



Focus on Sonoma County

Sonoma County

Spring 2017 Public Engagement: Comments from Sonoma County

Sonoma County Open House -- Monday, May 22, 2017

Finley Community Center, 2060 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa

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 Establish an Affordable Housing District based on So Co's and Open Space District model which raises funds that are used to either a) acquire/develop high-density transit-oriented projects, or b) compensate existing landowners to maintain rent in cases indexed to cost living.
- 2 Spend money on housing instead of wider roads.
- 3 Regarding the old abandoned water department building on West College Avenue in Santa Rosa, it's in walking distance to west side transit center and could be turned into affordable housing for people who do not drive and are transit dependent.
- 4 Housing is needed for cannabis farm workers near or in the growing facilities in Santa Rosa and Sonoma County.
- 5 More mixed-income housing.
- 6 The housing developers were spoiled with federal funds. Eventually the market will crush again. Speculators have ruined capitalistic ideals.
- 7 Need multi-family homes with sound-proof walls.
- 8 Support farmworkers' housing in job centers, not ag lands.
- 9 Rent control with teeth!
- 10 Just cause eviction policies.
- 11 Permanent supportive housing.
- 12 Mix of market rate and affordable housing.
- 13 SRO (single room occupancy) friendly policies.
- 14 Housing bond.

Economic Development

- 15 More affordable housing near transit hubs!

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- 16 Restrooms that are accessible in all transit stations. Paid cleaning staff.
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- 17 Fareless transit for students.
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- 18 Middle-wage jobs - reduced costs for returning college and community college.
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- 19 Retail and services near SMART stations.
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- 20 Electric shuttles (12-20 passengers) for concerts, events, etc., and job centers. None are street legal at this time; or electric-only lanes.
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- 21 Interim planning commuting for families and their children (example: Sebastopol bus). Note: Another person agreed with this comment.
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- 22 One planet communities. Example: Sonoma Village. Principles more form-based code, less car-dependent, planning/development. Better transit, more walkable communities.
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Resiliency

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- 23 Require local transportation agencies to reduce rents and greenhouse gases with all funded projects.
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- 24 Raise gas prices to European levels to that the population is motivated to use transit.
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- 25 Market or advertise transit as a health opportunity due to the walking involved.
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- 26 Frequent, convenient, affordable public transit.
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- 27 Dedicate a majority of transportation funding to transit.
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- 28 Increase the price of carbon on all upstream emissions. I know this is a state issue, but maybe create a regional idea.
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- 29 Expand Rockefeller Foundation Chief Resiliency Officer idea to other cities and counties.
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- 30 Require all developments in "resiliency hotspots" to conduct adaptation and mitigation plans. Provide funding for studies.
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- 31 Solar panels and fans with shelter on all bus stations.
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- 32 Marketing for public transit is the better, more responsible choice; more conscious.
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- 33 Make our transit systems efficient. Sonoma County transit is far too inefficient.
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- 34 Make all parking spaces cost money. Funnel the funds into transportation and land use.
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- 35 Keep car fueled with gas; put valuables handy. Figure back route out of town (fastest way).
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- 36 Regarding sea level rise, what's the plan for 101 around the airport (Brisbane development along 101)?
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- 37 How is private industry being engaged and contributing?
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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 Sonoma County open house.*

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

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- 1 Home sharing (e.g. HIP housing and SHARE Sonoma County).
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- 2 Use shipping containers to produce inexpensive single-occupant dwellings and place them in former industrial zones which are served by transit (existing or catered).
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- 3 Create a PDA on the north side of Hoen Avenue (in Santa Rosa) between Farmers and Summerfield.
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- 4 Eliminate CEQA - actually abide by requirements and plan and build well.
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To keep the region's economy growing, we should...

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- 5 Create "startup villages" with very affordable rents, month-to-month or short leases. Built out of shipping containers, shared resources. Tie into college/university business programs to provide assurance of business progress; no progress, no more space.
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- 6 Only subsidize businesses that provide middle-wage jobs for local workers.
 - 7 Focus on increasing job opportunities related to "blue collar workers" (advanced building training, renewable energy, maintenance and operation).
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To prevent displacement, I recommend...

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- 8 Building a lot more housing - for all income levels.
 - 9 In impacted areas, use ordinances to limit turnover rate, leaning toward longer lease terms if renters want it; if not, landlord may re-rent. Not rent control, but rent slowing.
 - 10 Shift money from new pavement to transit-oriented development.
 - 11 Stronger rent control.
 - 12 Vigorous infill development.
 - 13 Build "emergency" housing to have tenants move into temporarily while their apartments are modernized.
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To solve the Bay Area housing crisis, I recommend that we...

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- 14 One idea: ease permitting on tiny home communities and add incentives for creating them.
 - 15 Have cities actually implement the Housing Element in their General Plans.
 - 16 Use form-based codes.
 - 17 All persons deserve shelter. Open CHAP confining guidelines.
 - 18 Put housing at company campuses, shopping malls, transit centers, city/county/state land.
 - 19 Retrofit Section 8 housing.
 - 20 Add housing where carports are.
 - 21 Reduce parking minimums.
 - 22 Massive hemp growing effort to get available wood.
 - 23 House ALL students on all college/community college campuses.
 - 24 Implement housing impact fees and restore Redevelopment Agency fees.
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We can create a more resilient Bay Area by...

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- 25 Making cities more welcome to workers (shaded walking trails, flowers, etc.).
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We need a transportation system that...

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- 26 Allows disabled riders to ride free on Golden Gate Transit.
 - 27 Supports self-driving cars.
 - 28 Makes the cost of driving higher than the cost of riding transit...much higher.
 - 29 Provides fareless student transit.
 - 30 Utilizes 21st Century data analysis/technology to create demand-responsive transit (vs. 20th Century fixed-route models).
 - 31 Meets the needs of the county's riders. The county needs an Unmet Needs hearing held every year.
 - 32 Prepares us for a future free of fossil fuels.
 - 33 Makes it easier and cheaper to use transit than drive a single-occupancy vehicle.
 - 34 Connects the nine Bay Area counties.
 - 35 Connects SMART to transit east to Sacramento.
 - 36 Has buses and trains that run every 30 minutes.
 - 37 Is affordable or free, convenient, and runs frequently.
 - 38 Provides mobility, promotes physical health, saves the environment, stimulates local economies...and that means TRAINS.
 - 39 Has train stations where it is fun to wait for the next train. There are: food trucks, coffee carts, benches, playgrounds for adults and kids, flowers, bookstores and newspapers and magazines, musicians, ice cream café.
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- 40 Is fast, connected, and customer focused.
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- 41 Is clean, well-lit with restrooms and key stations.
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- 42 Is fully-funded.
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- 43 Goes where we want, when we need it.
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- 44 Is responsive to customers.
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- 45 Integrates with Best Practices in Land Use.
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- 46 Is so "cool" that all people want to ride!
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With the Action Plan in mind, I commit to...

- 47 Follow transportation issues closely!

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 Sonoma County Open House.*

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- 1 Fabulous event!
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- 2 It's great that we're paying more emphasis on transit! Emphasize.
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