

Plan
BayArea
2040

Focus on Sonoma County

Sonoma County

Spring 2015 Public Engagement Open House Comments, by County

Open House: Thursday, May 7, 2015
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Friedman Center, Santa Rosa

Goals and Targets Station Feedback

At the **Goals and Targets Station**, participants received information about the current goals and targets for Plan Bay Area, as well as the process underway to update them. Participants were asked to select their top three personal priorities from the list of current goals and targets for Plan Bay Area, and to post their other ideas on an adjoining additional board.

Below are the responses when tallied across the nine-county region, and the tally from participants at the Sonoma County Open House.



Question: Is anything missing from these goals? *Below are responses from the Sonoma County Open House.*

The goals as stated here are too aggressive and not achievable. They need to be more realistic.

Free Transit. Step 1: Free student bus passes. Step 2: Seniors and Veterans and Disabled people. Step 3: Everyone.

Missing: 1) What kind of jobs that growth will generate. 2) Goals & Performance Targets for creating living-wage and middle-wage jobs.

Missing: 3) Should strengthen protections that stop lower- and middle-income families from being driven out of the Bay Area.

Let free enterprise work. Minimize government. Historically, free enterprise has done the best for the most.

Open space preservation should include urban open space -- especially if we are going to promote higher density housing! Preserve views and wildlife corridors

Yes to the comment above regarding [preserving] urban open space, views, wildlife corridors. Also watershed protection and restoration, ground water recharge, wildlife habitat.

What is the plan for 1) Fire, 2) Police, 3) School, 4) Water for these high-density housing complexes?

Our Constitution! Property Rights!

Emphasis on Active Transportation. Would like to see goal specific to this.

Question: What are the biggest challenges facing your community? The Bay Area? *Below are responses from the Sonoma County Open House.*

Regional governments

More emphasis on safe routes for bicycles, including dedicated paths and lanes.

Too many cars. Promote bicycles, walking, rideshare.

Local water. Protect watershed and open space.

Housing that is appealing and affordable within urban growth boundaries.

Is there too much bureaucracy in this process?

Affordable housing.

Affordable local transit service.

Healthy and safe communities.

I would like to see more transit availability.

Climate change.

Water.

Senior and disabled transportation.

Affordable housing, especially for seniors.

Safe streets for bicyclists.

Safe streets for school kids.

Question: What are your ideas for solving these challenges? *Below are responses from the Sonoma County Open House.*

Abolish joint powers agreements and authorities.

Collaborating. Resource sharing.

Keep up the good work. Wise planning is essential.

Promote active transportation.

Develop "villages" to accommodate services, housing, etc. in a space where walking, bicycling is convenient.

Transportation Station Feedback

How should we support the mobility needs of Bay Area residents now and over the next quarter-century? The Transportation Station included displays about currently planned local and regional transportation projects (highways, public transit, bicycle/pedestrian, local road improvements, etc.). On an accompanying board, participants were asked to post ideas for new projects, then to share their biggest transportation challenges and offer solutions for improving their trips.

Question: What projects are missing? What would make it easier for you to get where you need to go? *Below are responses from the Sonoma County Open House.*

SMART Train, plus links to it!

Santa Rosa: Railroad Square development/housing

Need transit that serves the county -- we are a lot of territory with very few transit options

Encourage "transit-oriented services" to do business near bus terminals and major stops by "streamlining" permitting, etc.

Shuttles from the SMART stations to job sites

Affordable housing near SMART stations

Fareless transit!

SMART Train!

Need more affordable housing near transportation depots

Better transit in Sonoma County

Subsidized/free bus passes

Need active transportation on SE Greenways and trails throughout county

Cotati to Sebastopol bike trail

Bike to rails

Last mile investments

More emphasis on "active transportation," i.e., bike, pedestrian. More routes separate from vehicle traffic

More emphasis on bicycle paths away from vehicle traffic

More emphasis on pedestrian paths away from vehicle traffic

Need amenities at bus terminals (and major stops) to include bike racks, portapotties (or directions to nearby facilities), Wi-Fi available, and vending machines (at least with water, snacks, bike parts, etc.)

Buses don't run after 7 p.m. Unavailable to shoppers, students, jobs -- to get home.

Question: What are the biggest transportation challenges in your town? In the Bay Area? What would make it better? *Below are responses from the Sonoma County Open House.*

MTC and ABAG should specifically identify how they can cause free youth and student bus passes

Dedicate (Class 1?) bike paths on major pathways through the city of Santa Rosa

Widening of the Petaluma Narrows

More Class 1 bike trails needed. S.E. Greenway in Santa Rosa is huge opportunity

101 overcrossing needed: SRJC → Coddington

Buses from Cotati stop at Santa Rosa bus station (only); need to go straight to SRJC again! Later buses back the other way!

Affordability -- free student bus passes !!!

101 Traffic; extremely long construction projects.

No BART! Get people to the SMART train; stations without cars.

Buses don't run late enough. Buses don't come often enough.

Transit -- implement the Campos Amendment from PBA to make public transit accessible and affordable.

Lack of transit availability at certain times

Bathrooms at Transit Mall are locked at 7 p.m. GG Transit runs later. No guard or no one to unlock toilets and no businesses close by.

Bus transportation takes overly long to get anywhere and stops too early.

We need Bus Rapid Transit in the North Bay -- connecting city centers with job cluster areas running at frequent times.

Transit Mall is unattended after 7 p.m. It is isolated and frightening to some riders.

Free parking -- it makes bus fare seem expensive.

Looking Ahead Station Feedback

To plan for how best to invest in transportation and housing in the future, local agencies, regional agencies, private businesses and community organizations need information on what to expect: Who will live in the Bay area and where? Where will they work? What kinds of jobs and incomes will be available?

At the Looking Ahead Station, participants received information on how ABAG develops population and economy forecasts, as well as how past projections compared to actual numbers. Participants were asked to share their feedback on two key questions:

Question: What possibilities most excite you (about the future of your community)? *Below are responses from the Sonoma County Open House.*

Wages that pay for good places to live

City centered growth

Development focused in future around transportation depots/ ___

SMART train for the North Bay

Remapping the Santa Rosa CityBus system

Walkable places near the SMART stations

SMART -- but only if it goes to Larkspur

A strengthened transportation network around the SMART train

The Southeast Greenway Campaign

Great open space program.

Great bicycle opportunities.

The SMART Train.

SMART

Excited about: SMART Rail in SR

Excited about: Reimagining Santa Rosa CityBus

Excited about: Later specific peak service

Excited about: Housing along transit corridors

Excited about: Evolving good transit relate union jobs (EEJ)

The SE Greenway and a network of bike & ped trails linking our county together!

SMART Trail!

Question: What concerns you about the future of your community? Below are responses from the Sonoma County Open House.

Concerns: Has the "6 Wins" coalition three points been integrated into Plan 2040 since comments in 2013? ▪ \$220 Billion into operations. ▪ RHNA into PDAs ▪ EEJ into OBAG.

Reducing noise (loud motorcycles)

Concerns: The connection between transit funds and RHNA. City concerned about how RHNA is linked to funding for intercounty transit and coordination!

I worry that a small, vocal group of bullies -- Agenda 21 opponents -- can halt smart growth like MAD has in Larkspur

Transit in Sonoma County is awful.

Affordable housing

JOBS! What kind of jobs? PBA 2.0 should include goals and performance targets for creating living and middle wage jobs

Affordable housing especially for the younger population

Affordable housing for all!

Maintain urban growth boundaries

Loss of habitat/open space

Open space preservation

CO₂ -- global warming

Conversion of ag land to other uses

Affordable housing

Income inequality

Land use

Need affordable housing now!

Too much winery development and export of Sonoma County water

Transportation, open space, schools to accommodate growth

Too many people want too much government. Let free enterprise work.

Show good examples of existing density and transportation

Wages not keeping pace with cost of living

Traffic

Too many groups -- monoculture

Homeless population

Updating existing infrastructure

Air quality

Collaboration

Water

Need low-income housing

Event center over-concentration in rural areas

Water quality -- groundwater

Population growth outpacing transportation infrastructure growth

H2O.

Feedback Via Written Comment Forms

Some participants submitted additional comments via a comment form available at the open houses. *Below are comments received at the Sonoma County Open House.*

Please continue the policy of providing adequate and affordable housing. Please define "affordable housing" with reference to available living wages -- and emphasize, most of all, the necessity and the elegance of creating living wage jobs in order to address all of the concepts of Plan Bay Area 2040.

Great to see 511.org. Would like more integration with North Bay transportation visibility. Can there be a feedback link that takes snapshots or jpg's when something doesn't work?

If we want to promote transit-oriented development: The need to protect homeowners who buy town-homes, condos and multifamily units. They are faced with poor construction resulting in lawsuits against builders who do not have to be (and are not) adequately insured. This problem results in large assessments levied on senior and young families while unscrupulous builders grow rich.

I currently live in an agricultural area. My wife and I would like to live in town where we can leave our car in the garage and walk or cycle everywhere during the week. We enjoy visiting Washington, D.C. where we can do exactly that, for example in the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

Free transit -- Free student bus passes! To reduce greenhouse gas emissions

MTC and ABAG should provide funding so students, vets, homeless can ride public transit at little or no cost.

Very informative!
