

DATE: July 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Walters State Community College Master Plan

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Approval

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Campus master plans are an essential element of higher education public policy. Master plans provide an opportunity for long-range planning that incorporates the institution’s needs and ambitions, while also providing the public and state government a sense for how the institution might evolve over time. Whether the acquisition of strategic property, the need for and efficient use of facilities, or an analysis of how the campus footprint meshes with the surrounding community, master plans provide a method of anticipating and preparing for the future needs of the campus and the students it serves. THEC requires institutions to produce a master plan every ten years that addresses short-, mid-, and long-term needs of the campus with respect to building and land use, open space, vehicular circulation and parking, and land acquisition opportunities. Pursuant to THEC Policy 4.1.30B, institutions may amend a master plan in consideration of changes that are consistent with the objectives of the original plan.

MASTER PLAN SUMMARY

Walters State Community college has four state-owned campuses, including its main campus in Morristown, that serve students in ten counties in east Tennessee. In Fall of 2019, Walters State served over 6,200 students (headcount) and had a full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of over 4,200.

A number of recommendations of the previous Master Plan have been implemented since that plan was completed in 2008. These include the construction of the Student Services Building and signage improvements on the main campus, and the construction of the completely new Niswonger campus in Greenville.

Morristown Campus

The campus planning and design firm, TSW, used the THEC Space Model, campus input, and regional demographic data to develop the Master Plan. The Master Plan also looked at regional demographic considerations based on the TBR Education and Workforce Maps, including population growth and the job outlook in sectors related to Walters State degree programs. Space formulas do not indicate a need for new space on the main campus, so the Master Plan focuses on improvements to existing facilities, including modernizations throughout campus and a renovation and migration project to create a centralized student hub, providing all student services in a consolidated location near a new entrance plaza. Due to TDOT work since the last master plan, the main campus no longer has an identifiable primary entrance. The Master Plan recommends projects to enhance the entrance sequence and outdoor space for students. Construction of the arrival plaza, as well as improvements to landscaping, the quad, and parking are recommended.

Other Campuses

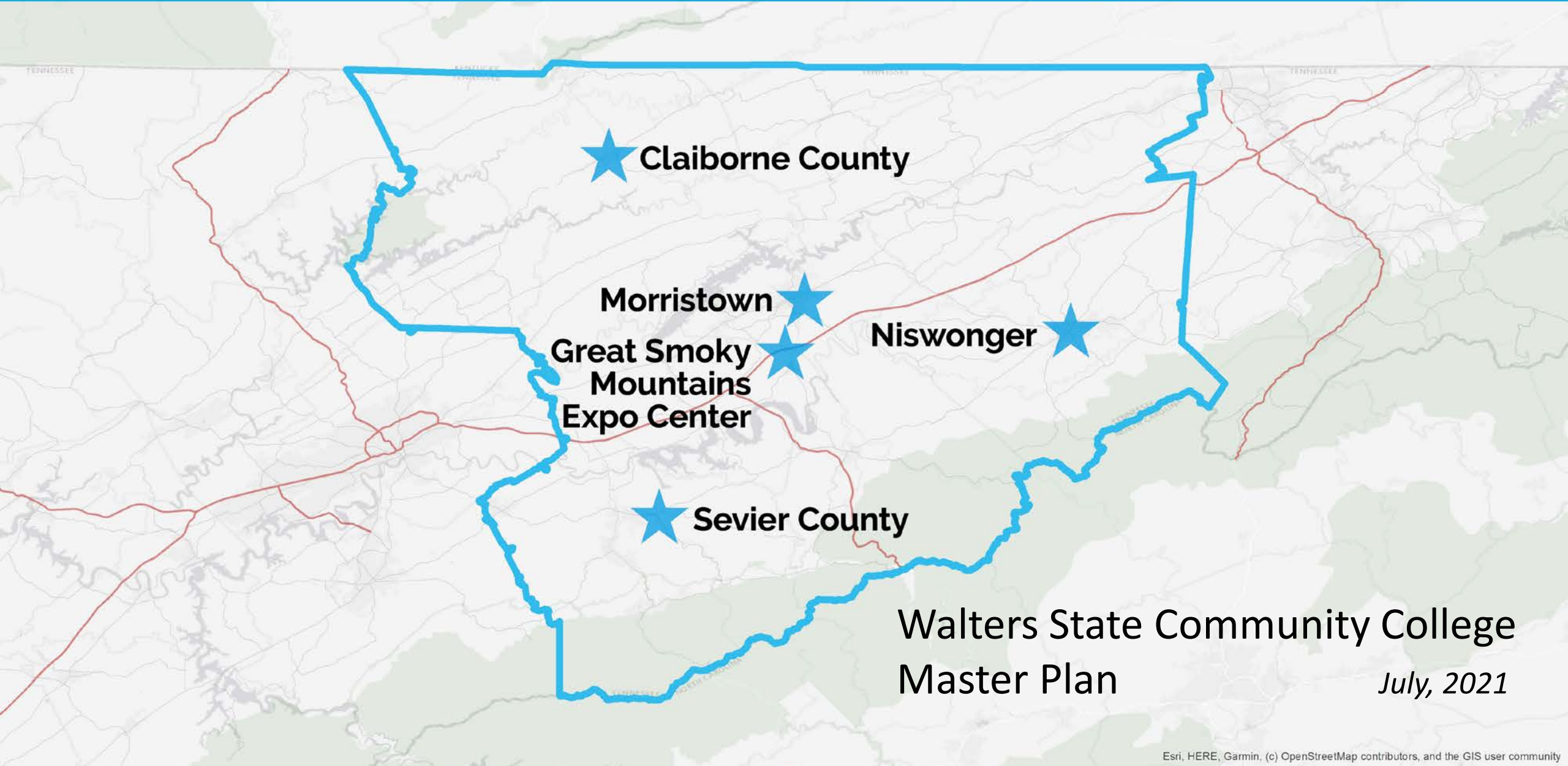
When enrollment growth exceeds the capacity of the Sevier County Campus, it is recommended to continue development of buildings around the central quad. These should include academic space, and to provide other services as the site becomes a true campus with more administrative, study, and gathering functions. Recommended improvements on this campus include better monumental signage, updates to landscaping, and an outdoor classroom.

The Great Smoky Mountains Expo Center is also part of Walters State. The Master Plan recommends several needed improvements to this facility, including new roofing and flooring. The Master Plan also recommends land acquisition on the Morristown and Niswonger (Greenville) campuses, as well as at the Expo Center. Maintenance and minor renovation projects are also recommended at all campuses to better utilize existing space, attract and retain students, and improve access.

RECOMMENDATION

The 2021 Walters State Master Plan provides a comprehensive and flexible plan to guide all campuses for the next decade. THEC staff recommends it for approval.

CAMPUS LOCATIONS



★ Claiborne County

Morristown
★
Great Smoky Mountains
★
Expo Center

Niswonger ★

★ Sevier County

Walters State Community College
Master Plan
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MORRISTOWN CAMPUS



SEVIER COUNTY CAMPUS



NISWONGER CAMPUS



CLAIBORNE COUNTY CAMPUS



MORRISTOWN CONCEPT PLAN



Parking Lot Plantings

New Campus Hub

New Athletic Facilities

Arrival Plaza

Quad Improvements

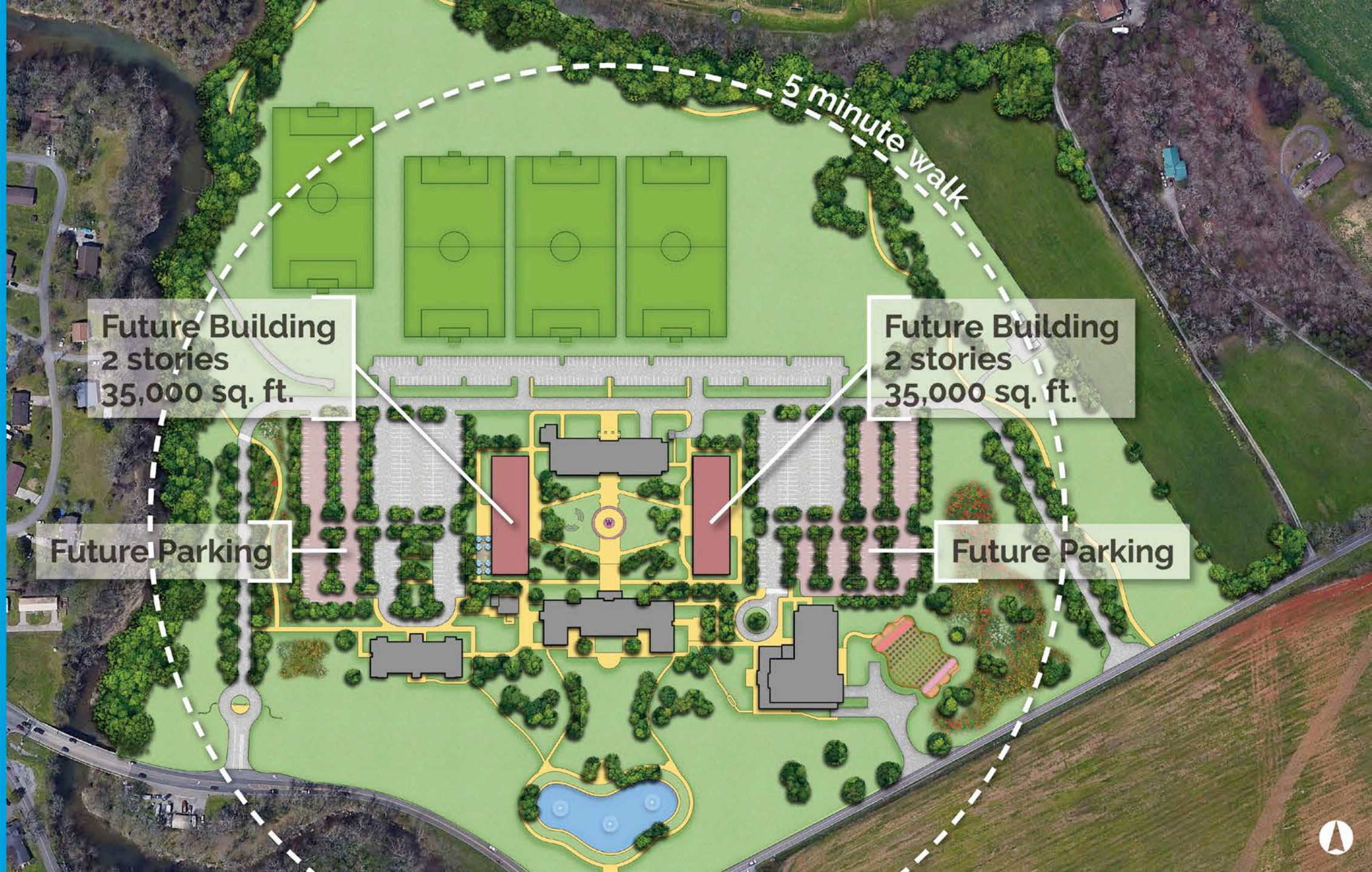
Entrance Improvements

TN HWY 32

BUSINESS & TECH
NATURAL SCIENCE
MATH & SOCIAL SCIENCE
LIBRARY
HUMANITIES
STUDENT SERVICES
COLLEGE CENTER



SEVIER COUNTY MASTER PLAN



Future Building
2 stories
35,000 sq. ft.

Future Building
2 stories
35,000 sq. ft.

Future Parking

Future Parking

