PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

WAKE BRT: WESTERN BLVD. CORRIDOR STUDY + CP-10-21

Public Hearing
April 5, 2022
Other Western Blvd. BRT Projects

• Transit Overlay District mapping (on-going; COW – April 21)
• BRT Design Phase (on-going; late summer updates)
• Upcoming Station Area Planning (to start this year)
The Corridor Study scope includes:

**LAND USE + MARKET ANALYSIS**
- ‘Development potential’
- Consultant-led
- REPORT released

**LPA ANALYSIS**
- ‘BRT route selection’
- Consultant-led
- Endorsed and adopted August 2020

**URBAN DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES**
- ‘Physical improvements’
- Led by Urban Design Center
- REPORT released
Timeline

1 – Kick-off Public Meeting

2 – Virtual Engagement

3 – Final Report

Design Phase Begins
Public Engagement

• **Kick-off event – Nov. 2019**
  • Followed by: 11 pop-ups, multiple neighborhood and stakeholder meetings

----------------- COVID -----------------

• 2 virtual open houses, 4 virtual Q&A’s, multiple stakeholder meetings
• **Boards and Commissions**
  Appearance Commission, Parks Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
• 2 ‘Ask a Planner’ events on Oct. 20 and Nov. 3, 2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase One: Kickoff Meeting</th>
<th>Phase One: Pop Up Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>157 attendees</td>
<td>344 attendees</td>
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<tr>
<td>429 survey participants</td>
<td>11 pop up events</td>
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<tr>
<th>Phase Two: Virtual Engagement</th>
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<tr>
<td>2075 site visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96 survey participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 project subscriptions</td>
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<td>760 questions + comments</td>
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<tr>
<th>Phase Three: Virtual Engagement</th>
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<tr>
<td>416 site visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>424 survey responses</td>
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<td>72% positive sentiment</td>
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Public Priorities

- Pedestrian and bicycle connectivity
- Intersection safety
- Transit-oriented development
- Sustainable design

"This is a very environmentally sensitive area. I'd be interested to see what the staff thinks it could do to innovate here and reduce our impact as we extend Western Blvd."

"Great bones for TOD, but needs a spark"

"This entire corner and shopping area needs significant upgrade and redevelopment."

"It would be nice to have more ways to walk, bike or get around campus in a safer way than crossing Western Boulevard."

"Crossing Western here is incredibly dangerous. Please provide a safe crossing."

KEY:
- BIKE/PED SAFETY
- DEVELOPMENT
- STREET CONNECTIONS
- ENVIRONMENT
- BRT ROUTE
Study Organization
Study Themes + Recommendations

- Multimodal Connectivity
- Public Realm Enhancements
- Environmental Sustainability
- Transit-Oriented Development
PARKS
S. Saunders Bridge

Proposed Conditions
Providing access from the elevated Western Blvd. onto S. Saunders in a way that announces the transition into Dix Park is a design opportunity here. This concept uses the bridge and an expanded public plaza/staircase as a gateway. While an elevator likely will be used to ensure accessibility for all, reliance on this method alone would be a missed opportunity.

Using available, excess right-of-way - BRT access from S. Saunders could create public space that includes plantings, Green Stormwater Infrastructure, and accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Art, signage, and lighting under the bridge create a safer, more inviting experience.

S. Saunders streetscape should include safe crosswalks, wider sidewalks, and bike infrastructure that seamlessly connects to the greenway and Dix Park entrances to the south.
PARKS
Pullen Rd. and Ashe Ave.

P5 - Pullen Road

Proposed Conditions

A redesigned bridge and more compact interchange would help bring all users from Western Blvd. up onto Pullen Rd. more smoothly. A more compact interchange could provide opportunity to expand park space and create a better experience for park, university, and transit users.

P4 - Ashe Avenue

Proposed Conditions

A redesign of this area should correct the alignment of Ashe Ave., provide connections to the future land bridge envisioned in the Dix Park Master Plan, and continue restoration efforts of Rocky Branch. The area should connect seamlessly to Dix Park and Pullen Park, acting as a gateway between the two amenities.
The greenway would follow the stream corridor and connect Hillsborough St. with Lake Johnson.

New bike/ped path to connect surrounding natural areas with corridor.

A new intersection will connect existing and future development to the corridor safely.

City-owned property could become an expanded plaza or improved public amenity area that showcases the ecological systems at play.

Streets in hot pink are proposed streets to add to the Street Plan.

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the Western Blvd. extension will be further analyzed as part of the BRT design.

Open space could be used as infrastructure to protect sensitive ecologies. Strategies include rain gardens, stream stabilization, constructed wetlands, etc.

CARY CONNECTOR - Wolfwood Dr.
Green TOD Concept

Thornton Place, Seattle, WA

This bioswale facility took the place of an asphalt parking lot that routinely flooded. The install was part of Portland’s Green Street Program. Source: Waternet San Francisco

Cleans stormwater runoff from 650 acres of the surrounding neighborhood.
Corridor-wide Recommendations
Streets
Environmental Conditions:

- Floodway
- 1% Annual Chance (100 Year Floodplain)
- 0.2% Annual Chance (500 Year Floodplain)
- Parks and Open Space
- Streams and Water Bodies
- Greenway Parcel/Corridor
- Existing Greenway Trail
- Planned Greenway Trail (In Master Plan)

Recommended Environmental:

- Open Space/Park
- Opportunity for Green Stormwater Install
- Ecologically Sensitive Area
- Greenway Trail
- Greenway Corridor
Study Recommendations

- Implementation Plan Matrix of Capital Projects
- Action Plan Matrix of follow-up items
- CP-10-21 Comprehensive Plan Amendments
  - 10A – Area Specific and Corridor wide Policies and Actions
  - 10B – Area Plan Locations
  - 10C – Street Plan Map Amendment
  - 10D – Planned Bicycle Facilities Map Amendment
Street Plan Amendments

- Area between S.Dawson/S. McDowell St. and S.Saunders St. (Heritage Park)
Street Plan Amendments

- Realign Ashe Ave.
- Remove Blair Dr. and Hunt Dr. designations
- New street to connect Blair Dr. to Pullen Rd.
Street Plan Amendments

- New streets and removal of streets to better align with NCSU’s plans
Street Plan Amendments

- Realign Ligon Street
- Create street grid at existing Food Lion site to promote TOD
Street Plan Amendments

- Update Beryl Rd. as Avenue 2-Lane, Undivided
Street Plan Amendments

- Neighborhood streets
  - Burton Av.
  - Oakdale Dr.
  - Blue Bird/Hunt Drive
- Remove Fieldspring Lane + Plaza West connections
- 2 Lane Undivided Wolfwood Dr.
Planning Commission Recommendation

• Approve (6-2 vote) the Western Blvd. study and CP-10-21 as amended
Questions?