# Odana Area Plan



Economic Development Committee March 17, 2021

# Agenda

- Odana Area Plan background
- Economic development-related principles for the planning area
- Economic development-related feedback from public participation
- Q&A, discussion



# Odana Area Plan



- Provide guidance on:
  - Future land uses
  - Transportation improvements (street, bike, and pedestrian connectivity)
  - Transit-oriented redevelopment
  - Parks and open space, stormwater management (in conjunction with watershed studies)
  - Economic development, community services, housing.







## **Retail Challenges**

- Declining since 1990s
- Shifting consumer habits
- Not all sectors in decline, but malls are
- JC Penney, Ascena Group, others file for bankruptcy
- CBL Chapter 11
  bankruptcy









# Design Principles: Land Use + Transportation

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# Creatively reuse existing viable buildings

- Existing buildings have value and are "green buildings"
- Be flexible with re-use of existing buildings





## Design Principles: Land Use + Transportation



#### Maintain mixed-use cores





# Design Principles: Phasing/Flexibility



Create a resilient framework that can be phased in and not dependent on all property owners redeveloping











# **Public Participation Overview**

- Project web page (3,400 page views in 2020) and email list (~430 subscribers)
- Madison Mall Madness (174 participants)
- Zoom Series #1 (~450 attendees)
- Interactive mapping (Phase #1: 92 comments; Phase 2: ongoing)
- Landowner/business roundtable
- Visits to Neighborhood Resource Teams (NRTs)
- Chambers of Commerce (Black, Latino, Hmong)
- Zoom Series #2 (~100 attendees)

## Landowner/Business Roundtable



- The Odana Area really has not evolved over time. It seems to be standing still.
- There is a lot of purchasing power in the Odana Area. Need more restaurants, catering, food industries.
- Roads are not currently laid out for mixed use to be successful. There is no grid. Can't walk or bike. Transportation should be redesigned to accommodate mixed uses.
- It seems like retail is over-represented in Odana Area.
- Traffic and poor transportation are current barriers to economic growth/development.
- Vacant buildings don't seem to be gaining any attention/traction.
- Odana Area needs more sense of place, recreation, parks/open space, and landscaping. Too many surface parking lots.
- If you want high-end, quality redevelopments, you need TIF.

#### Black, Latino, Hmong Chamber Feedback

- These redevelopment areas need to move past the "mall model" and understand the new dynamics of retailing, restaurants, commercial areas, etc.
- If the environment is more inclusive of others, a more diverse population will engage the space.
- It's hard to run businesses on your own. It can also be very lonely and networking options are limited. More resources and connection opportunities are needed.
- Mixed-use developments sometimes have affordable housing above, but not necessarily affordable retail/commercial below. It needs to have both in order to build successful communities.

## Black, Latino, Hmong Chamber Feedback



- Lowering rents and the increase in area vacancies alone will not be enough to get business community into brick and mortar establishments. We are entering a recovery period where more is needed.
- We need to consider incubator spaces for youth entrepreneurship, training, mentorship, networking, co-working, etc. People of color need to be comfortable and welcomed in these spaces.
- The City and community should invest in small businesses and allow small businesses to be part of the development process; find ways to simplify the process, which would encourage a broader base of participants.



# Questions/Discussion



- 1. Does the Committee feel land banking for a potential future business incubator is an appropriate strategy to pursue for the area? If so, what role should the City play in its creation and operations?
- 2. Does the Committee have any recommendations to help address the mismatch between landlords seeking tenants with a long business history and new businesses looking to take their first step in to a brick and mortar space?
- 3. There is the potential for a pilot "small cap TIF" program for startup businesses to be considered in a planned amendment to Tax Increment District #46. Is this something the Committee would support, and if so, are there any recommendations for criteria if staff is able to move forward with development of this pilot?
- 4. What other economic development strategies either specific to the Odana Area or as possible pilot programs that could be expanded to the rest of the city – does the Committee feel are appropriate for consideration?

