

October Public Workshop

Comprehensive Plan

October 23, 2024 | Downtown Library



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Participation

By the Numbers:

Over 200 attendees

**2 public presentations
3 city official meetings**

2 Overall Tone of the Workshops

- Overall, those who attended expressed support for the recommendations highlighted in the boards to follow.
- Some attendees had questions and concerns regarding proposed land use changes.



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Priorities Activity

- Participants were asked to distribute five dot stickers among nine priority areas for a hypothetical development site.

PRIORITY	DOTS
Increasing affordable housing	29
More housing overall	19
Aligning with walk/bike/transit	14
Preservation of natural features	13
Green building practices	12
Providing quality open space	11
Community character	11
Stormwater management	9
Increasing accessible homes	6

More housing overall in the development

Providing quality open space within development projects

Green building practices (all electric, sustainable materials)

Preservation of natural features (woods, large trees, wetlands, etc)

Increasing accessible/barrier free homes

Stormwater management and floodplain protection

Community character (materials, design, historic preservation)

Aligning development with walking, biking and transit infrastructure

Increasing affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents

Or, write your own:

Some new houses (apartments) are popping up in my neighborhood. Stop them/control them. They're making the situation of finding affordable housing worse.

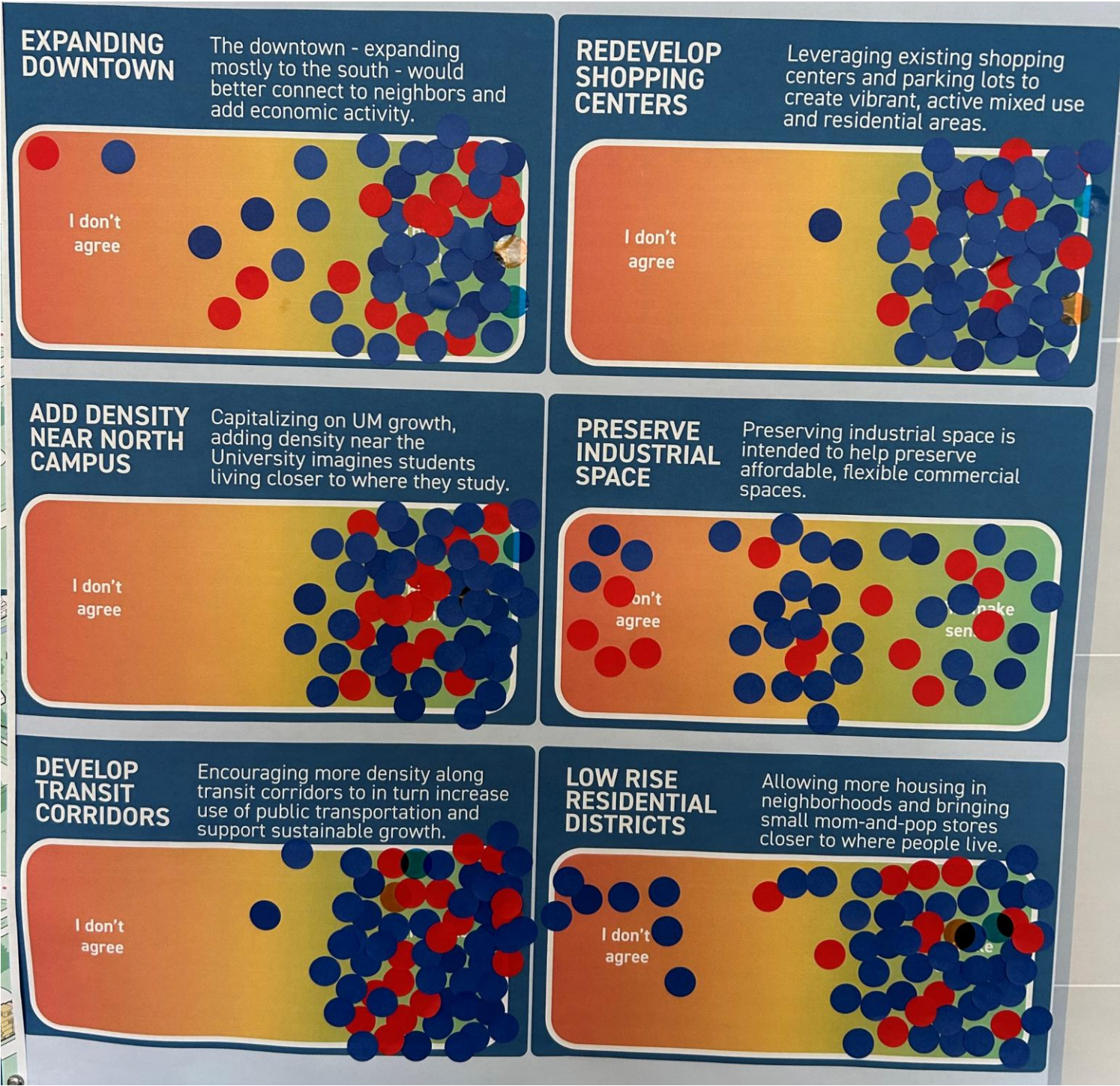
*includes responses from Elks Community Fun Day pop-up

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Key Proposed Changes

- Participants used dot stickers to rate their reactions to the proposed key changes.

VERY STRONG AGREEMENT	Develop transit corridors	Add density near north campus	Redevelop shopping center
STRONG AGREEMENT	Low rise residential districts	Expanding downtown	
MODERATE/ LOW AGREEMENT	Preserve industrial space		



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Comment Summary

Housing Density and Affordability:

- Need for increased housing density, particularly in mixed-use developments, to address the housing shortage and affordability issues
- Allowing taller buildings and more diverse housing options, including affordable housing for low- and middle-income residents.

Transportation and Infrastructure:

- Improving transportation infrastructure, including better public transit options, bike lanes, and pedestrian pathways.
- Reducing car dependency and enhancing connectivity between neighborhoods and commercial areas.

Community and Public Spaces:

- Importance of parks, green spaces, and community hubs.
- Desire for more accessible and well-maintained public spaces, as well as the integration of parks into urban planning.

Environmental Sustainability:

- Need for sustainable development practices, including energy-efficient buildings and the preservation of mature trees.
- Policies that promote fossil fuel-free construction and the incorporation of green infrastructure.

Zoning and Land Use:

- Concerns about existing zoning laws and their impact on development.
- Reforms to allow for more flexible land use that accommodates mixed-use developments and reduces restrictions on building heights.

Community Engagement and Transparency:

- Desire for better communication and engagement with community members regarding urban planning decisions.
- More inclusive processes that consider the needs and opinions of all stakeholders

Thank you!