

New retail district plan in works

By [Jared Leone](#), Times Staff Writer

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TEMPLE TERRACE — The city's seven-years-in-the-making, multimillion-dollar plan to redevelop a downtown strip mall into a walkable, mixed-use shopping district may inch forward this month.

The Community Redevelopment Agency will vote Tuesday on the latest proposed agreement with Vlass Group. Members of the public will also get a chance to voice their opinion and ask questions.

Vlass is the third developer to sign on to tackle the project. Based in Atlanta, it follows developers Ram Pinnacle and Orlando-based Unicorp., both of which backed out of the project.

"We are hoping the meeting on the 30th will shed some light on what happens next," said Mike Dunn, the city spokesman.

The city has worked for more than seven years on plans to redevelop its shopping core on 16.9 acres near N 56th Street and Bullard Parkway.

Plans for the project call for a \$150 million, 350,000-square-foot mixed-use development designed in a Mediterranean style.

If the agreement is approved Tuesday, it won't signal the start of construction, but will bring plans to build one step closer. The agreement gives Vlass two years to submit site plans for the project. Before that, though, the developer will have to line up tenants.

City manager Kim Leinbach took over as interim director of redevelopment in October after Mike Marshall, the city's director for redevelopment, resigned after six months on the job.

Leinbach said the shovels can be stowed — for now.

"It still is paperwork at this point but it will be the foundation of which the project will develop," said Leinbach. "But they (the developer) are as anxious as we are to get going," Leinbach said.

Jared Leone can be reached at (813) 269-5314 or jleone@sptimes.com.

If you go

What: Community Redevelopment Agency meeting to discuss a proposed development agreement

When: The Temple Terrace City Council will have its regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday; the CRA will meet directly afterward.

Where: City Hall, 11250 N 56th St. Call (813) 506-6400.
