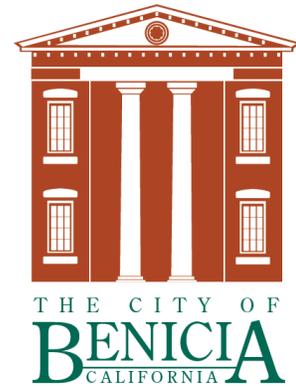


PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF BENICIA
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WALKING TOUR OF EASTERN GATEWAY STUDY AREA ANNOUNCED Self-guided Tour Starts at Welcome Station on September 23

Benicia, CA (September 14, 2020) — The City of Benicia is creating a new zone district around the intersection of Military East and East Fifth Street. This area is the Eastern Gateway to downtown Benicia and is currently comprised of commercial and residential uses. In an effort to gather public input on the Eastern Gateway Study, the Community Development Department is hosting a physically distanced walking tour of the area on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, from 5 – 8 p.m.

The tour begins at a welcome station outside the Benicia Community Center, 370 East L Street. Formatted like an open house, participants may stop by and pick up a pamphlet of information about the tour, view a slideshow and ask questions of staff. Face coverings and social distancing are required at the welcome center.

After taking the self-guided tour, participants may provide feedback on the pamphlet and turn it in to Community Development staff or they may submit comments online at www.ci.benicia.ca.us/easterngateway. Videos about the project will be released prior to the walking tour and all materials available at the welcome station will also be posted online. Residents may choose to take the self-guided tour at their convenience and provide feedback online if that is their preference.

The City of Benicia has identified the intersection of Military East and East Fifth Street as an area that could accommodate new housing development, in addition to the existing commercial development already in the area. This location is excellent for housing due to its proximity to the downtown, public transit routes, civic amenities such as the Benicia Community Center, Senior Center and Public Library, and major roadways including Interstate 780.

This planning study is funded by a grant from the State of California for planning activities that will increase the production of housing. As a part of this planning study, the City will work with the community to consider how to accommodate new housing investment in the study area; this could include permit streamlining and significant changes to current development standards such as maximum

building height, setbacks, or required parking. The work done as a part of this planning study could encourage new development on vacant parcels in the study area. It will also shape gradual changes to this area for decades to come.

Learn more about the Eastern Gateway Study at www.ci.benicia.ca.us/easterngateway. Visitors to the webpage will find project updates and informational materials, they may also sign up to receive emails about the project.

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Attachment:

- Eastern Gateway Study Walking Tour Flyer