

**TO: Envision San José 2040
Task Force**

FROM: Michael Brilliot

**SUBJECT: November 23, 2009
TASK FORCE MEETING**

DATE: November 17, 2009

This memo provides information to assist you in preparing for the November 23, 2009 Envision San José 2040 Task Force Meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Land Use / Transportation Diagram – Concepts:

Staff will provide the Task Force with an introduction of several concepts for the Land Use / Transportation Diagram component of the General Plan Update.

First, staff will demonstrate how the General Plan diagram can be presented in an interactive on-line internet format that will enable users greater access to General Plan information. The current General Plan contains up to approximately 75 pieces (or “layers”) of information for any given property within the City. For example, each property has a General Plan designation, Zoning designation, height limit, School District and Flood Plain designation and also may have other information such as presence of an historic resource, proximity to a riparian corridor, or other environmental concerns. While it is not feasible to graphically depict all of this information in a traditional paper map format, the on-line interface allows for users to select which layers of information are shown on the map.

Second, staff will present five General Plan map “theme” maps intended to highlight related layers of information typically of interest to the community. These theme maps are proposed to be included within the General Plan as General Plan diagrams:

- Land Use – the traditional General Plan Land Use / Transportation Diagram, depicts General Plan designations, roadway designations, and special land use overlay zones.
- Growth Areas – highlights the specific areas (e.g. Villages, Employment Lands, Specific Plan Areas, Downtown) identified for growth through the Envision process.
- Mobility – highlights transit facilities, bicycle routes, trails, and roadways.
- Neighborhoods – identifies key neighborhood features, such as walkable commercial areas, parks, schools, and how they support an identifiable neighborhood area.
- Open Space Network – highlights parks, trails, and other open space features.

Task Force and community members will be asked to provide input on the proposed list and contents of the theme maps.

Agenda Item 4 – City Design Concepts:

Ten City Design Concepts are proposed for the Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan. These Design Concepts collectively will guide the physical development of the city to achieve the City’s Vision. Each of these concepts will be integrated throughout the Envision San Jose 2040 document and will inform the Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions.

The Envision San Jose 2040 Plan is proposed to have a Vision and ten City Design concepts which will establish high level goals for the General Plan as a whole. In contrast, the San Jose 2020 General Plan does not include a Vision, but instead is based on seven Major Strategies. The proposed Vision and City Design Concept are consistent with and build upon ideas described in the San Jose 2020 General Plans Major Strategies and Concepts, but more clearly represent the direction being developed by the Task Force, the community and staff for Envision San Jose 2040. Furthermore, there is overlap between the existing Major Strategies and the proposed Vision, and the proposed structure therefore precludes redundancies that would be created if the existing Major Strategies were retained. For those of you familiar with the existing San Jose 2020 General Plan, you will notice that many of the Major Strategies have been carried over as proposed City Design Concepts or are contained within the Vision Elements.

At Monday's Task Force Meeting, the Task Force will discuss and provide input on whether the ten proposed Design Concepts are the ones with which we should move forward. With three exceptions, we are not proposing to discuss in detail the text within each Concept but instead to discuss the proposed ten headings and the overall direction of the Concepts. The three exceptions are the Design Complete Streets for People, the Grand Boulevard and the Main Street City Design Concepts. These three will be presented and discussed in more detail on Monday with Task Force input feeding into the December Task Force discussion on Transportation Goals, Policies and Actions. The other City concepts will be discussed further later in the Task Force Work Program.

Agenda Item 5 – Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions – Consent Items

As follow up to the October 19 and October 26 Task Force meetings, the Task Force has been provided with revised draft Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions for:

- Energy
- Green Building
- Historic Preservation and Archeology
- Quality Neighborhoods
- Water Supply

These draft documents have been revised to include specific input provided by the Task Force and community members.

Please note that comments on the Water Supply policies submitted by Task Force member Dave Fadness and a staff response to those comments are both posted on the Envision website as part of the materials for this meeting.

The Green Building Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions were revised to capture the majority of the comments discussed by the Task Force. One notable exception is the use of language that "requires" various green building techniques. Staff strengthened some of the policies by using "require," rather than "promote" or "encourage." However, Policy GB-1.7 explicitly prioritizes the use of energy and water conservation techniques in the implementation of Green Building Policies. Given the trade-offs that occur when developers construct a building to LEED standards, staff prioritized which policies should be required, based partially on Policy GB-1.7, and updated those policies accordingly. Another notable exclusion is the request for quantifiable numbers of both new and existing green building square footage totals in the City. Staff added a new policy to explicitly address retrofits for existing buildings (see Policy GB-1.8) but did not add an action with separate

square footage totals for new and existing buildings because additional policies will need to be developed, outside of the General Plan Process, before appropriate and realistic square footage can be established for building retrofits.

In addition, the first draft of Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions for “Community Forest” are included with the Consent Items.

If Task Force members wish to discuss any of these proposed Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions drafts they will need to identify which one they would like to discuss. If an item is not “pulled from consent,” then there will be no discussion on the particular topic.

Agenda Item 7 - Task Force Recommendations (vote on motions as needed)

Following an opportunity for comment by members of the public (Agenda Item 6), the Task Force will then have an opportunity to further discuss and vote on recommendations related to the topics discussed for Agenda Item 3 and Agenda Item 4 as well as to endorse the consent items (Agenda Item 5).

Announcements

Laurel Prevetti will announce to the Task Force that you are encouraged to become Envision San Jose 2040 ambassadors, discussing the direction of Envision San Jose with your professional colleagues and/or members of your community.

Please note that following the November and December Task Force meetings, the Task Force is scheduled to meet twice a month for January, February, March (as needed) and April. An updated Task Force Work Program is posted on the Envision website as part of the Task Force materials. Staff anticipates that two meetings will be necessary each month in order for the Task Force and community member participants to have adequate time to discuss selection of a Preferred Land Use Scenario, Land Use / Transportation Diagram designations and policies related to Economic, Fiscal, Housing, and Services (e.g. Schools, Health Care, Public Safety).

Reading Materials

To prepare for the discussion on City Concepts, the Task Force is provided with the following reading materials:

- “What are Complete Streets?”
- “Complete Streets Policy & Implementation”
- “Great Streets Urban Design Guiding Principles” from Austin, Texas
- “World’s Finest Streets” from Project for Public Spaces

Related to the revised Quality Neighborhoods policies, the Task Force is provided with the following article:

- “NYC Provides Incentives for Stores with Healthful Foods”

Links to these materials are posted on the Envision website.

Resource Materials

To provide additional background materials for Monday's meeting, a number of resource materials are included in the meeting packet on Complete Streets, Grand Boulevards, and Main Streets, Energy, Quality Neighborhoods, Community Forest, and Water Supply. These materials are not required reading but are provided for those interested in exploring or understanding a specific topic further.

Links to these materials are posted on the Envision website.

Task Force Correspondence

Brian Darrow submitted to the Task Force suggested policies to be included within the Quality Neighborhoods section. These have been largely incorporated into the revised draft document. The Healthy Community goal is also included as one of the City Design Concepts.

Dave Fadness submitted to the Task Force suggested edits to the Water Supply Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions. These are posted along with a staff response to explain how and why most of the suggestions have been included within the current draft.

Linda Lezotte submitted to the Task Force an article on a US Department of Energy program to retrofit homes for energy efficiency.

Commission Correspondence

Martin Delson submitted proposed edits to the Energy Goals Policies and Implementation Actions. Staff has considered this input in the preparation of the revised draft (Item 5.a).

Next Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2009. The focus of this meeting will be a discussion of Transportation policies.

If you have any questions, please contact either me or Andrew Crabtree. I can be reached by phone at (408) 535-7831 or by email at: michael.brilliot@sanjoseca.gov. Andrew can be reached by phone at (408) 535-7893 or by email at: andrew.crabtree@sanjoseca.gov.

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