



# Contra Costa County

## Spring 2015 Public Engagement Open House Comments, by County

Open House: Wednesday, April 29, 2015  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Marriott Hotel, Walnut Creek

### 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 Contra Costa County Open House.



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

Strong regional funding tools for creating affordable homes and local support for additional resources

Adequate housing and effective transportation system are the building blocks of social equity

Should include equity targets for every goal and equity metrics for every target

The plan needs to address watershed protection and enhancement

Protection for private property rights (plus another vote for this)

Café standards and Pavley legislation already reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light-duty trucks beyond your target, so what's the use of Plan Bay Area?

Food access

More housing for middle income families that is not condos or apartments

Where's the water for all this growth? Water water water. Remember we are a desert.

Why limit gas emissions to just cars when Contra Costa air quality is bad due to refineries?

Need to accommodate the growth of our K-12 student population with more schools

Watershed scale planning

Measure transportation "interconnectedness" to eliminate gaps in protected bike lanes, HOV lanes, rapid bus lane gaps, light rail gaps.

Transportation capacity metrics (persons per hour) on backbone corridors should be 5-digit numbers >10,000 persons/hour

Enough housing to make up for previous plans' shortfalls.

Get CCC to stop using more pesticides than other Bay Area counties.

Financial sustainability - paying to maintain our vital infrastructure

Local control needs to be a fundamental guiding principle of this effort.

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

PBA is top down control.

Connecting transit between bus/train, etc. and final destination (or vice versa).

Affordable housing and transportation

Affordable housing in Walnut Creek

We need to protect our Ag and natural lands from sprawl

Sufficient compensation for owners displaced by new building or changed use (condo conversions)

Housing affordability

Reform CEQA making infill development easier and greenfield development impossible so that we have more housing and jobs and open space

The rent is too \*\*\*\* high

Lack of supporting infrastructure for active transportation

Cost of affordable housing should be shared by everyone not just the development community

We are facing the greatest housing crisis of this generation and need to have the resources to accommodate all incomes on housing near transit

Investment in city projects. More business, retail.

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Medium and affordable housing.

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My community is based on single-family homes and a semi-rural character. Plan Bay Area doesn't fit in at all.

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Better pedestrian access. Sidewalks end in random spots.

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

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Selling weekly and monthly BART and transport tickets at a discount to encourage weekend and off-peak use (like every other major urban area)

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Integrate different transit systems

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Expand AC Transit's coverage in neighborhoods for improved connection to BART and between municipalities

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Improve bicycle facilities (e.g., Safe Routes to Transit/BART Walnut Creek)

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Possibility of rent control?

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Hard Choices: Leadership tax \$: 1. Water, 2. Affordable Housing, 3. Transportation, 4. Infill City Planning. Can these agencies work together on these needs. Quality of life.

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To encourage biking for transportation on a significant scale, it will be important to build not only safe routes, but ancillary infrastructure like secure parking, including for cargo bikes and trailers. This will help make bicycling a replacement for driving for more people.

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Greetings from Walnut Creek 2040. Now with more homes to rent or buy!

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Encourage and allow commercial nodes within neighborhoods to reduce trips. Replace liquor stores with grocery/retail.

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Housing that's affordable near where one works. Increase the wages or more jobs to bedroom communities.

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Build enough parking at BART stations to handle demand by people who don't live near stations.

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Keep BART's promise to suburban areas.

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Let people decide not regional unelected officials.

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Build homes where office parking lots are now.

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## 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 Contra Costa County Open House.*

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Safe crossing from trains in Richmond

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More investment in jobs/economic development.

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Better streets

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A solution to 680 traffic

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EV infrastructure

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Second transbay tube - new core improvements benefit the entire region.

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More BART trains during commute hours - crowding has exponentially increased lately.

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More secure parking for cargo bikes and trailers at high-frequency destinations so bicycling can be a serious mode of transportation for families.

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Need for first/last mile connections to transit

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Fix our roads and freeways

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Fix Ygnacio Valley Road

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Build a pedestrian bridge at the Walnut Creek BART

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A second BART line - the first one's full.

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More bikeways in suburban cities like Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Concord

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More BART parking. Lots are full by 8:00.

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More BART parking.

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AC Transit and BART should be coordinating and developing a cooperative fare schedule much like "FAST PASS" in SF which allows a rider to use the pass on both BART and Muni. The point is to encourage using the bus and BART. Note - This concept should expand to all the transit agencies.

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Protected bike lanes

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Create an exit off I-80 and Sycamore Avenue in Hercules

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More transit

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More jobs by transit in Contra Costa County

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Think "Big" - more visionary; focused on long-term needs.

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

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Protected bike lanes to all transit centers

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Link between BART and downtown Pittsburg and Antioch

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We don't need 30 different transit agencies. Consolidate!

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BART down I-680 to Silicon Valley

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Why does Contra Costa have the worst % of bike commuters? (Is it the lack of safe routes to school/work shops?)

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Bay Area vs. Central Valley - living in Bay Area instead of commuting in from Central Valley would help solve many problems

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Top down planning

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A great disincentive for using public transit is how long and tortuous are the routes. Need a more direct and frequent way to get from point A to B and to do it more frequently.

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Moraga: No hub.

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Orinda/Lafayette: Throttlink. No bike lanes.

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MTC needs to allocate a higher percentage of revenues to local road repairs (not only arterials, collectors and school routes)

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Public transit needs to be competitive with cars for length of trip. If public transit was no more than 1-1/8 times as long to get from place to place, more people would use it.

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Increase BART capacity immediately

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Lack of active transportation infrastructure

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People don't know how to drive, but do anyway because they lack other choices.

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## 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 Contra Costa County Open House.*

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Being more connected to SF and Oakland

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High paying, high-tech jobs in central Contra Costa - Concord Naval Weapon Station

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More jobs closer to workers and bedroom communities

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I agree with current land use and transportation plans; excited for mixed-use development

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Complete streets, TODs, and new urbanism

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Forecast the future cost of housing - and do something about it.

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Options for smart growth that provide a mix of housing types

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The possibility that our city council will reject Plan Bay Area

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Need multi-modal transportation to encourage bikes and reduce auto use

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It would be good to review ABAG housing allocation for each city, comparing that with actual production

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Excited about recognition of economic value of ecosystems, water, soil

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Excited about the growing recognition of natural system (e.g., watersheds value to economy and quality of life)

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

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Need for more good paying jobs

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Preserving open space, wildlife and habitat in East Contra Costa County.

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Water resources and development exceeding these resources

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Concern about population growth and

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Jobs that can make Bay Area rents manageable

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Loss of farmland, rangeland and open space

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More transit options so we can get rid of cars

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More housing that can make Bay Area rents affordable

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Preservation of open space

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High tax rates will encourage out migration for retirees

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Affordable housing - more rental apartments

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What is the cost per ton of CO2 reduction including amortized capital cost?

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the drought

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Concern: Our infrastructure will decay and we would not have the political will to pay to maintain/upgrade it.

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Loss of agriculture due to building new housing projects. Build on non-ag land.

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What is the commute time change under this plan?

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Congestion on freeways if new expansion of building of communities - sprawl of cities like LA.

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Finding jobs close to home (long commutes)

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My concern is about pedestrian interaction with cars and the construction of pedestrian bicycle bridges to improve traffic flow and pedestrian/bicycle safety

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Economic development/jobs/business development

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## 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 Contra Costa County Open House.*

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Please build enough housing not just for the future, but to make up for the underbuilding in the past.

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Housing costs are out of control! Where are the high rises? (And I don't mean 5 stories. I mean 15-20.)

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Past estimates have been too low for housing needs. Yes, the results appear to line up, but what actually happens is people get priced outside of the Bay Area and move to the Central Valley. Please aim higher in housing need estimates so that costs can actually come back down. Thanks!

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Emphasis on moving jobs to CoCo County should be made to decrease commuter traffic and help people live closer to work → more time to invest in their communities. Give incentives to SF and Oakland companies to establish satellite offices closer to employees' homes.

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We need more state, Federal, and county taxes to rebuild our crumbling transportation infrastructure. The Federal gasoline tax of 18.4 cents per gallon was last raised in 1993. The CA state sales tax is capped at 10%. The Contra Costa County sales tax for transportation (Measure J) was passed with over a 2/3 vote in 2004 and needs to be raised to 1% from 0.5%. Public transportation is a necessity like police and fire and therefore transportation employees need to be banned from striking.

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