Burleson TOD Study
First Public Meeting (January 13, 2011)
Comments Report

A public meeting for the Burleson TOD Study took place at Burleson City Hall on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. A total of 51 people attended the meeting.

There were three options public comments were accepted: general session, breakout open house focus areas and comment forms. The following are the comments received and the questions asked from each avenue, along with responses.

GENERAL SESSION
Comment: Johnson County has conducted an extensive planning process. It is hoped that the Burleson TOD Study will be folded into the Johnson County effort, and that the Burleson TOD Study will consider the elements of the Johnson County study.

BREAKOUT, OPEN HOUSE FOCUS AREAS

Market/Land Use Focus Area
Q: Can people obtain a copy of the PowerPoint presentation online?
R: Yes, the presentation can be accessed at www.nctcog.org/SDplanningprojects or at www.burlesontx.com/index.aspx?nid=111 by clicking on NCTCOG Transit Station Study.

Q: Was market analysis specific to this area – how can people find out what would be appropriate for their properties?
R: Yes, the market analysis was specific to this area, but more definition should be included in the TOD plan and more discussion should take place with city leaders about any policy changes that might be necessary before property development direction will become more apparent.

Comment: The City of Joshua desires similar transportation systems and is curious about the process and outcomes.

Q: What is the most important or most beneficial development to bring in for transit?
R: It depends on the market and what is the best fit for the community. For the Burleson effort, more information about this will emerge as the TOD plan develops.

Q: How soon can we get things in place?
R: The development of TOD is primarily dependent on when the transit service becomes available. Therefore, when rail service is available in Burleson dictates how soon TOD activities will fall into place. Making both rail service and accompanying TOD a reality are dependent on a variety of factors, including the completion of all required environmental analyses, the availability of funding, and the implementation of any policy changes that might be necessary.

Q: Should we move/sell our home? Should we plant trees or plan some other buffer between our property and the train station?
R: It is intended that the train station will be designed as a community asset that blends into the new development in the area to offer a safe, less expensive, more efficient way to travel throughout the Metroplex. As always, it is up to the homeowner where they prefer to live and how they wish to enhance their property with landscaping.
Q: Where will the developments happen?
R: This depends on the pace of population growth and when money is available or developers are willing to spend money on developments.

Q: Can there be a better link to the study information, such as a website or could we incorporate some sort of interactive preference activity for our community?
R: This will be investigated.

Transportation Focus Area

Q: What is Burleson Mission Statement?
R: The City of Burleson itself does not have a Mission Statement. The Mission Statement of the City of Burleson’s Community Development Department is to implement the City’s comprehensive plan through supporting special area plans, consistent construction and development codes, and providing building permits and inspection services to protect the health, safety, and public welfare.

Comment: Rail-Bike Depot (provide station amenities for bicyclists)

Comment: Add bike lane; add bike racks

Comment: We need more walkable environment.

Comment: Want bike lanes added to TOD

Comment: Critical need for a safe bike/pedestrian connection through the Campus District and across SW Wilshire

Comment: Suggestion made to consider utilizing the ETJ areas as potential new greenway connections including to the new Industrial District bordering IH 35W

Comment Note: Nearly everyone at this focus area expressed strong interest in the area becoming more walkable and bike-friendly – including to other neighborhoods to the Northeast and along the creek greenbelts.

Q: Will presentation be on web?
R: Yes, the presentation can be accessed at www.nctcog.org/SDplanningprojects or at www.burlesontx.com/index.aspx?nid=111 by clicking on NCTCOG Transit Station Study.

Q: Will there be public meeting on concepts?
R: Yes, a meeting is anticipated to take place in April to display and discuss rail station and transportation concepts. To make sure you get notification on upcoming meetings please send an email to Judy.Meyer@publiciinformationassociates.com, or contact Judy Meyer at 214-499-4661.
DESIGN FOCUS AREA
Approximately seven people made comments at the design focus area. All comments were similar, which encouraged any design elements for the rail station or transit service facilities retain Burleson’s community character and historic feel. The consensus was that any modern design or art would not fit well into the community.

COMMENT FORMS
Eleven comment forms were submitted at the meeting. One comment form was received via fax and one was received via postal mail for a total of 13 comment forms.

From Zipcodes:
76028 – 8
76036 – 1
76058 – 1
76031 – 2
76097 – 1

1. What characteristics do you feel are most important to preserve as transit options and conceptual rail station designs are developed?
   - Vibrancy of Old Town – 5
   - Economic development along major roads – 5
   - Rural environment – 2

2. Which mode of transportation do you most frequently use for traveling inside the city limits of Burleson?
   - Personal Motor Vehicle – 12
   - Walking – 1
   - Bicycle – 1

3. Which mode of transportation do you most frequently use for traveling outside the city limits of Burleson?
   - Personal Motor Vehicle – 12
   - Bicycle – 1

4. Please rank the following in importance as your most frequent destinations.
   #1 Rank
   - Employment outside of Burleson – 5
   - Retail/commercial on Highway 174 – 2
   - I-35W Business Park – 3
   - Cleburne – 1
   - Crowley – 2

   #2 Rank
   - Old Town – 4
   - Retail/commercial on Highway 174 – 2
   - I-35W Business Park – 1
   - Gateway Station – 1
Crowley – 1
Employment outside of Burleson – 1
Parks or golf courses – 1
Other (FM 731) – 1
Other (Fort Worth T&P Rail Station) – 1

#3 Rank
Old Town – 5
Retail/commercial on Highway 174 – 3
Gateway Station – 2
Employment outside of Burleson – 1
Crowley – 1
Joshua – 1

#4 Rank
I-35W Business Park – 3
Gateway Station – 3
Old Town – 2
Retail/commercial on Highway 174 – 2
Cleburne – 1
Other (Wilshire) – 1

#5 Rank
Cleburne – 4
Employment outside of Burleson – 2
I-35W Business Park – 1
Gateway Station – 1
Retail/commercial on Highway 174 – 1
Crowley – 1

There were rankings out to 10 items, however, many people only ranked the first five items, and most items ranked 6 or beyond were all retail or business park locations.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Commenter No. 1: We need connectivity between the transit project and our new Hidden Creek & Chisenhall facilities.

Commenter No. 2: Please take into consideration the need for safely navigating parking lots and don’t put large landscaping right up to the corners – blocking traffic view as in Gateway Station. What about equestrian trails along with the walking and bike trails? A good multi-use center that could be used for small convention sports such as a hockey team and horse shows would bring out of towners to fill motels and restaurants even up on I-35. If you can’t read any of this, email me at (undisclosed).