

El Camino Real Plan Advisory Committee (ECRPAC) Meeting #2 Summary Notes

Sunnyvale City Hall, West Conference Room

January 27, 2015 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES

ECRPAC:

Chris Figone, Christopher Wiegel, Rutawari Sharma, Michael Shum, Raj Singh, Steve Pavlina, Gary Guiffre, Linda Garcia, Patti Evans, Margaret Okuzumi, Petya Kisyova, Sue Harrison

Alternates: Karen Galatis, Tracy Tripp

Project Team:

City Staff:

Rosemarie Zulueta (Associate Planner/Project Manager), Trudi Ryan (Director, Community Development Department), Andrew Miner (Planning Officer), Suzanne Ise (Housing Officer)

Consultants:

Dave Javid, Geoff Bradley, Maria Gabriela Huertas Diaz, and Justin Shiu (M-Group); Bill Lee (LEG); Ria H Lo (Nelson/Nygaard)

Community Members:

Approximately 10-12 community members were present at the meeting

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Select ECRPAC Chair and Vice Chair
- III. Summary of Background Reports
- IV. Q+A/Discussion of Background Reports
- V. *Initial Project Visioning (time permitting)*
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Next Steps
- VIII. Adjourn

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Introductions and Selection of ECRPAC Chair and Vice Chair

Rosemarie Zulueta welcomed Committee members and alternates to the second ECRPAC meeting. The ECRPAC, City staff and consultant team introduced themselves. Rosemarie provided a brief overview of the first meeting and the updated project schedule. Next the Committee was asked to nominate a Chair and Vice Chair, and they voted for Patti Evans as ECRPAC Chair and Michael Shum as the Vice Chair.

Summary of Background Reports

City staff and the consultant team provided an overview of the El Camino Real (ECR) Profile (existing conditions and circulation analysis), Market Study and Affordable Housing and Anti-Displacement Strategy. Dave Javid presented slides on the demographic study and land use analysis presented in the ECR Profile, which describes the current and projected population and the built form of the corridor. Ria H. Lo covered the existing circulation conditions, outlining how the corridor currently operates within Sunnyvale for various modes of transportation, and some of the potential opportunities for improvement. Bill Lee presented the market study, identifying market trends and projections in and around the corridor

and regionally. Bill also presented retail strategy recommendations for the corridor that would complement Town Center instead of compete with it. Rosemarie Zulueta concluded the slide presentation with a brief overview of existing City programs and potential new programs that support affordable housing.

Discussion/Public Comment

Each member of the ECRPAC was given an opportunity to ask questions, receive clarifications, request information, or provide general comments on the presentation and the documents that the presentation covered. Members of the public were also given the opportunity to provide comments. Discussion highlights include:

- Traffic/circulation and pedestrian and bike access and safety are issues that need to be addressed
 - Sidewalks and block lengths do not seem to emphasize walkability and accessibility.
 - Currently, ECR's purpose is to transport people from one place to another as quickly and as efficiently as possible; recommendations to reduce its carrying capacity may exacerbate already worsening traffic conditions
 - Think about how to keep people on ECR and not spill over to side streets
 - Think about how the safety of ECR in Sunnyvale compares to other cities
- Encourage locally-owned businesses and opportunities for new or young entrepreneurs.
- Vision must consider not only how to bring people to the corridor but how to keep them there.
- What commercial establishments can be accommodated?
 - *The Market Study determined that there is demand for restaurants, and the corridor can accommodate more retail and some hotels, while office uses are overbuilt.*
 - *Lot size and building forms can be a determination on store size and type of business*
- Housing accommodations should correlate with latest trends in the preferences of the millennial generation and housing needs for the aging population.
- More affordable housing is needed in the City and along the corridor, and the nodes are prime places for affordable housing. This sentiment was supported by the public in attendance.
- Vision for the corridor must consider the policies in the Grand Boulevard Initiative.

The ECRPAC commented on several items that the City and consultant team will follow up on:

- Access to VTA ridership surveys. Why do people take transit? Why do people not take transit?
- For live-work and multi-use buildings, what is the travel behavior? Do people drive less?
- Access to the latest sidewalk design standards from the City including tree coverage, etc.
- Understanding of speed and lane width requirements.
- Is parking underutilized? Is there a better use for on-street parking spaces? A more accurate parking utilization versus supply comparison was requested.
- Signal timing questions: How can signal timing and design be changed if Caltrans has ownership of the road? Can the timing be tuned up to improve efficiency? What influence does the City have to change timing and what type of coordination has been done with adjacent/surrounding cities?
- The State Route 82 Relinquishment Study, initiated by the Grand Boulevard Initiative was requested.
- What are the trends and preferences of millennials and the aging population?
- What percentage of the City's retail sales tax revenue comes from the ECR corridor?

Next Steps

The next meeting with the ECRPAC is anticipated to include an exercise to help develop a vision statement and guiding planning principles for the Sunnyvale El Camino Real Corridor Plan. The next meeting is planned for the end of February/beginning of March, depending on ECRPAC member availability and other factors.