

# REPURPOSING SIMS: COMMUNITY VISIONING SESSION

East MLK Combined Neighborhood Plan Contact Team

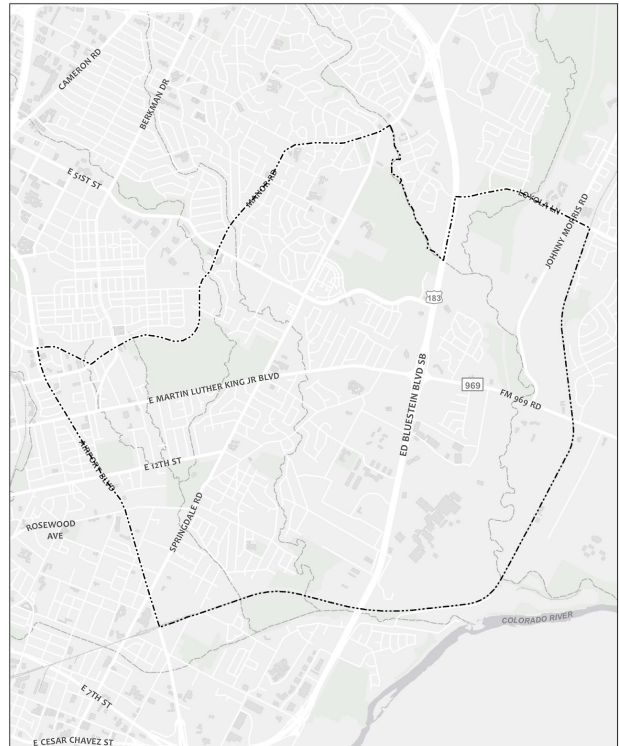
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## Meeting Notes | November 20, 2023

The East MLK combined planning area is made up of the MLK, Pecan Springs/Springdale, and MLK/183 planning areas, and is bound by Loyola Lane, Ed Bluestein Blvd, and Little Walnut Creek to the north, the Austin and NW Railroad to the south, Airport Blvd, Anchor Lane, and Manor Road to the west, and the former Missouri-Kansas Railroad right-of-way to the east.

Representatives from the following neighborhood associations were in attendance:

- MLK Neighborhood Association
- Hog Pen Neighborhood Association
- SHAWNA
- Stone Gate Neighborhood Association
- JJ Seabrook Neighborhood Association
- Pecan Springs Neighborhood Association



Jeremy Striffler, Director of Real Estate for Austin ISD, presented to community members in attendance on the repurposing process, a summary of previous meetings and results of the public survey, the feasibility study findings and potential redevelopment scenarios for the site. The following captures questions and comments raised by attendees, plus responses from Austin ISD staff:

- Question: Can the survey be extended until mid-to-late December?
  - Austin ISD agreed to extend the survey through December 22 and requested that the neighborhood association representatives spread the word to ensure more community involvement

- Comment: “love that we (Austin ISD) are using the Sims school as swing space as it important for the surrounding developments seeing children at the site to understand that there are families in the neighborhood
- Comment: Using Sims as swing space over the next few years allows Austin ISD the opportunity to see what is being built nearby to inform repurposing
- Comment: Noted the increase in renter-occupied units compared to ownership and that the infrastructure (i.e. utilities, transit, etc.) in the area is not being properly addressed
  - Rental is outpacing ownership due to the increased cost of living
- Comment: Former student of Ms. Sims and expressed preference to see Sims Elementary continued to be used for educational purposes even if it is no longer an elementary school
- Comment: Could see a mix of rental and ownership on the Sims site and suggested a land trust style for the home ownership to protect long-term affordability