



## 2017 Public Policy Initiatives

To: Jeannie Cue, Tulsa City Council District 2  
Ben Kimbro, Tulsa City Council District 9

### **Issue: Riverwood Neighborhood Design & Planning**

In 2008 the City of Tulsa completed an update of the Riverwood Neighborhood Plan which preceded Tulsa's Comprehensive Plan (PlaniTulsa), the establishment of a Bus Rapid Transit corridor along Peoria Ave. (FastForward Plan), Tulsa's Complete Streets policy, the adoption of a bicycle-pedestrian infrastructure plan (Go Plan) and newly proposed design improvements for the roadway.

Many of the goals of the 2008 Riverwood Small Area Plan have been met, including improvements to 61st St. from Riverside to Lewis Ave. However there is a need, and a great opportunity, to create a vibrant walkable neighborhood along Peoria—one that is designed with a careful integration of the planning work that has been adopted over the last seven years.

### **Position:**

Smart land-use and transportation policies are at the core of Smart Growth Tulsa's vision and mission. We have steadfastly advocated for increased density to save money on infrastructure, and for safer, multi-modal streets serving not just automobiles, but also pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. According to the Guiding Principles of Tulsa's Comprehensive Plan:

*"Tulsans expect city planning to be inclusive and transparent, with land use and neighborhood plans adopted, funded, implemented, and monitored for performance in an open, public process. Plans should clearly state the community challenges they seek to address, the goals they want to accomplish, and the implementation measures needed to reach those goals."*

In 2017 we will partner with the South Peoria Neighborhood Community Foundation, and the OU-Tulsa Urban Design Studio to help the City of Tulsa develop a citizen-driven plan for growth and development for the Riverwood area (61st & Peoria), to create a safe, vibrant, walkable and transit-rich mixed-use neighborhood that enriches the lives of all who live, work and play there. We will begin with the following activities in the neighborhood:

- Community meetings co-hosted by the South Tulsa Community House and Smart Growth Tulsa. Citizen input will be shared with the City of Tulsa Planning Department.
- Partnership with the Pathways to Health initiative for the creation of a community garden at 62<sup>nd</sup> and Peoria Ave.
- Collaboration with the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee to address bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns in the neighborhood.

By reviewing and integrating the above-mentioned planning policies, and following PlaniTulsa's process of collecting input from neighborhood residents, we are confident that we can help improve the safety, economic development, quality of life, and health outcomes of the Riverwood neighborhood.