



Sonoma County

Plan Bay Area Spring 2016 Open House Summary



Monday, June 13, 2016 6 pm to 8 pm	Luther Burbank Center for the Arts – Grand Lobby 50 Mark West Springs Road Santa Rosa	Approximate Attendance 20
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Scenarios Station Feedback

The Scenarios Station included displays that allowed residents to review the scenarios in detail, with a focus on their county. On accompanying boards, participants were asked to post feedback. Below is a sampling of the comments submitted at the Sonoma County open house. Visit PlanBayArea.org to view the complete list.

Are there aspects of each scenario that, if combined, will help to meet today’s challenges while laying the groundwork for future success? If so, which ones?



- Encourage alternatives to driving.
- More extensive and frequent transit service with seamless connections
- Policies to encourage open space preservation.
- Connected Neighborhoods Scenario seems most promising.

What is the toughest challenge our region will need to address for the next generation?



- Toughest challenge is balancing need for maintenance vs. needed expansion.
- Climate protection is our greatest challenge.

What ideas do you have for helping to address this challenge?

- Invest in maintenance;
- Fund expansion projects only when they benefit large numbers of people;
- Encourage alternatives to driving; by removing all local requirements for parking with new development.

How can we help prevent displacement of long-time residents and best address the lack of affordable housing in the Bay Area?



- Tie transportation funds to approval of affordable housing in locally designated Priority Development Areas; require 15-20% affordable units
- Government should purchase low-income housing to keep it affordable
- Condition funding for cities and counties to require strong anti-displacement policies

Which present-day transportation investments do you see providing the most benefits for existing and future Bay Area residents?



- Encourage young people to learn to navigate public transportation;
- Fund public transit; subsidize all fares (student passes, seniors, the homeless)
- Stop widening and building roads



Places of the Bay Area Station

The Places of the Bay Area Station offered the opportunity to participate in a Bay Area-wide initiative to inspire residents in creating and sharing stories about the various places in our lives. Below is a sampling of photos taken at this station at the Sonoma County open house.





Plan Bay Area 2040 -- Spring 2016 Public Engagement

Sonoma County Open House

June 13, 2016

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Comments Received at the Scenarios Station on the Feedback Display Boards

After reviewing several display boards describing Plan Bay Area 2040 and the alternative scenarios for what the Bay Area could look like in 2040, as well as talking with MTC and ABAG staff stationed at the display boards, Open House participants responded to the four questions below.

	Are there aspects of each scenario that, if combined, you feel will help to meet today's challenges while laying the groundwork for future success? If so, which ones?	County/ Source of Comment
1	Less driving. Transit with seamless connections.	Sonoma
2	I think the Connected Neighborhood plan is the best option.	Sonoma

	What is the toughest challenge our region will need to address for the next generation? What ideas do you have for helping to address this challenge?	County/ Source of Comment
1	Toughest transportation challenge will be to find the right balance between investment in maintenance and repair of existing system with needed expansion of both roadways and transit. I recommend continuing emphasis on maintenance and investing expansion dollars where they will benefit the greatest number of people.	Sonoma
2	Climate protection is our greatest challenge, and the traditions of free parking are one factor under local control for cities to reduce VMT.	Sonoma
3	Toughest challenge: preserving open space that is accessible to the public, as appropriate.	Sonoma

	How can we help prevent displacement of long-time residents and best address the lack of affordable housing in the Bay Area?	County/ Source of Comment
1	Tie transportation funds to affordable housing based in UGBs and PDAs. Require 15-20% affordable to get \$.	Sonoma
2	Buy up existing low-income housing and keep it affordable.	Sonoma
3	Award funds with strong anti-displacement policy requirements.	Sonoma

	Which present-day transportation investments do you see providing the most benefits for existing and future Bay Area residents?	County/ Source of Comment
1	Get young people to understand and use the bus system - free them and their parents from the drive to school traffic.	Sonoma
2	Fund transit - subsidize all fares: student passes, seniors, homeless. Lower cost to the rider on all buses.	Sonoma
3	Stop building roads. Stop widening roads.	Sonoma

Comment Forms Submitted at the Open House

	Comment – Sonoma County	County/ Source of Comment
1	This is interesting!	Sonoma
2	I was surprised to find myself torn between the Connected Neighborhoods and Big Cities scenarios. I strongly believe that we should live near where we work. I also believe we should have access to open and green spaces. I expected to prefer the Connected Neighborhoods option, but when I did the survey, Big Cities came out much higher. Do promote friendly, livable, walkable neighborhoods. Do invest in public transit, especially rail. When push comes to shove, in my gut, I prefer Connected neighborhoods.	Sonoma
3	Please read the attached report card. We participated in the evaluation of this plan and development of this card. NOTE FROM STAFF: <i>This individual attached the two-page Interim Report Card from 6 Wins for Social Equity Network. Do MTC/ ABAG Make the Grade? <u>Subject:</u> Plan Bay Area FOR ALL. <u>Overall Grade:</u> D. <u>Comments:</u> Your continued failure to analyze an Equity scenario that proved to be environmentally superior in 2013, to implement the equity amendments you adopted in 2013, and to address the displacement crisis harms low-income families and the region as a whole. It's not too late to do the right thing.</i>	Sonoma

Places of the Bay Area Station

Places of the Bay Area is a Bay Area-wide initiative to inspire residents in creating and sharing stories about various places in our lives. Open House participants were asked to complete two statements about their community: “In my community I love ____ because ____” and “In my community I want to see ____ because ____.”

	Statements
1	In My Community I Love Sonoma Square because I can watch birds, enjoy dappled sunlight, picnic with friends and family, celebrate moments, make new memories...
2	In My Community I Love Petaluma because it is a city of 60,000 that feels like a town of 6,000
3	In My Community I Love Bike trails and rail lines
4	In My Community I Love Planners because they can boldly say what needs to be said.
5	In My Community I Love Fare-less transit because students, veterans, folks with disabilities rely on services.
6	In My Community I Want to See Free passes for all students because... 1. They will become the long riders 2. It will create equity 3. Reduce greenhouse gasses 4. Help every youth get to school & jobs
7	In My Community I Want to See The potholes get repaired because they're a real pain!
8	In My Community I Want to See Greenbelts because we need open space around our communities to offer us clean air, water and wildlife.
9	In My Community I Want to See Grocery stores because they build community, see neighbors and make me happy.
10	In My Community I Want to See More streetcars & more bike trails because they produce fewer greenhouse gasses.