

Sonoma County

Date: May 18, 2011

Location/Venue:

The Glaser Center
547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa

Attendance: 85

(Note: not all who attended participated in voting during all workshop segments)

Priorities Results

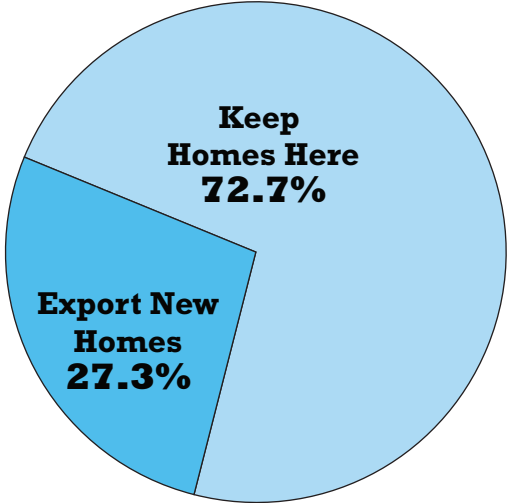
Looking to the future, participants were asked to rank their priorities:

Rank	Priority
1	Clean Air
2	Safer Access to Schools
3	Less Driving Overall
4	Conserve Open Space
5	Lower Carbon Emissions
6	Daily Needs Close to Home
7	Conserve Water
8	Convenient Access to Jobs
9	More Affordable Homes
10	Less Local Traffic
11	Keep my Town as it is Today
12	Lower Costs and Taxes
13	Easy and Low Cost Parking
14	Large Homes with Big Yards



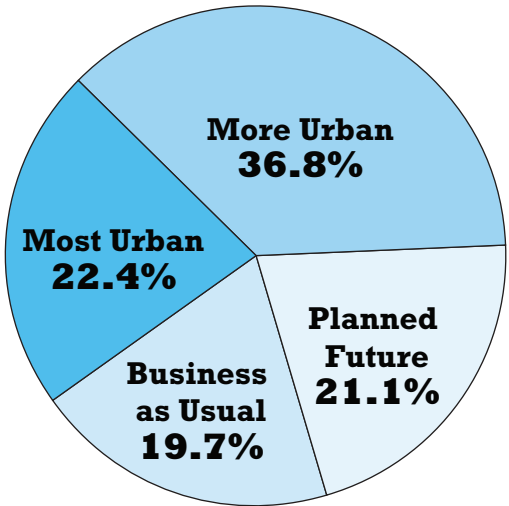
Where do we build?

Participants were asked where to locate new homes to accommodate new growth — export new homes outside the region or build homes here?



How will we grow?

Participants were asked to choose a preferred scenario for future growth, with "Business as Usual" carrying forward past development patterns, "Planned Future" reflecting adopted MTC and ABAG plans, and "More Urban" and "Most Urban" applying increasingly higher concentrations of housing and development.



Sonoma County (continued)

Priority Transportation Investment Strategies

Participants were given 11 options for investing future transportation funding and asked to select their top four priorities. One option was a “wild card” to allow for priorities not already listed.

Rank	Strategy
1	Improve bicycle and pedestrian routes
2	Expand express bus and local bus services
3	Increase funding for most effective transit services
4	Expand commuter rail services
5	Wild Cards (for ideas not already proposed)
6	Offer more transportation funds to cities that build new housing, and affordable housing, near transit in walkable neighborhoods w/ a range of amenities*
6	Offer financial incentives to cities that preserve agricultural lands and open space*
8	Increase funding to repair or purchase new buses, train cars, tracks, etc.
9	Increase funding to fix potholes on freeways and local roads
10	Widen freeways and local roadways
11	Make freeways more efficient through ramp meters and other technologies

* tie vote

Transportation Investment Strategies “Wild Cards” (summary of comments)

- Incentives for carpools and vanpools
- Fund car vouchers for disabled patrons for emergency transportation on nights/weekend/holidays
- Mini-buses, shuttles for short local trips
- Appropriate road development for appropriate housing growth, especially rural
- Funding to help cities lower fees and decrease land use restrictions for builders who invest without public funds
- Fund economic development
- Free bus passes for seniors, students, certain employees
- Link all neighborhoods with bike lanes/greenways

Priority Policy Initiatives

Participants were given 7 options for new policies that could be adopted (at the local, regional, state or federal level) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. One option was a “wild card” to allow for priorities not already listed.

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	Wild Cards (for ideas not already proposed)
3	Electric vehicles (e.g., subsidize the purchase/ lease of electric vehicles and hybrids, increase availability of electric vehicle chargers)
4	Economic development (e.g., strategies to protect existing jobs, create new jobs, or preserve warehouse/industrial sites)
5	Pricing parking (e.g., charge for parking at work sites, charge higher rates during busy periods to free up more spaces and reduce vehicle idling)
6	Changing driving habits to conserve fuel & reduce harmful emissions (e.g., reduce maximum speeds to 55 mph, educate drivers to drive at even speeds, remove heavy objects from trunks to save fuel and reduce harmful emissions)*
6	Other pricing strategies (e.g., charge tolls on new express lanes, or charge a new fee based on annual miles driven)*

Policy Initiatives “Wild Cards” (summary of comments)

- Adopt policy to encourage public/private partnerships for incentivizing infrastructure and private development investment
- Incentives for fleet turnover to greener energy
- Eliminate unnecessary agencies with unelected boards
- Incentives versus requirements for many of these proposals
- Incentivize local food production
- Raise the gas tax
- Greenhouse gases don’t matter
- Less restrictions for new small businesses
- Congestion-pricing on all roads
- Gauges in all vehicles to show fuel efficiency to promote saving fuel and reducing emissions
- Promote local economic development
- Tax credits for saving energy
- Maximize use of private, nonprofit and public vehicles through “mobility management”