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What the current Great Expectations 2030 Master Plan process did not do... (9.12.2024)

1. Failed to make recommendations concerning I-49 ICC. When confronted with this plan process deficiency by multiple citizens, the consultant planning team project manager commented, “we will not weigh-in on that issue for fear that the master plan would not get approval of powerful city leaders.”
2. The plan failed to deal with the conflicts and disconnections between transportation planning and land use planning. Citizens invested their time and creativity into the plan and were not provided preparation to address this conflict that frustrates their progress and has caused misplaced criticism of the plan and citizen efforts.
3. Specific Area Planning recommended by the master plan has not progressed. Resources were not provided to accomplish this goal. The plan also did not empower local citizens to have agency over their own communities. The plan provided no investment in growing the local private sector design community capacities to participate in implementing and refining the plan.
4. The planning process did not utilize local talent or businesses, opting instead for an outside firm to monopolize the planning endeavor. The outside firm failed to reinforce locally prepared specific area plans that had been recognized and in some cases were being implemented, choosing instead to lift some ideas from those plans and make them parts of their master plan without citing the sources and in some instances not accurately reusing the information... This is a contrast to a 2006 Urban Land Institute (ULI) study that reviewed the library of specific area plans commenting. ‘We spent most of our time reviewing excellent plans. Why haven’t you implemented those plans?’ That ULI study recognized specific area plans like *Shreveport’s Historic Music Village* and recommended implementation steps.
5. The ULI study concluded 2 important challenges that the master plan failed to address: (A) Shreveport leaders do not know how to meaningfully collaborate, and (B) Shreveport leaders do not know how to implement plans. Without addressing these 2 key challenges any planning for Shreveport is likely to end up collecting dust on a shelf.

One Shreveport planners would like you to consider 10 values and goals embedded in the 2010 Great Expectations 2030 master plan. Has progress been made? Are they important?

1. Connected People and Places - People are connected across race and class, natural features are connected by greenways and people have safe and efficient transportation.
2. Fairness and Opportunity for Everyone - Every neighborhood is a "neighborhood of choice" with excellent infrastructure, services, and amenities.
3. Strengthened Assets and Enhanced Possibilities - Easy access to high-quality work, travel, cultural events, shopping, and faith-based and non-profit opportunities.
4. Good Stewardship of our Natural and Cultural Heritage - Protected water, air, and land. Strong historic preservation and support of arts and culture activities.
5. A Green and Healthy Community - Sustainable city with cleaner energy. Maintenance and improvement of existing infrastructure. Healthy lifestyles through access to good food and activities.
6. High Standards of Quality in Development and Design - Decisions are made in line with the community's vision and new development adheres to high-quality standards.
7. A Business-Friendly Environment - Supportive of growth of local business and streamlined regulations.
8. A Community of Learners - A center of lifelong education and learning for residents of all ages.
9. Strong Local and Regional Partnerships - Partnerships among government, business, institutions, nonprofits, and communities across the region.
10. Communication, Transparency and Community Participation - Young people are engaged in civic life. Residents and businesses are well-informed and involved in decision-making.