



Press Release

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Town Center Roundtables
Create High Energy In Mountlake Terrace

Visioning a vital downtown launched many ideas and high energy at recent community roundtable meetings. Nearly 200 people attended the meetings over a three-day period in late July to help set the vision for a revitalized Mountlake Terrace Town Center.

Creating a unique feel for the community's Town Center area was a common theme. Mixed-use development—such as condominiums above retail space, also won keen interest. Other popular themes were walkability, friendly atmosphere, and good design for buildings, streets, and public space. Keeping nearby residential areas protected from commercial traffic was important too.

“With this kind of community participation, we can really move forward,” said Mayor Jerry Smith. “Mountlake Terrace has a great location and a lot of positive people.”

For the existing downtown, high on the list of what people liked were local businesses, such as D and D Meats and Rogers Market. High on the list of current dislikes were a run-down look, lack of restaurants and coffee shops, and lack of gathering places for people.

Complete meeting summaries, along with other Town Center news, will be available soon on the Mountlake Terrace website at <http://www.cityofmlt.com/news.htm>.

City Council members earlier decided to focus on a new Town Center Plan that will spur economic development in the downtown area and provide for quality of life for residents. The Council has requested that the Plan be completed this year and that it include options for a new City Hall.

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At the roundtable meetings, many participants said that if a new city hall is built, it should promote downtown development and include new uses for the community, such as a senior center or a community center and space for groups to meet.

City Council members and Planning Commissioners all attended one or more meetings to hear community input. State Representative Mark Ericks visited the last session.

Town Center is also known as the main downtown business area of Mountlake Terrace. It is the area along 56th Avenue West between 244th Street Southwest and almost to 228th Street Southwest. At most points, downtown is only 1 block deep, but between 236th Street Southwest and 232nd Street Southwest, it spreads out to 3 blocks deep.

Everyone who lives in or has an interest in Mountlake Terrace is encouraged to participate in the Town Center planning project.

More community events to help with Town Center planning will be held this fall.

To receive Town Center Plan notices, contact Debbie Rubatino at 425.744.6266 or towncenterplan@ci.mt.wa.us and provide your name and an address—postal and/or email. The City's website, www.cityofmlt.com, will also post Town Center updates and meeting announcements on its "Breaking News" page. A special Town Center webpage is expected to be ready by September 1.

For more information, contact the Mountlake Terrace Planning Division at 425.744.6266 or check the website: <http://www.cityofmlt.com/news.htm>.

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