

NWEI TOD METRO DISTRICT WORKSHOP #1



February 26th - March 1st

Workshop Overview

Purpose



The PURPOSE of the workshop is to understand the community and stakeholder's perspectives on the current and desired conditions of the NWEII TOC project area in order to create a vision for the area in terms of the Six Planning Elements : Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, Mobility, Health and Green Systems.

Input from the public at the Public Engagement Workshop #1 will be compiled, analyzed, and utilized to develop conceptual masterplans during Workshop #2, happening later this year.

During the five days, input received included:

- Community identified assets
- Areas of change (redevelop, retrofit, and stabilize)
- Prioritized areas for investment
- Types of investments people wanted to see in their communities and where
- Challenges in the area
- Vision for the future of the area

What is TOC?



Transit Oriented Communities consist of compact, pedestrian-scaled, mixed-use neighborhoods located within a short walk or bike ride of high-capacity transit. TOC provides various housing options, services, employment, and recreational spaces within walking distance of public transit, such as the Light Rail line. TOC are accessible and make walking, bicycling and using transit easy, convenient, safe and enjoyable for daily life.

Element Framework

A comprehensive planning process includes several Elements that examine a community through multiple lenses. Six planning elements form the framework and are interrelated categories of urban policy that focus research and public engagement activities. The workshop included 'deep dives' of each element for each day.

Planning Elements

Land Use

Mobility

Health

Green
Systems

Economic
Development

Housing

Click on the element to go to the 'deep dive' section

Day 1

Kickoff



Kick-Off for Workshop 1 provided an overview of the six planning elements: **land-use, mobility, health, green systems, economic development, and housing**. The attendees participated in a SWOT analysis, identifying assets, challenges, vision, and barriers for each planning element.

Elements covered

Land Use

Mobility

Health

Green Systems

Economic Development

Housing

What we heard during Day 1:

- Opportunities/development for making Metro District a 'destination'
- Pedestrian bridge crossings for canals and ACDC
- Developing more greenspace to enhance walkability/bikeability
- Strong transit connections are wanted (Bus/BRT/Mircomobility etc.)
- Affordable housing developments are wanted/needed
- Roadway/signal/signage redesign to address dangerous driving habits
- Better connection between the different communities (I-17 is dividing)



Day 2

Land Use + Mobility



Land-use and Mobility were the key focus for Day 2. This included breakout activities that addressed the topics of:

- Areas for preservation/stabilization, retrofitting, redeveloping
- Potential improvements of routes for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Discussion of barriers, challenges and needs
- Investments for mobility and land use

Elements covered

Land Use

Mobility

Health

Green Systems

Economic Development

Housing

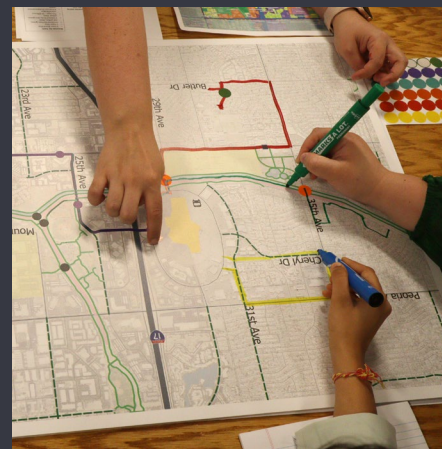
City Hall

The NWEII TOC team hosted a 'mini-workshop' at City Hall provide City staff with an opportunity to engage and participate with the workshop information and activities. Additionally, the team joined the TOC Working Group meeting, where the main topic of discussion was the Arizona Canal as a prominent asset of the community and the opportunities and challenges of transforming it into safer, vibrant corridor to interact with.



What we heard during Day 2:

- Making areas around the Metrocenter a destination is just as important
- More medical facilities around the VA
- More 'mom and pop' restaurants and a farmer's market
- Residential areas, Castles 'n Coasters and Cholla Library should be preserved
- More connectivity to the outside of the Metrocenter area.
- Adding features to Cortez park will allow it to be activated, thus reducing crime
- Enhance the canal path and safety around it.
- Assuring neighborhoods have accessible exits to all directions on arterial roads



Day 3



Health + Green Systems

Day 3 of the workshop focused on the elements of **Health and Green Systems**. A map activity was conducted in which group participants linked routes to existing community resources impacting health and discussed barriers, challenges, and opportunities.

Elements covered

Land Use

Mobility

Health

Green Systems

Economic Development

Housing

What we heard during Day 3:

- Adding more pedestrian crossings to eliminate potential barriers.
- MORE TREES!
- Commuting in-between side roads can be safer than commuting between arterial roads
- Adding additional greenspace north of Metrocenter
- Walk/bike paths to canal need to be improved
- More stores east of I-17 on Peoria Avenue
- Improving 19th Avenue for walking, biking and driving
- Improving the canal trail will incentive people to use it more often
- Creating a bike path on Butler drive will help kids get to school
- Enhance the canal path and safety around it.
- Assuring neighborhoods have accessible exits to all directions on arterial roads



Day 4

Housing +

Economic Development



Day 4 of the workshop focus was on **Economic Development and Housing**. One activity asked participants to prioritize investments with quadrant maps of the area for focused discussion. Additionally a housing survey was provided that gathered input for different types of housing design, types, and opportunities for support that the City should focus on.

Elements covered

Land Use

Mobility

Health

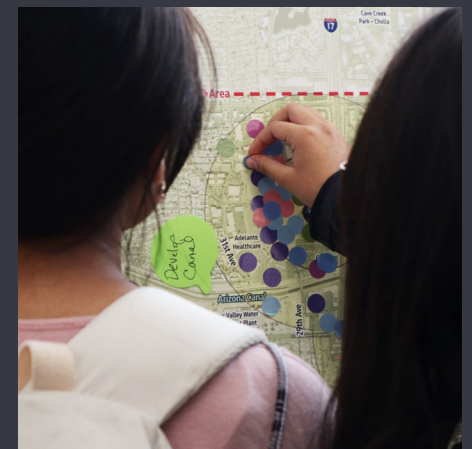
Green Systems

Economic Development

Housing

Cortez High School

The NWEII TOC opened the workshop space for the **Cortez High School** student body and their staff during lunch. All who attended had the opportunity to interact with the different boards for the **six planning elements** and participate in activities available at the workshops.



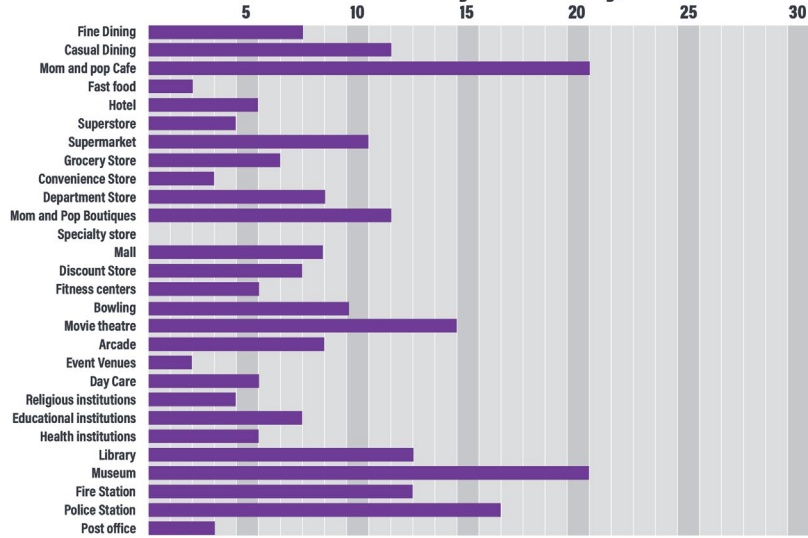
What we heard during Day 4:

- Maintain good source of businesses and dense housing along the light rail line
- Need more affordable childcare facilities in the area
- Developing a sense of ownership within the community is important
- Stabilize and revitalize communities in the area
- Need more community gathering spaces like parks, centers and recreational activities
- Allow more options for accessible mixed-income housing
- The existing industrial area is important as it brings jobs to many residents in the community
- Having wide pedestrian walkways for the community to have easy access to businesses
- Emphasis on food deserts and finding opportunities to provide grocery stores

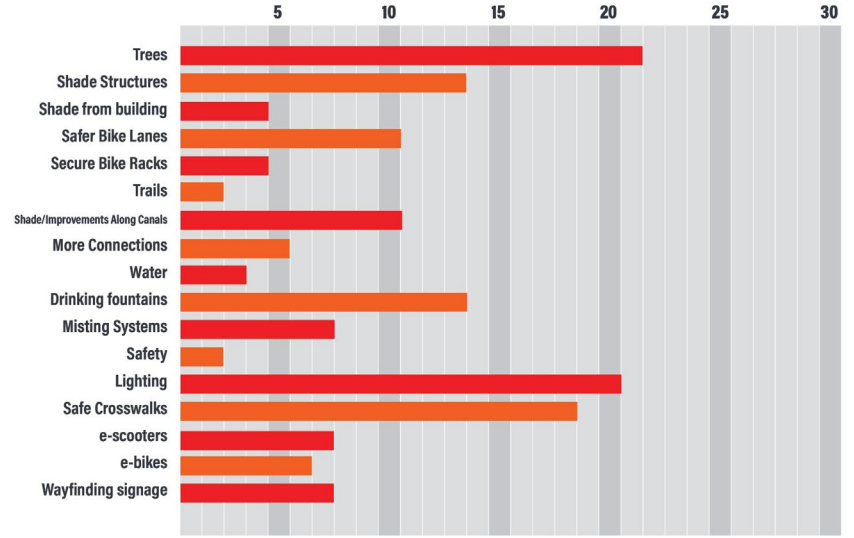


Additional Community Feedback

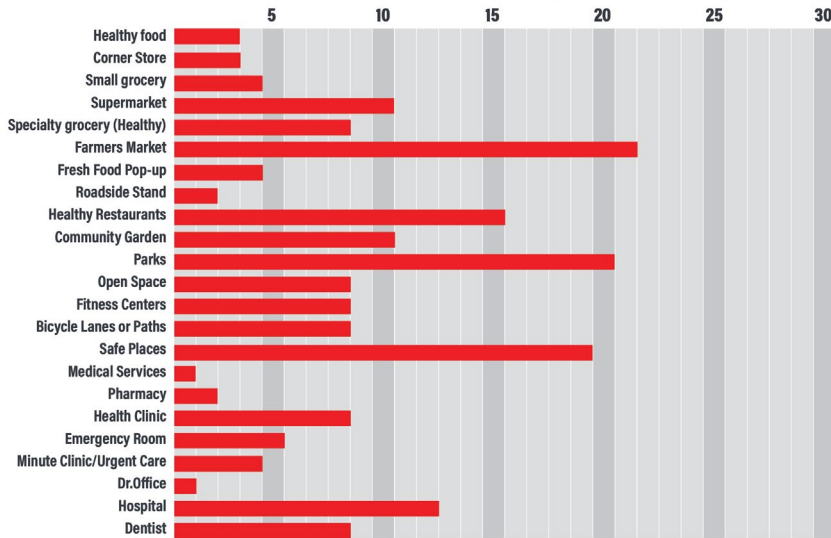
In my community, I'd like more...



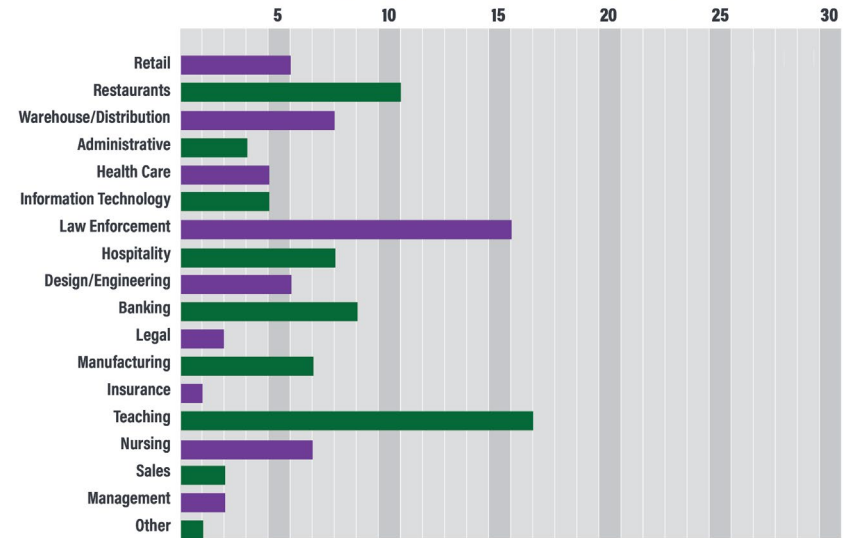
I would walk/bike/take public transit more if there was...



What items listed would have the greatest impact on your family's health?



What type of jobs/careers are needed in your community?



Day 5

Celebration



Day 5 of the the NWEII Workshop concluded with a **community celebration**. This included having the previous day's materials and activities displayed including input from the community gathered. The team thanked the participants for attending the Workshop. An overview on the four days of the workshop was presented that reported out key takeaways, findings, and explained how the information gathered would be used in the next process in the project.

The Cortez High School played a large role on this day, showing off their many talents. Participating in the activities were the ROTC Color Guard, a band, a singer, and an artist providing chalk art that showed off planning elements.

Stakeholders were able to look at the boards and interact with the team in an open house format. A short presentation was provided by the team to help summarize what the week entailed and what the project's next steps.

