



Mountain View General Plan Update Neighborhood Workshop:

SAN ANTONIO / RENGSTORFF AREA

June 3, 2009

Castro Elementary School

Introduction

This first round of City-wide General Plan update workshops were designed to 1) reaffirm and refine community input received during the 2008 General Plan Visioning process; and 2) focus on neighborhood specific General Plan issues from participants who live and work in the specific neighborhood area of the City. Input from these meetings will help inform the development of General Plan update policies and land use alternatives.

In addition to City-wide neighborhood workshops, additional targeted outreach meetings have been held with a variety of groups, including business owners, youth, seniors, and non-English speaking groups. Input from these meetings will also be included in the General Plan update process.

General Plan Update – Discussion Topics

Workshop participants participated in small group exercises to discuss the following citywide topics: 1) Economic and Community Development; 2) Open Space and Conservation; 3) Health and Safety; and 4) Climate Change and Sustainability. They also discussed the following specific neighborhood level topics: 1) Land-Use and Design; 2) Housing; 3) Transportation; and 4) Public Facilities and Infrastructure.

During the small group discussions, facilitators used prompts developed from the community during the General Plan Visioning process, and from staff and consultant expertise regarding specific challenges and issues. These prompts not only assisted participants by providing additional information and context, but also helped reaffirm and refine prior feedback on current and future challenges and issues that have been identified by the community.

The following is a summary of the small group discussions from the **June 3, 2009** meeting at **Castro Elementary School**. The feedback collected from workshop participants is summarized by citywide and neighborhood topics.

Citywide Policy Questions

1. *Economic and Community Development*

North Bayshore Area

- Provide more schools in the North Bayshore Area.

San Antonio Center

San Antonio Center is outdated and redevelopment is necessary to improve the design and cohesiveness of the Center.

- Consider locating a mall at the San Antonio Shopping Center that is family-oriented, with large retailers, such as Macy's, and has a food court with a variety of ethnic foods. Currently the closest malls are located at Stanford Shopping Center or Valley Fair Shopping Center.
- Provide more senior housing near the San Antonio Transit Station where residents could have immediate access to transit.
- Consider high-end residential units or senior housing at San Antonio Center because of proximity to retail opportunities.
- Allow mixed-use at San Antonio Center to be horizontally or vertically mixed.
- Allow increased heights at San Antonio Center with a variety of uses such as hospitality, residential and office.
- Retain San Antonio Center as a regional shopping hub.
- Provide better pedestrian connections that do not go through parking lots at the San Antonio Center.
- Improve the existing pedestrian connection in San Antonio Center.
- Increase the floor area ratio and assemble parcels to revitalize San Antonio Center.

El Camino Real

The redevelopment of El Camino is important to create a vibrant commercial corridor with a variety of uses.

- Beautify El Camino Real by allowing more verticality, vitality and a greater tenant mixture, such as restaurants and retail.
- Allow increased heights on El Camino Real between 3- to 10-stories.
- Encourage parcel consolidation to eliminate the number of curb cuts and narrow parcels on El Camino Real.

General

- Provide more family oriented, low-income housing throughout the City.
- Increase the day care areas throughout Mountain View.
- Provide more uses throughout the City similar to uses currently provided at Shoreline Park.

- Provide senior housing near the City's Senior Center.

Comment Card

- Do not build any more housing, smart growth is not working. Examples of failed smart growth in South San Jose and hillsides of San Jose.

2. *Open Space and Conservation*

Parks and Trails

The existing parks and trails are important to the community and should be maintained and upgraded in the future.

- Provide more access along creek trails to access regional open spaces.
- Create an array of conceptual designs for parks of all sizes.
- Provide dedicated bike trails or parallel access along major roads that lead to Shoreline Park and other existing parks.
- Provide more trails near schools.
- Provide more access for bikes and trails.

General

- Provide more recreation areas and activities specifically for teens such as swimming pools and a youth center. Locate the teen centers in areas that are accessible for large population areas.
- Consider adding open space at the San Antonio Center, such as a plaza area, that would allow for outdoor eating areas for families and teens.
- Provide more areas for community gardens where vegetables can be grown for food to provide for the homeless.
- Build higher density and more affordable housing to preserve open space.
- Consider providing pathways or areas for bicycles only, so that they do not have to share with pedestrians.

Comment Card

- Development fees do not provide enough funding for open space.

3. Health and Safety

Landscaping

Additional landscaping should be installed throughout the City for a healthier and safer environment.

- Plant additional trees along the running trails.
- Plant additional shrubbery for pedestrian safety and security along trails.
- Adopt a City-wide policy on planting more greenery, shrubs and trees throughout the City.

Safety

- Provide more efficient lighting throughout the City and adjust existing streetlights to come on earlier.
- Improve the frequency and reliability of police services.
- Increase safety around buses and bus stops.

Pedestrians and Bicycles

More amenities for pedestrians and bicycles should be provided to provide safe paths to and from destinations.

- Improve the bike circulation patterns.
- Improve the pedestrian connection from Caltrain to El Camino Real through the San Antonio Shopping Center.
- Allow pedestrian and bike paths within the railroad right-of-way so people using the train can go directly from the train to the trails. There are examples in Palo Alto.
- Provide a more pleasant area to walk around the City and a better pedestrian experience.

San Antonio Center

- Search for creative ways to integrate a Farmer's Market into San Antonio Center.
- Enforce current issues with the San Antonio Center including RV parking and the recycling center.

General

- Provide more low-income housing, day cares and preschools.
- Extend the light rail line to the Shoreline Amphitheatre.
- Search for creative ways to integrate a Farmer's Market into San Antonio Center.
- Improve the integration of major transit hubs and areas, such as Caltrain, El Camino Real and the VTA transfer center near San Antonio Center.

Comment Card

- More jobs in Mountain View do not equal the need for more housing. People do not necessarily want to live near their work.

4. Climate Change and Sustainability

Water

Availability of water will impact future development.

- Consider the impact of water issues on limiting development.
- Address concern about lack of water and the decline of our waterways.
- Require new development to include green building, low water usage and be walkable.

Recycling and Composting

- Implement a ban on the use of plastic bags throughout the City to reduce plastic in our landfills.
- Create a program for composting and provide compost areas throughout the City.
- Continue communicating and educating residents on the City's current recycling program, e-waste and HazMat programs.

General

- Enforce the smoking law in public places.
- Provide solar-powered street lighting, specifically at Rengstorff Park along trails and around schools.
- Provide more greenery, shrubs and planting throughout the City.
- Educate and encourage families to bike and walk more. Educate people to bike to school and bike to shopping.

Comment Card

- No more housing, stop building. There will always be people who choose to drive farther in order to live in a larger house.

Neighborhood Questions

1. Land Use and Design

San Antonio Center

An amendment or update to the existing development standards is imperative to the redevelopment of San Antonio Center.

- Modify the San Antonio Center Precise Plan to incorporate flexibility to allow developers to respond to the market and tenant demands. Only list uses that are prohibited rather than listing what is allowed. The current documents are too restrictive.
- Allow high-density housing in San Antonio Center.
- Develop the San Antonio Center as a destination stop.
- Provide mixed-use consisting of residential and commercial uses at the San Antonio Center at a maximum of 2-3 stories in height.
- Allow horizontal mixed-use instead of vertical mixed-use. Horizontal mixed-use would allow lower-rise buildings with a mixture of commercial retail, office, housing and schools.
- Provide a hotel at San Antonio Center.

City Review Process

- Allow CEQA review to be at a project-level analysis rather than cumulative-level analysis in order to streamline approval of new projects.
- Streamline the City's development approval process.

General

- Provide more churches in the neighborhood.
- Develop higher density developments near transit.
- Allow more daycares in residential neighborhoods.

2. Housing

General

- Develop more low-income housing for large families (four people or more in a household).
- Preserve the existing open space and do not redevelop those areas for new development.
- Provide more government housing due to the number of employees employed by the NASA Moffett Airfield.

Comment Card

- Water is an issue and building needs to stop.
- No housing at San Antonio Center. Provide more services, retail, etc.

3. Transportation

Public Transportation

Improvements throughout the City should be made to the rail and bus system to increase efficiency and service.

- Create a community bus and/or shuttle program with stops at the San Antonio Center, Downtown, Senior Center and the Library.
- Provide additional stops for VTA buses along El Camino Real, California Street and Rengstorff Avenue.
- Provide better access from San Antonio Center to the Downtown.
- Increase the number of buses or possibly trips along El Camino Real and California Street.
- Need additional buses on Rengstorff Avenue or consider redefining the routes throughout the City.

Pedestrian Access

- Provide a pedestrian grade separation crossing at Central Expressway and Rengstorff Avenue.

Streets and Traffic

- Improve the intersection at Latham Street and Escuela Avenue, which is located near Mariano Castro Elementary School.
- Consider implementing a drop-off area to accommodate buses near the Latham Street/Escuela Avenue intersection or wider streets in this area.
- Coordinate with the City of Palo Alto to widen San Antonio Road to three lanes.
- Reduce traffic on Gabriel Avenue.

4. Public Facilities and Infrastructure

Rengstorff Park

Upgrading and revitalizing Rengstorff Park will meet the high demand and needs of the community.

- Add areas at Rengstorff Park specifically for strollers, babies and small children.
- Revitalize Rengstorff Community Center, Rengstorff Park and improve the tennis courts, comparable to Cuesta Park.
- Provide safe rubberized playgrounds at Rengstorff Park.

Public Facilities

Additional public facilities and buildings should be provided to help meet the needs of the community in the future.

- Build another adult school.
- Build a second Library located in another portion of town.
- Provide more community swimming pools.

Pedestrians

Pedestrian pathways should be improved to increase pedestrians safety.

- Improve the crosswalks near Mariano Castro Elementary School, El Camino Real and Showers Drive. Also consider adding pedestrian crosswalks at these intersections that have lights or flashing warning lights.
- Provide more places to walk.
- Provide more grade separated crossings for pedestrians.

General

- VTA needs to address cleanliness on the No. 22 bus.
- Provide a City-wide shuttle service.
- Widen San Antonio Road.

Comments from youth participant

1. What I want in Mountain View

- More open space and places to gather.
- A shopping mall.

2. What I like about Mountain View

- More fun field trips that you can get together and see what people around Mountain View do.
- People who work for Mountain View can come and kids can see what they do.