



Solano County

Spring 2017 Public Engagement: Comments from Solano County

Solano County Open House -- Monday, May 15, 2017

Solano County Events Center, 601 Texas Street, Fairfield

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

ACTION PLAN STATION FEEDBACK

The **Action Plan Station** described proposed actions outlined in Draft Plan Bay Area 2040 to specifically address housing, economic development and resiliency. On three accompanying boards, participants were asked their ideas and encouraged to post their feedback. Below are the comments submitted at the boards for Housing, Economic Development and Resiliency.

Housing

- 1 Need more missing middle housing for healthier neighborhoods. Allowing people to age in place.
- 2 Plan Bay Area should include language in its goals/mission statement recognizing need to stabilize population.
- 3 In Vallejo, as in other cities, you have handful of property owners owning a disproportionate amount of land/homes.
- 4 Look at housing land trusts to provide affordable housing.
- 5 Can a locally structured form of redevelopment financing be created to help generate money for affordable housing?
- 6 Get developers for new housing to be accountable to build affordable housing and do not let them just pay a fee to release that accountability
- 7 Housing crisis might be helped by *slow* growth.
- 8 Acknowledge that we might be able to only grow so far...unless we want to look like China/India.
- 9 Very-low housing + low-income housing; very affordable senior housing -- These need to be included in all housing developments.
- 10 Downtown Vallejo needs high end housing -- might benefit from high- rise developments.
- 11 Build up not out.
- 12 Mixed use developments adhere to strict guidelines -- near transportation; walkable community; height of buildings appropriate for neighborhood; downtown area.
- 13 Advocate for increasing residential density everywhere. To counter the nay-sayers, ask them if their kids can afford to live where they grew up!
- 14 Encourage home ownership rather than allocating rental development.
- 15 Communicate more to the public through social media.

Economic Development

- 16 Do not continue to push away employers by creating strict policies or high taxes
- 17 Love to see improvement in public transportation from Solano County to Bay Area and Sacramento
- 18 Reward mixed used, higher density locations to promote higher economic impact.
- 19 Jobs for retirees -- not full-time, but part-time jobs
- 20 Small family child care is a local business that supports families in their neighborhood.
- 21 Focus economic development on poorer areas (i.e., Vallejo, Antioch, Richmond, Oakland).
- 22 Tax benefits for employers who hire local residents (i.e., work where you live). And/or the reciprocal -- tax benefits for employees who work where they live.
- 23 Creating more political/lobbying organizations might not be the solution.
- 24 Support child care development within new housing.
- 25 Support more innovative career development centers to help folks be workforce ready -- build on existing strengths -- think about how residents can contribute skills to depressed economies.
- 26 Support early childhood development so that future employers have a pool of potential employees

Resiliency

- 27 No high density housing in Solano County
- 28 Widen roads; maintain roads.
- 29 No high density housing
- 30 Mobilize individual communities through comprehensive community organizing to educate and prepare
- 31 Repeal 375
- 32 Repeal 375
- 33 Gonna need LOTS more levees if sea level rise happens. Prevention is usually cheaper than cleaning up afterward.
- 34 Widen roads; maintain roads.
- 35 Unified transit system to the rider. Make it worth it to ride transit for cyclists.
- 36 More jobs. More sale tax revenues. No bedroom communities.
- 37 Does VMT modeling include growth in autonomous vehicles and likely reductions in vehicle ownership?
- 38 Solano County NEEDS JOBS, and more sales tax revenues (no bedroom communities).

ACTIVITY STATION FEEDBACK

*The **Activity Station** offered participants seven prompts to share additional ideas for how to address housing, economic development and resiliency. Below are the comments received at the Solano County open house.*

The best way to create more housing in the Bay Area is...

- 1 Mixed use development in downtown areas (or for Fairfield, the 80-to-80 corridor).
- 2 That development follows strict rules to integrate mixed-use into existing neighborhoods, preserving the personality of the area as much as possible.
- 3 Increase density. More infill prioritized over new projects on the periphery.
- 4 Build up, NOT out. Better use of infill within existing cities.
- 5 Acknowledge we may NOT be able to build our way out of housing crisis.
- 6 Acknowledge need to stabilize population.
- 7 High density has benefits but also comes with challenges and may NOT work.

To keep the region's economy growing, we should...

- 8 Grow up, with integrated trails and parks.
- 9 Anticipate rapidly increasing use of autonomous vanpools.
- 10 Great, not just good, education will draw jobs.
- 11 Keep in mind families who use childcare. Those childcare providers are supporting the local economy.

To prevent displacement, I recommend...

12 Jobs be close to where employees can afford housing, or affordable hoe by jobs.

To solve the Bay Area housing crisis, I recommend that we...

13 Follow our needs -- not be forced to have high density and minimal parking. Lots of parking and good wide roads for Solano County.

14 Follow our needs -- do not force high density and minimal parking. Lots of parking and goods roads for Solano County.

We can create a more resilient Bay Area by...

15 Creating walkable, bikeable, safe streets in every neighborhood.

16 Nurturing/growing resilient youth (access to quality education; job skills).

17 Encouraging strong and comprehensive community organizing efforts, leading to a greater sense of community and investment in one's community.

18 Integrating SLR-adaptation into shoreline park and trail infrastructure.

We need a transportation system that...

19 Ensures access to healthy food for all.

20 Is demand driven -- dial-a-ride, etc.

21 Has dedicated transit lanes that operate like trains (see Bogota, Colombia).

22 Puts maintenance at a higher priority level.

23 Makes better use of rail infrastructure.

24 Makes better use of water infrastructure.

25 Starts to acknowledge the future growth of driverless cars. Infrastructure planning. Is more proactive in future transport technologies.

26 Is in line with the needs of the area. For instance, if there is a plan in place to build high density or mixed-use housing, there needs to be sufficient transportation "hub" in place to take the traffic OFF I-80 and into mass transit (i.e., trains, buses, carpools).

27 Has in mind families with children. Taking children to a bus stop, getting to child care and then to their jobs (HOURS!)

28 Provides integrated linkage from Solano County to SF/Oakland, San Jose and ultimately Sacramento Metropolitan Area.

29 Operates 7 days a week; operates for longer hours; takes people where they most nee to go; coordinates with surrounding communities who encourage transportation across counties

30 Is easier to navigate between cities/counties.

31 Is accessible for all.

With the Action Plan in mind, I commit to...

32 Work to repeal SB375; more jobs here; more business, places to shop, dine; generate sales tax. Fix and maintain roads. No high density -- not San Francisco. Don't follow SF lead.

33 Finding a way to repeal SB375. We need more jobs here, more businesses, places to shop, dine, generate sales tax revenue; maintain and improve roads. No need for high density -- this is not San Francisco. We do not have to follow what they need.

34 The Heart of Fairfield Plan is not on the PDA.

35 More funding for local street and road maintenance.

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 Solano County Open House.

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- 1 Solano County needs to consolidate all of the transit agencies and provide better regional service

 - 2 Really good format to engage more folks -- great that it is in an area that is easily accessible by public transit and by car. What is the process for how comments/suggestions will be taken into consideration? Good for folks to know how their comments are accounted for. May be helpful/more engaging for more of the presentations to have a specific Solano focus. ABAG and MTC folks were super helpful in answering questions and explaining the Plan.

 - 3 Curious about how to reach more folks; get the investment of more community members/residents in implementing the plan. How can you get sustained engagement in the plan over the course of its implementation?
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