









# Asheville MMH Study Advisory Working Group Meeting #2

City of Asheville

July 27th 2023







## Agenda for Today's Meeting

### Part I: Project Updates

Introductions for new members Quick Overview of Project Posters & What We've Heard

### Part II: Analysis & Barriers Memo

Ch. 1 – Housing Need Analysis

Ch. 2 – MMH-Ready Locations

Ch. 3 – Zoning Barriers

**Questions/Discussion** 

### Put the following in the Chat

- 1. Name
- 2. Organization you represent and your role



## Project Overview

SECTION

### Project Goals, Timeline, Outreach Plan

## The purpose of the study is to...

identify regulatory & policy barriers that negatively impact the production of housing supply and to develop recommendations to help Asheville better align regulations with city goals to promote growth that occurs responsibly

Public Input & Feedback Loop

Public Input & Feedback Loop Review of current policy, zoning, and previous studies



Site Testing & Feasibility analysis

Analysis of barriers & opportunities

Displacement Risk Assessment



Missing Middle Housing Report & Recommendations

## Project Timeline

April: Review of current policy, background documents, and documentation trip.

May/June: Stakeholder interviews. Consultant team preparing Analysis Memo.

July 5<sup>th</sup> – August 11<sup>th</sup>: Renter's survey open

July 27th: Advisory Working Group Session on analysis of barriers/challenges

August 4th: Public Workshop

August: Consultant team to prepare final recommendation reports

September: Advisory Working Group Session on recommendations

September: Final MMH Study & Strategic Plan with Displacement Risk Assessment

**Next Steps**: City to use recommendations inform future changes to the city development code













## Role of the Advisory Group

Provide honest feedback & guidance

Attend meetings at key milestones

City staff available to support work

Advisory group meetings are open to the public

Discuss this project with others!

### **Key milestones:**

- AWG Meeting #1: Kick off meeting
- Attend Missing Middle Housing Presentation (optional)
- AWG Meeting #2: Provide feedback on initial analysis
- Attend Public Workshop (optional)
- AWG Meeting #3: Provide feedback on study recommendations

# Outreach Plan Overview

Advisory Group input at key milestones

Stakeholder interviews

### Renter's Survey

Public Workshop in August

Roadshow Posters to be used for neighborhood & small group meetings in next phase





## Posters Overview & What we've heard 2



**Summary of input from** outreach, stakeholder interviews, & surveys

# Workshop Content & Goals

Project Overview

Learn about Missing Middle Housing and the benefits

Highlight Asheville's Housing Needs and Challenges

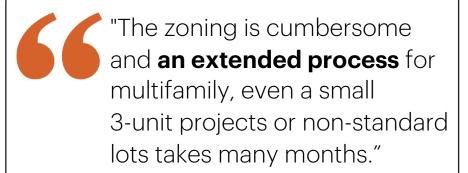
MMH types and how they fit into Asheville Neighborhoods

Build on stakeholder interviews to hear community concerns



## What we heard: Developer & Design Community

- Need for Council approval to adjust zoning to accommodate MMH intimidates many smaller developers who don't even bring those projects to the table
- Access to capital that can cover high construction and land costs is difficult
- Big funding tools (LIHTC) are not economically feasible for small projects
- Topography constraints & infrastructure cost





## What we heard: Affordable Housing Interviews

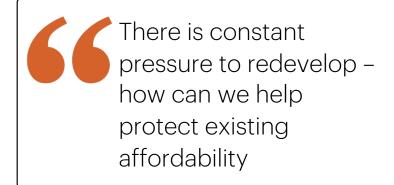
- Current housing demand is for family sized units (3-4 bedrooms)
- Zoning is outdated and suburban focused
- Current parking regulations are difficult to work with and make development more expensive
- Financing for rental projects can be challenging





## What we heard: Legacy Neighborhoods

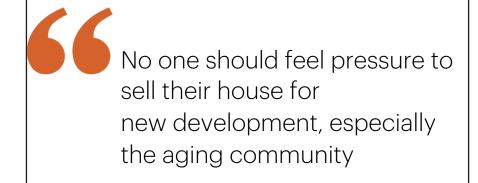
- Need zoning tools to address the differences between each neighborhood and their unique needs
- Solutions for homeownership regardless of AMI or immigration status
- No one should feel pressure to sell their house for new development
- Sensitivity needed to overcome past trauma of zoning and policy wrongs under Urban Renewal





## What we heard: Neighborhood Groups

- Need to slow down gentrification and prevent displacement
- Make sure that the process is transparent and reflects community input
- Need to curb short-term rental and investors buying all properties
- Making sure new construction is benefiting the community and existing residents
- Concerns for infrastructure and services for infill (sidewalks & trash)





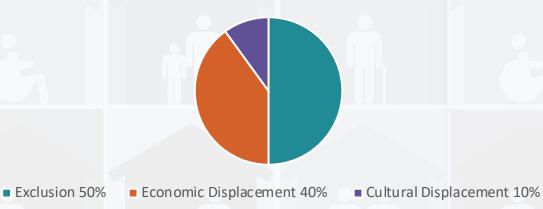
## Initial Renter's Survey Results | Housing Status

93% cite a lack of affordable housing as a reason that they currently do not own a home

69% reported a lack of funds for a down payment or closing costs

Low credit score (16%) and property maintenance (10%) were less influential factors





Economic considerations are the primary drivers of housing decision-making

## Initial Renters Survey Results | Housing Preferences

### 91% want to own a home

- Single-family homes most desirable (96%)
- 44% would consider owning Missing Middle Housing
- Apartments (16%) and ADUs (14%) were less desired

### 6% prefer to rent

- 80% would consider renting a singlefamily home
- 64% would consider Missing Middle Housing
- 61% would rent an ADU

### Initial Renters Survey Results | Housing Preferences

# Reasons for wanting to become a homeowner

- Controlled monthly payments (94%)
- Building wealth and equity (94%)
- Increased control over residence through renovations (93%)
- Increased housing stability (92%)
- Personal fulfillment (66%)
- Tax benefits (64%)

# Reasons for renting currently

- Lower maintenance cost (68%)
- Ability to move more often (54%)
- No property tax (46%)
- Less financial risk (46%)
- Community amenities (29%)

## Initial Renters Survey Results | Demographics

## 89% surveyed are renters

living in mostly single-family homes (36%) or apartments (43%)

67% women



Few intergenerational households (5%)



67%
lived in their current address fewer than 4 years

75% report living alone or with one other person



14% live with a disability or identify as disabled

93% travel primarily via car



# Discussion: Who is missing from the conversation?



### **Current Outreach:**

Developers & Design Community

Affordable Housing Providers

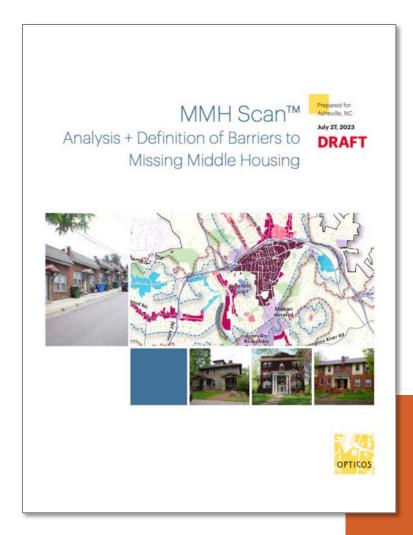
Legacy Neighborhoods

Neighborhood Groups

Renters

Which groups should Staff include in small group conversations?

What are the best venues to access groups who have not had input?



## Analysis Memo Overview and 3 Feedback Loop

What's Included and How to provide feedback on draft memo SECTION

## Draft Barriers & Analysis Memo

Draft document sent. Will send along this slide deck today.

This presentation guides where we need your input most.

Survey provided to track your feedback. (Optional office hours)

Comments by 8/10

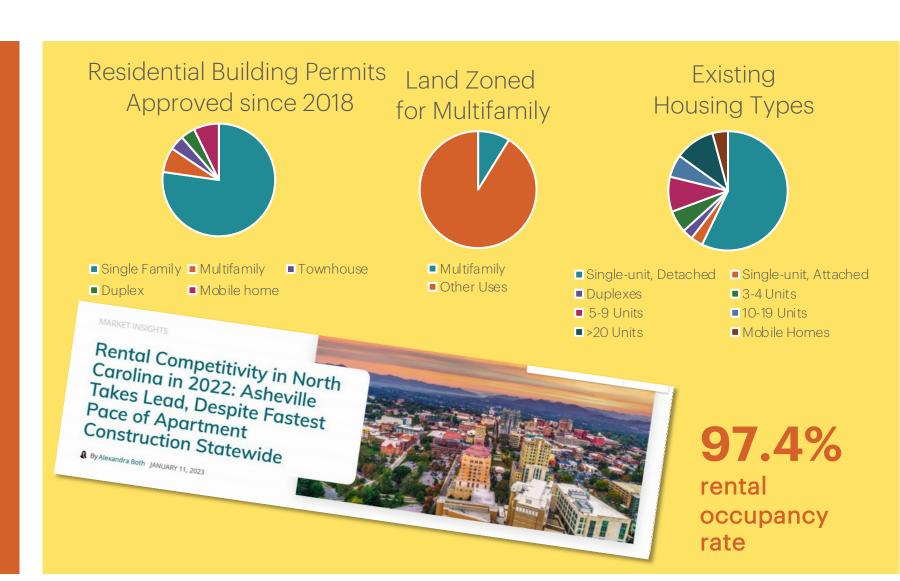


### Chapter 1: Purpose & Objectives

Where do you see the most housing need in Asheville?

Do you see Missing Middle housing as a solution to some of the housing needs?

\*If you only have 5 min, see page 8



## Chapter 2: About Missing Middle Housing

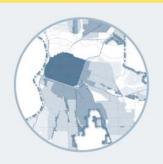
Do you think the places we mapped as MMH-ready, walkable environments are correct?

What MMH Types are appropriate in different environments of Asheville?

\*If you only have 5 min, see page 38 to 40



### Assessing where MMH is appropriate



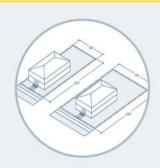
#### **Context Mapping**

The entire city of Asheville will be analyzed in terms of existing physical character, street and block sizes, and level of connectivity. The intent is to identify existing Context Types, that will form the framework for further place-based analysis.



### Displacement risk assessment

Displacement risk will be assessed, based on many factors including education, race, income, housing market, and access to jobs. Based on the level of displacement risk, different mitigating strategies will be developed.



#### Lot categories analysis

Every residential parcel will be categorized based on lot width and depth to identify which Missing Middle Housing types would fit on each lot based on typical building dimensions, access, off-street parking and other considerations.



### Market feasibility assessment

Different MMH types will be analyzed for market feasibility in each context within the city, to assess whether the potential revenue from sale or rental is worth the development costs for developers or homeowners.



### Context specific Missing Midde Housing toolkits

Building on the previous steps, policy and zoning toolkits will be developed for each context type to enable MMH; calibrated to existing conditions to ensure attainability, built form compatibility and financial feasibility, and will include strategies to avoid displacement.

The Missing Middle study includes a place-based citywide analysis, assessment for market feasibility and displacement risk. This approach will provide context-specific MMH implementation "toolkits".

# Identify where MMH makes sense in Asheville

### **Start from Future Land Uses**

from Comprehensive Plan, 2018

### Identify existing walkable environments:

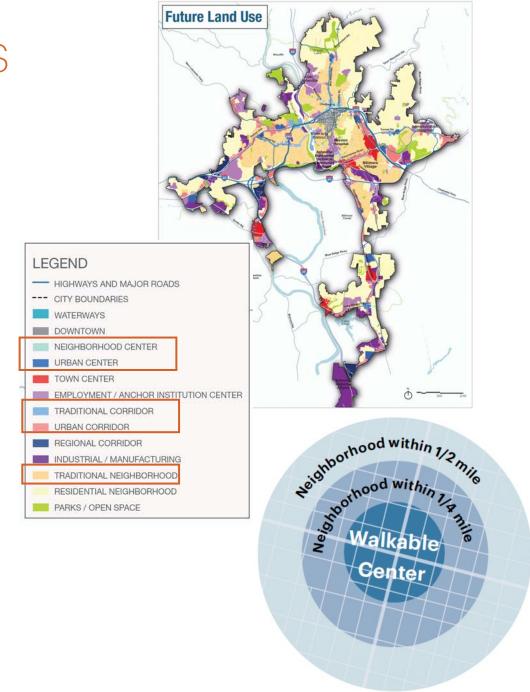
Locations within short walking distance of services, food, shopping, or transit

### Identify potential walkable environments:

places where there are some destinations, but not comfortable to walk to, yet

### Draw walk circles considering limitations

including topography, highways, rivers



## Existing Walkable Environments Types

Most Intense Least Intense

\_\_\_\_\_\_



#### **Downtown Asheville**

A citywide destination for retail, food uses, service, employment, entertainment and recreation that includes significant housing.

Regional-serving = Downtown



#### **Neighborhood Main Street**

A community destination for retail, food uses, and services that is an amenity for adjacent neighborhoods. Examples of Community-Serving-Serving Centers are listed below:

- · Haywood Rd + Brevard Rd
- · Lyman St + Clingman Ave Ext
- · Hendersonville Rd + Lodge St

Community-serving = Neighborhood Main street



#### **Neighborhood Center**

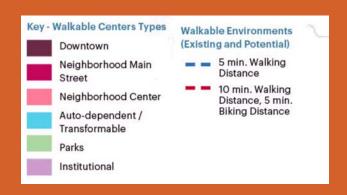
A neighborhood destination of food, shops, and services at the intersection of two important streets that provides convenient services to the immediately adjacent residential neighborhoods. A neighborhoodserving destination is smaller and less intense than a community-serving destination.

Neighborhood-serving = Neighborhood Center

Walkable Environments Mapped

**Downtown** 

A citywide destination for retail, food uses, service, employment, entertainment and recreation that includes significant housing.

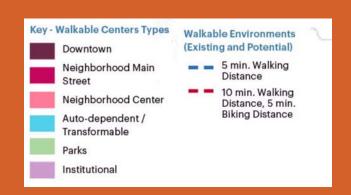


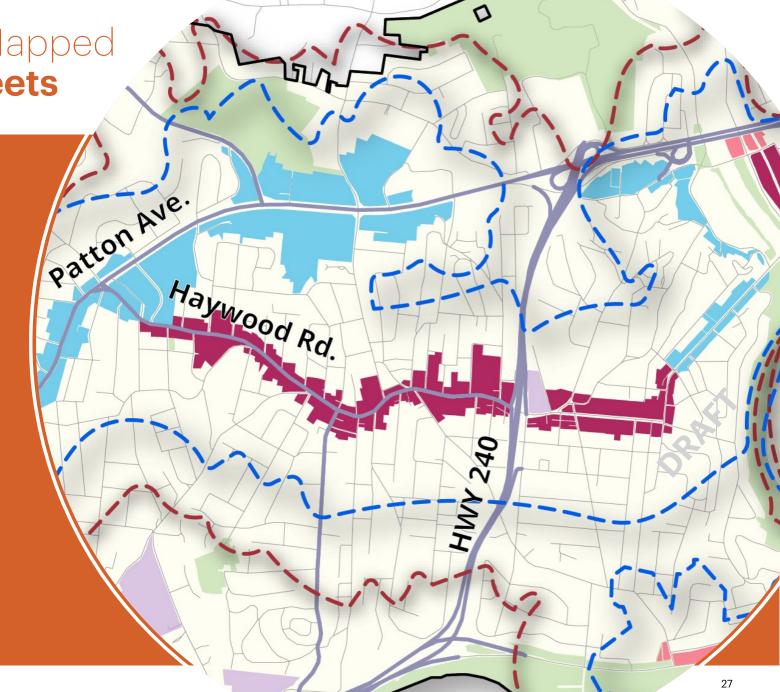


Walkable Environments Mapped

**Neighborhood Main Streets** 

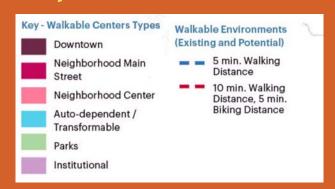
A community destination for retail, food uses, and services that is an amenity for adjacent neighborhoods.

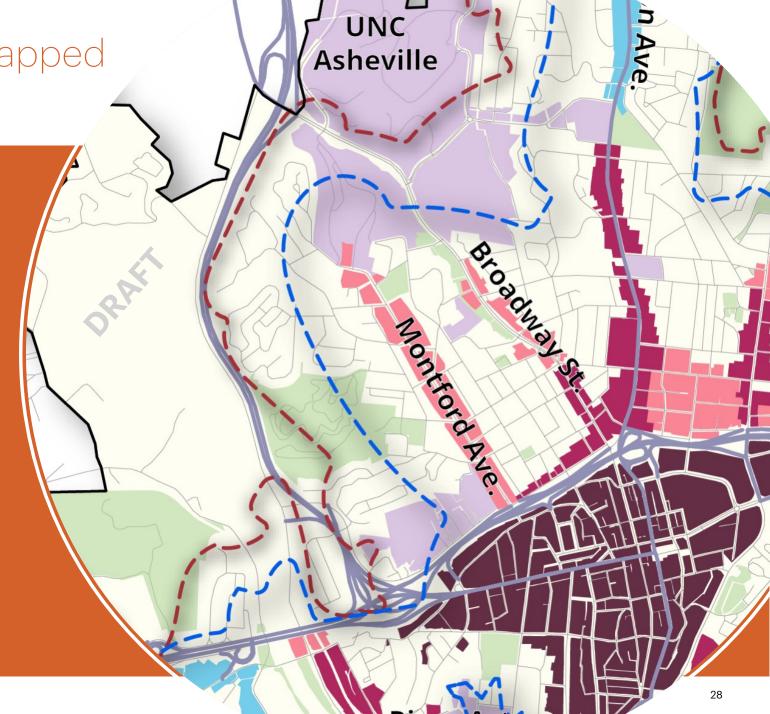




Walkable Environments Mapped Neighborhood Centers

A neighborhood destination of food, shops, and services at the intersection of two important streets that provides convenient services to the immediately adjacent residential

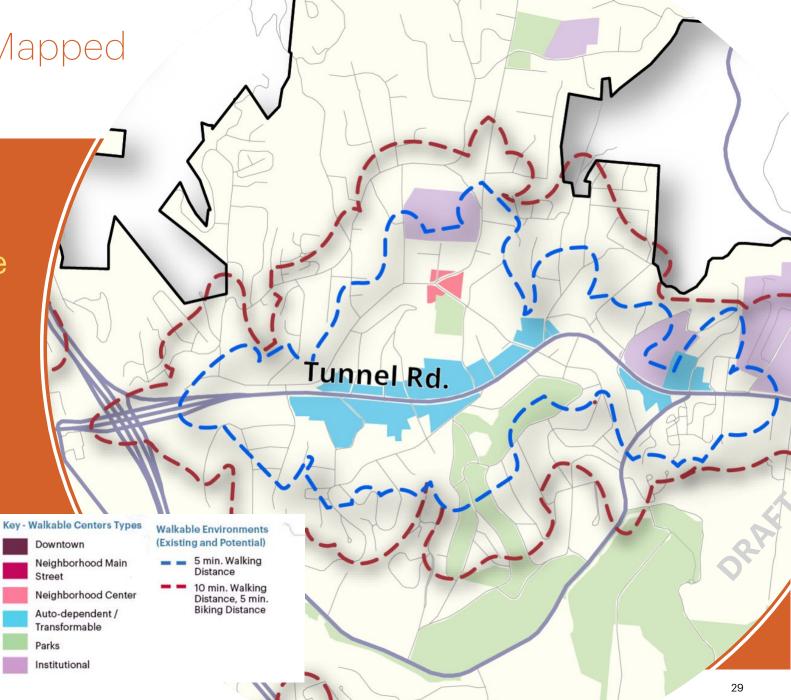




Walkable Environments Mapped

Transformable

Auto-dependent or "Transformable" contexts are locations with the potential to transition an area from an auto-oriented pattern of development to a more walkable environment that can transform nearby areas into MMH-Ready neighborhoods.



## The palette of Missing Middle Housing types





### Small to Medium MMH in existing neighborhoods

#### Below are two general approaches to integrate Middle Housing into neighborhoods:



#### Distributed Throughout a Block of Detached Houses

Through gentle densification, Small and Medium Middle Housing types such as Duplexes, Triplexes, Cottage Housing, Fourplexes and Courtyard Building Medium can be easily integrated into a neighborhood of detached houses, blending in well due to their house-scale size and form.



### Transition from a Mixed-Use Corridor to a Residential Neighborhood

Small and Medium Middle Housing types can create great transitions in scale and massing between busier mixed-use corridors and quieter detached housing neighborhoods.











Asheville MMH Study | Advisory Working Group Meeting #2

## Large MMH in existing neighborhoods

#### Below is an approach to integrate Large Middle Housing:



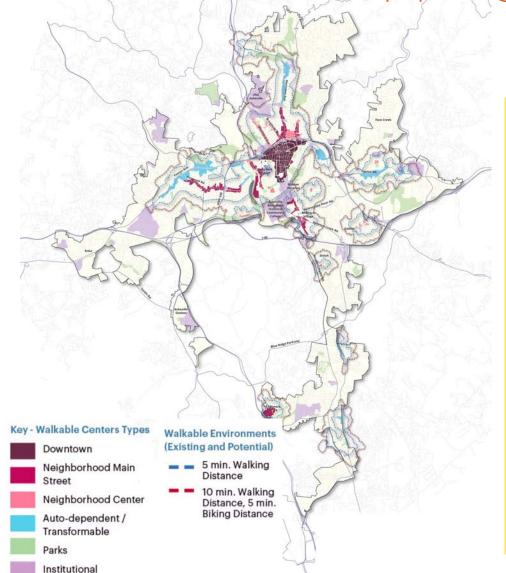
### Provide Housing Options along Corridors & Centers and Provide Transition to Higher Intensity Neighborhoods

This type can help transition from larger-scale buildings in transitoriented and other mixed-use centers to smaller-scale buildings within neighborhoods. Large MMH can be used within regional mixed-use centers to augment more intense development.





Discussion: Mapping where MMH applies



Do these feel like the areas that should apply to the study?

What Missing Middle Types do you think are appropriate for each context?

## Chapter 3: Analysis of Barriers

Do you think "What we've heard?" is accurately represented?

Tradeoffs – What are you comfortable with adjusting in zoning and what needs to stay?

\*If you only have 5 min, see page 50-51 and 60-61

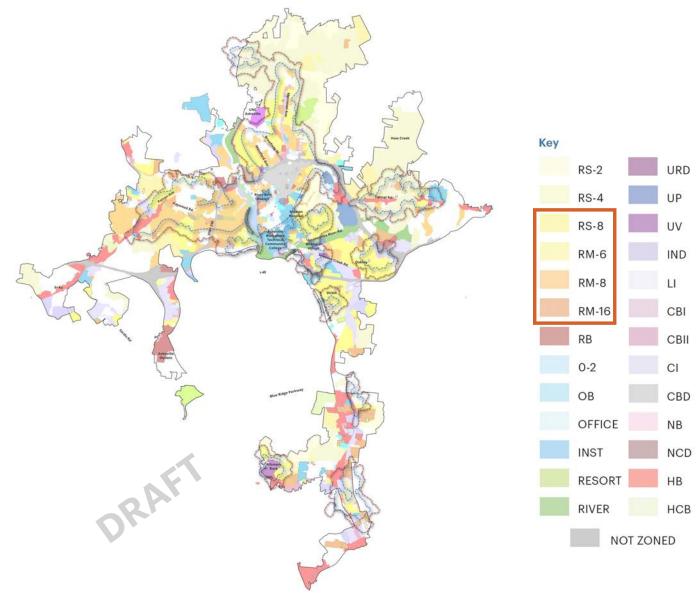


Zoning Barriers Assessed for MMH ready

locations

Focusing on zones that apply within areas that MMH already exists and/or are walkable

Realign zones to allow what you want to encourage



## Identifying Barriers

Plans, policy, and zoning well-intended, but falling short of enabling MMH

Overcoming barriers means thinking through tradeoffs

What zoning regulations can we change in order to enable more housing?



<b>Development Standard</b>				
	RS-8	RM-6	RM-8	RM-16
Density Maximum	<b>X</b> (1 of 9)	<b>X</b> (3 of 9)	<b>X</b> (3 of 9)	(7 of 9)
Lot Area Minimum	<b>✓</b>	(7 of 9)	<b>~</b>	<b>✓</b>
Lot Width Minimum				
Setbacks Minimum				
Front Setback	<b>~</b>	<b>~</b>	<b>~</b>	<b>~</b>
Side Setback	<b>~</b>	~	<b>~</b>	~
Rear Setback	<b>~</b>	~	<b>~</b>	~
Lot Coverage Maximum	<b>~</b>	~	<b>~</b>	<b>✓</b>
Open Space Minimum	<b>~</b>	~	<b>~</b>	~
Building Height Maximum	<b>~</b>	<b>~</b>	Potential out of scale buildings	Potential out of scale buildings
Permitted Residential Uses (MMH Types)	<b>X</b> (0 of 9)	<b>X</b> (2 of 9)	Enables some	~
Min. Parking Spaces per Unit	X Too high²	X Too high²	X Too high²	X Too high²
Min. Driveway Width	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>

### Top Zoning Regulatory Barriers

### **Allowed Uses**

RS zones only allow single family

Multifamily use does not distinguish between MMH types and large apartment buildings, (but are subject to Neighborhood Scale MF Design standards)

# Multifamily Design Standards

Limits 12 units per structure

Requires certain design standards such as 1 entry per street, which do not fit MMH types

# Lot Size, width, and footprint

Current standards not calibrated to encourage a variety of MMH types.

For example, lot size minimums. increase with more units, thus encouraging larger units.

### **Entitlements**

Current process does not distinguish between MMH types and largescale apartment building, putting undue fees and processes on smaller developments

## Other Notable Regulatory Barriers

## **Cottage Standards**

Current standards do not regulate placement of cottage units around a central green. Results in parking courts with little placemaking

# Limited Multifamily Zoned locations

Few locations within the City are mapped for Multifamily.
Currently MF is occurring in locations mapped as RS zones

# Parking & Access

Parking minimums create barriers to development through added cost of parking infrastructure.
Street frontage and access drive requirements add significant costs and difficulty.

## **Landscape Buffers**

Buffers between RS and RM zones is currently limiting for narrow to small lots

## Discussion: Zoning Barriers

Reduce parking requirements

Allow more housing types into existing RS zones

Allow more height in some areas

Allow more than one structure on a lot



What zoning tradeoffs are acceptable to enable housing?

## Next Steps

Review Memo and Provide Feedback by 8/10

**Attend August 4th Workshop** 

**Share Renter's Survey** 

Questions to keep in mind

What is the Need?

Who is it serving?

## Graphically test zoning code: 3 steps







Max building envelope

What regs actually allow/encourage Ideally what allow: Reverse engineer

## Displacement Risk Assessment Explained

**Displacement Vulnerability:** Where might residents be at risk for displacement if middle housing is encouraged through policy changes?

**Demographic and Market Change:** Where are market pressures increasing and demographic changes happening?

**Middle Housing Opportunity:** What areas have existing infrastructure or surrounding land uses that are opportunities for middle housing?

**Anti-Displacement Strategies**: Which antidisplacement strategies are most appropriate in a particular area based on the vulnerability, change, and middle housing opportunity?



# Questions and Discussion



