

Agenda Report

November 8, 2010

TO:

Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM:

Planning Department

SUBJECT:

GENERAL PLAN WORKSHOP: DISCUSSION OF FRAMEWORK

FOR LAND USE AND MOBILITY ALTERNATIVES

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is provided for information only as background for the General Plan Update charrette to be held on November 11, 12, and 13, 2010.

BACKGROUND:

The next step in the process to update the General Plan Land Use and Mobility Elements is a community charrette to be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday (November 11, 12 and 13). A charrette is a multiple-day, collaborative workshop focused on translating the full range of community comments and priorities into a series of plan alternatives.

The outcome of the charrette will be the creation of three to five land use/mobility alternatives that are most responsive to community priorities. Following the charrette, detailed analysis will be conducted on how the alternatives would impact traffic, the economy, the environment and more. The draft alternatives and the analysis of impacts will be presented to the community (and the ultimately the City Council) for selection of a preferred alternative in spring 2011.

Charrette Format

The charrette will be divided into morning, afternoon and evening sessions. In the morning sessions (9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.), the General Plan Update Advisory Committee and a core group of City commissioners and City staff will work to develop land use/mobility alternatives that respond to community priorities. On the second and third days, they will review the community comments on the previous day's work and continue to refine the alternatives. In the afternoon sessions (1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.), a technical team of City staff will create maps and graphics illustrating the direction of the core group in the morning.

Each evening, the day's work will be presented to the public for comment during an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m. Graphics and computer modeling will illustrate plan

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alternatives, and staff will make brief presentations at 6:30 p.m. highlighting refinements to the alternatives as they evolve.

The charrette is being held in Building CC on the Pasadena City College Campus. In addition to attending the presentations in the evening, the community is also welcome to observe the team's work during the day.

Staring Points for the Charrette

The charrette follows an extensive public engagement program during which more than 3,000 people shared their comments and concerns about the future of Pasadena. The first phase of outreach ran from April 2009 through December of 2010 when more than 100 events were held including: stakeholder interviews, small group meetings, community workshops, the Move-About tours, and an open house extravaganza. Community comments and concerns were published in the Outreach Summary Report which was circulated for public comment and unanimously adopted by City Council in the spring of 2010. (Available at: *Cityof Pasadena.net/generalplan*)

Community participation continued in the fall of 2010 with a series of community meetings to refine the most commonly heard themes and to begin mapping areas for potential growth and areas to be preserved from change.

The starting point for the charrette will be the priorities shared by the community during these events. Six core themes were identified by the community including: economic development, sustainability, housing, and three different approaches to managing or redistributing future growth (Attachment A). These themes will guide the evolution of a series of plan alternatives over the course of the three day event.

In addition, the community identified a long list of priorities that will further guide the development of alternatives. The foundational priorities include the unequivocal protection of parkland/open space, historic districts and buildings, and single-family neighborhoods. Many additional priorities are listed, some with universal support and others in conflict. The full list will be provided to participants in the charrette (Attachment B).

Context for Planning

To establish a baseline and further understanding of the results of prior general plan policies, a metrics report was prepared to document existing conditions and trends. The report (available at *Cityof Pasadena.net/generalplan*) describes population, housing and job growth since the 1994 plan and provides the remaining capacity under the development caps for each of the specific plan areas. A brief summary of existing factors will be presented to Council during discussion of this report. The metrics information will be used as background information when considering new plan alternatives.

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Other planning challenges such as economic development, environmental sustainability and state housing law will also be considered during the charrette.

Economic Development

Economic development in its simplest form is the creation of economic wealth for all citizens within the diverse layers of society so that all people have access to potential increased quality of life. Job creation, economic output and increase in tax base are the most common measurement tools. The general plan can play a significant role in supporting economic development activities and ensuring a vibrant economy and high quality of life in Pasadena for years to come.

Environmental Sustainability

Sustainability means "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Many cities are taking the first steps toward addressing climate change and sustainable development at the general plan level. The general plan provides a unique opportunity to incorporate sustainability goals into the highest levels of local government, promoting community-wide sustainable practices and complying with state and nationwide standards such as California's Global Warming solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32).

Housing Law

The Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) is mandated by State Housing Law as part of the periodic process of updating local housing elements of the General Plan. The RHNA quantifies the need for housing within each jurisdiction during specified planning periods. Communities must consider the RHNA in land use planning, prioritizing local resource allocation, and in deciding how to address identified existing and future housing needs resulting from population, employment and household growth.

A summary of each of these topics will be presented in conjunction with this report to provide a basis of understanding for how each of these elements may or may not impact the outcomes of the charrette.

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Reference Materials

A series of reference materials have been prepared to support the work of the charrette. The Outreach Summary Report and the Metrics Report were widely distributed to the community at the time of publication and are available on the city's website at cityofpasadena.net/generalplan

In addition a workbook has been prepared for participants of the charrette. A copy of the workbook will be distributed to Council at the time of presentation of this report. The workbook includes additional reference materials including fact sheets regarding the general plan and specific plans, fact sheets on planning challenges such as those listed above, additional economic development information, and additional information and maps regarding traffic and transit patterns. Much of the information from the workbook will also be available online.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:

Attachment A – Community Themes for Alternatives

Attachment B - Community Priorities for Alternatives

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

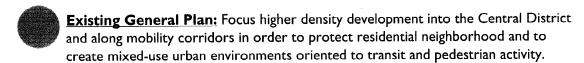


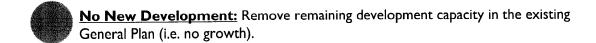
- THEMES -FOR THE GENERAL PLAN ALTERNATIVES

Working Themes:

- East Pasadena and East Colorado: Reduce development capacity in the Central District and direct development to East Pasadena and along East Colorado Boulevard (east of Lake Avenue).
- Major Districts and Corridors: Reduce development capacity in the Central District and direct development to multiple districts and corridors (e.g. East Pasadena, East Washington Boulevard, Lincoln Boulevard, Northwest Pasadena) incorporating mixed-use and neighborhood serving commercial uses.
- Reduced Capacity: Maintain the vision and intent of the existing General Plan (e.g. protect residential neighborhoods and create mixed-use urban environments) but reduce the amount of development capacity city-wide.
- "Smart Growth" and Sustainability: Distribute development and intensity with a focus on transit nodes in order to maximize conformance to "smart growth" and sustainability (environmental, economic, social) principles.
- **Economic Vitality:** Maximize the economic vitality of Pasadena.
- Housing Opportunities: Increase housing opportunities to serve the housing needs of all of Pasadena's residents.

Baseline Scenarios:





	Require quality design to maintain historic character. (3)
	Respect and preserve historic institutions (not just the building, but the uses). (3)
	Allow changes appropriate with the Secretary of Interior Standards. (3)
	Respect design guidelines. (3)
	Maintain a balance between historic architecture and affordable housing. (3)
Enviro	Environmental Sustainability
	Require green buildings and green design (e.g. more permeable surfaces). (3)
	Eliminate coal energy. (3)
	Reduce water usage. (3)
	Reduce greenhouse gases. (3)
	DDATT C M. Lilit.
	Ranked 1 ("Strong Support"), 2 ("Some support"), or 3 (other comments)
Bicycling	
•	New development should have bike facilities (showers/lockers/parking). (3)
	Promote cycling to create a healthy community. (3)
	Provide more bike lanes and bike racks. (3)
	Connect bike lanes with parking and open space areas. (3)
Walkability	ility
	Encourage local services/walkable services. (3)
	Preserve walkable neighborhoods. (3)
	Create an environment that is safe/ comfortable/ aesthetic for cyclists and pedestrians. (3)
Parking	
	Provide more public parking. (2)
	Provide/require adequate off-street parking. (3)
	Encourage "park once". (3)
	Address existing parking regulations, as they create problems for shoppers and visitors. (3)
	Address increased parking problems in more dense areas. (3)
Traffic	
	Preserve de-emphasized streets. (2)
	Limit car traffic along certain streets during certain periods (e.g. Colorado or Lake one day a month). (3)
	Do not approve projects that negatively impact traffic. (3)
	Ensure streets are safe to cross (e.g. Washington). (3)
	Protect neighborhoods from cut-through traffic. (3)
	Cars will still be needed to get around town. (3)
	Reduce the speed of cars along certain streets (e.g. Marengo). (3)
	Use incentives to decrease traffic and increase transit use. (3)

	Increase parking in area. (3)
	Allen
	Increase parking in area. (3) (3)
	Provide a drop-off/pick-up area.
	Sierra Madre Villa
	Make more walkable. (3)
	Increase light and openness. (3)
Comme	Commercial Districts
	Playhouse
	Make more walkable. (3)
	Increase parking in area. (3)
	Reduce width of Union Street and widen sidewalks. (3)
	East Colorado
	East Pasadena
	Increase parking in area. (3)
	Increase number of ARTS buses. (3)
	Relax parking restrictions in Transit Oriented Development (TOD) area to increase rider-ship. (3)
	North Lake
	Provide street medians with trees. (3)
	Address concerns about high traffic. (3)
	Lincoln Corridor
	Make more walkable. (3)
	Washington Boulevard
	Provide pedestrian streetscapes. (3)
	Central District
	Improve connectivity along Colorado Boulevard west across the 710 freeway. (3)
	Provide better way-finding signs. (3)
	Preserve pedestrian friendly shopping. (3)
Other	
	Reduce impacts of 710-extension to adjacent single-family neighborhoods. (3)
	Develop a contingency plan for the 710-extension. (3)
	Reduce impacts of 710-extension to adjacent single-family neighborhoods. (3)
	Provide services for senior mobility. (3)

Playhouse District			
Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
Locate growth in northern	Maintain existing scale of	Improve existing development	
portion of district as it is within	development. (2)	in harmony with district	
walking distance of Gold Line. (3)		character. (3)	
Improve storefronts. (3)	Reduce the allowable amount of		
	new development. (3)		
Create more green spaces (e.g.	Do not permit new		
Madison α Union parking lot).	development; there is very little notential for orouth here (3)		
	1 0 ci. L+1;		
	Lower neight limit. (3)		
	Allow a maximum of four		
	Decomes the case and all a		
	Deserve the area around the		
7.0.0	rasauena riaynouse. (3)		
Last Colorado			
Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
Allow growth/new development	Preserve Mom& Pop' stores,	Require contextual architecture.	Construct multi-family housing
along the corridor (Lake to city-	old motels, Route 66 inspiration.	(3)	at former auto dealership at
boundary). (1)	(3)		northwest comer of Colorado
Focus new development east of			Boulevard and Fill Avenue. (3)
Allen Avenue. (1)			
Allow mixed-use development.			
(2)			
Focus new development in area			
between Allen Avenue and			
Altadena Drive. (3)			
Allow higher density mixed-use			
development. (3)			
Balance new development with			
adjacent residential. (3)			
Provide more multi-family uses			

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_	near Colorado Boulevard and			
	Allen Avenue. (3)			
	Protect view corridors. (3)			
	Develop work/live east of Lake.			
	(3)			
	Eliminate auto-related uses. (3)			
East Pa	East Pasadena			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Allow growth/new	Do not allow "big box" retail.	Require contextual architecture.	
	development. (1)	(3)	(3)	
	Accommodate new growth	Protect views through height		
	because new development is	limits. (3)		
	buffered from single-family			
	residential. (3)			
	Encourage expansion of	Utilize vacant lots as parks. (3)		
	industrial uses. (3)			
	Develop theater/entertainment,			Develop theater/entertainment,
	office, mixed retail, mixed use,			office, mixed retail, mixed use,
	and affordable residential. (3)			and affordable residential. (3)
North Lake	Lake			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Allow growth/new	Need/preserve neighborhood-	Keep existing height limits. (3)	
	development. (1)	serving commercial, small businesses. (3)		
	Create new jobs through	Be aware of constraints from the		
	development along this corridor.	historic districts on both sides.		
	(3)	(3)		
	Encourage the development of	Protect the view corridors to the		
	more entertainment businesses.	mountains. (3)		
	(3)			
	Construct multi-story			
	development. (3)			
	Develop more commercial			
	businesses. (3)			
	Construct a parking structure at			
	Lake/Washington wrapped with			
	active uses. (3)			

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	Plant more trees. (3)		(Republic Andrews Andr	
	Increase density but within			
	existing height limits. (3)			
	Blend with adjacent residential			
	neighborhoods. (3)			
	Construct low intensity mixed-			
	use/residential: 2-3 stories. (3)			
	Be more pedestrian friendly. (3)			
	Provide economic development			
	& parking, store front			
	improvements. (3)			
North	Northwest Pasadena			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Allow new development. (2)	Protect the Lincoln Triangle	Maintain the existing scale. (3)	Encourage the development of
		(Fair Oaks/Orange Grove/Lincoln) . (3)		more single-family residences.
	Develop higher density	Protect existing affordable		Encourage the development of
	residential and retail. (3)	housing. (3)		affordable housing. (3)
	Improve neighborhoods. (3)			
	Create new jobs through			
	development. (3)			
	Make North Fair Oaks Avenue			
	south of Montana Street safer.			
	(3)			
	Develop more entertainment uses. (3)			
	Construct neighborhood-serving			
	commercial (e.g. small retail and			
	corree snops) . (3)			
Lincoln	Lincoln Avenue			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
- ,	Allow new development			Encourage the development of affordable housing. (3)
	Improve neighborhoods. (3)			
	Provide for growth, but maintain existing scale (3)		Provide for growth, but maintain	
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	Construct mixed-use as long as it		Construct mixed-use as long as it	
	is at an appropriate scale with		is at an appropriate scale with	
	neighborhood. (3)		neighborhood. (3)	
	Improve this area. (3)			
	Create new jobs through			
1	development. (3)			
	Encourage intense			
1	redevelopment. (3)			
	Develop higher density			
	residential/retail. (3)			
Washing	Washington Boulevard			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Allow new development. (1)			
	Allow for more development	Allow for more development		
	but preserve 'mom & pop'	but preserve 'mom & pop'		
	character. (3)	character. (3)		
	Develop more commercial			
l	businesses. (3)			
	Construct development for			
1	seniors. (3)			
	Construct neighborhood-serving			
1	commercial. (3)			
	Redevelop the northwest corner			
	of Washington Blvd. and Fair			
	Oaks Ave. (3)			
Central	Central District			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Allow continued growth, but	Do not permit new	Require that growth is	Develop additional housing (3)
	with limits (as noted below). (2)	development. (2)	appropriate and in context with look, design, size, land use and	
			in concert with surrounding	
			neighborhoods. (3)	
	Focus new development east of	Do not increase development	Recent construction in the	
	Lake Avenue. (3)	caps. (3)	Central District is not in context	
			with surroundings. (3)	
	Limit the height of new bailding (3)	Protect Castle Green. (3)	Require that new construction is	
	0ununigs. (3)		compatible in look. (3)	

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	Develop businesses that provide for economic vitality. (3)	Do not permit new growth in CD-1 (Old Pasadena), CD-2 (Civic Center/Midtown), CD-3 (Walnut Housing), or CD-4 (Pasadena Playhouse). (3)	Consider architectural character.	
	Continue to complete plans that already exist. (3)	The Central District is overbuilt which has resulted in a loss of character. (3)	Do not allow buildings to be higher than Paseo Colorado in order to protect views. (3)	
	Locate new development at the Parsons site. (3)			
	Create better linkage between the Playhouse District and Old Pasadena. (3)			
	Support business districts. (3)			
	Avoid inconsistent, incompatible land uses. (3)			
	Re-use mini-malls as denser			
	Develop new park areas in the			
	Central District. (3)			
	Maintain economic vitality of			
	this area to avoid vacancies. (3)			
Single-	Single-Family			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
		Preserve/protect single-family neighborhoods as noted below. (1)	Do not destroy single-family residential character. (3)	
	Allow second units. (3)	Do not allow additional dwelling units in single-family neighborhoods. (3)		
		Protect Single-family neighborhoods but provide for		
		second units with limitations		
		addressing aesthetics & parking.		
		Maintain the low-density. (3)		
		Protect single-family residences		

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		in multi-family areas. (3)		
		Do not allow more commercial		
		or multi-family residences in		
		single-family neighborhoods. (3)		
		Do not permit change in single-		
		family neighborhoods. (3)		
		Protect bungalow courts next to		
		high-density apartments. (3)		
		Stop overdevelopment adjacent		
		to single-family neighborhoods.		
,		(c)		
Histori	Historic Districts			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Allow changes appropriate with	Protect/preserve historic	Require that new infill be in	
	the Secretary of Interior	(national, local) districts and	context with historic districts. (3)	
	Standards. (3)	structures. (1)		
		Protect the Civic Center district		
		around City Hall. (3)		
		Protect historic mansions. (3)		
Open Space	pace			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Create pocket parks. (3)	Protect/preserve existing open		
		space. (1)		
		Preserve parks. (3)		
		Protect Arroyo Seco; leave		
		natural. (3)		
		Protect Eaton Canyon. (3)		
		Protect Edison right-of-way		
		corridor for open space. (3)		
Other				
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	St. Luke's should be a	Rehabilitate unused buildings		
	Institutional use. (3)	instead of allow new		
		construction. (3)		
	Build taller and increase density	Preserve houses on St. John		
	along South Raymond. (3)	Avenue. (3)		
	Perform in-depth studies in	Do not demolish single-family		

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	omanci alcas. (2)	(3)		
	Re-use parking lots as multifamily residences, retail, commercial, mixed-use. (3)	Construction negatively impacts traffic. (3)		
	Encourage small/medium mixed-use (e.g. Brigden/Allen).	Large buildings negatively impact traffic. (3)		
	Allowing adaptive re-use is okay for South Marengo; not single-family residential. (3)	Decline state funds that require mindless growth. (3)		
		Question SCAG assumptions.		
	DRAFT Comments Fre	DRAFT Comments From September Workshops Organized by Geographic Areas: Gold Line Stations	zed by Geographic Areas: G	iold Line Stations
	Ranked 1	d 1 ("Strong Support"), 2 ("Some support"), or 3 (Other comments)	port"), or 3 (Other comments	
Fillmore Station	Station			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Develop mixed-use. (1)	Do not permit new development. (2)		Allow housing on the west side of Marengo. (3)
<u> </u>	Develop medical-related and	Do not permit high density		Do not permit high density
	bio-tech-related uses. (1)	housing. (3)		housing. (3)
	Locate new development west of	Do not increase the height limit.		
	station. (3)	(5)		
Del Mar Station				
1	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Allow complimentary development. (1)	Do not permit new development; area is built-out.		
1		(2)		
	Develop more commercial uses;	Reduce the amount of new		
	specifically a grocery store. (3)	development. (3)		
	Encourage more infill			
	development (on vacant			
	underutilized lots). (3)			
Memoriz	Memorial Park Station			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Develop north and west of	Do not permit new		Good area for senior housing.
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	station (e.g. Parsons). (3)	development; area 1s built-out. (2)		(3)
Lake Station	tation			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Develop mixed-use and commercial near station. (2)	Do not permit new development. (2)		Allow adaptive re-use: office to
	Develop north of Maple Avenue	Traffic at Lake Avenue and 210		(2) .8
	but not north of East Orange	freeway is bad and new		
	Grove Boulevard. (3)	development would make it		
		worse. (3)		
	Develop over 210 freeway. (3)	Do not develop south of 210		
		freeway; area is already built out.		
Allen Station	tation			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
-	Allow development around	Protect residential	Permit up three to four stories in	
	station. (1)	neighborhoods north of freeway. (2)	proximity to 210 freeway. (3)	
	Increase the allowable density			
	north of the station, as well as			
	construct retail, neighborhood			
	services, mixed-use. (2)			
	Limit new development to south			
	of the station only. (2)			
	Encourage mixed-use	•		
	Podorolon original hallding			
	redevelop existing buildings rather than construct new ones.			
	(3)			
	Develop small scale,			
	Colorado to walnut. (3)			
Sierra 1	Sierra Madre Villa Station			
	Growth	Preserve	Design	Housing
	Allow new development around			
	station (1)			
	Allow commercial and office			

uses. (2)	Allow mixed-use developments. (2)	Locate new development south of the station. (3)	Develop vacant properties. (3)	Develop more restaurants,	entertainment, and commercial.	(3)	Create new jobs through	development. (3)	Produce a community benefit	from growth. (3)
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