

## Plan Bay Area 2050 Implementation Plan Engagement – Winter 2021

### Virtual Cocoa Club Meetings with High School Students

Below is the feedback received from focus group meetings, called Cocoa Clubs, held with high school students from throughout the region to discuss and rank the Transportation and Environment element strategies for short-term implementation.

The participating high schools included:

1. Abraham Lincoln High School (San Francisco)
2. American Canyon High School (Napa County)
3. Castro Valley High School (Alameda County)
4. College Prep School, Oakland Alameda County)
5. Freedom High School, Oakley (Contra Costa County)
6. Lincoln High School, San Leandro (Alameda County)
7. Los Altos High School (Santa Clara County)
8. Napa High School (Napa County)
9. Redwood High School, Larkspur (Marin County)
10. Washington High School, Fremont (Alameda County)

### Cocoa Club #1

January 20, 2021, 2-3 p.m.

#### Discussion Notes

- **Electric vehicle programs and protecting communities most at risk were the most popular Environment strategies.**
- Transitioning to electric vehicles can be hard for those with lower-incomes and so prioritizing EV programs would make that easier for all.
- Prioritize trails because it connects people to nature.
- Public transportation should be prioritized to allow people to commute who live farther away.
- It is important to uplift indigenous communities; they have a lot to teach everyone. Talk to indigenous leaders from the local tribes.
- Many people are more affected by the risk of climate hazards.
- Addressing sea level rise would also help everyone internationally, as well as here in the U.S.
- **Streamlining fares and improving transit were the top Transportation strategies.**
- Prioritize improving transit because of the environmental benefits.
- People will not bike or walk if they do not feel safe in the streets. If people feel safer then they will be more encouraged to bike or walk.
- I live in a neighborhood with a lot of blind spots and speeding drivers. It feels unsafe walking even though I live a 10-minute walk to my high school. Bike lanes are not very visible and need improvement.

- I love biking and would want to more often, but I'm not allowed because it doesn't seem safe enough.
- Building a culture around biking would encourage more people to bike. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition has started trying to improve this culture.
- **From the chat:**
  - *"I also wanted to add (for the first question) that in California, Governor Newsom's executive order from September heavily impacted my choice (phasing into all electric vehicles within the next 15 years)."*
  - *"I feel bike shares are really important to make bikes more accessible to everyone and should definitely be a focus for the plan!"*

## Cocoa Club #2

January 21, 2021, 2-3 p.m.

### Discussion Notes

- **Most students chose the option to expand programs to reduce car trips for people who work for big companies, and focus new developments within existing cities, as well as upgrade and expand parks, trails + recreation facilities.**
- Expand programs to reduce car trips because there is a lot of traffic and this would help people's commute be more time efficient.
- Focus new developments within existing cities, and also upgrade and expand parks, trails, and recreation facilities.
- Expand programs to make it easier to buy and use electric vehicles.
- Upgrade and expand parks, trails because people will learn to appreciate the environment more and have better access to parks.
- Protect natural lands and pay to make improvements to homes because climate hazards are happening more often, and natural land should be preserved.
- **Focus on improving the current system, improve transit and build safer streets were the top Transportation strategies.**
- Public transportation isn't being used at its full potential and it is not as efficient as it should be. For example, there are too many different transfers to get to some places. (BART, bus, walking).
- Improve the transit and train service because trains are what can most reliably replace car travel because they can carry people for longer distances.
- **From the chat:**
  - *"I think there is a lot of air pollution from cars, so I think reducing pollution for commutes would help a lot. That's why I picked the first option for 1."*
  - *"I think companies are too competitive and therefore many people wouldn't have opportunities to get the job they want. So I [chose to focus new development within existing cities]."*
  - *"I've noticed a lot of empty buses especially during the COVID pandemic how will the buses make people feel safe?"*
  - *"I agree, I don't think a lot of people feel safe taking buses right now."*
  - *"I think safer streets really encourage people to take greener action."*

## Cocoa Club #3

January 27, 2021, 2-3 p.m.

### Discussion Notes

- **Expanding EV programs and protecting natural and agricultural lands were the top Environment strategies.**
- Expand programs to reduce car trips for people who work for big companies because that might have the biggest impact.
- I question the sustainability of electric vehicles in the long-term.
- The presenter asked if younger people are less interested in owning vehicles. Students answered that they would want to own their own car because it offers more independence. Also, they are fearful of COVID spreading in an Uber or a bus.
- If EVs were more affordable then they would make more sense.
- If EVs were able to go as far as gas-powered cars more people would use them.
- There is a high demand for the transit system and cars are unfortunately the only option when other options are inundated or not convenient.
- Protect natural lands because of the risk from fires.
- Protecting natural/agricultural lands because we as humans are reliant on food.
- **Improving the current system and building safer streets were the top priorities under the Transportation strategies.**
- Build safer streets because on the streets around me there aren't any sidewalks.
- Build safer streets because there are either narrow sidewalks or no sidewalks at all. We want safer areas to bike and walk and would want wider sidewalks.
- Support community-led transportation projects because they need the support.