

# San Mateo — Housing Leadership Council

## Plan Bay Area Community-Based Outreach

### Outreach area:

North Fair Oaks/East Palo Alto, California

### Outreach description:

Partnered with Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center to outreach via four meetings in San Mateo County on May 7 (Redwood City), May 11 (San Bruno), May 19 (South San Francisco), and May 21 (East Palo Alto), 2011

### Participants: 29

(Note: Not everyone voted in all segments of the outreach.)

### Priority Transportation Investment Strategies

Participants were given 21 options for investing future transportation funding and asked to select their top six priorities.

Rank	Strategy
1	Add more bike paths/bike lanes
2	More transit service to connect housing and jobs
3	Expand bus service and local bus service
4	Invest more transportation funds to support cities that build new housing near transit that is affordable for Bay Area residents with limited income
5	Offer financial incentives to cities that take on more growth and more multi-unit housing near transit
6	Expand commuter rail services (BART, Caltrain, etc.)

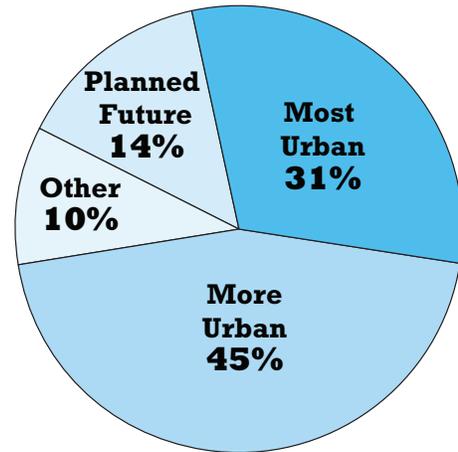
### Priority Policy Initiatives

Participants were given six options for new policies that could be adopted (at the local, regional, state or federal level) and asked to select their top three.

Rank	Initiative
1	New requirements for employers (e.g. allow employees to work from home one day per week; allow employees to pay for transit with pre-tax dollars, etc.)
2	Economic strategies (e.g., development strategies to protect existing jobs, create new jobs, or preserve warehouse/industrial sites)
3	Electric vehicles (e.g., subsidize the purchase/lease of electric vehicles and hybrids; increase availability of electric vehicle chargers)

### How will we grow?

Participants were asked to choose a preferred scenario for future growth, with "Planned Future" (labeled "current Plans") reflecting adopted MTC and ABAG plans, and "More Urban" and "Most Urban" applying increasingly higher concentrations of housing and development.



### Comments

Participants who took the survey were asked what one thing in their neighborhood (and in the Bay Area) they would like to see changed, and what one thing they would most like to keep. Some participants also submitted general comments on a separate comment card. Below are the most common responses and comments in no particular order.

- Maintain diversity in community
- Ensure available affordable housing for current East Palo Alto residents
- Maintain open spaces and parks; create public transit options to get to open space
- Evaluate traffic patterns to assist in streamlining cross-town traffic and University Avenue traffic
- Decrease truck traffic on local roads
- Maintain and improve current public transportation systems
- Expand frequency and options for commuters on public transportation
- Create more job opportunities locally

**PLAN BAY AREA — SPRING 2011 COMMUNITY-BASED OUTREACH COMMENTS  
HOUSING LEADERSHIP COUNCIL — NORTH FAIR OAKS/EAST PALO ALTO**

**Below are all comments received in response to the following question.**

**QUESTION 1**

***How should the Bay Area grow?***

**COMMENT**

Chose Most Urban area to keep urbanization and sprawl concentrated to a main thoroughfare. In EPA that would be University Avenue.

More Urban- take a step back. Less development. Keep family here in East Palo Alto.

To maintain open space and to keep housing, business and transportation within University Ave corridor.

Most Urban - only on the 5% P.D.A. Save the existing neighborhoods.

In between More and Most Urban.

In between More and Most Urban. Open space needs, not just SF/Oakland/SJ. Decent schools.

Without transit and sufficient open space, without good schools and changing the notion that everyone needs/wants a single-family home, going the "most urban" route is too one-dimensional. Look at this more comprehensively and then this option works.

Growth = Density?

Just for East Palo Alto, I choose More Urban, but take a step back. Less development. Keep the families here in East Palo Alto.

Most Urban - To maintain open space and to keep housing, business and transportation within University Avenue corridor.

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**Below are all comments received in response to the following question.**

**QUESTION 2**

***What are your top transportation investment strategies?***

**COMMENT**

Most bus lines in EPA have been eliminated due to low ridership. Although city has created free shuttle bus, not available at all times. Suggest that counties/fed government offset losses of revenues that VTA, etc. is experiencing to keep lines running.

Do NOT expand roadways.

It's hard to choose only six boxes!

Policies that connect bicycling, busing and commuter rails. There are only a couple spaces for bikes on the bus, so could we make buses come/go more frequently?

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**QUESTION 3**

***Which initiatives would you most support?***

**COMMENT**

Not enough incentives for employers; all businesses should encourage and give employees incentives to get out of their cars (i.e.- pay for not driving, taking transit or riding bikes).

I invented this one: Mode shift from driving to transit, biking, walking by improving transit service, infrastructure for biking and walking.

Better and positive and connected bike network and pedestrian network. It would offer options to driving.

Increase bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

No to electric vehicles. Producing electricity = produces GHG.

People drive what speed they want to drive with little regard to speed limits. Habits are hard to change.

You should explain how this strategy (economic development strategies to protect existing jobs) reduces emissions - correlation is not clear.

Push for local carbon tax with equitable rebates to low-income persons.

It'd be great if there were consequences of each choice listed. I feel like I'd be able to make a more informed decision.

I do not support subsidizing/leasing electric vehicles from government (believe this person supports purchase/ownership of electric vehicles only).

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**Below are all comments received in response to the following two-part question.**

**QUESTION 4a**

***What is the one thing in your neighborhood or community that you would most like to keep? What one thing in the Bay Area would you like to keep?***

**COMMENT**

Lots of trees, many parks. Nearby libraries. Transport systems that are convenient like BART and Caltrain - maintain good service.

Diversity - economic and ethnic. Views of green hills and Bay.

Equitable accessibility. Diversity and environmental justice.

Walkable downtowns. Tight-knit communities.

Transportation hubs. Diversity. Walkable downtown.

Diversity - economic as well as ethnic. Economic vitality that supports the full range of incomes.

Walkable downtowns.

I love my small neighborhood park and proximity to bus stops and the grocery store. Bay Area - diversity: economic and diversity.

Community feel.

I like the population density and I'd like to keep parks and open space.

Community feel. Better cross town traffic in East Palo Alto.

Keep people that are in East Palo Alto to stay here. We don't want people moving out. Do not have outsiders move in.

Open space, more single-family homes and enforcement of overcrowding. Bart! Buses! Bikes! Environmentalist groups!

Neighborhood - trees, etc. Bay Area - green space.

We would like to enable residents to remain despite the fact Facebook is moving to Willow Road campus and their employees will want to purchase homes in East Palo Alto, many of which have been foreclosed upon and purchased by speculators, thus underscoring the need for affordable rental housing.

I would love to keep the nature untouched and keep how (sic). I would like to keep BART and Caltrain in place for transportation.

Friendly neighbors; everyone knows everyone. Diversity in food, entertainment.

Affordable housing. Mountain open spaces in East Palo Alto and Bay Area.

Maintain the socioeconomic and ethnic diversity of the community (work class, multi-racial). Keep commuter rail, BART and bus services - but integrate them better.

Open spaces for people to enjoy and make \_\_\_\_\_ big urban areas "livable."

More senior housing.

Diversity.

Local schools, bay lands, affordable housing.

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**QUESTION 4b**

***What is the one thing in your neighborhood or community that you would most like to change ? What one thing in the Bay Area would you like to change ?***

**COMMENT**

More compact walkable and bikeable neighborhoods with mixed-use developments near transit. More neighborhoods with grocery stores within walking distance.

Transit ring (BART or whatever - SINGLE entity) around the Bay. Access to public open space on the Bay from every town. Diversity of housing types.

Traffic - amount of cars and speeding (both local and Bay Area).

Expand BART/rapid transit.

More transportation routes. More east-west routes. More connection between transportation hubs - airport accessible.

Price parking to reflect its true cost - downtowns and office parks. Integrated transit systems.

Complete the transit circuit around the Bay - be it BART or Caltrain. Why are there so many transit systems that don't "talk" to one another? Add car and bike share points on this transit system - take people on that "last mile."

It's not walkable because it's not safe due to too many cars. No pedestrian-scale lighting. Bay Area: more areas for people to gather and play, spend the day outside, etc.

Lack of efficient transportation.

I would like it if public transportation would improve. I would like to widen bicycle and pedestrian areas for their safety.

I would like more parks in North Fair Oaks. Improve and increase cyclists' connections. And create more housing for workers.

The plan needs to emphasize public transportation.

Spread traffic impact evenly inside San Mateo County.

1. Availability for low-income families. 2. Better roads and sidewalks; better lighting system. 3. Keep the "white" or Chinese or Japanese out because more of these people have the money to buy our home.

Better transit systems available from East Bay to Silicon Valley. More commuter buses, running all the time. Currently only one exists running through Willow Road. More concerted effort to educate communities about importance of reducing fuel emissions and how.

Neighborhood -more walkable shops. Bay Area - more affordable housing and broader expanses of mass transit (shuttles, etc.).

We need greatly increased affordable rental housing, not more condos, which 80%+ of current residents cannot afford. We also need more extensive public transit to anticipate the day that people will be forced to abandon cars as the cost of gas becomes unaffordable. We also need more jobs and development for the skill sets of current residents.

One thing in my neighborhood is the improvement of roads; on my street erosion from rain destroyed a chunk of the road. I would like the Bay Area to have less regulations on businesses so it may grow and provide jobs. I also suggest promotion of businesses \_\_\_\_\_ by minors as well.

In my neighborhood - more commerce close to my home (i.e., coffee shops, restaurants, clothing boutiques). Bay Area - more transit. I'd like to use the bus or train to get to work. But driving takes me 15 minutes and public transit would take 1-1/2 hours with multiple transfers.

I'd like to see the map the community developed come to fruition just the way they planned. Better grocery stores that serve everyone. More affordable housing/rental units. More job development for residents of East Palo Alto/Bay Area. Make it more bike/pedestrian friendly - ties into healthy communities and counties.

My community - Create a downtown with local businesses, more mix-use housing development 3-5 stories, pedestrian friendly and transit accessible. Bay Area - a single transit agency that links all the disparate agencies in the 9 counties together - create a more efficient system.

Economic growth with its benefits for development and community enrichment.

A better transportation plan.

Reducing traffic on University Avenue.

Community working in community. Better regional approach to all issues. More community events with diversity camaraderie.

Pedestrian and bike paths; we need more connectivity. Maintaining the parks and open space like bay land trails to encourage exercise and health.

**QUESTION 4b**

***What is the one thing in your neighborhood or community that you would most like to **change** ? What one thing in the Bay Area would you like to **change** ?***

**COMMENT**

Reduce traffic down University Avenue. Regarding Bay Area - allow toll money go toward cities that are being impacted by the increased traffic count.

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**Below are all general comments received.**

***General Comments***

**COMMENT**

Better outreach (gather minority input) (Input balance: Seniors, youth included. Incentive provided for movement - want drag along.

Where and when will residents be able to have input in how MTC and A/BAG spend their moneys and resources? Now that the Governor of California wants local communities/municipalities to pay for their own, how much MTC money will our community get? Communities/municipalities that are not planning for more housing due to a perception of a lowering of property values should be proven as a myth.

Education - Community Education to make everybody aware of what it does mean each improvement and why it is important the everybody knows and participates. By working with small groups, it's possible to sum people who are crucial at this discussions. This is a very short time to think about such big issues. I would like to have more time to think about it. Local jobs creation and the use of local resources. Very important to discover key people in the community who have the motivation and willingness to make things happen. You need to help these people.

The most effective strategy against developers who are burying the minority population of East Palo Alto, especially African Americans, is the greed of Wall Street that has most recently affected the global recession. These periodic economic meltdowns have been the most effective and barriers towards displacement of the poor and disenfranchised. That is a sad indictment of the empty rhetoric about preserving affordable housing from ABAG and MTC & high cost San Mateo County. East Palo Alto has been saved at least 3 - 4 times thanks to the economy. tanking over the past 20+ years.

I support preservation of private property, but for pulic, I support implementing smart growth. I support using plugs for electric vehicles, but I do not support subsidizing electric vehicles. Incentives to attract private business hunting ranches reserved in the Bay Area.