

# What is a node?

Development nodes<sup>i</sup> are geographic points where economic or social resources/activities are (or will be) concentrated for the benefit of a community. Nodes facilitate cost effective economic and community development efforts by pulling people, resources and certain land uses together within a close distance.

*In Urban Planning and Design, a node can be<sup>ii</sup>...*

- a geographic location
  - neighborhoods, intersections, roadways
- a site of activity and interaction
  - commercial & business corridors, public squares, civic centers, parks
- a location of interest that attracts people
  - historic landmarks, libraries, churches, community centers
- part of a network including other nodes in the urban fabric
  - links pedestrian pathways, public transit stops, natural convergence of rivers (Pittsburgh!)



A. Nodes can vary in size/scale from a building or intersection to a neighborhood or city.

B. Local examples of nodes may include...

- The City of Pittsburgh
- The Hill District
- Herron Hill Park
- The Lower Hill
- Mellon Arena
- The Hill Library
- The Hill House
- Freedom Corner
- August Wilson House
- New Granada Theater
- Centre & Kirkpatrick
- Wylie Avenue



<sup>i</sup> Dept. Of Local Government Affairs and Traditional Affairs, Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. 2004. Spatial development framework. Accessed June 11, 2010 from devplan.kzntl.gov.za/idp\_reviewed/.../Attachment\_E\_Sp\_Frm\_Text.pdf

<sup>ii</sup> Salinger, N. (1998). Theory of the Urban Web. *Journal of Urban Design* 3, p. 53-71.

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## Considerations in Identifying Nodes

- What is the community's/municipality's objective in promoting a development node? For example:
  - Promoting a green and sustainable environment
  - Providing employment opportunities via job creation or job growth
  - Repopulation/increased tax base
  - Stimulating a neighborhood/municipal economy
  - Preserving history
  - Providing recreation
- What is the type of development that should be encouraged in these areas (highest and best use)?
- What is it that the community/municipality should do to encourage the growth and protection of nodes, so that they will flourish (neighborhood/municipal and other support needed for long-term sustainability).
- How will existing community members within the area be impacted by changes caused by development? This includes:
  - affordability
  - potential displacement
  - other social, economic, environmental impact for residents
  - what community benefits will accrue

***Key Question: What are/should be the Greater Hill District Key Nodes?***