

October 28, 2014

Memo to: University Area Review Board

From: Mark Dravillas, AICP, Assistant Administrator

Copy to: Vince Papsidero, FAICP, Deputy Director  
Kevin Wheeler, Planning Administrator  
Dan Ferdelman, AIA, Urban Designer

Subject: Draft University District Plan

Planning staff will seek the recommendation of the UARB on the draft University District Plan at its special meeting on November 4. The UARB will be asked to vote on the draft, including a list of final edits. The draft plan and list of final edits is available at the project website at <http://www.columbus.gov/planning/universitydistrictplan/>. The list of final edits and a document that provides plan highlights and frequently asked questions are also attached. Please let me know if you would like hardcopies of any of these materials.

This plan would replace all existing city plans for the University District, including the 1996 University Neighborhoods Revitalization Plan, the Weinland Park Plan, and the University/High Street Development and Design Guidelines. The updated plan includes design guidelines that build upon the existing University/High Street Development and Design Guidelines, and, provided the adoption of the updated plan, it is expected that the UARB would utilize the plan and its design guidelines for the review of future development.

The draft also includes several implementation related recommendations, including the prospect that UARB boundary be expanded. As you know, these recommendations are only considerations at this point and could only be implemented as a code revision following plan adoption. This would entail considerable review by the city and a separate process with the UARB, University Area Commission, and public review and input. See the list of final edits for the current plan text on this matter.

The draft plan will be brought for the consideration of the University Area Commission at its November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Provided their support, it will be scheduled for the consideration of the Development Commission, then City Council.

As you know, public involvement in the planning process has been extensive and included more than 25 stakeholder interviews, public meetings on September 24, 2013, February 11 and September 23, 2014, presentations to University District civic associations, developers, and others. To date approximately 350 people have participated in the process via the public meetings and online surveys, with over 2,000 pieces of input received in total. On October 21, the University District Plan Working Committee voted to recommend the draft plan to the University Area Commission.

Feel free to contact me at [mcdavillas@columbus.gov](mailto:mcdavillas@columbus.gov) or 645-6823 with any comments or questions.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.