

EDMONDS - The City of Edmonds is leading an effort to consider plans for redeveloping the Westgate and Five Corners commercial areas. As an important part of that effort, the city is seeking input from the public, particularly the neighborhoods surrounding the two commercial districts. The first public meetings are designed as Listening Sessions to hear from you. We want to know how you use the sites now and how you would like to see the sites develop in the future. These Listening Sessions will be held on separate days, with each session focusing on a specific neighborhood commercial center.

Westgate

Date: January 25th

Where: Brackett Room, City Hall, 3rd Floor – 121 5th Ave. N., Edmonds

When: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Five Corners

Date: January 26th

Where: Plaza Room, above Edmonds Library – 650 Main St., Edmonds

When: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The city is working with a team of faculty and graduate students from the University of Washington, College of Built Environment, to create plans for redeveloping these two neighborhood commercial areas. City staff Rob Chave, Planning Manager and Stephen Clifton, Community Services/Economic Development Director, are coordinating the effort with the involvement of the Economic Development Commission and Planning Board. The Cascade Land Conservancy also will assist with the public involvement process, providing examples of trends and effective neighborhood development efforts around the region and in other coastal cities.

The project will develop concepts that exemplify sustainable approaches for redevelopment in suburban cities and preparation of a Special District Plan for each of the two neighborhood commercial areas. Students from the undergraduate Community, Environment, and Planning program have been working since last October to collect data on the use and configuration of each commercial area. A new team of graduate students in urban planning, landscape architecture and architecture started in late December to continue that work and develop the Special District plans.

Beyond these first ‘listening sessions’, additional public meetings will offer other opportunities to get involved. In late February, the City is planning a design charrette to engage the public and the local design community in specific designs for the two sites. In late April, public meetings will show the results of this effort. In addition to the public meetings and charrette, the project includes presentations to City officials, research on form-based codes, production of final conceptual designs, and preparation of a report with recommendations for implementation.

Contact city staff: (Rob Chave @ 425-771-0220 or Stephen Clifton @ 425-771-0251) for more information.