

**PLANSB – WORKSHOP SUMMARY
JUNE 16, 2007 - LA CASA DE LA RAZA**

GENERAL LARGE GROUP THOUGHTS ABOUT SANTA BARBARA

Housing/Neighborhoods

- Affordable rental housing
- Multi-generational
- Small feel know our neighbors
- Sanctuary for vagrants

Transportation

- Make alternative transportation attractive and safer
- Walk-able/bike-able

Environment

- Active Community
- A City for everyone – Sustainability
- Energy efficient
- Beach – scenic/recreation
- Ocean Air
- Mountains/sense of openness
- Think globally/act locally
- Consider effects of global warming
- Nuclear free zone

Other Visions/Comments about SB

- Inspiring others
- Perfect size – big enough for cultural amenities
- People care about the community – creativity/diversity
- Legacy of planning and environmental conservation
- Recreational institutions – youthful energy
- Exciting Atmosphere – fun to live downtown
- Community gardens
- Traffic flow
- Political will to not exploit SB
- Healthy City of Santa Barbara
- Natural Corridors
- Mountain Views
- Hope for the future
- Healthy City

SMALL GROUP COMMENTS

Groups #1 & #2

OVERALL THEMES

1. Reduce auto orientation
2. Need affordable housing
3. Preserve environment

HOUSING/NEIGHBORHOODS

- Use space above Highway 101 corridor for housing
- Need subsidized rental housing
- Housing stock is wrong type, need affordable rentals
- Eliminate requirement for residential parking
- Create registered house-sitting and sitters to use empty houses
- “American dream” of a house and yard even with commuting is still preferred
- Low-density residential is not environmentally friendly
- Need a range of housing types
- Need short-term transfer fee to discourage housing speculation
- Recycle existing housing
- Need housing for service workers

TRANSPORTATION

- Consider all impacts of parking
- Charge for on-street parking
- End subsidization of automobiles
- Eliminate parking for new residences
- Better bike paths
- Reduce speed limits downtown to 15 mile per hour
- Consider regional traffic congestion
- Close State Street to automobiles

ECONOMY

Need diverse economy

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Land use goes hand-in-hand with transportation
- Create high-density housing in parking lots
- Eliminate parking downtown
- Improve mass transit
- Limit cars and parking at subsidized housing for workers
- Use alternative energy to preserve our environment
- Keep development away from mountains and beaches, preserve views
- All issues are related to environment
- Need incentives to reduce carbon footprint

URBAN DESIGN

- Need three-story height limits

- Preserve view corridors as compromise to allow future growth

POLICY CONFLICTS

- Difficult to implement solar, especially in El Pueblo Viejo
- Need affordable housing via secondary units
- Open space/views vs. high density
- Need to enforce zoning—no modifications

“BIG” IDEAS PRESENTED TO LARGER GROUP

1. Use space above Highway 101 corridor for housing
2. Create registered house-sitting and sitters to use empty houses
3. Need incentives to reduce carbon footprint
4. Reduce speed limits downtown to 15 mile per hour

Group #3

OVERALL THEMES

- Housing affordability/ cost of living is a big issue which affects economy/ ability to provided needed workers and affects quality of life and stress for many residents. Need workforce housing, rental housing, housing for multi-generations to live here.
- Automobile transportation creates traffic, air pollution, and water pollution. Need Alternative Modes - better bus, rail, and carpool programs for the many commuters; promote and provide safe facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
- Community health facilities and programs are needed for mental health, drug addiction, senior population needs, gang violence, and child care.

Note that items with * are ideas, suggested solutions, visions for addressing issues.

HOUSING/NEIGHBORHOODS

- Stress created in many persons due to housing affordability issues
- Need workforce housing for 20%+ commuters
- Reduce # jobs/ restrict job creation
- Require residents to have jobs
- Need many professionals – impact of housing costs – can’t attract needed workers
- Need more rental housing – scattered all around the city
- Keep single-family aspect of the city
- All attractive places have affordability issues – it is inevitable
- Desire for housing parents/ multi-generational households.
- Proposition 13 effects.
- Empty homes / house sitters – potential for new policy? Potential for non-profits or others to create connections.
- Price of housing constrains demand.
- 58% households are renters – the flip of nationwide figure – renting is a bargain here.
- Should promote more ownership opportunities, e.g., convert apartments to condos.

TRANSPORTATION

- 20%+ commuters
- Means of commuting is the problem – need better buses, rail
- Carpooling used in past as solution – need good match pools with on-line service (Traffic Solutions website noted)
- Cycling safety is an issue – cycling is not respected – partly because police don't live here – police on bikes would help – Eastside and Westside bicycle police reinstated.
- Safer cycling lanes would have an immediate beneficial effect.

ECONOMY

- The question we need to grapple with is “Can Santa Barbara enjoy a healthy economy without population growth?”
- Many people live and work here, and then retire and stay here, which doesn't make room for new workers.
- Encourage retirees to continue to work – benefits them and the economy
- The area cannot pay for health professionals needed – can't recruit the quality workers needed due to cost of living.
- Land value – what effect on economy?
- Tourist-based economy
- Regional business center
- More emphasis on telecommuting – also has a traffic benefit.

ENVIRONMENT

All topics are interrelated: Transportation, Housing, etc.

Need to promote Green Building, Alternative Transportation, etc.

Impact of auto transportation and commuting – air quality and water quality effects

Need to reduce traffic and use of automobile

- Promote pedestrian lifestyle
- Safety and feasibility of pedestrian and bicycle use is needed
- Zoning affects this – creates separation of uses requiring transportation – mixed uses allows living and working in close proximity and reduces transportation.
- Creeksides – good place for neighborhood parks
- Reduce asphalt-based paving for roads – use newer materials (NYC uses recycled glass)
- Slurry evaporates causing air pollution, or erodes and runs off creating waterway pollution
- Also reduce permeable surfaces
- City street sweeping is good to reduce water pollution
- Joe Rution written comment submitted to facilitator: Environment (Transportation) (Re: concern about pursuing goals that might be unrealistic) Even if we were able to reduce car use by – pick a number representing our wildest dreams – 50%? - would that in fact appreciably (or even perceptibly) affect our local air quality? If not, why risk making enemies by appearing unnecessarily anti-car, if it is non-productive as a practical matter. I urge caution in tying anti-car proposals to local air pollution: We should make sure that any proposals we make intending to affect or influence auto use in the City can be substantiated by some respected, credible data. Unless we can demonstrate a credible nexus, opponents stand to beat us over the head with it and make us look foolish. If not air quality, then we need some other supportable nexus.

COMMUNITY DESIGN

Not discussed.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES

- Much suffering here – homelessness, depression, drug addiction, etc.
- Need mental health wellness drop-in center (Project for new facility across the street from 630 Garden was noted)
- Franklin Center provided mental health functions – then budget cuts, and it is now a senior center
- County health department facilities are not adequate
- Senior population needs – outpatient, residential, mobility when lose drivers license
- Seniors move downtown, or services brought to them
- Marborg recycling facility is great. Substantial recycling is now occurring, and keeps increasing
- Need to put more effort into Franklin School area and other Core areas
- Huge drug problems and gang violence
- Need to know our problems, look at options, and identify creative solutions
- Get seniors working with youth
- Free child-care center
- Licensing of child care changes the nature of, and constrains child care
- Keep seniors engaged – some like to work with kids
- Allow innovation – balance with regulation
- Senior meals project – Rather than \$8.00 to produce a senior meal and ship it to a center, create coupon program run by participating restaurants – provides good will for restaurants

OTHER

Community Health should be an additional general topic.

“BIG” IDEAS PRESENTED TO LARGER GROUP

- Housing affordability issues need to be addressed
- Promote alternative transportation/ walkability/ bicycling
- Promote community health

Group #4

OVERALL THEMES

- Transportation / Community Design – Milpas Street needs to be improved, particularly the pedestrian and cycling amenities which are lacking.
- Gang Violence – Public officials such as judges and probation officers should help to educate parents on their rights/responsibilities and on how to discipline and support their children.
- Education – Educate the public on various topics such as recycling, building requirements, traffic rules, etc.

HOUSING/NEIGHBORHOODS

- Falta comunicación con la comunidad Latina.
- Los garajes están convertidos en viviendas.
- No participa la gente por temor de perder sus viviendas.
- No se esta manteniendo limpia los áreas públicos.
- Las carpas que usan para cubrir los carros son horribles.
- Las carpas cubren viviendas ilegales.
- Educar el público en las reglas cuando van a fincar viviendas.
- Ay carros viejos abandonados.
- Communication is needed with the Latin community.
- Garages are converted into housing.
- People do not participate out of fear of losing their housing.
- The public areas are not being maintained clean.
- The tarps used to cover cars are horrible.
- The tarps cover illegal housing.
- Educate the public on the rules on how to build housing.
- There are abandoned vehicles on properties.

TRANSPORTATION

- El transporte es bueno.
- Se necesita educación en las reglas de tráfico.
- The transportation is good.
- Education is needed on traffic rules.

ECONOMY

Negocios chicos no sobreviven porque las rentas están muy altas.

Small businesses are not surviving because the rents are too high.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Se necesita educación de reciclaje.
- No limpian la playa bien; esta muy sucia.
- Los servicios no han crecido con la población.
- Education is needed on recycling.
- The beach is not cleaned properly; it is very dirty.
- The services have not grown with the population.

COMMUNITY DESIGN

- La calle Milpas es peligrosa porque ay muchos usos en las banquetas.
- Milpas tiene que ser mejorada para bicicletas.
- Los ciclistas no respetan la ley.
- Las banquetas están muy angostas en el
- Milpas Street is dangerous because there are many uses on the sidewalks.
- Milpas Street needs to be improved for cyclists.
- The cyclists don't respect the laws.
- The sidewalks are too narrow on the

Eastside.

- Estacionan los carros en las banquetas.
- Las leyes de estacionamiento no son esforzadas en los barrios del este y oeste.
- El centro esta muy angosto. Goleta esta más ancho.

Eastside.

- People park their cars blocking sidewalks.
- The laws are not being enforced in the Eastside and Westside neighborhoods.
- The downtown area is too narrow. The one in Goleta is wider.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES

- Se necesita mas presencia de policia en los barrios.
- La ciudad esta creciendo muy rápido.
- More police presence is needed in the neighborhoods.
- The city is growing too rapidly.

OTHER

- Problemas con las gangas.
- Educar los padres en como disciplinar sus hijos y darles autoridad.
- Los jueces deberían hablar con los padres para educar y apoyar los padres.
- Problems with gangs.
- Educate parents on how to discipline their children and empower the parents.
- The judges should speak with the parents to educate and support them.

“BIG” IDEAS PRESENTED TO LARGER GROUP

- Los jueces deberían hablar con los padres para educar y apoyar los padres.
- La calle Milpas es peligrosa porque ay muchos usos en las banquetas.
- Se necesita educación en las reglas de tráfico.
- The judges should speak with the parents to educate and support them.
- Milpas Street is dangerous because there are many uses on the sidewalks. It needs to be improved.
- Education is needed on traffic rules.