

Porters Neighborhood Progress Report

October 15, 2007



Background:

Project Timeline to Date



- \$80,000 budgeted for Porters in 2007
- Project updates provided to DRAB and CRA in all subsequent agendas
- Full Porters presentation to CRA at August 20, 2007 meeting
 - CRA requested that Staff continue to budget, plan and implement Porters improvements
 - CRA requested that Staff return within 6 months to report new progress
- \$131,502.29 approved in the 2008 budget
- Update on continued Porters progress, October 2007



Background

- CRA strategies in the neighborhood include both long-term and short-term initiatives
- Preliminary work progresses on large scale, long-range projects
- At the same time, Staff is working on implementing small scale improvements
 - Projects will be immediately visible, will showcase investment in the neighborhood
 - Indicative of future improvements



Long Term Projects

- Staff is planning and budgeting for large scale infrastructure improvements.
 - Street repair/resurfacing, curb/gutter installation, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, lighting, etc.
- The first step is compiling detailed, accurate surveys of the area
 - At Staff's request, Public Works and GRU joined surveying and engineering efforts
 - DRMP has been surveying the neighborhood throughout the past month. Work is almost complete

Long Term Projects



- Next step will be engineering feasibility studies conducted by DRMP
 - These studies will provide technical details that will allow staff to prioritize, phase, coordinate and budget for large scale improvements as efficiently as possible
 - CRA and Public Works staff will finalize this scope based on the information provided in the new surveys
 - Cost for feasibility studies on SW 5th and 3rd Streets is not expected to exceed \$30,000
- Feasibility studies will also help staff coordinate Porters improvements with other projects planned for the area
 - GRU has future plans to underground large overhead utility corridors
 - These projects must be coordinated around the timelines for Depot Park excavation/remediation and FDOT Main Street road projects

Short Term Projects



- CRA staff requested Public Works provide repair and maintenance of traffic signs in the neighborhood
- CRA staff requested roadway striping and the painting of speed bumps, crosswalks, and stop lines.
 - Staff would like to thank the Public Works crews currently working in the neighborhood
 - Signs have been replaced at the intersections of SW 5th Ave & SW 2nd St, at 7th Ave & 4th St, and all along Depot from Main to SW 6th Street
 - Roadway striping and speed bump painting has occurred throughout SW 5th Ave, 5th Terrace, and 3rd Street

Implementation: Short Term Improvements



Short Term Projects: New Community Entrance



- Porters Oaks fence runs along SW 2nd Street and Depot Avenue.
 - Visually functions as gateway to the neighborhood along Depot, entrances at SW 2nd Street, 2nd Terrace, 3rd Street,
 - Fence is in poor condition, and is both an eyesore and potential security hazard
- Prominence of the structure presents a negative image of the community

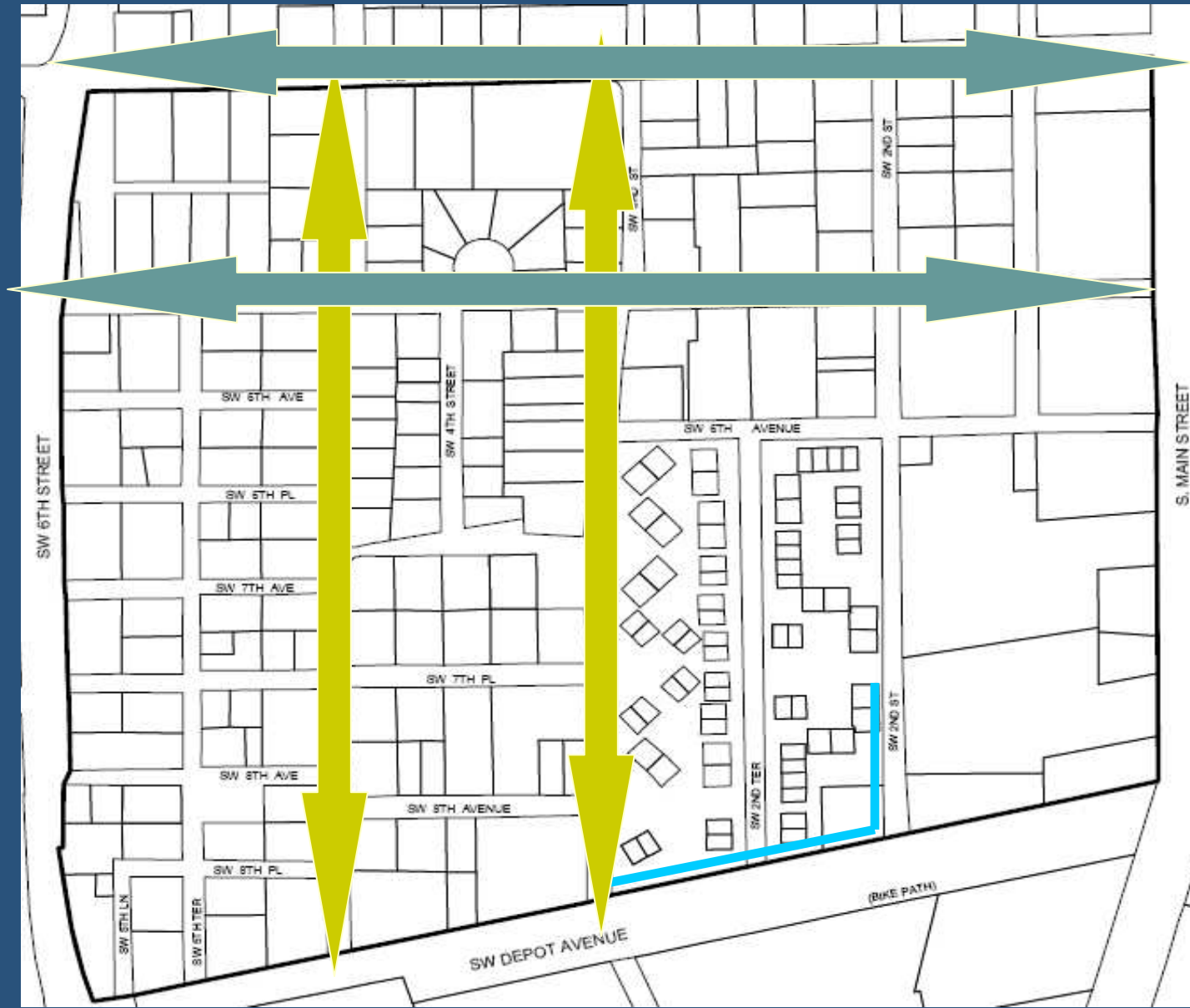


Short Term Projects: New Community Entrance



- Staff will replace current fence with a more attractive and safe structure
 - New fence will not obstruct vision of the community and “eyes on the street”
- City surveyor examined the site at CRA Staff’s request
 - Found that the fence sits partly on SW 2nd Street ROW, partly on Depot ROW and partly on (privately owned) Porters Oaks common space
- Staff is working with residents and CRA attorney to achieve replacement of fence along Depot
- Once existing fence is removed, Staff will help install a new structure
- Staff and residents are also considering removing the portion of the fence that blocks SW 2nd Street, and reopening the roadway





Additional Porters Improvements



- City of Gainesville Housing Division also planning a major project in Porters
 - 5 single-family homes to be built on lot at intersection of Depot and SW 3rd Street
 - 6th home to be built directly across from this lot on SW 8th Avenue
- All to be sold for homeownership
- Development will bring new investment and commitment to the neighborhood and will contribute to improved frontage along Depot

Additional Porters Improvements



- Multiple CRA and City projects currently underway have the potential to drastically change the entrance to Porters at Depot and SW 3rd Street.
 - New homes constructed by housing
 - Replacement of Porters Oaks fence
 - Surveying and engineering work on SW 3rd Street
- CRA staff would like to take advantage of this synergy



Summary:

New Community Entrance



- Staff plans to focus on the Depot/3rd Street gateway to Porters
 - Staff will coordinate separate projects so that the final transformation results in maximum impact to this neighborhood entryway
 - New homes, replaced Porters Oaks fence, streetscaping and infrastructure upgrades will revitalize this face of the community
- Pending the engineering feasibility studies, Staff's goals include sidewalks, decorative lighting, streetscaping
 - Improvements will compliment existing neighborhood and will highlight the new homes built by Housing
 - CRA engineering feasibility study will be underway while Housing prepares for groundbreaking. Implementation of both projects should have compatible timelines



Fiscal Note

- \$80,000 budgeted in FY 2007 for Porters Neighborhood improvements. An additional \$131,502.29 approved in the 2008 budget
- Staff would like to thank GRU and Public Works who partnered with the CRA to fund Porters survey work. Their help has allowed CRA funds to be reserved for engineering and project implementation.
- Staff would also like to thank the Porters Neighborhood Upgrade Team (P-NUTS): GRU, Public Works, Housing, Code Enforcement, GPD, Neighborhood Planning