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Three city spots being considered for makeovers

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HURST -- Hurst Town Center will get a new look anchored by a 45,000-square-foot convention center.

City Manager Allan Weegar unveiled plans Thursday to add a convention center, a three-level parking deck, stores and apartments to the Town Center campus at Thousand Oaks Drive and Precinct Line Road.

Plans also call for making Thousand Oaks more walkable with new landscaping, lighting and amenities, such as fountains and roundabouts.

"We're trying to re-create these areas into a mixed-use concept," Weegar said.

Weegar's presentation was part of the HEB Chamber of Commerce membership breakfast at which city managers from Hurst, Euless and Bedford spoke about the robust state of their cities. Weegar's presentation also included plans to redevelop Pipeline Road around the Bellaire Shopping Center and near the planned Fire Station No. 2.

The three projects, which have no cost estimates, are at least two to five years away from construction, city officials said. They hinge on participation from landowners, Assistant City Manager Jeff Jones said.

"This is to create a feel where people can live, work and shop," he said.

Hurst Town Center currently houses City Hall, restaurants, retailer CompUSA and hotels such as AmeriSuites and Hampton Inn.

Because the city is 96 percent developed, officials say they must revitalize existing sections to maintain the city's tax base. Weegar said a convention center would be booked for more than two years even before it opens.

In addition to the Town Center, the new Hurst Fire Station No. 2 off West Pipeline Road will be rebuilt as a mixed-use project, aimed at sparking redevelopment of the area. In November, Hurst voters approved the \$2.5 million fire station, which is expected to be built by 2008, as part of an \$11.8 million bond package.

"The design is going to hearken back to the urban two- or three-story fire stations you see more in older cities in the Northeast," Hurst Development Manager Mike Morgan said.

The Bellaire Shopping Center will be redeveloped with Artisan Center Theater as an anchor surrounded by shops, city buildings and apartments.

The project is "one we're very excited about," Weegar said.



Courtesy photo

This artist's rendering shows what's in store -- no sooner than two years from now -- for Hurst Town Center.

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