

Oakland-Wide Community Meeting

Minutes: August 31, 2021

Carnegie Mellon University: 2022 Institutional Master Plan Midpoint Update

Presenting: Bob Reppe, Senior Director of Planning and Design and Jen Beck, Project Manager

CMU is in the midst of its institutional master plan development. Bob Reppe introduced the project and outlined the structure of the evening's presentation, focusing on the university's development sites, mobility planning, infrastructure and sustainability, and community outreach plan. These topics each touch on the fundamental principles informing the project: design, experience, mobility, context, and opportunity.

Development sites. The project area is organized around the three main campus divisions – the historic core, the north campus, and the Craig Street area. Development sites include some carried forward from the last institutional master plan and some new to this plan.

Within the historic core, the design considerations are primarily conservative of the original beaux-arts design concept. They include the potential re-design of Donner Hall, the build-out of Margaret Morrison, and the potential redevelopment of Warner Hall. Altogether there are nine potential development sites in this area.

Within the north campus area, the intent is increasing density, and buildings are being considered that are a little taller. The design considerations here are more contemporary and reflective of campus flux. Projects include new construction in what remains of the old Morewood Gardens parking lot next to the Tepper Quad and the re-design of the Greek housing north of Forbes off Morewood to provide updated residences to the Greek organizations and complimentary student housing. The university's priority is to increase the number of beds on campus to guarantee on-campus housing for all undergrads for all four years. Altogether there are six projects in this area.

In the South Craig area, there is a focus on improving the character of the street as a university asset; projects include the Shirley apartment building renovation, Mellon Institute loading area improvements, and two significant new buildings on Forbes (both north and south) – both of which were carried forward from the last IMP.

Mobility. The university's goal is to prioritize people over vehicles. In descending priority, mobility options should include walking, biking, using public transit, high-occupancy vehicles, and, lastly, single-occupancy vehicles. The plan contains no net new parking. Many planned public realm improvements are mobility-driven and include several that are within the university's sole control (e.g., a cross-campus cycle track) and some that will involve partnering with the city and PennDOT (e.g., correcting misalignment of Morewood, adding bike lanes on Morewood, and rebuilding the Forbes RR bridge).

The university's parking management plan envisions a 5% increase in people working from home. The plan is to integrate with the planned BRT, expand the bike network, and collaborate with partner institutions to manage shuttles. Pedestrian network improvements include adding buffers and vegetation.

Sustainability infrastructure.

Jen Beck, Project Manager, presented. The focus is on minimizing energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, water, and resources use, improving stormwater management and waste management, and improving

open space and pedestrian circulation. Green buildings are an essential component of the university's sustainability plan, and everything built in the last ten years has been LEED certified.

The sustainability focus also comprises neighborhood enhancement strategies. The goals of these strategies are to minimize the university's impacts on its neighbors, to make connections to share the university with the community, to enhance South Craig as CMU's college street, to ensure the university's amenities are available to all, and to continue to have a positive economic impact on the region.

Community outreach.

This presentation will be made available through planned town halls, including:

September 9 at 12:00

September 9 at 4:30

September 13 at 6:30

<https://www.cmu.edu/cdfd/master-plan/index.html>

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OPDC will coordinate with Department of City Planning and Carnegie Mellon regarding the scheduling of a Development Activities Meeting (DAM) for this project, likely in October, prior to the IMP presentation to City Planning Commission for hearing and action.

Q: Biking and walking trail in Panther Hollow: to be kept open?

A: We retained a 10' easement for a future trail; any future building would preserve it. Ultimately, hoping the city will help us connect the trail at the south end to Junction Hollow Trail and thence to the river via Hazelwood Green.

Q: Any plans between Forbes and Neville?

A: Graphic arts site and across between museum and railroad, north and south of Forbes projects

Q: What recreation facilities can the community use?

A: Campus, track, campus spaces are open for people to walk through and use; connections (bike, pedestrian) are open to the public

Q: Is the train from Hazelwood to CMU still on the books?

A: I don't know; following the lead of the lead developers at Hazelwood Green in building out projects there, we are not driving connections through the hollow; it's a DOMI and DCP initiative. We do not have plans regarding a connection through the hollow.