

# Community Needs Assessment - Report Out

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## **Initial Findings Assessment –**

Although many groups and organizations have dedicated time and resources to evaluating the commercial needs of the MLK corridor, most significant work related to community needs is either several years old at this point, or currently incomplete.

## **Past N/NE Focused Studies Relevance -**

In fall of 2014, PAALF and the King Neighborhood Association held multiple meetings, including one public listening session, to capture a snapshot of what type of businesses and services the community was interested in seeing at that time. No notes or comprehensive summaries have been located, and indeed participation via these venues was relatively limited.

In terms of additional studies or research, the March 2008 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Strategy Update and Action Plan references a questionnaire, the results of which may prove useful if they can be located. Additionally the Fremont/MLK Vision Study from 2001 indicates that the lower portion of the boulevard is “underserved in terms of local retail and service establishments” and offers a “wish list” of potential businesses to work to attract to the area. Any more recent updates to this list would provide a good starting place for our work as the scope of community involvement in this document’s initial development appears extensive.

Overall, the 2014 draft Soul District document, authored by BICEP, appears to be the most recent study and does a great job outlining vision and initial strategy; however it appears that this work was not made final. If it was or can be continued and used in conjunction with the market study information provided by Nita, the second step in their action plan could be very helpful in our work. The Soul District also references several commercial development strategies in the MLK Blvd Economic Development Study from 2007 which too could prove directionally useful. .

## **Current N/NE Studies & Next Steps –**

While current community listening projects may be underway (ex. BICEP – Soul District Survey, PDC - N/NE Community Development Initiative, PAALF – People’s Plan, etc.), individual deadlines for completion, public access to, and or scope is unclear.

Next steps for our workgroup could include further research on and/or partnership with existing projects, or undertaking a specific survey related to the task of this tenanting committee. In either regard, current information regarding community needs will be helpful not only in our work, but also in providing more recent data which potentially could be useful as other development continues at a rapid pace along MLK.