



HOT NEWS

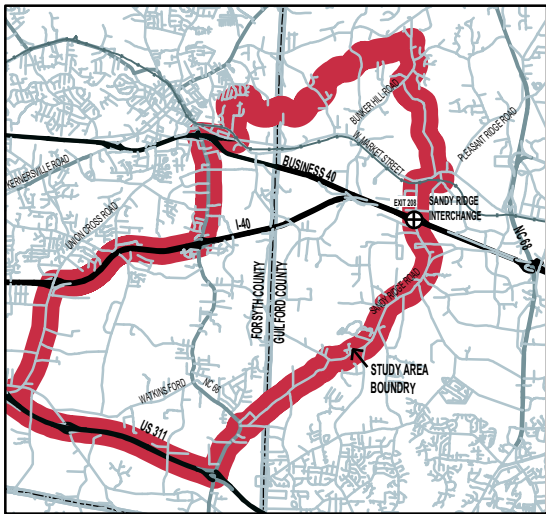
From the Heart of the Triad

Volume 1 Issue 1

March 2006

Welcome To HOT News

This is the first of three newsletters describing the Heart of the Triad (HOT) master planning project. This issue features information on what is the project's background, what the community has told us thus far, and about the upcoming community design charrette being held April 3-7, 2006. For more information about HOT, please visit www.partnc.org



Heart of the Triad - HOT

Heart of the Triad is a land use study to determine how the Triad can prepare today for continued economic growth, while managing a sustainable and livable community through thoughtful development for the center of the Triad.

The fast-paced study, which began in January, will address future roads, transportation, and types of business that will help with job creation and developing a "brand" for the area. The area overlaps parts of Forsyth and Guilford counties, as well as Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem and Kernersville. The HOT Steering Committee was established by the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART) Board and includes representatives of each government, the N.C. Department of Transportation, funding partners, and the four area chambers of commerce.

HOT to Date

On February 2nd nearly 200 people were on hand for the first HOT Public Forum at Woodland Hall in the Triad Park in Colfax. The crowd was a mix of interested people from Forsyth and Guilford Counties.

The attendees were asked to use dots to indicate where their homes were in relation to the study area. A second map gave participants an opportunity to place a dot by the locations in the study area that they found most attractive. Short, introductory presentations provided the project background, scope and schedule.

PART Executive Director Brent McKinney told Forum participants, "This will be an open process that will rely heavily on public involvement. There will be no 'behind locked doors meetings' where decisions will be made that will greatly alter your lives."

Forum participants were organized into small groups with facilitators. Each group was given an opportunity to respond to three questions.

After animated debate, the groups condensed the long list of responses by voting for their top three answers to each question. The groups then chose a spokesperson to present their responses to the entire Forum.

Brent McKinney closed the Forum by telling participants, "If we develop a plan that we can't all agree on, and we go forward, then we haven't done a very good job."

The premise for the Forum was to address:

"If the Heart of the Triad HOT is developed..."

♥ What are its major assets?

This question pointed to the area's strengths to be maximized. The top three were: Location, Open Space and Environmental Features, and Quality of Life.

♥ What are its major limitations?

This question aimed at the area's weaknesses to be minimized. The top three were: Lack of Water and Sewer, Overcrowded roads, and Lack of Jurisdictional Control.

♥ If you had \$5 million, what would be the ONE improvement you would make?

This question identified attitudes toward priorities. The top three were: Transportation, Schools, Parks and Recreations

The Charrette - *Working With You*

In the spirit of "Working Together Works", we want to work with you, the citizens, property owners, and business leaders who are interested in the area's future. The second public event about the future of HOT begins April 3rd. This week-long public planning process, known as a charrette, will be held from April 3-7, 2006 at the Girl Scouts Learning Center.

What is a charrette?

A charrette is an intensive planning session where citizens, community representatives, designers, and other interested parties collaborate on a vision for future development. It provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to share ideas, while offering the unique advantage of giving immediate feedback to the design team. More importantly, the approach helps build consensus and allows everyone who participates mutual authorship of the plan.

The design team and its group of experienced consultants will be setting up a full working office at the Learning Center that week. Formal and informal meetings will be held with various stakeholder groups, technical committees, agencies, and other interest parties during the charrette. Separate tasks and mini-projects will be undertaken individually or in small groups. At other times, larger review sessions or presentations will occur to gather public input. Through brainstorming and design activity they will accomplish many goals concurrently, thereby streamlining the planning process to produce an excellent plan for HOT!

The term "Charrette" is derived from the French word for "little cart" and refers to the intense work effort expended by designers and architects to meet a project deadline. At the Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris during the 19th century, proctors circulated with little carts to collect final drawings, and students would jump on the "charrette" to put the finishing touches on their presentations minutes before the deadline.



Schedule & Location

April 3 - 7, 2006

Monday, April 3rd 6:30-8:00pm

Opening public presentation to set the stage for the week, outline expectations, and ideas on how to turn the Heart of the Triad into a true "Place".

Wednesday, April 5th 6:00-8:00pm

An update presentation, but more importantly, a time for participants to have a "Hands-On" planning session, giving the team ideas on locating specific plan "pieces".

Friday, April 7th 6:00-8:00pm

Public Presentation of Plan Alternatives that will be used in future evaluations.

The Girl Scouts Learning Center
located at the Girl Scout Campus (behind Magnolia Manor)
1203 Frances Daily Court

Just off Sandy Ridge Road, exit # 208, on West Market Street. Take Interstate 40 to the Sandy Ridge Road exit. Turn right onto Sandy Ridge Road. Turn right onto West Market Street at the railroad tracks, and go approximately one half mile. The center will be on your left behind Magnolia Manor.

