CHARLOTTE

CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
M E M O R A N D U M

September 9, 2011

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: David Howard, Chair
City Council Transportation & Planning Committee

SUBJECT: Center City 2020 Vision Plan (Final Draft – July 2011)-Public Stakeholder Comments

The Project Management Team received and evaluated the following public comments related to the Center City 2020 Vision Plan subsequent to the August 22 City Council Planning & Transportation Committee meeting when we unanimously approved forwarding the Plan to you to consider adoption.

In RED, below each comment, is the new recommended language to be included in the Plan. The Planning & Transportation Committee has reviewed the additional and revised recommendations and supports including them in the Plan as amendments to consider at our meeting on September 12. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Joe Piemont – President & COO, Carolinas Healthcare

- The consultants should look into refining the recommendation for a Charlotte Medical School to indicate that CMC has established one in collaboration with UNC Chapel Hill.

  Page 59 – **Change title of UC-3c to:** Continue to develop and promote the growth of the UNC Chapel Hill medical school.

Jerry Clark

- A significant amount of time, energy, thought and money has already been invested in studying the viability of expanding the existing aquatics center to draw major age group, US Masters, collegiate and professional swimming events to Charlotte.
- Proven support exists for a second 50-meter pool.
- Requests that the language of the Plan not be general but be specific to an enlarged aquatics center that will be funded through a collaboration between Mecklenburg County and private investment.

  Page 67 – **Insert text to DC-2b.** A significant amount of time, energy, thought and money has already been invested in studying the viability of expanding the existing aquatics center to draw major age group, US Masters, collegiate and professional swimming events to Charlotte.

Danny Morrison & Richard Thigpen – NFL Carolina Panthers

- Plan should recognize the role of Bank of America Stadium in Uptown:
  - Destination for visitors that would not normally come to Uptown or Charlotte.
  - Economic development in terms of need for new hotels and revenue for bars/restaurants.
- Incorporate the idea of a "Stadium in a Park" by utilizing existing green space around the stadium and link Frazier Park and greenways to the stadium.

Page 123 – **Recommendation "f". Reinforce the 'Stadium in the Park.'** Since 1996, thousands of fans who may not have otherwise visited Uptown, have enjoyed the urban experience through attending NFL Carolina Panthers games at Bank of America Stadium. In addition to fans' renewed interest in their downtown, the franchise has also contributed significant economic impact and brought national recognition to the city.
The stadium has also had a positive visual impact on Third Ward as the trees and vegetation surrounding the building have grown and flourished into a lush park-like setting. Expanding this green space and linking it to existing parks and greenways should be explored.

CCCP Comments

- Eliminate DSE – 2b: Attract a new Uptown shopping center.

Councilman David Howard

- **Gateway Center and the Charlotte Transit Center (CTC) -** There are several mentions in the document of redeveloping the CTC. I am not sure that should be a priority focus for two reasons. First, this will be very hard financially as long as there are still many surface parking lots in Uptown, including several near the CTC. Until those lots are gone, it will be financially problematic to redo the Transit Center. Once the surface lots are mostly gone, land prices will shoot up and may make the Transit Center land valuable enough to make it financially feasible to redevelop with an appropriate amount of City financial support. Second, and perhaps more importantly, the focus of the City should be on the new Gateway Center Transit Hub. In that case, you are starting from the ground up (which is easier), and in the long run, the Gateway Center is more important than the CTC. While both are important hubs, the CTC only serves local lines, while the Gateway Center will serve both local lines and two important Inter-city modes (high speed rail and mass transit to the airport). While not ideal, the CTC is functional, and any City resources focused on these two hubs should go to Gateway Center for the time being.

  Page 163 - **Revise Priority Action 13.** Title would be changed from "CTC Redevelopment" to "Charlotte Gateway Station." New language would reflect that Gateway Station, like the airport, should be an economic development catalyst and a prominent, memorable access portal to Charlotte, as well as new major employment center. The development of the CTC would be referenced as being developed after Gateway Station is under construction or complete.

- Norris/Matheson is currently the only East/West Connector that takes you all the way from Statesville Avenue to NoDa. Since one of the major problems with North End is the lack of East/West connection because of rail lines, maybe it should be better highlighted on this map.

  Page 46 – The Norris/Matheson connector will be highlighted as a mixed use employment area on the North End map.

Additional minor grammatical edits, clarifications and revisions to maps and graphics are not included here, but will be forwarded to the consultant team to be corrected.

c: Curt Walton, City Manager
Jim Schumacher, Assistant City Manager
Debra Campbell, Planning Director