

The Montrose Livable Centers Study public workshop #1 was hosted on September 10th, 2020. Over 50 people attended the zoom meeting and the livestream on Facebook reached 585 views as of September 23th, 2020. During the 2-hour long meeting, the team received feedback on the draft needs assessment analysis and comments on the community's vision for the future of Montrose. This feedback is meaningful to the team and critical to set up visions for the concept plan that addresses public concerns and builds an actionable vision for the future Montrose that aligns with community's hopes and dreams.

The one-pager summarizes common themes from the public workshop. If you have questions or additional comments, please feel free to reach out to the email: [info@montrosehtx.org](mailto:info@montrosehtx.org). We appreciate your help!



# Public Workshop #1 Summary

## Feedback On Needs Assessment Findings

### What is surprising or unexpected from the results?

- Current residents of Montrose aren't likely to experience cost burden for their housing, but there are many unmet needs for housing at other price points
- That the percentage of workers who live outside of Montrose is so high

### What is missing from the findings?

- Mention that Buffalo Bayou is a significant barrier to the north, especially for bikes and transit
- "Renters/renting" is not mentioned explicitly and should be
- More discussion of how housing cost burden data was assessed
- More discussion of homelessness/homeless population

## Near Term Visions

### What is your favorite thing about Montrose?

#### Destinations

- All the restaurants, small businesses, gay bars
- No "big box" stores; distinct from the suburbs
- Mix of uses (residential/commercial), mix of building typologies
- The location

#### Unique character

- Feeling of a small village/neighborhood within a city
- A quirky small town where neighbors look out for each other
- Welcoming, non-judgmental culture for all kinds of people from all over
- Quirky/funky/laid-back vibe
- Cultural heart and soul of this city
- The history

#### Walkability

- Trees
- Walkability (but needs improvement)

### What are your biggest concerns about Montrose?

#### Affordable Housing

- Across income levels
- For seniors

#### New Developments

- Loss of smaller-scale multi-family housing
- New housing developments such as suburban style developments, speculative housing, mid-and high-rise developments
- Parking lots associated with suburban-style commercial developments

#### Demographics/Diversity

- A perception that multi-family residents "don't participate in neighborhoods"
- Increasing population density
- People are experiencing homelessness

#### Safety

- Pedestrian/bike safety
- Lack of safe crossings for major roads
- Speeding cars

### What would you like to see for the future of Montrose and why?

#### Affordability

- All types of homes in all types of places for all types of people and all income levels

#### Placemaking/Placekeeping

- Maintain the vibe, the ambiance, of Montrose while creating a place of all to grow, excel, prosper and call home
- Celebrate Lower Westheimer as a city/regional cultural destination
- Unique neighborhood identifiers/wayfinding/historical signs, not all identical
- Public space improvements
  - » Better park facilities such as lighting, sport, and others for elders
  - » Quiet spaces to interact with nature

#### Transportation and Connectivity

- Improved pedestrian and bike safety including traffic calming, painted/buffered bike lanes, pedestrian signals, lower speed limits, etc.
- Connectivity network
  - » Connections to Buffalo Bayou, and from Hermann park to Buffalo Bayou
  - » Leave space for future street trees in sidewalk plans
- TOD instead of parking lots adjacent to transit

#### Guidelines/ Standards

- Improved land use and urban design guidelines
- Design standards to promote walkability