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Subject: Some pertinent articles to our Central West discussion  
Sent: Thu 9/5/2013 11:39 PM

Megan,

Two recent articles in the News and Observer have caught my eye of late and are pertinent to our discussions on Central West.

One is an article by Joan Lowy, the AP transportation sector reporter which documents our stated trend that the car culture is waning. This gives some long term hope to the traffic issues of the MLK/Estes intersection and also to the fact that multi-resident housing in this area could make use of the excellent public transportation access in Central West.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/stats-show-americans-not-driving-anymore>

And just today, the N&O reported on the trend that hotel companies are investing millions in refurbishing their lobbies as a gathering place. It seems the current clientele likes to mix and mingle in the lobby to work on their computers, have food and drink or just hang out (feeling that their rooms are too isolating). Should there be a hotel use in the plan, this could augment the sense of a gathering place for the "walkable" community because the hotels want to draw from both residents and locals in this new lobby outreach. Similar to a Starbucks, the lobby offers free WiFi, a sense of companionship and pleasant surroundings much like Hemingway's "clean, well-lighted place."

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/09/04/3164258/making-hotel-lobby-a-place-to.html>

Please provide these comments to the steering committee and to the Central West site.

Thanks in advance,

Kathryn Butler