

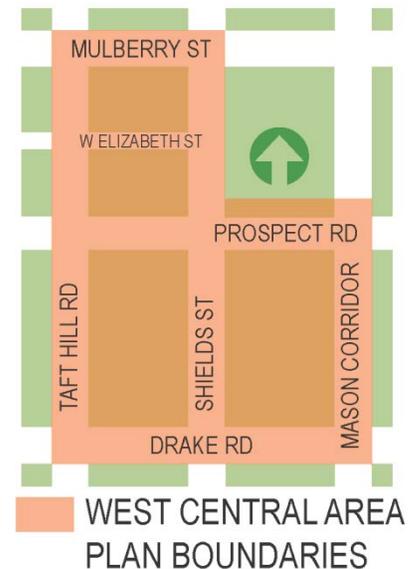
West Central Area Plan – Listening Sessions Summary March 26 – April 3, 2014

Background

The West Central Area Plan (WCAP) process began in March 2014. The purpose of the WCAP update is to revisit and refine the original vision and goals, policy directives, and implementation actions from the 1999 West Central Neighborhoods Plan based on emerging issues and trends. The updated plan will provide a new overall, community-supported vision for the plan area, as well as a clear roadmap for implementing that vision. The plan is anticipated to be presented to Council for consideration for adoption in early 2015.

Listening Sessions Overview

Four listening sessions were held between March 26 and April 3 to gain insight into the character and features that define the West Central area, along with potential areas of improvement. The purpose of these meetings was to elicit feedback from the community about the West Central area, including ideas and concerns related to land use, transportation, housing, urban design, natural systems, and quality of life amenities.



Date	Session	Location	Participants
March 26	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Westminster Presbyterian Church	60
March 27	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Durrell Seminar Room (CSU Campus)	22
March 31	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Drake Centre	32
April 3	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Plymouth Congregational Church	64
<i>Total</i>			<i>178</i>

The listening sessions began with an introduction to the West Central Area Plan update, an overview of public involvement activities, and a roadmap for the public engagement process moving forward.

Participants were asked to break into groups to discuss different broad topic areas, including: the overall West Central area, the Prospect Road Corridor specifically, and the Master Plan for the Colorado State University (CSU) Main and South campuses. Each group had access to maps associated with the topic area and was encouraged to share any thoughts, concerns, or questions they had related to the topic. Participants could either relay those thoughts to staff facilitators at each table, record their thoughts on the map, or provide staff with their thoughts on comment sheets passed out at the beginning of the listening session. Each group had roughly 25 minutes to discuss the topic before moving to one of the other topic areas.

Theme Descriptions

West Central Area: The purpose of this table was to garner feedback about the West Central Area as a whole. City staff sought guidance on how to best preserve desirable features of the West Central area while still allowing the area to respond to changing conditions, new growth pressures, and emerging needs.

Prospect Road Corridor: The Prospect Road Corridor from Shields Street to College Avenue is one of the most constrained arterial roadway sections in Fort Collins. The purpose of this table was to understand the nature of the corridor's challenges, listen to resident and commuter concerns, and brainstorm ideas for improvement.



CSU Master Plan: Representatives from CSU's Facilities Management department gave participants an overview of how the university plans to expand over the next 10 to 15 years and how the plans for the Main and South Campuses relate to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Get Involved Table: The success of the West Central Area Plan will depend on the quality of engagement with those impacted by the plan, including residents, property owners, business owners, employees, developers, and other interested groups. The purpose of the 'Get Involved' table was to get participants' feedback on how to best communicate and engage with them throughout the planning process. Attendees had the opportunity to sign up for neighborhood walking tours, comment on their preferred event types and communication methods, and apply to be on the Stakeholder Committee, which will work with the City to guide the planning process.

What We Heard – Key Themes

The project team heard a number of concerns, opportunities, and comments during the group discussions and on comment forms. The following list of key themes summarizes the ideas and comments shared by participants at each table over the course of the four listening sessions.

The West Central Area

- Spillover parking from high density developments is a problem that needs to be addressed
- New multi-family developments are not providing enough parking
- Many of the intersections along Shields are not bike/pedestrian friendly (Plum, Elizabeth, Lake, Laurel and Prospect in particular)
- Protect historically significant buildings in the West Central area and along Prospect Road
- Preserve the character of existing single-family neighborhoods
- New multi-family developments should match the character of the neighborhoods in which they are built as best as possible

- Ensure the area still has access to open space as more development occurs
- CSU needs to take a leadership role in mitigating the impacts their developments have on the surrounding neighborhoods
- Construct pedestrian overpasses/underpasses at high volume intersections around CSU such as Plum, Elizabeth, and Center
- Need adequate bicycle and pedestrian connections that allow people to avoid major arterials

Prospect Corridor

- Many commuters avoid Prospect altogether because it is too congested and unsafe
- The sidewalks are too narrow and make pedestrians feel unsafe
- Bicyclists avoid Prospect because of the narrow lanes
- Snow gets pushed onto sidewalk during the winter time
- More bike and pedestrian crossings would make Prospect feel safer
- Pedestrian and bike traffic should be re-routed to Lake from Prospect
- Concern that MAX will add to the congestion on Prospect
- More east-west bus routes could help alleviate congestion
- Introduce traffic calming measures to enhance safety
- Consider a variety of design alternatives, and if right-of-way acquisition is included, address the implications and impacts
- High density zoning will bring developments that could add to congestion
- Construct pedestrian overpasses/underpasses at Center Ave.

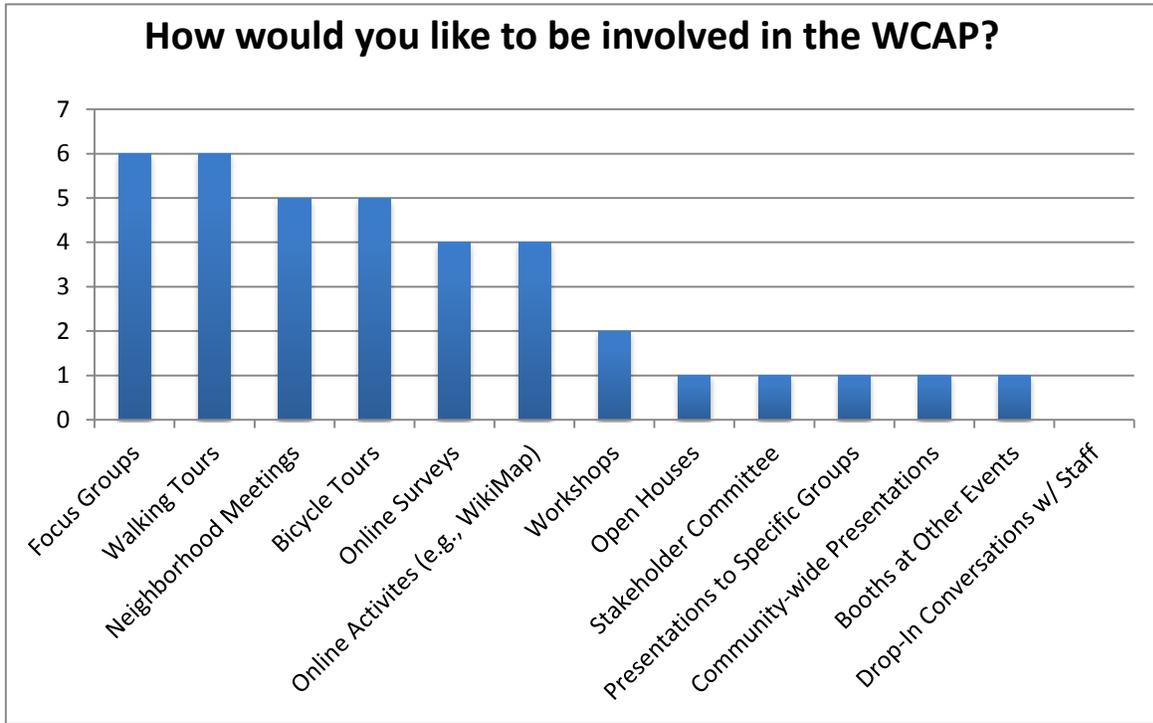


CSU Master Plan

- CSU is not providing enough parking for students and the result is spillover parking on to neighborhood streets
- New developments on campus are adding to congestion on city streets
- CSU operates in a bubble and should better consider its impacts on surrounding areas

Get Involved

At the 'Get Involved' table, participants were asked how the City can best engage with them throughout the planning process. One of the questions asked was how participants would like to be involved in the West Central Area Plan moving forward through events and other outreach methods. Staff provided a list of potential planning activities and participants put a dot next to their preferred methods of engagement. Below is a summary of responses.



Participants were also asked about their preferred method of receiving information from the City. Below is a chart showing how people would like to receive correspondence from the city about the West Central Area Plan.

