

Northside Livable Centers Study
Advisory Committee Meeting 1 – January 12, 2010

In this meeting we discussed the overall planning process and timeline, planning principles, existing conditions and the Draft Alternative for the Study Area. Below are notes from the discussion session during the second half of the meeting.

- Northside is really a collection of smaller neighborhoods
- We need to look for opportunities for affordable housing
- Gentrification is a big issue in the neighborhood
- Rail by 2012. Very short time frame
- 4' sidewalks are too narrow
- Loose dogs and dog packs are a problem in the southern industrial areas
- U of H: the tunnel is a big problem. It is the divider and needs physical connections. The freight rail is not going away. need pedestrian bridges etc.
- We need to coordinate with the City's hike and bike trail. plans and show the bike routes through Northside
- Memorial Park Pedestrian Bridge is a good example for Northside
- The integration of light rail and schools is crucial / school frontage and rail [shrubs, fences, Intersections @ Schools)
- Moody Park is being renovated, but its only infrastructure
- There is no gym or fitness center in Northside
- There is a high rate of diabetes and other health problems in Northside
- There is nothing to do for a teenager. No bowling, skatepark, etc. no place to hang out
- Moody Park or Jeff Davis H.S. are the "hearts" of Northside
- There is a great need for a new grocery store
- Northside needs more variety of restaurants, etc.
- UH is a commuter campus. This could change. The TOD plan should encourage student housing, ball fields and integration with the neighborhood
- The catalyst sites with the highest potential are around UH/Hardy Yards and Moody Park area.
- A community center/senior center on South St. & Quitmann with a park on the roof
- Parking, how is this handled?
- Community gardens area a good idea, hunger is a big issue in Northside
- Health clinic locations in the neighborhood would be a benefit
- Charter schools are also needed in Northside
- U of H Downtown as the economic catalyst.
- Uof H and Moody Park connection could be made stronger with rail
- Bus circulation is still needed after the rail is built
- There is huge homeless problem on Main Street
- UH & Hardy are the Catalyst Sites but do not meet the needs of the existing residents.
- Jeff Davis and is the Near Northside center. It is within 1/4 mile of two transit stops. The intersection of Quitman and Fulton is the town center. Maybe a Grocery store in this location.
- San Jacinto moves into Fulton @ 4 lanes. Fulton is currently 2 lanes. Solve this problem at Hardy Yards, not on existing Fulton and the single family neighborhood. This will give us some form response to the development of Hardy Yards.

- Fulton Street will need bike and pedestrian improvement. Needs some love. Fulton is becoming a Connector and not a small residential street. Right now, Public Works has defined this as a major throughfare.
- Buffalo Bayou, connection to the south under Ellysan, this should be a green finger bike path under the viaduct. This goes to Quitman and back into the Town Center of Quitman and Fulton.
- Fulton is the design problem. Let the community define the character.
- Burnett: As a parkway. A definition between the old and new.
- Need to know the bus routes and changes to the bus routes.