

North San Jose Neighborhoods Planning Taskforce

**Taskforce Meeting #4
Northside Community Center
488 N 6th St San Jose, CA 95112
Thursday, September 27, 2007
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Introductions of taskforce members, staff, and attendees.

2. Work Program Update

- The City Council formally approved work plan for taskforce on 9/25/07
- The taskforce will bring back to Council a midterm progress report in November
- Staff noted that there will be another opportunity to revisit the Brown Act and allow taskforce members to talk directly in both small and large groups.

3. Transportation Presentation and Interactive Exercise

- The Department of Transportation presented an overview of transportation and transit issues in North San Jose. The presentation was followed by an interactive exercise to gather Taskforce feedback to the transportation component with the emphasis on the creation of Guiding Principles for Land Use and Transportation.
- Q& A Session with Manuel Pineda (DOT) and Andrew Crabtree (Planning):
 - i. Taskforce members inquired about traffic impacts on small group projects and special events brought forth by potential 49ers stadium
 - ii. Questions regarding the methodology of the traffic impact analysis and the frequency of updating traffic models.
 - iii. Questions on light rail capacity and programs to re-synchronize streetlights for better traffic flows.
 - iv. Questions on funding mechanisms on RDA and City level.
 - v. Question on plans for adding fueling stations to North San Jose.

- Design Guideline Exercise: Taskforce members were asked to brainstorm, prioritize, and provide their guiding principles for consideration
 - i. Guideline Principles (from staff)
 - Design small walkable blocks for residential development
 - Develop a grid street system for the urban core to maximize walkability and transit
 - Create connections between new and existing development
 - Create connections using a mix of public streets, public paseos, and private streets to public uses such as parks
 - Use flexibility in street design to encourage all modes of transportation (people walking, on bikes, as well as cars)
 - Design built in traffic calming and pedestrian enhancements for new streets
 - ii. Taskforce Guiding Principles (items in bold considered priorities):
 - **Ensure funding is in place before development begins**
 - Identify strategies and expand transit use.
 - Ensure adequate alternatives to avoid bottlenecks
 - **Reconsider parking requirements**
 - **Make sure that there are at least 2-3 ways to get out of a neighborhood (for emergencies)**
 - Connections to trails
 - **Impact on Alviso**
 - Design streets and overpass so they are more aesthetically pleasing to look at
 - Take into account traffic in 880 and 237
 - Use sustainable design to encourage alternative modes of transportation (trails, pedestrian walkways, environmental impacts)
 - **Ensure sufficient local retail to support walking**
 - **Plan land uses to minimize need to travel outside neighborhood for daily needs**
 - Retrofit existing neighborhoods with trails, amenities to support walking
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iii. Group Reports (Key findings and recommendations)

- **Sufficient Parking:** Ensure street parking would not look like an overflow. The issue is there is not enough parking. Provide more adequate parking, for new and existing developments.
- **Local Retail:** Use Rivermark, Spain, Europe as examples of future neighborhood retail. Encourage more retail zoning up front, mixed use.
- **Grid Street, Good Trails:** Visibility, safety, increase traffic, design accessibility, multi-modal.
- **Alviso:** Services will be strained tremendously because of increased population (parks, schools, library, youth center, gym, Alviso marina, postal service box, traffic, police response.
- **Ensure funding is in place:** Consider maintenance costs in funding plans. Politicians and planners should follow plans. Use money for stated purpose. Reevaluate TIF every 2 years. Fee for residential and development should be re-evaluated every 2 years. Make sure funding is built in for potential increases to account for price increases. Make sure funding is allocated and only used for development and make sure funding is in place to maintain streets before you start.

4. Logistics and Meeting Housekeeping

- **Next meeting:** Thursday, October 11. 6:30pm, location, TBD. Topics will focus on the water supply and flood control.
- **Subcommittees:** Staff sent e-mail notice for membership and meeting dates. All is encouraged to join.
- **Homework Assignment:** Staff provided disposable cameras for taskforce members to take pictures of retail and urban designs that could be used as examples in North San Jose.
- **Other announcements:** General Plan Update Community Workshop. October 13th, at City Hall from 9:30-12:30, child care available and translation services in Spanish

5. Public Comments:

- City and taskforce might consider Transportation Demand Measure (TMD).

6. Adjourn