

PLACE TEAM WORKSHOP (06.04.2024)

Notes By Team - Summary

06.10.2024

The following narrative summarizes the feedback received from the second Place Team Workshop held on June 6th. Based on the three Guiding Principles – “Community Design”, “Development and Design”, and “Site Design” participants were asked to share desired improvement for the four consolidated Placetypes – Neighborhoods, Corridors, Destinations, and Employment Centers and Campuses, as defined by Forward SGF. The notes prepared during the meeting can be found on the City’s website: <https://www.forwardsgf.com/initiative3/>

Neighborhood Place Team – includes both the Residential & Mixed Residential neighborhood Placetypes.

Design discussions regarding Neighborhoods focused on their protection, creating housing variety, and better connectivity. Participants were interested in protecting neighborhoods from corridor development encroachment and generally protecting the current scale of neighborhoods from larger scaled buildings. However, participants also saw a need for an increased variety of housing types within a neighborhood at a scale and with a design that respects the character of existing residential areas. Discussion of neighborhoods also focused on improving connectivity to adjacent destinations such as parks and amenities, and commercial areas. Specifically, a completed sidewalk network is desired to enhance pedestrian connectivity and access.

Corridor Place Team - includes the City Corridor Placetypes.

The design discussion regarding Corridors within the City of Springfield was focused on reducing the impacts of development along major corridors to adjacent neighborhoods, as well as modernizing the uses within corridor contexts. Participants desired corridors that lessened the physical and environmental impacts of development and redevelopment, including green streets and stormwater measures, site landscaping, better parking design, improved site circulation, and pedestrian facilities. Participants also desired lessened impact on neighborhoods abutting corridors. Current impact concerns include the scale of buildings, traffic circulation, noise, lighting, impervious surfaces, and lack of buffers. Participants were in favor of promoting redevelopment of existing underutilized corridor sites, rather than city expansion for new corridor development.

Destinations Place Team - includes the Downtown and Mixed-Use Placetypes.

Discussions centered on improving the design of Destinations to specifically address parking, connectivity, and housing. Participants voiced necessary improvements to the parking requirements to expand flexibility in response to a variety of contexts such as – downtown, neighborhood centers, and suburban centers. Additional attention to the design of parking lots was desired by participants, with consideration of function, impervious area, and safety. One of

the most important priorities regarding destinations was pedestrian safety and comfort. Stakeholders identified desired improvements such as sidewalks and better streetscape design to improve access for pedestrians. Housing was also identified as a critical piece of a destination's success, including a variety of housing – single family, “missing middle”, and multifamily – each within and in proximity to destinations.

Employment Center & Campus Place Team - includes the Institutional & Employment Center, Business Flex, Industry & Logistics Placetypes.

Discussions regarding the improvement of the Employment Centers and Campuses in Springfield focused on redevelopment of existing places, rather than promoting new development. Participants were interested in design that improves quality of place, focusing specifically on site design, parking lots, enhanced landscaping, and improved green space. Gateway features identifying entrances was offered as a design element to improve the appearance of these areas. Discussions regarding the redevelopment of existing vacant land or structures was preferred to improve existing spaces. To support redevelopment, the adoption of more specific design standards and a simplified approval process were desired.