

## Information Item

**Date:** September 13, 2022

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Aaron King, Assistant City Manager  
Marla Newman, Community Development Director  
Chris Murphy, Planning and Development Services Director

**Subject:**

Presentation on Dreamland Park Neighborhood Transformation Plan and Columbia Heights Extension/Skyline Village Neighborhood Revitalization Plan

**Strategic Focus Area:** Livable Neighborhoods

**Strategic Objective:** Improve Character and Conditions of Neighborhoods

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No

**Key Work Item:** No



In December 2019, staff presented information related to a pilot project in the Dreamland Park and Columbia Heights Extension Neighborhoods. The project would be completed by North Carolina A&T State University, in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, and would enable residents to use various technologies to visualize and create a neighborhood vision for the future. Technologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Building Information Modeling (BIM), would be used to develop virtual models of the neighborhood using information gathered from residents' lived experiences and wishes for the future.

A contract was initiated and signed in May 2020 between the City and Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County to administer the project. A separate contract was initiated and signed between Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County and North Carolina A&T State University.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the project timeline had to be extended to allow for public engagement. Between August 2020 and July 2021, several community workshops and meetings were held in each neighborhood to establish the existing issues within the neighborhood and develop the future vision. Meetings were held in person and virtually with neighborhood residents and business owners.

Each plan establishes a future vision for the neighborhood, implementation schedule, and cost estimates. Recommendations relate to land use and housing, transportation, aesthetics, and, for the Columbia Heights Extension neighborhood, economic development.

Representatives from the North Carolina A&T State University consultant team will be present at the September 13, 2022, Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee meeting to present the Plans.