FORT McPHERSON INTERIM ZONING HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

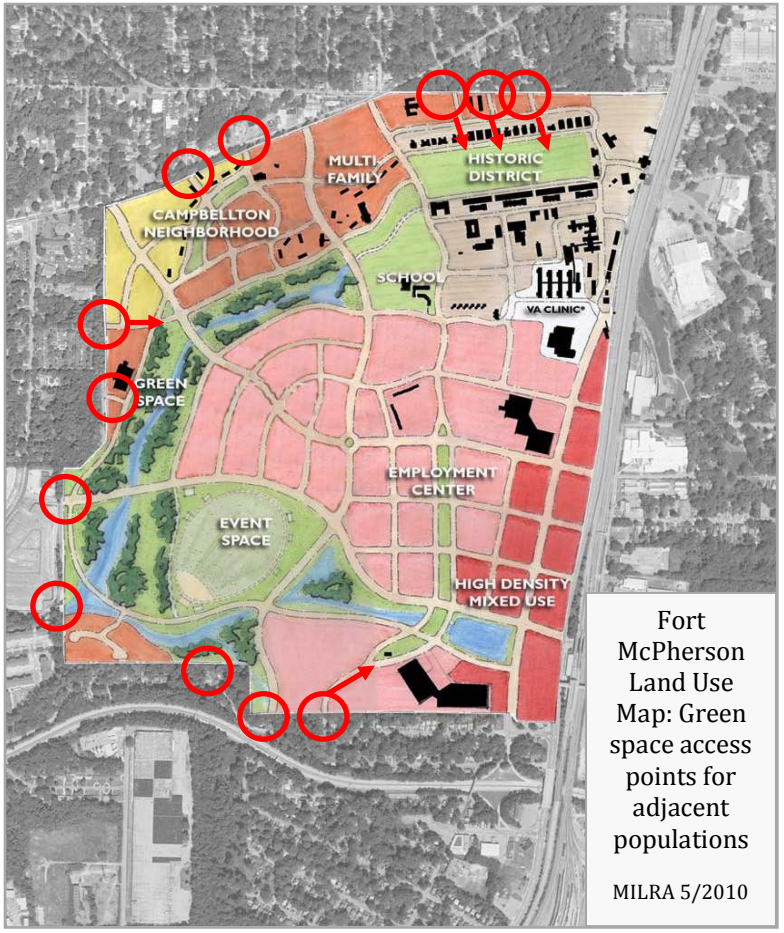
Georgia Health Policy Center – May 25, 2010

Input to the HIA Scoping Process

- The Georgia Tech/Stand-Up studio report
- A list of interest areas and recommendations submitted by McPherson Action Community Coalition (MACC)
- Field/Observation notes taken by our team at the City of Atlanta Planning Department's community zoning meetings
- Photos and notes from a neighborhood windshield tour
- Meetings with City Planners and LRA

SCOPE

What are the differential health effects of zoning provisions on the adjacent populations' healthy nutrition, physical activity, alcohol and tobacco use, and social cohesion during the phase-in period?



Fort McPherson Land Use Map: Green space access points for adjacent populations

MILRA 5/2010

The scope of this HIA was limited to zoning provisions in the areas of:

- Permitted uses
- Green space
- Transportation

...that can influence the following determinants of health:

- Nutrition
- Physical activity
- Alcohol consumption
- Tobacco use
- Social connections

...which can impact the following health outcomes of the community:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Mental health
- Cancer

Findings*		Zoning Recommendations	Nutrition	Phys Activity	Alcohol Use	Tobacco Use	Social Connection
In the first 5-10 years, people in surrounding areas will be the ones most affected by changes on the base.	1)	Include a statement of overall intent to maximize benefits and minimize or mitigate harms to the health of surrounding populations, to the extent feasible.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community gardens encourage people to eat more healthy foods and try new fruits and vegetables. They boost community bonds and individual sense of well-being; and they increase nearby home values. But ¼ mile is the furthest most people will walk for fresh food.	2) 3)	Permit community gardens in green space and areas within ¼ mile of schools, senior housing, MARTA stations, and adjacent neighborhoods to the north, west and south. Permit small-scale (e.g., 1 acre tracts) farming in the same areas as the community gardens	✓	✓			✓
People eat healthy, fresh foods more when they have good access to farmer's markets. Farmer's markets can create jobs, improve the local economy, provide the best selection of in-season foods, increase food safety, and reduce fuel and pollution effects of transport.	4)	Permit farm stands and farmer's markets in green space and other areas within ¼ mile of MARTA stations and adjacent neighborhoods to the north, west and south, including the Historic District.	✓				✓
Social connections contribute to health and well-being. Isolation increases stress, weakens immune systems and increases depression.	5)	Permit use of selected, accessible existing buildings for community meetings, education and children's programs.					✓
People are more physically active when they have access to trails and parks. They are more likely to use trails when they can access them from multiple places. Walking trails may especially increase physical activity for groups that are most likely not to exercise – women and people of limited income.	6)	Permit use of existing outdoor recreational facilities and green space until redeveloped; maximize accessibility with ADA-compliant roads or paths at multiple border entry points (see map on reverse).	✓				✓
Fast food contributes to obesity of children and adults because of high calories, large, inexpensive portions, and frequent consumption.	7)	Limit fast food restaurants and prohibit their development near areas in which children congregate.		✓			
Secondhand smoke contributes to cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, respiratory disease, disability and premature death.	8)	Prohibit bars and restaurants that do not support the state tobacco policy. Designate public spaces where children congregate as smoke-free.			✓		
Tobacco advertising accounts for 1/3 of smoking experimentation in youth. Children are twice as susceptible to tobacco advertising as adults. It influences them more than peer pressure. People who are exposed to more alcohol advertisements consume more alcohol. Neighborhoods with more alcohol billboards also often have more liquor stores. Alcohol ads are often densely located near schools and places where youth congregate.	9) 10)	Enforce federal policy (effective 6/20/2010) prohibiting outdoor cigarette or smokeless tobacco advertising within 1,000 feet of schools, parks or playgrounds Limit outdoor and store-front advertising.			✓	✓	
Alcohol-related health problems such as cirrhosis, car crashes and violence are related to availability of alcohol.	11)	Reduce alcohol availability by restricting the density of establishments that serve or sell alcoholic beverages.			✓		

* Please see full report for additional evidence, citations, and information on the strength of the evidence for each finding.