Density In The Desert:

Analyzing Tucson's Infill Incentive District

Brad Nelson | Sustainable Built Environments 498H | Senior Capstone

Introduction

The Infill Incentive District was created in 2006 and adopted into the city's development code in 2009. The program had several intentions that were cited in efforts to make downtown Tucson a more attractive place to live and visit. City council appears satisfied with the results, choosing to extend the program until January 2023.

Literature Examination

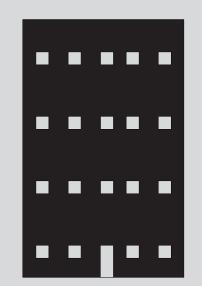
Multiple programs related to zoning and programs which relax it's use were analyzed. One common factor remained constant in the analysis; stricter zoning reduced the construction of new housing while increasing pricing. This was consistent regardless of country or municiplaity size. Municipalities with less strict development regulations were more affordable and options more abundant.

Program Goals

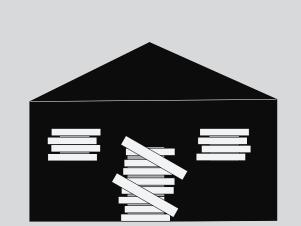








Increase Density

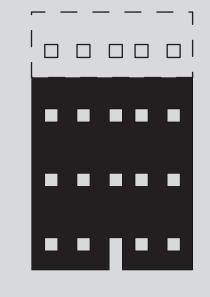


Reduce Blight

Program Incentives







Increased Permissible Height, Reduced Building Setbacks

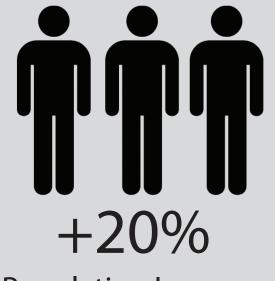


Reduced Parking Requirments

Data Analysis

To determine the success of the goals set out by city council, analysis of population, alternative transit methods, additions to multi-family dwellings and visual changes over time were examined. While other projects were built without utilizing the benefits of the Infill Incentive District, the impacts of this program on it's target area were evident.

Housing, Commerce and Population



Population Increase 2010-2020



New Multi-Unit Dwellings

Approved



Square Feet Of New Office, **Retail And Entertainment**

Blight Reduction









Transportation



Miles Travelled By **E-scooters During** 5-Month Pilot



Increase In Sun Link Ridership Comparing June 2020 and June 2021 Nov 2017- Dec 2019



Miles Commuted On Tugo BikeShare

Conclusion

The Infill Incentive District made progress in every aspect that it sought to achieve. Population increases of 20% within the district over a ten-year period, alternatives to personal vehicle use, reduction of dated and vacant structures and the approval of 2,199 new units of multi-family housing prove that the program yielded desirable results. The city's extension of the program will certainly yield more of these successes.

