



- **WORKSHOP SUMMARY**
- **WARDLAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
- **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**
- **6:00- 8:30PM**

The first of three of the Propel Vallejo General Plan Update – Preferred Scenario workshops was held on Wednesday, September 30th, 2015 at 6:00 pm at Wardlaw Elementary, with approximately 30 members of the public attending. The three workshops are being held to solicit feedback that will provide direction on a Preferred Scenario to serve as the backbone of the General Plan and Land Use Map. This summary provides a recap of the meeting and a summary of the public input received.

Presentation

Community members were greeted by the City, General Plan Working Group members and PlaceWorks staff, and were encouraged to view the display boards that summarize each element of the General Plan's Guiding Principles, and the project schedule. Each community member was given a workbook that described the preferred scenarios and guiding questions for discussion.

Charlie Knox of PlaceWorks, consultant to the City of Vallejo, made a presentation to participants including an overview of the project's activities to date, current status and next steps; and answering questions from the audience. Charlie explained that the focus of the current phase of the project is on combining elements from each of the three scenarios in a way that describes a vision for the kind of community Vallejoans want in 2040, called the preferred scenario. The preferred scenario will serve as the backbone of the General Plan and Land Use Map. The first scenario, River and Bay City, envisions Vallejo as a community oriented to the water, the New Town Center scenario focuses development around regional commercial and entertainment attractions near the freeways to promote a second town center to complement the more residential downtown area. The Urban Villages scenario envisions Vallejo as a network of connected villages, each with a distinct character. The presentation is available at <http://propelvallejo.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/PreferredScenarioWorkshop-20150930.pdf>.

Small Group Activity

Following the presentation, participants broke into six small groups for focused discussion on five topic areas, including Downtown Character, Development Potential, Getting Around, Sustainability, and Community Health. Each table had one facilitator, a large format map showing the three scenarios, and worksheets to record the group's ideas. Each participant had one workbook and a summary table outlining the key features of each scenario. The facilitators guided participants through the discussion. The first question asked "which scenario most closely represents your vision for the future?" Based on the answer to the first question, the facilitators asked whether downtown should be the primary focus of community life. The discussion continued for each of the topic areas, and participants were encouraged to mark up the map with changes they wished to see, and the facilitators recorded reasons for the changes on the worksheets provided.

Reports Back

Following the small group activity, each group selected presenters to summarize their discussions to the full audience of workshop participants. Many groups reported similar interests in focusing community life downtown, revitalizing the waterfront, and encouraging job growth with small, local

businesses that build on the existing character and diversity of the community. Enhancing transportation and pedestrian connections to Mare Island and from downtown to residential neighborhoods was also a common theme reported. Finally, creating community gardens and inviting public spaces were reported as ways to support sustainability and community health in Vallejo.

The following statements from the groups illustrate the range of common themes and unique ideas the groups discussed. Worksheets and table maps with full details of each group's ideas are included in the appendix to this meeting summary.

Downtown Character

- Maintained/restore historic homes
- Emphasize multiculturalism
- Avoid chains in downtown, create artist spaces
- Focus on making Mare Island a destination

Development Potential

- Make Springstowne corridor like Santana Row, revitalizing underutilized strip malls with a mix of uses
- With a concentration of new job growth downtown and on Mare Island, take steps to preserve the charming residential character of Tennessee Street between Tuolomme and I-80.
- Use old General Mills site and SE edge of Mare Island for museums and vocational training
- Encourage workforce development in Country Club Crest
- Locate jobs near Fairgrounds and New Town Center because of easy access from the freeway

Getting Around

- Springs/Solano corridor should be rich with transit due to its retail character
- Create activity nodes around Highway 29 with walkable areas and grocery
- Become a regional transportation hub – ferry, extend BART, in-town BRT
- Focus transportation and streetscape improvements on Georgia, develop a trolley line
- Connect Mare Island with downtown via water taxi

Sustainability

- Upgrade energy efficiency as housing stock is improved
- Minimize impacts from industrial uses
- Create more bike paths and an education program for community members to easily get around
- Expand existing network of electric car charging stations

Community Health

- Eliminate food deserts
- Make streets pedestrian friendly, including landscaping
- Provide solutions to decrease downtown homeless population
- Beautify waterfront to make it a comfortable recreation space