



## Draft Plan Revisions Summary

8 November 2021

### PURPOSE

This document summarizes revisions in and updates to the final draft of the Center City 2040 Vision Plan as proposed by the consultants and project management team.

### BACKGROUND

The Draft Center City Vision Plan (CCVP) articulates our community's aspirations for how the heart of our city and county should evolve over the next 20 years. The plan includes innovative, authentic, and transformative recommendations and strategies to help bring the vision to life.

The CCVP draft document was released and posted on the project website in July 2021 initiating a seven-week public review period. During this time, through direct emails, social media, news publications, etc. the public and others were encouraged to submit comments on the plan. Feedback was received via meetings with residents, stakeholders and officials, and through online input, surveys, and emails. All feedback was reviewed by the consultants and project management team who then summarized and presented the input to elected and advisory officials and several stakeholder groups.

The community has cared about this effort to guide the growth and development of Center City which was demonstrated by the many individuals who attended meetings and/or commented on the draft. The types of feedback received included:

- Plan ideas that people liked and, ideas that they didn't like
- Suggestions or new ideas that were not in the plan
- Suggestions for clarifying or refining plan ideas and recommendations
- General opinions that were neither positive nor negative, and
- References to existing, in progress or on-going projects, policies or programs.

### GUIDING CRITERIA

The consultants and project management team referred to one or several of the following criteria and parameters to guide the selection of the proposed revisions. Revisions could be a/an:

- new idea or recommendation
- appropriate to the scope of the Vision Plan
- high-level, actionable policy, and/or
- clarification of an existing recommendation.

## DEFINITIONS & FORMAT

This Summary is a companion to the Draft CCVP ([found here](#)) and the proposed revisions will be located on the pages in that document. Below are the definitions of terminology used throughout this summary.

**Page number** – Refers to the page in the DRAFT CCVP document where a ‘revision’ or ‘new recommendation’ would be located.

**Revision** – Edits or adjustments (i.e. new language or terminology, additional explanations, etc.) to a sentence or paragraph clarifying, emphasizing or strengthening an existing recommendation.

**New recommendation** – A new idea suggested by the community or others that improves the plan.

For example, revisions are organized in the following format:

**Page 75** - This is the page in the Draft Center City Vision Plan where a revision or new recommendation will be included.

**Goal 5: Abundant Parks, Public Spaces and Natural Areas**

**Strategy 5E:** Restore and Expand the Tree Canopy and Urban Forest – This is the chapter or section in the draft plan where a revision or new recommendation will be applied.

**New Recommendation** – This is the type of comment or edit.

**5e-6 Update the Uptown Streetscape Plan (2001) to plan for species diversity and aging canopy succession of Uptown Street trees** – This is the specific revised and/or added text.

## REVISIONS TALLY

### Vision Plan Chapters

1 Introduction	1 revision
2 Planning Process	No revisions
3 Community Engagement	1 revision
4 Plan Framework	No revisions
5 Strategies & Recommendations	15 revisions
6 Focus Areas	5 revisions
7 Organization & Action	No revisions

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

### Page 7

#### What is a Vision Plan?

**Revision** – *Added language to clarify the purpose and policy implications of a vision plan*

The Vision Plan provides a “big picture” yet strategic framework and a bold, unifying vision for Center City growth and development. The Plan sets forth an outlook for the future that is unique and authentic to Charlotte-Mecklenburg, providing a set of innovative, transformative strategies and recommendations that will chart the course for achieving it. **It’s important to note that adoption of this plan will not obligate current or future councils and/or other governing bodies to commit funding for any particular recommendation or project. Rather, vision plans are meant to reflect the aspirations and values of the community while inspiring current and future action, not set binding policy.**

The recommendations include major, long-term projects that will enhance the landscape of Center City; policies that will guide investment and deployment of resources; and programs to support Charlotte residents and businesses. The Vision Plan also suggests an organizational structure to guide the City, County and Center City Partners in working together with the Charlotte community to implement the plan. **Some strategies and recommendations will require different responsible entities to be in the lead and develop the recommendations further into more specific projects or actions that can then be funded and/or implemented.**

## CHAPTER 2: PLANNING PROCESS – *No revisions*

## CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Page 29

#### Community Perspectives – Challenges

**Revision** – *Added language acknowledging challenges of welcoming residents from a variety of cultures*

#### Challenges

- Increasing cost of living and lack of affordable housing
- Growing homeless population and encampments
- Growing inequality
- Neighborhood gentrification and displacement
- Cost and availability of childcare
- Lack of essential services in neighborhoods
- Continued need for automobiles
- Unsafe or incomplete streets, bike lanes, trails and sidewalks
- Vacant land and “gaps” along streets
- Limited infrastructure to support growth
- Major barriers between neighborhoods
- Few small urban parks and spaces including dog parks
- Changing climate and hotter weather
- Limited ground-floor and street activity
- Few low-cost, family-friendly destinations
- **Integrating and supporting different cultures and language**

## CHAPTER 4: PLAN FRAMEWORK – *No revisions*

## CHAPTER 5: STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Page 48

#### Goal 1: Inclusive Economy and Growth

##### Strategy 1A: Enhance Center City’s Economic Base to Support Regional Growth

###### *Revision – Clarification specifying time frame for growth targets*

To guide growth and support community goals, including housing affordability, the Center City Growth Projections Report proposes the following targets **within the study area boundary by the year 2040**:

- 35,000 new housing units including 3,500 permanently affordable homes
- 10.5 million additional square feet of office / employment space to accommodate over 19,000 new workers
- Etc.

### Page 52

#### Goal 2: Easy, Accessible Mobility

##### Why is This Important?

###### *Revision - Clarifying language for prioritizing mobility enhancements*

These factors create a challenging environment for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users, and others using the streets and sidewalk spaces. It also means that driving to and parking in Center City is often still the most convenient option. **Priority should be given to transportation-related projects that focus on active transportation that improves pedestrian, cyclist access, and public transit.** Raising the share of trips taken by other **means of transportation, known as mode share**, has multiple benefits for the city, including improving the street environment and lowering carbon emissions.



*A ‘mode share pyramid’ graphic similar to the above to be included in final document*

Source: Share North

## Page 55

**Strategy 2A:** Balance Trips to And Within Center City Among Different Modes Including Bus, Rail, Walking, Biking and Driving

**Revision** - Clarifying language for 2a-1 emphasizing intent to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips

**2a-1** Collaborate with the Planning, Design & Development Department and the Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) to establish ambitious Center-City specific **targets** for the share of trips taken by different modes, including walking, biking, transit and shared/micro mobility, **with the goal of decreasing single occupancy vehicle trips.**

## Page 55

**Revision** – Addition to recommendation 2a-2

**2a-2** Partner with major employers and other private organizations to develop tools and incentives to support transportation choice and to achieve mode share goals. Establishing a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program can include:

- › Discounted or free transit passes
- › Organized rideshare systems
- › Reducing or eliminating free parking and maximizing use of existing supply via technology, marketing and promotion.
- › **Identify and implement a digital tool or app, known as Mobility as a Service (MaaS), that enables people to access, plan, pay for, and get real-time information on a range of public and private transportation options such as transit, ride share, scooters, bike share, etc.**

## Page 56

**New Recommendation** – To be added following recommendation 2a-6

**2a-7 Modernize the fare structure for municipal transit within Center City. Explore approaches to make transit more equitable and accessible through methods such as:**

- › **Distance-based pricing**
- › **Time-based fare capping**
- › **Fare-free zones**

## Page 58

**Strategy 2D:** Manage Parking to Support Multi-Modal Transportation and Improve the Street Environment

*Revision - Clarifying language for 2d-1 emphasizing a focus on areas with significant transit access*

**2d-1** Develop a comprehensive, phased plan for **upgrading** single-use parking decks and lots in Center City, **focusing first on those in the vicinity of light rail, streetcar and commuter bus corridors**, to support traveler choices and comfort and provide additional amenities....

## Page 58

**Strategy 2D:** Manage Parking to Support Multi-Modal Transportation and Improve the Street Environment

*Revision – To align CCVP recommendation 2d-2 with the Draft **Unified Development Ordinance** parking policies currently undergoing public review.*

**2d-2** Eliminate parking minimums for new development and **establish parking maximums as specified in the Unified Development Ordinance.**

**Goal 3: Complete, Affordable Neighborhoods – *No revisions***

## Page 69

**Goal 4: Healthy, Safe Neighborhoods**

**Strategy 4C:** Improve Food Security and Access to Healthy Foods for All Residents

*New Recommendation – To be added following recommendation 4c-7*

**4c-8 To address inequities in food access, establish a fund to support a more complete community-based food eco-system**

## Page 75

**Goal 5: Abundant Parks, Public Spaces and Natural Areas**

**Strategy 5E:** Restore and Expand the Tree Canopy and Urban Forest

*New Recommendation – To be added following 5e-5*

**5e-6 Update the Uptown Streetscape Plan (2001) to plan for species diversity and aging canopy succession of Uptown street trees**

## Page 76

### Goal 6: Resilient Low-Carbon Urban Neighborhoods

*Revision – Clarification of Framework Statement below:*

Design buildings, streets, infrastructure and public spaces that **mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, support** a low carbon future, and contribute to ecological restoration.

## Page 76

### Why is this Important?

*Revisions – Emphasize collaboration between public and private sectors to address ill effects of climate change*

Center City will continue to grow over the next two decades and beyond. While this means more people living, working and playing in the urban core, it also creates an opportunity **for the public and private sectors to work together to implement low-carbon** design and building methods that are more efficient while benefitting people and the planet.

Charlotte's culture of innovation and creativity provides an ideal setting to develop and apply new green building, energy methods **and infrastructure** to pursue solutions that **restore** the environment and **eliminate public health risks** by generating energy, improving air quality, cooling the city and cleaning our water.

## Page 77

**Strategy 6A:** Aggressively Implement the **Strategic Energy Action Plan's** Transportation, Energy and Building Strategies to Make Center City a Low-Carbon Urban Center By 2050

*Revisions – Correction of zero-carbon year targets*

The Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP) is a how-to guide for the City of Charlotte to become a low-carbon city by **2050** and for City buildings and **fleet** to be zero-carbon by **2030**. Given the scale and size of development and the expected new growth, Center City presents the city's greatest opportunity to reach these goals.



## Page 78

**Strategy 6C:** Ensure Utilities and Infrastructure Support Sustainable, Resilient, Low-Carbon, and Equitable Growth

*Revision* – *Emphasize evacuation strategy in planning for extreme weather events*

**6c-2** Develop a Center City Infrastructure Plan that:

- › Comprehensively assesses existing and planned infrastructure and utilities, including water, sewer and stormwater systems and wi-fi/internet access
- › Identifies infrastructure investments and improvements that will accommodate several decades of growth
- › **Update evacuation plans to account for climate change and more frequent extreme weather events such as hurricanes, floods, etc.**
- › Etc.

## Page 79

**Strategy 6D:** Utilize Land and Buildings Throughout Center City to Provide Environmental Benefits

*New Recommendations* – *Address ‘smart surfaces’ strategies; following recommendation 6d-2*

**6d-3 ‘Smart surfaces’, such as reflective roofs, pervious pavements, etc., should be utilized to reduce urban heat gain and to mitigate extreme flooding risks.**

## Page 79

**Strategy 6D:** Utilize Land and Buildings Throughout Center City to Provide Environmental Benefits

*New Recommendations* – *Address ‘heat island’ effect; following new recommendation 6d-3*

**6d-4 To mitigate the ‘urban heat island effect’ in Uptown and other neighborhoods, study and implement techniques and methods such as increasing vegetation, installing green roofs, and painting surfaces with reflective coatings similar to the Los Angeles ‘Cool LA Program’.**

**Goal 7: Lifelong Learning, Care and Enrichment for All – *No revisions***

**Goal 8: Distinct Identity and Diverse Destinations**

**Strategy 8D:** Transform Uptown **and other Center City neighborhood centers** into **more** warm, distinctive and inviting places

***Revision** – Additional location to support destination activities and events in all Center City neighborhoods; following recommendation 8d-3*

**8d-4** Increase year-round activity and programming **through more temporary street closures,** on sidewalks and, in plazas and open spaces.

## CHAPTERS 6: FOCUS AREAS

### Page 93

#### Focus Area: West Trade | Beatties Ford

**Strategy A2** Implement a Unifying "One West End" Corridor Development Concept, Making Sure Investment and Economic Opportunity Extends Beyond JCSU and Route 16 Along Beatties Ford Road to Hornets Nest Regional Park / Trinity Road

*New Recommendation - To be added following recommendation A2-1*

**A2-2 Support increased pedestrian activity and provide better access to the Gold Line at the French Street Station by investing in pedestrian safety enhancements such as wider sidewalks and lighting to the Beatties Ford Road bridge over Highway 16.**

### Page 96

#### A5. Implement Planned Infrastructure Projects and Investments

*Revision – Add clarifying language for A5-2 emphasizing necessary investment; update rendering to reflect current **FINAL Five Points Forward Study** recommendations*

**A5-2** Construct the third phase of the Gold Line to Rosa Parks Transit Center. **Also, as recommended in the Five Points Forward Study, Phase 3 of the Gold Line project (See Figure 6.8.4) should provide a unifying gateway for the West End by designing and building:**

- › an iconic landmark bridge and signature gateway
- › a separated pedestrian path and bike way, and
- › a boardwalk promenade.

### Page 121

#### Focus Area: Tryon Street Uptown

*New Recommendations - To be added following Strategy F3*

**Strategy F4 - Invest in Better Connecting North End and Uptown Along Tryon Street Across I-277**

**F4-1** Extend the Uptown streetscape infrastructure past 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets into North End

**F4-2** Enhance the pedestrian and cycling connections and experience

**F4-3** Via a signature public art project and|or signage, create an iconic North End gateway

## Page 134

### Focus Area: Medical & Wellness Innovation District

**Strategy I-5:** Create a System of Health Education and Innovation that Includes and Benefits Residents, Schools and Neighborhoods

*New Recommendation - To be added following I 5-2*

- **I 5-3 Link educational and curriculum opportunities with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and other institutions such as Johnson C. Smith University, Central Piedmont Community College, Johnson & Wales University, and Queens University.**

## Page 137

### Focus Area: Second Ward High School

**J3:** Develop a Unique Curriculum that Addresses Economic Mobility and is Aligned with Business Needs and Partnerships

*New Recommendation – Emphasize the inclusion of technical and trade education*

- **To strengthen the career-ready workforce, develop partnerships with trade, technical, and vocational educational programs.**

**CHAPTER 7: ORGANIZATION & ACTION – *No revisions***