

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Planning & Development Services

TO: Thomas M. Markus, City Manager
Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager
FROM: Amy Miller, Assistant Director - Planning
CC: Scott McCullough, Director – Planning and Development Services
Date: September 1, 2017
RE: Monthly PDS Project Report

The following provides an update on several city of Lawrence projects in process in the Planning and Development Services Department.

Notable Development Projects in the Planning Phase:

The following list details notable and large development projects that have filed applications with the Planning Division:

- KTen Crossing (3500 Iowa Street)
- Grocery/Residential Mixed-Use (700 New Hampshire Street)
- Zarco 66 – Convenience store and car wash (910 Iowa)
- Boys and Girls Club (2910 Haskell)
- Greek Housing (1505 Sigma Nu Pl)
- Old Chicago (545 Wakarusa)
- JC Penny Redevelopment (3311 Iowa)
- Retail building Expansion (2624 Iowa)
- Casey's General Store (1703 W 6th)

Comprehensive Plan Update - On August 31, 2015 the *Horizon 2020* Steering Committee approved the Issue Action Report which contains the Steering Committee's findings regarding how to best strengthen the existing plan and ensure that the document reflects the community's vision, while also setting a foundation for creating the inclusive and sustainable community we want Lawrence and Douglas County to be in the future. The Issue Action Report presents 19 major issues to address, based on community input and identified needs, and it outlines action steps to help address and resolve these issues.

The Issue Action Report was presented to the Planning Commission on September 21, 2015 and was unanimously approved. It was presented to the City Commission at their November 10, 2015 meeting and to the County Commission at their November 11, 2015 meeting and was unanimously approved by both governing bodies. Using the Issue Action Report as a basis, staff developed and presented a new draft comprehensive plan, along with a plan for obtaining public input, to the Steering Committee at their July

31, 2017 meeting. The Steering Committee reviewed the draft plan and directed staff to release the draft plan for a 60-day public comment period, which Staff started in mid-August. Information on this effort, including the draft plan and how to submit written comments, can be found at <https://lawrenceks.org/pds/comp-plan/>. Jeff Crick is the Staff contact.

MU Text Amendment – At their August meeting, the Planning Commission initiated a text amendment to pursue adding certain nonresidential uses by special use permit to the Tertiary Zone of the Mixed Use zoning district, as well as modifying other standards in the MU district that would accommodate a bit more intensity in the Tertiary zone. The amendment is scheduled to be considered by the Planning Commission at their September meeting. Becky Pepper is the staff contact.

Short Term Rental Uses – At their August 15, 2017 meeting, the Commission accepted the City Manager's proposal to have staff develop regulations for short term rental properties. Staff is developing a framework for regulating such uses as well as a public participation process to receive input on the eventual draft regulations. The public participation process will be shared with the City Commission and implemented before a draft of the regulations is presented to the Commission for their consideration. Danielle Buschkoetter is the staff contact.

North Lawrence RS5 Zoning Discussion – On August 18, 2015 and April 19, 2016 the City Commission considered Staff memos addressing a request from the North Lawrence Improvement Association to review RS5 zoning in North Lawrence. At their April 16, 2016 meeting, the Commission initiated an amendment to the code to require that storm water plans be submitted in conjunction with development projects for RS5 zoned properties in North Lawrence in the areas protected by the levee. The code was revised on July 19, 2016 to require a storm water plan for any residential construction project on RS5 and RS3 zoned lots that are protected by the levee. The Commission also directed Staff to continue to study density and dimensional standards citywide for RS5 and RS3 zoned properties and provide a report to the City Commission at a future meeting. The analysis of RS5 zoning density and dimensional standards is underway but this effort is a lower priority than other initiatives at this time given department resources.

Parking Regulations Text Amendment – Staff has been working with the Planning Commission for some time now on revising Article 9 of the Land Development Code related to parking standards. These revisions will address how parking is calculated, the design and location of parking, and standards related to the parking and storing of RVs, boats and trailers. The Planning Commission received an update on the progress of this item at their November 16, 2015 meeting and discussed alley parking for duplexes at their January mid-month meeting and May 23, 2016 regular meeting. This item will be submitted for a final recommendation from the Planning Commission upon completion of the final draft of the code revisions. Sheila Stogsdill is the Staff contact.

Sign Code Amendments – A draft of a proposed new sign code was presented to the Sign Code Board of Appeals at their June 1st, 2017 meeting, and the SCBA voted 6-0-1 (one recusal) to recommend that the City Commission adopt the proposed new

regulations. The City Commission approved and adopted on first reading the revised Sign Code at their August 15, 2017 meeting and it is anticipated that they will adopt Ordinance 9391 on second reading at their September 5, 2017 meeting. This item will be removed from future reports as it has been completed. Kurt Schroeder is the Staff contact.

Community Development Initiatives

The Community Development Division has completed the 2016 CDBG and HOME program year in accordance with the 2016 Action Plan. The 2017 program year for CDBG and HOME has not started yet as the final agreements and authority to use grant funds has not been received from HUD as of 9/1/2017. The program year start date should be 8/1/2017, however with the extended budget process for 2017 all programs are running behind in obtaining the proper documentation from HUD to begin reimbursements. The retroactive program start date for grantees and expenditures will still be 8/1/2017. Grantees will be contacted by the Community Development Division when their agreements are ready to be executed. Until then, grantees should not submit any reimbursement requests for the 2017 program year prior to signing their agreement.

The Community Development Division of Planning and Development Services, The Fair Housing Division of The City Attorney's Office, and the Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority have completed their draft of the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirement under the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule. The AFH is required of all communities and states that receive federal funding, as well as all public housing authorities. The AFH process has been ongoing since fall of 2016, and has included statistical analysis, formulation of narrative, AFH committee meetings, public meetings, and public participation. The purpose of the AFH is to assist the community in setting Fair Housing goals and priorities for the City. The written public comment period has begun on the AFH document, and the comment period will run for 45 days from September 1, 2017 through October 15, 2017. All written comments will be accepted. The final AFH document is due to HUD on November 1, 2017, and city staff will be bringing the draft document with the draft goals and priorities to the City Commission on September 19, 2017, with adoption being requested in October.

Community Development Staff continues to support the staffing efforts of the Affordable Housing Advisory Board. Information and agendas can be found at <http://lawrenceks.org/boards/affordable-housing/> .

Danelle Dresslar is the Staff contact.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Studies

Transportation 2040

Staff is drafting plan vision and goals based on the public input from Phase I. The steering committee will meet in August to begin discussing the financial projections and project selection based on model output as the plan develops.

A second round of public engagement is in the works, more information coming in the next month. The updated plan is expected to be approved by March 2018. Visit www.lawrenceks.org/mpo/t2040-update for more information.

Crash Safety Analysis and Countermeasure Identification

GIS work has begun to identify hot spots for crash sites for all modes, including auto, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Once identified, a minimum of twelve locations will be looked at and will be used to identify cost-efficient countermeasures to improve roadway safety. The analysis will provide a strategy to address the region's transportation safety. The study will be completed by December 31, 2017.

Bus Transfer Location Analysis

TranSystem's team hosted the first public meeting and online survey in August. The analysis will focus on 1) identifying and articulating community values for a transfer site or sites. 2) Reporting and confirming the information gained from the meeting through presentation of conceptual designs for transfer sites. 3) Use the information gained through the public engagement process along with logistical/operational needs to develop recommended locations and site specific designs. Once developed these locations will be presented to the public for feedback and/or confirmation. The next public input opportunities are as follows:

- 1st Lawrence Listens Survey – Tying Community Values to Components of the Bus Transfer Location, available to the public from August 3-17 at <https://lawrenceks.org/lawrence-listens>
- 2nd Lawrence Listens Survey – Verifying Values & Determining Site Selection Criteria, available to the public October 2-16 at <https://lawrenceks.org/lawrence-listens>
- Second Public Meeting, Location and Time – Planned for the week of November 13, future information provided at a later time.
- 3rd Lawrence Listens Survey – Analyzing Sites Using Publicly Driven Criteria, available November 13-30.

Follow our progress on www.lawrencetransit.org/bus-transfer-location-analysis. The study will be completed by December 31, 2017.

Lawrence Loop Alignment Study

The Lawrence-Douglas County MPO has hired BG Consultants to conduct a Lawrence Loop Alignment Study to determine the feasibility of alignments for two incomplete sections of the Lawrence Loop Shared Use Path between the north end of the Burroughs Creek Rail Trail along 11th Street to the Shared Use Path in Burcham Park and the west side of the Sandra Shaw Trail to the Peterson Road Shared Use Path. The consultants and study team have chosen alignments to investigate feasibility to present to the public on September 18th at the 2nd Open House and online on Lawrence Listens from September 5th to September 19th. For more information and to see the study timeline visit: www.lawrenceks.org/loop

Jessica Mortinger is the Staff contact.