City of Tucson Planning Commission

September 14, 2022

Infill Incentive District Update

City of Tucson Planning Commission Informational Session


## What is the Infill Incentive District (IID)?

-Optional zoning overlay - property owners that choose this option can develop using standards designed to encourage pedestrian- and transit-oriented mixed-use development
-Projects must meet design standards and historic preservation regulations in return for more flexibility
-Established by Mayor and Council in 2010 with modifications made over time


## Infill Incentive District Background






DOWNTOWN CORE SUBDISTRICT
DOWNTOWN LINKS SUBDISTRICT
$\square$ GREATER INFILL INCENTIVE SUBDISTRICT
14
Downtown Core
Greater Infill Incentive
Downtown Links -

11 27

## Placemaking

1

## Project Locations



## Stone and Broadway - 2011



## Stone and Broadway - Now



## Metrics

| Uses |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Mixed Use (Residential + any other use) | 11 |
| Residential - Multifamily | 7 |
| Commercial Services - Food and Beverage |  |
| Service/Entertainment | 22 |
| Commercial Services - Offices | 5 |
| Commercial Services - Lodging | 3 |
| Civic Use Group - Cultural / Civic |  |
| Assesmbly | 2 |
| Retail - Food and Beverage Sales |  |
|  | Total |


| Housing Units |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Number of residential units | 1120 |
| Number of affordable/senior <br> housing units | 250 <br> (16\% of total) |
|  |  |
| Commercial Square Feet | $1,037,530$ |
| Note: Data available for 34 projects |  |
|  |  |

## Office \& Retail Trends



## Downtown Office

Vacancy hasn't changed from 3.1 for a year \& remains well below 10 yr average
No supply side pressure on vacancies
Citywide Office
Trend is to "build to suit", rather than use existing
Long term: Pandemic effects unclear
Near term: Continued analysis of cost savings, effectiveness of work from home (WFH) Interest in reducing office footprints, subleasing


Downtown Retail
Vacancies are below five year average, and below regional average
Citywide Retail
Ongoing conflict between e-commerce vs. brick \& mortar
Pre-Pandemic: Internet -resistant tenants (entertainment, experiential) were driving demand.
Today: Fast food, restaurants, discount retail are driving leasing activity, surviving lockdown
\& new preferences.

## Preliminary Public Input

General Impression (n:23)


## Top things to keep the same or increase ( $\mathrm{n}: 65$ )

| Keyword theme | Mention frequency | Percentage of total mentions |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bike/ped transit | 15 | 23\% |
| Historic buildings, narrow streets | 12 | 18\% |
| Support for long-standing, independent, and local businesses | 15 | 23\% |
| Residential support services + affordable housing | 9 | 14\% |
| Trees/landscaping on streets | 6 | 9\% |
| The "culture"/SW identity | 6 | 9\% |
| Signage for cars, flow of traffic | 5 | 8\% |
| (18 more themes with fewer than 5 mentions) |  |  |
| Top things to avoid or reduce ( $\mathrm{n}: 65$ ) |  |  |
| Keyword theme | Mention frequency | Percentage of total mentions |
| Auto-centric transit | 7 | 7 11\% |
| Gentrification | 8 | 8 12\% |
| Generic / modern building styles | 7 | 7 11\% |
| Expensive (as in rents for businesses and in a general context) | 5 | 5 8\% |
| (10 more themes w fewer than 5 mentions) |  |  |

## Feedback from Stakeholder Listening Session in May

## Key Areas of Discussion

- Affordable Housing
- Administration of the Code
- Design Standards
- Land Use Mixes
- Historic
- Sustainability
- Other Topics


## Suggestions per Focus Area



## Feedback from Stakeholder Listening Session in May

## Key Areas of Discussion

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- Administration of the Code
- Design Standards
- Land Use Mixes
- Historic
- Sustainability
- Other Topics

Currently meeting with focus groups to inform amendments to IID

## Affordable housing projects in the IID

The Westerner (10 E Broadway Boulevard)

- 50 affordable units w/ ground floor commercial and retail

Marist on Cathedral Square / Marist College (235 S Church Avenue \& 111 S Church Avenue)

- 83 affordable senior residential units
$7^{\text {th }}$ Avenue Commons (58 E $5^{\text {th }}$ Street)
- 50 affordable units

West End Station (885 W Congress Street)

- 70 affordable units

250 affordable units in total

## Sunshine Mile Overlay - affordable housing incentive

Similar to the IID, the Sunshine Mile District (SMD) is a regulatory tool that creates optional zoning placed over existing zoning. This zoning includes flexible conditions and site-specific solutions to redevelopment.

Adopted by M\&C in 2021, the SMD included regulatory incentives for residential projects that included affordable housing units.

Any project that includes $15 \%$ affordable housing (at $80 \% \mathrm{AMI}$ ) receives the following incentives:

- Exemption from density cap
- Reduced parking ( $62 \%$ reduction for affordable units)

Term of affordability:

- Multi-family residential units for rent or lease: 50 years from C of O
- For-sale condominium units: 30 years from C of O

Annual reporting to HCD required

## Potential changes to IID

## Allow more housing

- Allow residential uses in areas zoned for industrial uses
- Help meet growing demand for housing


## Promote affordable

 housing- Add a density bonus for projects that include affordable housing, similar to the Sunshine Mile Overlay incentive

Modify Downtown Links design standards

- Simplify setbacks and other design standards
- Ensure feasible development options in this subdistrict

8 Feb. 2022
Mayor \& Council Initiation


Focused Stakeholder meetings on specific topics to help shape draft amendments
Draft proposed amendments to IID

Public Meetings to review draft proposal (early Oct.)
Planning Commission study session to review draft proposal (Oct 26 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ )

Oct. 2022

Nov. 2022

Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation

31 Jan. 2023

Current code expires

Form stakeholder group Begin supporting research

Feb - March 2022

1st Stakeholder Meeting Draft list of potential areas of change in the IID

May 2022

Mayor and Council public hearing and adoption

Dec. 2022

## IID Update Timeline

