

## Meeting Summary

### Westwood Health Impact Assessment Scoping Workshop

Thursday March 26, 2015, 12:30-2:30pm  
SWIC, 1000 S. Lowell Blvd, Marigold Room

The Westwood HIA workshop convened at 12:40pm. Attendees included the Steering Committee and guests from Denver Police Department, Clinica Tepeyac, and Denver Public Health. Denver Environmental Health staff discussed the definitions of Health Impact Assessment (HIA), health, and the built environment.

City staff introduced a draft "Pathway Diagram" which shows potential changes that the Neighborhood Plan could recommend in Westwood, and how they could impact residents' health.

The group broke into small groups at 4 tables and discussed the 4 topic areas. Each group discussed whether the links on the Pathway Diagram for each topic seemed right, if anything was missing or did not belong, and comments about each of the 4 topics (see notes below).

NEXT STEPS: City staff will continue to collect input from residents at Westwood Unidos community meetings on 4/9, 4/10, and 4/15. City staff will finalize resident priority health factors by **May 1**.

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#### Access to Health Care

- Clinics are at capacity with long wait times to see a doctor, including Westwood and Sandos.
- Denver Health is opening a new clinic on Federal and Louisiana in 2016.
- A number of Westwood residents go to Clinica Tepeyac in Globeville, 6 miles away, because it is more culturally comfortable (Spanish speaking staff, caregivers spend more time)
- There are many undocumented Westwood residents who do not qualify for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act
- Health care clinics MUST be located near transit stops
- There are no pharmacies in Westwood to fill prescriptions. Some people don't take their medicines because there are no pharmacies nearby.
- Need more behavioral health care
- Substance abuse is often tied behavioral health
- People often don't know where to go for health care. Promotoras can help share information.

#### Community Safety

##### Lighting:

- Need better street and porch lighting. Unsafe to walk at night
- LED lights are better in street light poles because they illuminate better and use less energy.
- Maybe do a pilot lighting project in Westwood with LED lights? Can lower crime rate.

##### Speeding:

- Speeding traffic is a problem on Morrison Rd, Federal and Alameda. Traffic calming needed.

- Reduce speed limit on Morrison Rd from 35 mph to 25 mph, and add more traffic signals.

#### Mis-aligned streets:

- Federal and Alameda both have mis-aligned streets causing traffic and safety problems.

#### Pedestrian injuries:

- Federal has many pedestrian injuries, maybe the most in Denver, per DPD.
- Green alleys can help with pedestrian safety

#### Poor sidewalks:

- Sidewalks are missing or too narrow. Should be 6' wide at a minimum for strollers.
- Not safe to walk on sidewalks near speeding traffic

#### Loose dogs:

- Loose dogs are a problem and scare pedestrians. People are forced to take other routes because of loose dogs. Animal control laws should be enforced.

#### School zones:

- It's not safe for kids to walk to school. Parents need to drive them.
- Need traffic enforcement at drop off and pick up times.
- Need lighting, signage, patrols, flashing lights and reflective signs to help kids cross safely.
- Some kids cross Morrison Rd, it's not safe.
- Denver Police need parents and schools to help with safety.

#### Youth access to marijuana

- Kids get marijuana from other kids.
- Marijuana stores are too close to schools and walking routes.
- Kids are beginning to use marijuana at younger ages

#### Activities for youth

- Need afterschool programs and classes, activities for youth to avoid getting in trouble
- Playgrounds need to be activated.
- Rec centers need kids activities AND supervision

#### Main Street retail corridors / Gathering places

- Federal can have a Main Street feel if traffic is slowed. Promote shopping, walking.

#### Gangs:

- Gangs hang out in Westwood Park and Weir Gulch. Need more "eyes on the parks"
- Need Master Plan for Westwood Park. May need to purchase property to open up for safety
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) can help

#### Liquor stores:

- Too many, too many applications, current distance restriction of 500' is too close to schools.
- Too many liquor stores near Kepner Middle School

- Night clubs and dance clubs create drunk driving and speeding.
- A lot of DUIs in Westwood due to lots of liquor outlets
- Homeless and drunks congregate on Morrison Rd, coming from Platte River or Downtown.
- Age of onset of youth alcohol use is now as young as 9-11 years old.

#### Other

- Drag racing on both Federal and Morrison Rd
- Concern for neighborhood character, e.g., sex shops on Alameda

### **Access to Housing**

- Need quality and affordable housing with enough bedrooms for families. Most new affordable projects are 1-2 bedrooms.
- Waiting list for public and affordable housing is years.
- Current housing stock is not great quality.
- New affordable housing development includes Grove Street, St Charles project
- Undocumented residents cannot qualify for affordable housing programs.
- Residents reluctant to make improvements to homes due to costs and taxes going up
- New City master plans for Weir Gulch and Westwood Park will acquire some housing
- Trade off between using land for more public space or more housing
- Any plans for senior housing?
- There are homes where residents operate businesses as well; how to make official and legal? Need to adjust form-based zoning code to be culturally sensitive

### **Access to Transportation**

- The Morrison Road bike lane is scary due to speeding traffic.
- The power lines over the Greenway trail feels unsafe, therefore the trail is not used
- Residents go to Garfield Park instead of Westwood (even though it is closer) because crossing Morrison Road with their kids is unsafe
- Cuatro Vientos Park is great for kids, but too far and hard to get to
- Westwood Park is small and has poor visibility and playground equipment
- There is poor public transit and access to taxis; therefore people drive drunk
- Bus stops need improvements
- The first and last mile connections to transit are lacking
- Cars are the only option for transportation
- Cars often park in the bike lanes
- Need wayfinding