



Citizen Advisory Group Meeting

October 22, 2009

Draft Meeting Highlights

Citizen Advisory Group Attendees: Madeline Campos, Martha Edwards, Walter Fields, Walter Neely, Maureen O'Conner, Derrel Poole, Shelley Schiff, Gina Storeholder, Tevlin Thompson, Ann Voortmans, and Frank Voortmans

Planning Department Staff: Alberto Gonzalez, Michelle Jones, Melony McCullough, Bryman Suttle, and Brent Wilkinson

Other City and County Staff: Diane Carter, Charlotte-Douglas International Airport; Jack Christine, Charlotte-Douglas International Airport; and Brian Horton, Charlotte Department of Transportation

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Alberto Gonzalez with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department staff welcomed advisory group members; reviewed housekeeping items and draft meeting highlights from the October 1st meeting; and advised the group that the CMS public facilities discussion scheduled for this meeting would be held at the next advisory group meeting.

Public Facilities Discussion

Mr. Jack Christine, Charlotte-Mecklenburg International Airport, provided a detailed overview of the Airport's facilities plan. Mr. Christine provided an update on the airport expansion. The new, third runway is scheduled to open in the early part of 2010. He explained that the multimodal rail yard would be relocated from the North Tryon location and co-located alongside the new runway. The facilities plan also includes expansion of passenger check-in and baggage claim areas and widening of traffic lanes leading to and from those areas. This would require the removal of the adjacent parking decks. Lastly, new parking decks located off of Wilkinson Boulevard are nearing completion and would house a valet service for business customers.

Mr. Christine reviewed the components of the Airport Noise Compatibility Program. This program uses Federal funds for sound mitigation within the immediate vicinity of the airport, such as sound insulating a building/home or even purchasing homes that qualify based on applicable noise contours. He noted that contours have been reduced due to advancements in aircraft and technology since 1987 when the first noise contours were established.

The meeting presentation may be viewed online at www.charlotteplanning.org.

Land Use, Transportation and Community Design Overview

Mr. Alberto Gonzalez with the Planning Department provided the group with some background information on growth in the Steele Creek area to set the stage for discussion of the City's growth and transportation policies. He then explained the *Centers, Corridors and Wedges Growth Framework* which is Charlotte's overarching growth strategy/vision. He also shared information on the *General Development Policies* (GDPs) for residential and mixed-use development. He explained that the GDPs are the City's Adopted policy framework for guiding future growth and development. Mr. Gonzalez informed the group that Brian Horton from Charlotte

Department of Transportation would be providing additional policy context from the transportation perspective later on in the meeting. Specifically, he would be addressing the *Transportation Action Plan* (TAP), *Urban Street Design Guidelines* (USDG), and *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP).

Mrs. Michelle Jones, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department, discussed community design by providing definition and illustration of commonly used design elements such as massing, scale, articulation, streetscape, setback, and open space. Using these elements as context, she asked the group to email community design photos that they either like or dislike to her at steelecreekareaplan@gmail.com as a homework assignment. These images will be used at an upcoming meeting focused on community design.

Brian Horton, *Charlotte Department of Transportation*, provided additional policy context from the transportation perspective by explaining the purpose and functions of the *Transportation Action Plan* (TAP), *Urban Street Design Guidelines* (USDG), and *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP). One of the tools for implementing the recommendations of these policies he explained is the City's Farm-to-Market Road Program intended to improve roads to be more efficient, user friendly, multimodal, and safe. Mr. Horton also listed additional tools available to improve transportation and better integrate transportation with land use. He explained that the City is seeking to reduce vehicle miles traveled by creating a more connected and livable street network.

The *Transportation Action Plan* (TAP) and *Urban Street Design Guidelines* (USDG) can be found online by visiting www.charmeck.org/Departments/Transportation. Additionally, the *Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP) can be found online at www.mumpo.org. Lastly, the meeting presentation, existing area plans, and the *General Development Policies* may be viewed online at www.charlotteplanning.org.

Additional Questions/Comments

Information summarizing questions and answers asked throughout the meeting will be added to the website at www.charlotteplanning.org.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Mr. Gonzalez wrapped up the meeting and explained that Public Facilities discussion will continue at the November CAG meeting with information on schools along with discussions of community design, transportation and land use. He also reminded the group to email community design photos that they either like or dislike to Michelle Jones with Planning at steelecreekareaplan@gmail.com and advised the group that they will be contacted in the coming weeks about the next advisory group meeting date and location.