

## Nampans design 3 plans for north-side revitalization; refined proposal up next

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**By Sandra Forester**

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NAMPA – Nampa could one day have a broad sky bridge lined with shops spanning the railroad tracks between North and South Nampa at 14th Avenue, with architecture mirroring the historic railroad depot.

That idea was featured in all three draft plans presented Thursday night during an open house at the Nampa Civic Center.

"For me as an investor, it's a great thing," said Terry Dale of Eagle. Dale purchased several properties along 1st Street North in the area and said the final plan would definitely influence whether he replaces the current home and trailers with apartments or business buildings.

**"I'm excited," he said.**

Three groups of residents, city officials and business people, about 30 in all, spent Wednesday and half of Thursday creating proposed projects and zoning aimed at rejuvenating Nampa's north side, an area roughly bordered by the railroad tracks, Nampa Boulevard, Interstate 84 and Franklin and Garrity Boulevards.

The group toured North Nampa and was struck by the lack of connectivity and the mix of industrial development and homes, said Liza Morris, an architect with Cole + Poe Architects of Boise, the firm facilitating the planning.

The three groups worked separately but came up with common ideas, including connecting North Nampa and Lakeview Park with downtown with a pedestrian-friendly 14th Avenue North, the sky bridge, a walking path along Indian Creek that ties the pocket parks and neighborhoods; and an exhibit hall or museum dedicated to railroad history on 1st Street North near the Mona Lisa restaurant.

"This group has some really high-energy ideas," said Alberta Hill, a Lakeview neighborhood resident who was part of the planning process. "Everyone focused on a corridor from Lakeview Park to the downtown."

One group suggested a community college campus across from Lakeview Park along 7th Street North. Another wants signals and crosswalks of pavers at key intersections such as 11th Avenue North and 3rd Street North in front of Paul's Market. That group also would create a residential/workshop zone along the railroad tracks for artists, craftsmen and those involved in cottage industries to live and work. The third group would like to turn 14th Avenue into an area where families could live, shop and stroll — similar to Hyde Park in Boise's North End.

All the groups suggested shifting industrial business out to the area around Interstate 84 and returning the areas in Nampa's historic grid system to a residential. All would like to see improvements in sidewalks and lighting.

The comments and the three draft plans will be incorporated by the architects and presented as a draft North Nampa Master Plan during a special meeting in February, Morris said. Residents then will have about a month to comment before a final plan is delivered to the city in March.

The goal is to identify specific projects that will act as a catalyst for revitalization in the area, and determine whether they are feasible and how they can be financed.

"I just think Nampa has such huge potential, and the north side especially," Hill said. "This could bring in people, businesses and investment opportunities, and hopefully, create a synergy that spreads out from there to the whole city."

### **What's next**

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A special public meeting will be held in February to present a consolidated draft North Nampa Master Plan. The date has not been announced yet. A final plan will be delivered to the city in March after a month of public comment.