

PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

November 13, 2023 3:00 PM

PRESENT: Greg Premier, Chair
Tom DeYampert, Vice Chair
David Hubbard, Member
Melinda Pletcher, Member
Tiffany Secka, Member

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer
Matthew McConnell, Assistant City Attorney
Ginny Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk
Alaina Grundy, Transportation Planner

Chair Premier called the workshop to order at 4:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Discussion Items

a. Downtown Core Complete Streets Plan

Transportation Planner Alaina Grundy explained to the Board that the City began working on the Plan in December of 2022 with Kimley Horn. The Plan focuses on the downtown core – TC1, TC2 and CC1 Zoning Districts; the goals of the project are identifying potential safety and connectivity enhancements, developing a multimodal network, and a prioritized list of implementable improvements. Her presentation is part of the meeting record.

The focus area of the Plan is 73rd-77th Streets, but only a small section on the east side. Complete Streets are designed to be safe and convenient for all people, designed based on surrounding character, fix problems, emphasize safety for cyclists and pedestrians, and provide mobility, access and transportation options for all modes of travel. Ms. Grundy reviewed the project schedule to date, which included two community workshops and stakeholder interviews. Some of the community feedback was in favor of slow vehicle speeds, more 4 way stops, dedicated bike routes, improved sidewalks, more on-street parking and native plant landscaping.

Ms. Grundy also presented a draft of Street Concepts, utilizing common right-of-way widths to provide a template for the street improvements in the focus areas. She began with a review of existing conditions on 73rd Avenue and then two options for improvement ideas, and the same for Corey Avenue (Gulf Blvd. to Sunset Way) including café seating options, and 75th Avenue. Discussion followed on Corey Avenue; resident feedback was to be more pedestrian friendly, but not lose parking (which could be added on other streets to accommodate). Shared parking in lots such as PJ's was also discussed as well as parking garages for a longer-term fix. A suggestion was made to put out an RFP for developers for a parking garage. The block that the City owns near the Library was discussed.

Ms. Grundy indicated that next steps were to continue refining the Plan for presentation to the City Commission. She welcomed the members to email her any additional thoughts or comments and encouraged the public to view the page dedicated to the Project on the City's website to enter preferences and feedback.

Chair Premier adjourned the workshop at 3:30 PM.

These minutes were approved at the December 18, 2023 Planning Board meeting.