

PLAN BAY AREA 2050

This Unit Will Be Out Of Service Until

Forever



BETTER BART. BETTER BAY AREA.

Thank You For Your Patience
As We Work Together
To Make BART Better

KHAN

Listening and Learning from Community Engagement

*Virtual Focus Groups Hosted by Bay Area
Community-Based Organizations, Spring 2020*

Seven virtual focus groups, held in conjunction with six community organizations

- Acterra - May 7, 2020 (East Palo Alto)
- Green Hive - May 20, 2020 (Vallejo)
- Rose Foundation - May 12, 2020 (Oakland)
- Sacred Heart Community Service - May 15, 2020 (San Jose)
- Sound of Hope Radio Network - May 16, 2020 (San Francisco)
- West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project - May 19, 2020 (Oakland)
- West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (Yemeni community) - June 11, 2020

Overview of feedback

- General support for all existing Blueprint strategies, with overwhelming concern about insufficient affordable housing
- Small changes would go a long way compared to some big-ticket strategies, such as working elevators at train stations, reliable information on the status of buses and trains, timed transfers between transit systems, and boldly marked crosswalks
- Interest in programs to help lower-income households buy a home or apartment to provide stability and create a known path toward reducing wealth gaps that exist
- Create more middle-wage jobs outside the technology sector
- Development should include community gardens and clean energy systems
- Walking access to parks and green space should be a priority

Support/Concern for existing strategies

Overwhelming Support for:

- Reform Regional Transit Fare Policy
- Operate and maintain the existing system
- Enable seamless mobility with unified trip planning and fare payments
- Allow a greater mix of housing types and densities in growth areas
- Transform aging malls & office parks into neighborhoods

Overwhelming Concern With:

- Require 10 to 20 percent of new housing to be affordable

Transportation: A sampling of participant comments

Improve Quality of Existing Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I just want the bus to be new, clean and not break down.” “Why can’t the buses come on time?”</i> • <i>“Transit options need to improve and be made cheaper first, before charging for driving.”</i>
Improve Station / Stop Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Need to know when transit is actually coming.”</i> • <i>“Frustrating having only one elevator at stations and being in the worst location and/or broken.”</i>
Enhance Transfer Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Plan must emphasize on connection between different transit lines - fares and close connections / transit hubs.”</i> • <i>“Timing transfers so it actually works for people, especially those with disabilities.”</i> • <i>“Increase the frequencies at all the major transit hubs so we don’t have to wait if we miss the bus by two minutes.”</i> • <i>“Extremely hard to navigate the system and becomes overwhelming to think about how strategic you need to be to make all connections on time.”</i>
Improve Safety of Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I don’t feel safe traveling with my kids on the BART.”</i> • <i>“Stations and bus stops need shelters, better lighting and safety infrastructure.”</i> • <i>“Provide more supportive services for people in need.”</i>
Improve Evening/Weekend BART And Bus Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Weekends and late evenings/nights - these are when low-income people work and it is more unsafe to wait longer at night.”</i> • <i>“Low-income persons with graveyard shifts have to pay for Uber/Lyft due to transit operating hours and safety issues.”</i> • <i>“Not having night services forces us to drive.”</i>
Last-Mile Assistance for Low-Income Commuters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I purchased an electric scooter to cut commute costs.”</i>
Make Transit Fare Reform Policy Stronger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Transit discounts are great, but streamlining to make it easier/less bureaucratic to be eligible for these discounts, especially for seniors, people with disabilities, language barriers.”</i> • <i>“Switching to adult fares is burdensome for those that turn 18 during high-school or right after.” “Tie student fares to enrollment status rather than age.”</i> • <i>“Not having monthly passes is frustrating.” “Need automatic daily/monthly caps.”</i>
Emphasize Low-hanging Fruit In Vision Zero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“The easiest thing you can do is repaint every crosswalk with the fat lines perpendicular to the traditional lines.”</i>

Housing: A sampling of participant comments

<p>Increase Affordable Housing Threshold</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“10-20% is simply not sufficient and is uninspiring.”</i> • <i>“10-20% is a policy for gentrification, not for affordability.”</i> • <i>“We need more housing for middle class; 10-20% low-income housing makes the rest 80% of housing affordable only to the upper class.”</i>
<p>Provide Real “Affordable” Housing For Persons With Extenuating Circumstances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Need different levels of eligibility - very low-income people cannot afford ‘affordable housing.’”</i> • <i>Special assistance/affordable housing for “minority and low-income returning college graduates” and “people with disabilities that are transit dependent.”</i>
<p>Truly Address Exclusion by Removing Barriers to Housing (and not just build more housing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“It is difficult to get approved for an apartment and if you don’t speak English, you won’t be able to understand the housing process.”</i> • <i>“Regarding racial equity and enabling more housing: there are barriers in applying for housing, e.g., having a criminal record.”</i> • <i>“A lot of people my age do not have a credit history and don’t know how to establish it - there needs to be education, especially for young people of color. Having a credit history should not be a defining factor in accessing housing.”</i> • <i>“Having access to legal help and knowing one’s rights is vital.”</i>
<p>Incentivize Accessibility Needs Inclusive Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Too many sticks. Need carrots along with sticks such as density bonuses, which can incentivize accessibility inclusive housing for people with disabilities and seniors.”</i> • <i>“Accessible housing is so new that it’s not rent-controlled.”</i>
<p>Assistance for Low-Income Minority Home Buyers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“We need programs to help low-income people buy housing.”</i>

Economy: A sampling of participant comments

Enable Diversity of Jobs

- *“This is not just about jobs but what kind of jobs. We need policies that will allow diverse communities to thrive.”*
- *“You talk about job growth in housing-rich areas - what kind of jobs? Not everyone is a tech worker.”*
- *“Transforming aging malls and office parks is great, but they must be transformed into neighborhoods that will grow into communities with neighborhood small businesses, vibrant businesses with local talent that serve the communities they are in.”*

Address Job-Housing Imbalance for Low-Wage Jobs

- *“Your policies on fees on businesses are geared towards moving tech businesses, not enabling diverse job growth in communities.”*
- *“These strategies aren’t relevant for Sacred Heart’s clients: wherever Google or Stanford Hospital choose to locate, they’ll kick people out of the new areas.”*
- *“Childcare workers, gardeners, and grocery staff have long commutes for a low-paying job.”*

Benefits for Employees of Small Companies

- *“People who work for big companies usually have their transit paid for and have shuttles. Why check in with those big companies to see how things work? Instead, let’s get transit to go where people need it the most.”*

Environment: A sampling of participant comments

Invest in Better Urban Open Spaces

- *“So much of the focus of Plan Bay Area is on density - this is important because we need more housing. But on the whole, people don’t want to live without a mix of green spaces.”*
- *“Parks are not located in the community or close by, requiring transit to access them.”*
- *“Parks are important in low-income communities because we cannot drive somewhere easily and go on vacations.”*
- *“I think we need security. I have a few parks near me but we as a family cannot go because of the lack of security.”*
- *“I live in East Oakland where there are no accessible green spaces. Having more green spaces in our communities is important.”*
- *“Regarding sea level rise adaptation, a wall must embrace nature and allow the community to have a connection with the Bay with space for walking and community services.”*

Invest in Amenities that the Community Wants

- *“7K miles of bike lanes sounds incredible, but worried about gentrification.”*
- *“Most people use bikes for entertainment or fitness, not to commute. It is not possible to go far or get groceries by bike.”*
- *“West Oakland’s air quality is poor, so we don’t ride bikes.”*
- *“Any greening of the community will cause gentrification and displacement.”*

Encourage Environmental Amenities at Buildings

- *“Streamline development or density bonuses for developers that include environmental amenities (such as clean energy, community farms).”*

How should COVID-19 impact planning?

- “More emphasis on walking, biking, Safe Routes to School.”
- “Focus on bus routes where people really need them and provide more reliable service.”
- “Focus on creating more urban open spaces and making existing ones better in underserved neighborhoods.”
- “Capitalize on telecommuting to mitigate GHG emissions.”
- “Invest in community-based services that are able to provide assistance to families during such crises.”
- “This could be an opportunity to make our open spaces better, more vibrant and healthy.”
- “How we engage with the community has changed.”
- “The crisis has shown that the radical is possible: free transit, rent cancellation, etc. This is the silver lining and should shape long-term planning. We need to be better prepared with ways that value the community -- community care rather than profits.”