anchor retail stores
  • movie theaters
  • medical offices
Tier-3: Neighborhood

Local-serving centers of economic and community activity

Mixture of origin and destination trips
- primarily commuter service to jobs
- multi-modal transit

Low density residential
- primarily single-family housing
- some multi-family housing
- accessory dwelling units

Neighborhood-serving retail, employment, and civic uses
- convenience stores
- locally owned cafes
- pharmacies
Tier-3: Neighborhood

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Tier-3: Neighborhood

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Review of Challenges
Policy Challenges

- Failure to link higher-density development with transit system
- Limited mix of uses in high-density areas
- Prohibition of civic uses in certain areas
- Reduced lot coverage standards for parking and stormwater
- Limited access points on local streets and collectors
- Non-conforming buildings (building code or development standards change)
- Lack of affordable housing funds
- Lack of education about Historic Preservation strategies

Help us brainstorm other challenges! What are potential solutions?
Infrastructure Challenges

- Centers that are not in close proximity to each other are more self-reliant. Certain services may be available in one center that are not available in another.
- Introducing housing into predominantly employment uses.
- Lack of infrastructure capacity

Help us brainstorm other challenges! What are potential solutions?
Transportation Challenges

- Lack of transportation choices between centers
- Travel times between centers can hinder movement
- Parking requirements for commercial and residential buildings drive up costs
- Lack of pedestrian, bicycle and transit connecting schools to neighborhoods where students live
- Improving transit access in commuter heavy areas

Help us brainstorm other challenges! What are potential solutions?
Where are Urban Centers?
Final Map Exercise – Potential Urban Center Locations

Help us locate urban centers!

Place **GREEN** dots for **CURRENT** urban centers.

Place **YELLOW** dots for **POTENTIAL** urban centers.
Next Steps
Upcoming events…

Vision Workshop
Wednesday, February 13th
Thursday, February 14th

Implementation Workshop
Thursday, April 11th
Friday, April 12th
Stay Involved!

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For more information contact:

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