

MEETING DATE: April 29, 2006

AGENDA ITEM : Public Workshop for the Specific Plan for Washington
National Area

ATTACHMENTS

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NOTES: GROUP I

3/25/06

The happiest people in Culver are those who can walk their neighborhood
Sufficient-convenient parking is key
More walkable cafes-restaurants
Local walkable businesses a plus

Great resources:

Connection opportunity along Ballona Creek
Private schools
Syd Kronenthal Park
Le Dijonnaise/Beacon great
4 Corners is an asset

3-4 private schools-no public
A 40,000 SF whole foods or a farmers market (as in Fairfax-3rd) would be great but may cause traffic problems

Solve parking issue before development
Place parking near the freeway or triangle site

40,000SF neighborhood style retail along Southside of Washington
Wild Card: 40,000SF retail on triangle
Incorporating retail-open space on triangle site
What will happen to existing businesses?
Bookstore!
New development possible along East Washington of specific plan area

OS and connection:

Greenspace connections with Kenneth Hahn Park
Want Pedestrian friendly
There should be pedestrian access from east Culver City neighborhood to other side of National
Should be pedestrian –bike along National and retail at east end of National
Should be pedestrian –bike along Washington along length of specific plan
Bikeway connection to downtown
Improve landscaping-friendliness of Landmark
More greening from Landmark to Helms

Culver Junction, Culver City Gateway

Assets:

- Private schools in neighborhood
- Small businesses, locally-owned businesses
- Restaurants and walkable nature of East Washington and Helms

Concerns:

- Parking issues
- Increased traffic at Washington and National intersection
- Expo line will be a barrier along National
- Warehouses portray a dead façade and need improvement

Suggestions/Ideas:

- Traffic generating uses such as parking and large stores (i.e. supermarket) should be located north of the Washington-National intersection
- New development should have locally-owned business
- Farmers' Market like Grand Central Market and 3rd & Fairfax, or a supermarket like Whole Foods
- Bring a local bookstore
- More restaurants, café's, and coffee shops
- New development should incorporate retail and open space together
- Public school
- Improved landscape and pedestrian connectivity of Landmark
- Dog park on Landmark
- Pedestrian connection between Landmark and the Hayden Tract
- Open space connection to the new state park in Baldwin Hills
- Pedestrian and bike connection across National and the Expo Line east of the interim rail station
- Pedestrian and bike connections from Washington-National to downtown along Washington

New Name:

- Culver Junction
- Culver City Gateway

NOTES: GROUP 2

3/25/06

Traffic:

Venice is a freeway

Not a lot of commercial on Washington or National –need retail

People just drive thru National-it's a wasteland

Too much traffic to deal with thru Helms street

Retail:

Grocery store in the specific plan

Retail near the station –otherwise people will go to the station-leave town and not experience

Culver City

No strip malls

More greenspace and trees

Residential???

Pedestrian connections from-to residential neighborhoods

Assets:

- Streetscape along East Washington

Concerns:

- Increased traffic, vehicle and pedestrian
- Pedestrian crossing at Washington National intersection
- Too much light industry existing in area

Suggestions/Ideas:

- Strip retail on both sides of Washington in linear scheme
- Big retail areas located away from the station to anchor the district at periphery
- Hotel as a possible wild card use
- Larger open space and/or swimming pool as wild card uses
- Continue enhanced streetscape along Washington from East
- Small parks/open spaces incorporated into the strip retail along Washington
- New pedestrian links from residential neighborhoods
- Pedestrian bridges at congested intersections
- Alternative ways to get around neighborhood to avoid bad traffic
- Parking egress located in places that affect traffic the least
- Address Venice Boulevard

NOTES: GROUP 3

3/25/06

Assets: "the pioneers" Helms, restaurants, jazz-bakery, *Surfas* (store and restaurant)
City upgrading EWO –drift EWO, success, hard to impose

Walkway to downtown, combo walking bike path
6/10 of a mile, 15 min walk – Movie Theater

Stores: bookstore, food market like whole foods, excellent spot at Spartan
Produce-food market near *Surfas*
No chain retail
Reason to walk-active
Late night cafes, outdoor cafes and dining experiences
Galleries

Filling the gap between WaNa and Downtown
Visual gaps –wastelands
Blend together

Parking issue
La Cienega downtown connection-lost at Howard

Open Space:
Corner Park at urban partners' site, Waterfall feature
City Park needs to be connected to other activities and zones
Bikeway and greenspace along Expo-line
Stronger pedestrian connection along Expo
Bigger parkette that has something
Pocket parks near retail space
Recreation-businesses
Park at south end of triangle

Problem Areas:
Liquor stores
Howard Industries-dead use
Industry near Landmark
Landmark –pedestrian district and back street
SoWa: semi-blighted, vacancy frontage along Venice

Screenland Junction
Washington Junction
Culver Junction
Culver Crossing
Memory Lane Crossing

Assets:

- Landmark Street

Concerns:

- Parkette doesn't work

Suggestions/Ideas:

- Bookstore – can act as community meeting place
- Supermarket (i.e. Whole Foods) or food market like Grand Central Market
- More restaurants and small outdoor eating areas
- More centralized open space (larger, more usable than Parkette)
- Pedestrian and bike connections from Helms to Downtown
- Improve area between Downtown and Specific Plan area
- Improve Venice Blvd. street frontages
- Make Landmark a destination

Names:

- Culver Crossing
- Screenland Junction
- Washington Junction

NOTES: GROUP 4

3/25/06

Issues:

Noise from the rail and traffic accidents

Wild Card:

Pedestrian only promenade

"Surface" from alleys-streets for better connections

Break up corridor for better connections from residential neighborhoods

Wide sidewalks w canopy structure

Trees on street or sidewalks not median

Encourage walk ability, nurture pedestrian experience only (right now it informal) no cars

Trolley cars

Mix retail uses in the area

How do we get to Point A from Point B?

Concentrate retail

OS: playground for children-plaza like (courtyard at City Hall)

Open Space-a park on top of a parking structure of MTA

Want an "organic "solution to open space as in a cooperative farm

Safety, Family oriented, neighborhood services

Multi-cultural and mixed use

Connected to the creek- beach via Bike path

Careful development

Encouraging diversity –age, ethnicity

Draws from studio, downtown

Watershed mentality –grow food, being modern and progressive

Possibility of more transit

Creating a beautiful and rich gathering place

Concerns:

- Increased traffic and pedestrian issues

Suggestions/Ideas:

- As much mixed-use as possible
- Destination that will draw people to area
- More friendly retail along Washington
- Park space over parking structures
- Pedestrian promenades along major boulevards
- Widen pedestrian walkways through use of private easements traded for denser development entitlement
- Trolley line in the parkway on Washington Boulevard

NOTES: GROUP 5

3/25/06

Parking issue
No big parking lots

Don't want current residential being incorporate into commercial
No 3rd street Santa Monica
Not just national chains try to keep mom & pop feel
Area like Paris -No big box
Neighborhood serving
Galleries aren't open to the public
Support current businesses grassroots
Art school
Fill current vacancies
Keep the jungle

Utilize transit-walk ability
Importance of Venice blvd
Make National more walk able –pedestrian bridges
Congestion on National
People mover

Building arts connections think Douglas-Ivy substation
(Tim Robbins) New arts-science museum

Concerns:

- Eminent domain not appropriate – no property taken for development

Suggestions/Ideas:

- Unique retail, like on neighborhood retail streets, not like 3rd Street Promenade (Santa Monica)
- Provisions that support existing businesses and preserve smaller retailers – these businesses are desired instead of national chain stores
- Wider sidewalks
- Street cafes, like in Paris
- Music school or similar unique use that will give identity to area
- More pedestrian-friendly and environmental friendly setting
- Public lockers and showers for bicycle riders
- Improve Venice Boulevard
- Address Robertson/Freeway area in planning process

Name:

- Champs Elysees - Culver Elysees?

NOTES: GROUP 6

3/25/06

Green space/plaza
Fountains/greens
Softscape
Museum
Kids' playground (for younger children)

Street Connections
Should have a unifying theme (cobblestone details etc)
Live music
Positive history
Neighborhood protection
Expo project-negative impacts
Auto mechanics
Want more mixed-use, more retail uses
Bike lanes-connect from home to downtown
Plaza-square surrounded by shops
Trees remain at existing park

Assets:

- The landmark tree at the parkette

Concerns:

- Transit and changes that will accompany it

Suggestions/Ideas:

- Mixed-use with retail and restaurants at a central area
- "Mom and pop" character retail shops
- Central plaza with retail and meeting area for activities such as live music
- Museum as a unique use
- Water features for noise-calming
- Unified streetscape and environmental character to tie the neighborhood together
- Various child-friendly areas catering to young families such as children's parks and "Jamboree"
- Bikeway along Washington Boulevard
- Neighborhood shuttle like "DASH" connecting residential and commercial areas
- Cul-de-sacs at residential streets that currently connect to National east of proposed interim station

Names:

- Culver Crossroads