# The Fifth Street Neighborhood Plan & Market Study

Presented by

University of Texas – Austin, School of Architecture

Center for Sustainable Development

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### **Presentation Overview**

- Project Team
- Purpose & Goals
- Project Timeline
- Strategies & Objectives
- Neighborhood Vision
- Findings & Recommendations





## Project Team: UTSOA, Center for Sustainable Development

- Our mission is to lead the study and practice of sustainable development in Texas, the nation and the world through complementary programs of research, education and community outreach
- Services
  - Sustainable Planning
  - Public Interest Design
  - Community Engagement
  - Research, Analysis
  - Scenario Tools





## Project Purpose & Goals

- Fifth Street quality of life below area standards
- Community needs a vision, revitalization strategies
- University of Texas contract for services
  - Engage community in planning process
  - Conduct survey
  - Perform market research (housing, business)
  - Help community develop neighborhood vision
  - Compile final report of findings, recommendations



Fifth Street community survey participant

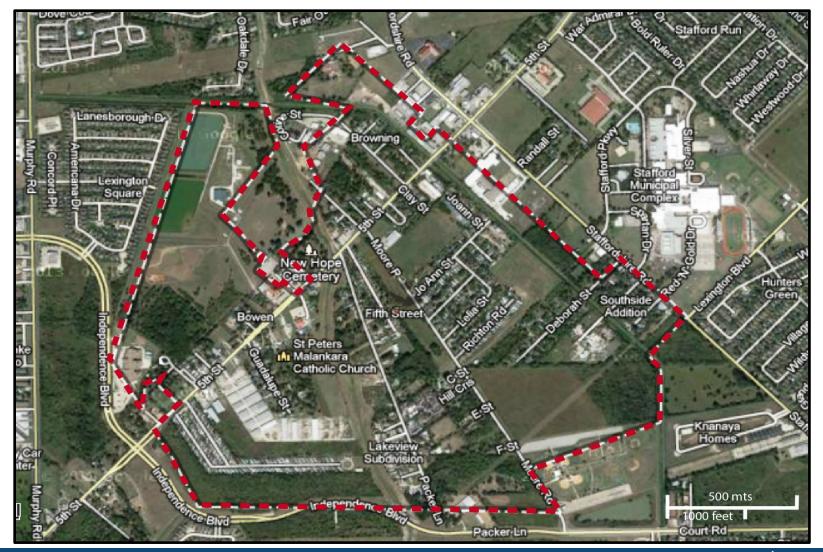


## **Project Timeline**

Project Contract Approved August 2012 Complete Project Plan October 2012 Community Engagement/Survey November 2012 – September 2013 Perform Market Data Gathering & Analysis September 2012 - January 2014 Develop Neighborhood Vision September 2013 – October 2013 Final Report "Developers' Toolkit" November 2013 - March 2014



## Project Area: Fifth Street CDP







SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



## Life in the Fifth Street Community

- Affordable
- 65+ & youth drive population
- Extremely low educational attainment
- Labor force
  - Construction, skilled workers
  - sole proprietors
- Housing
  - 60% single family, 40% mobile homes
  - High housing cost burden
  - Lack of choice
  - Stock is deteriorating



UT Project Staff listening to residents

#### **Cultural Assets**

- Family
- Faith (60 area churches)
- FIS Cemetery (historic), Fifth Street, and Community Center most commonly identified landmarks



### **Needs/Desired Amenities**

#### Needs

- Safety and drainage improvements
- Small business training & access to credit
- Coordination between municipalities to access services, solve problems

#### Desired amenities

- Healthy Food/Farmers Markets
- Grocery Stores
- Clinic/Medical Services
- Restaurants
- Parks /Public Space











## Stakeholder Vision for Fifth Street "Village"

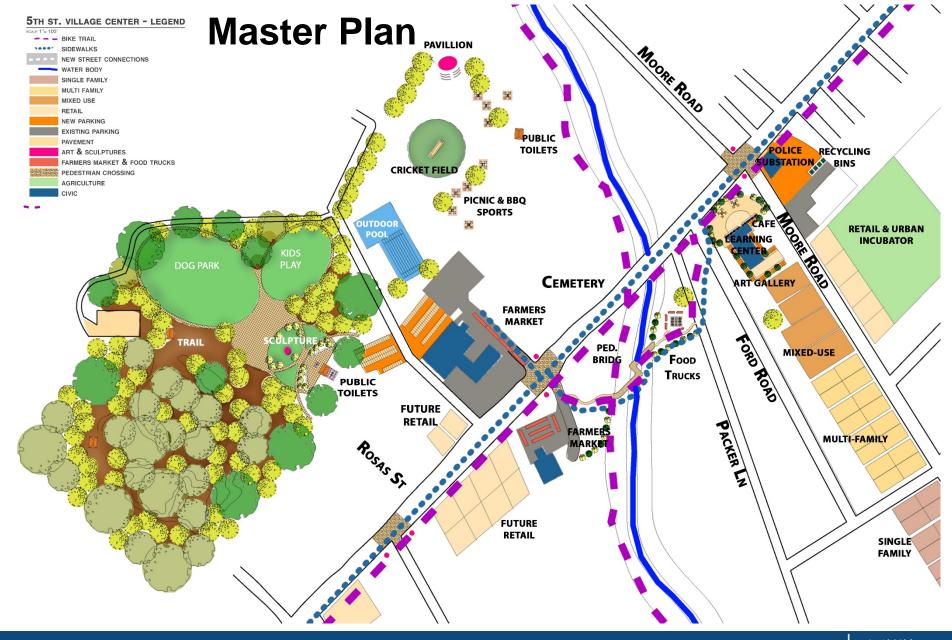
- Stakeholders want a community that is
  - Walkable
  - Has healthy food, recreation nearby
  - Includes a variety of housing options
  - Near a substation, urgent care
  - Commemorates area families and culture with public art, street names



## "Fifth Street shall be the center of the Missouri City – Stafford community"















## Fifth Street Village: East Ft. Bend's "Green" Core





- Fifth Street's values (family, faith) and enterprising people (skilled craftsman, construction, landscaping) can attract green consumers or locavores
- Village is ideal for Community Assistance District that promotes green/local business
- Empty retail space in adjacent areas is a competitive advantage (convert to shared, small business incubator sites)
- Use open green space for food trucks, open air markets
- Prioritize learning and job training (possible Texas Workforce Commission site)



## Bring Fifth Street up to Fort Bend Standards

- Housing
  - Land reassembly
  - Variety of housing types
  - Development that helps seniors age in place; attracts families
- Infrastructure
  - Address connectivity issues (Parker Ln)
  - Walkability (sidewalks)
  - CAD funding for drainage
- Amenities/Public Spaces
  - Soccer field for youth
- Arts & Culture
  - Integrate community history and landmarks into area signage and street signs



Non-profit, cooperative mobile home ownership



Create zoning concessions for privately owned public space; pocket parks near businesses



## Financing Options

Tool	How it works	Good for
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit	<ul> <li>Used to raise capital affordable housing projects</li> <li>Investors receive federal tax credits for 10 years</li> <li>The purchases help reduce the amount of money a developer must borrow to finance a project</li> <li>State manages eligibility process</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Developers</li> <li>Creating mixed income communities</li> <li>Avoiding displacement</li> <li>Quality affordable housing</li> </ul>
People Fund, Accion	<ul> <li>Flexible loan programs to Texas small businesses, non-profits, &amp; affordable housing ventures</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Small business/microbusiness</li><li>Green business ventures</li><li>Housing/Retail Developer</li></ul>
Community Assistance Districts	<ul> <li>Adopt a sales tax to fund capital improvements</li> <li>Develop boundaries</li> <li>Call an election within those boundaries</li> <li>County may create a governing board composed of residents to help shape future development</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Road maintenance</li> <li>Law enforcement (substation)</li> <li>Libraries, museums, parks or recreational facilities (village center, small business incubator)</li> <li>Economic development/ tourism promotion (local branding)</li> </ul>



## **Thank You!**

