



Santa Clara County

Plan Bay Area 2040
Focus on Santa Clara County

Plan Bay Area Spring 2016 Open House Summary



Thursday, May 26, 2015
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

The Tech Museum
201 South Market Street
San Jose

Approximate Attendance
40



Scenarios Station Feedback

The Scenarios Station included displays that allowed residents to review the scenarios in detail, with a focus on their county. On accompanying boards, participants were asked to post feedback. Below is a sampling of the comments submitted at the Santa Clara County open house. Visit PlanBayArea.org to view the complete list.

Are there aspects of each scenario that, if combined, will help to meet today's challenges while laying the groundwork for future success? If so, which ones?



- Main Street scenario has one major fault: Put housing at the business park, not in the little charming downtowns that are so beloved.
- Concerned that the Big Cities scenario will result in a jobs/housing imbalance and a lack of tax revenues for essential services.
- Prefer Main Streets scenario to allow growth in all cities to support continued economic growth. Support sustainable growth in all communities.

What is the toughest challenge our region will need to address for the next generation?



- A rapidly aging population wants to stay -- must be accommodated.
- Producing adequate public transit to support PDAs in outlying communities. .
- Natural resources: Water! Air!

What ideas do you have for helping to address this challenge?

- Affordable housing for the service industry, or else pay a "Bay Area" living wage.
- New transportation options to carry frail seniors to high value locations are needed. Paratransit is inadequate; need same day service, weekend and evening service.

How can we help prevent displacement of long-time residents and best address the lack of affordable housing in the Bay Area?



- Use eminent domain and public dollars to build Community Land Trust buildings.
- Modify state law regarding cap in rent increases to make it apply to buildings constructed after the 1970s
- New housing causes gentrification. Stop it.

Which present-day transportation investments do you see providing the most benefits for existing and future Bay Area residents?



- Santa Clara County's bus network – with connectivity; service every 15 minutes at least, evenings and weekends; and fare subsidies on BART and Caltrain for low-income people.
- Complete BART before Brown's bullet train outruns you!
- Supplement BART stations with jitney (electric) buses to neighborhoods/ downtowns/ malls



Places of the Bay Area Station

The Places of the Bay Area Station offered the opportunity to participate in a Bay Area-wide initiative to inspire residents in creating and sharing stories about the various places in our lives. Below is a sampling of the photos taken at this station at the Santa Clara County open house.



In my community,
I want to see accessible bike lanes
because ... live with my bike ...
but I want to go to my
place!

PLACES OF THE BAY AREA



Plan Bay Area 2040 -- Spring 2016 Public Engagement

Santa Clara County Open House

May 26, 2016

The Tech Museum, 201 South Market Street, San Jose

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Comments Received at the Scenarios Station on the Feedback Display Boards

After reviewing several display boards describing Plan Bay Area 2040 and the alternative scenarios for what the Bay Area could look like in 2040, as well as talking with MTC and ABAG staff stationed at the display boards, Open House participants responded to the four questions below.

	Are there aspects of each scenario that, if combined, you feel will help to meet today's challenges while laying the groundwork for future success? If so, which ones?	County/ Source of Comment
1	Without a regional nexus, the Bay will always be behind, but at least we're not Houston!	Santa Clara
2	Stop terracing your and my hillsides (like Milpitas)! You are displacing all kinds of wildlife!	Santa Clara
3	Main Street scenario has one major fault: Put housing at the business park, not in the little charming downtown parts that are so beloved. This would reconstruct them for the benefit of only a few residents. Do not place more than three stories along El Camino Real, because of coming earthquakes. You'll block the arterial and trap victims in and emergency responders out!	Santa Clara
4	Concerned that Big City scenario will result in a jobs/housing imbalance and lack of tax revenue for essential services. Perhaps encourage development in other cities only where available mass transit.	Santa Clara
5	Cities are already tied to Specific Plans/planning codes to accentuate appropriately the components of your three scenarios. It seems like the region would benefit from an integrated perspective and not just one scenario.	Santa Clara
6	Prefer Main Streets scenario to allow continued growth in all cities to support continued economic growth. Should also support sustainable growth in all communities.	Santa Clara

	What is the toughest challenge our region will need to address for the next generation? What ideas do you have for helping to address this challenge?	County/ Source of Comment
1	With the buildup of Bay Area buildings and population, what are the scenarios for natural disasters? Are our fire, police, EMC, hospitals also growing? Escape after earthquakes/fires blocked by fuller high rises.	Santa Clara
2	Stop building up so much: job and housing. You're importing people when we, the original people here did not have children (although we wanted them). To observe zero population growth: that's the answer.	Santa Clara
3	Biggest challenge - making it possible for oldest community members to age in place. For that to happen, new transportation options to carry frail seniors to high	Santa Clara

	value locations are needed. Paratransit is inadequate. Same-day service, weekend, and evening service are needed, as well as service between counties, door-to-door service, wheelchair capability.	
4	A rapidly aging population that wants to stay must be accommodated. Solution - sign off SFDs for guaranteed senior communities.	Santa Clara
5	JOBS - bringing in/creating without selling or giving away the store. Business-positive areas don't need subsidizing.	Santa Clara
6	Producing adequate public transit to support PDAs in outlying communities. Need more incentives to communities to implement sensible mixed-use/higher densities.	Santa Clara
7	Affordable housing for the service industry and/or paying a "Bay Area" living wage.	Santa Clara
8	Natural Resources: Water! Air! Water needed for development. Water needed for added population. No new sources, yet already exceeding supply currently.	Santa Clara

	How can we help prevent displacement of long-time residents and best address the lack of affordable housing in the Bay Area?	County/ Source of Comment
1	Jurisdictions use all means permitted by law – for example, in-lieu fees, mixed-income projects – in order to build and create below-market housing. Modify state law re: cap in rent increases to make it apply to buildings constructed after the 1970s.	Santa Clara
2	Well, when the quality of life gets poor because of congestion, homelessness and jobs only in a "technology base," people will leave and move to more tax-friendly places or out of the country.	Santa Clara
3	New housing causes gentrification. Stop it. Older housing sells and rents for much less. Stop imported (sic) people into the area. Sell "zero population growth" and long-term residents will not be displaced!	Santa Clara
4	Use Eminent Domain and public dollars to build Community Land Trust buildings (18-24 Apartments = 3 single family dwellings).	Santa Clara

	Which present-day transportation investments do you see providing the most benefits for existing and future Bay Area residents?	County/ Source of Comment
1	Santa Clara County - bus network - connectivity, every 15 minutes at least, evenings and weekends. Fare subsidies for BART and Caltrain for low-income people.	Santa Clara
2	Below street level train for Caltrain. Open air above. Bikeway paths along corridor at street level and above trains.	Santa Clara
3	Caltrain is barely able to fund itself and it is working for a lot of people!	Santa Clara
4	Caltrain, VTA bus service and other modes to support them - bicycle plans!	Santa Clara
5	I put 96 solar panels on the affordable housing I provide. We power all our electric car with <u>clean electricity</u> and we will clean up the air. Everyone around me started doing the same, but we're discouraged by the threat of dedicated bus lanes.	Santa Clara
6	An embedded central expressway from Sunnyvale down to San Jose and up to San Francisco will help; that is, lower it for grade separation, for safety, traffic flow. Rail track could be lowered from Mountain View on up to San Francisco. That work for Caltrans, light rail and high speed rail (sic). Much quieter, too. Talk to Joe Simitian about the \$\$.	Santa Clara

7	Complete BART before Brown's bullet train outruns you! Then supplement BART stations with jitney (electric) buses to neighborhoods/malls/downtowns. Check out Sao Paulo!	Santa Clara
8	Smaller, more rapid dispersed transit routes. "Short buses" from suburbs to transit hubs; although biking is really the answer.	Santa Clara

Comment Forms Submitted at the Open House

	Comment – Santa Clara County	County/ Source of Comment
1	What happened to zero population growth? Balance the population to reduce the need for more housing and save our natural and economic resources.	Santa Clara
2	Humans are extremely diverse - no one scenario is the answer. Different people are drawn to each one: Main Street, Connected Neighborhood, and Big Cities.	Santa Clara
3	For each of the three scenarios, "Main Streets," "Connected Neighborhoods" and "Big Cities," there should be consideration to green, open space infrastructure and mobility strategies to connect people with open space and nature. How would the PDAs and PCAs relate to each other is important to promote livable communities in the Bay Area.	Santa Clara
4	We are trapped into the past explosive growth without a willingness to try alternative patterns. The FUD factories (Fear, Uncertainty, Doubt) are drowning creativity.	Santa Clara
5	The availability of accessible transit, especially commercial taxis, in Santa Clara County (there are six - all the taxi companies use them) is inadequate. There needs to be an alternative to buses (as good as they are) paratransit (with its problems).	Santa Clara
6	Would appreciate wider audience participation. I attend several community meetings from San Jose to Palo Alto and did not hear about this gathering or your previous meetings. Must advertise more and effectively if you truly are open to public input.	Santa Clara
7	Amount of info is overwhelming if presented all in one sitting.	Santa Clara
8	How to get (coax, entice) people out of their cars? - Make auto traffic worse - but parallel to fast _____ - overhead, etc. - May get worse with self-driving cars - or perhaps better as fewer will <u>own</u> a car rather than lease a _____ of taxi ??	Santa Clara
9	What's <u>not</u> considered: - Avoiding blight - Abandoned major industry - like Flint, MI; Detroit - Dealing with neighborhood age and deterioration - San Jose is lucky in that <u>any</u> old shack is worth a fortune, but - What happens if the Silicon bubble bursts?	Santa Clara
10	We have enough big tech companies and housing being built new to supply the people they attract. This causes gentrification and displacement of the diversity of residents. Enough! Do not build high rise along arterials, as they will impede escape from the stricken area and prevent emergency responders from entering. Make Central Expressway and light rail/high speed rail/Caltrans all lowered below grade of cross streets from San Jose to San Francisco so it will aid defeating gridlock north/south and east/west, be safer, quieter.	Santa Clara

Places of the Bay Area Station

Places of the Bay Area is a Bay Area-wide initiative to inspire residents in creating and sharing stories about various places in our lives. Open House participants were asked to complete two statements about their community: “In my community I love_____ because _____” and “In my community I want to see_____ because _____.”

	Statements
1	In my community, I want to see expanded transportation because our cities are growing and the need to reach outlying borders is important.
2	In my community, I want to see more affordable housing for residents.
3	In my community I love balance because in development there are winners and losers. In the Bay Area, the “haves” seem to keep getting what they want (re: developers/ large tech). The middle class is feeling the squeeze! I love biking for many reasons.
4	In my community I want to see more affordable housing because we are being displaced from the reserve apartments.
5	In my community, I want to see parks because SJ district 1 has very few parks.
6	In my community, I want to see accessible van taxis because buses don’t go everywhere but I want to go many places!
7	In my community, I want to see no high rise development along arterials or infill high rise/high density housing because it becomes quite a mess and a safety hazard in a major earthquake! + I like it without losing retail to housing and buildings towering over us!
8	In my community, I want to see more open space because we need places to enjoy and to benefit from all the services nature provides.
9	In my community, I want to see more trails because I love bicycling with my family to our neighborhood, park, downtown, farmer markets and other places that we can bike to.
10	In my community, I want to see more transportation options for seniors plus people with disabilities because we need to do all the things drivers and transit users do- visit friends, go to medical appointments, library shop, church, temple, movies etc.
11	In my community, I want to see our beloved historic downtown district left the way it is because why mess with success? Rebuilding it to house a few more folks will destroy the character! It will benefit a few more residents at the expense of the many who use and love it the way it is!
12	In my community, I do not love San Jose because it is choosing money before people and I am losing my home due to Priority Development Areas.
13	In my community, I want to see healthy food options because my wife is now vegan.
14	In my community, I want to see support of cultural diversity because I recognize and appreciate the history of how the Bay Area was built and because we don’t need another Starbucks!
15	In my community, I want to see more creative design because designers and architects don’t go to school to learn to build squares. If there must be new building--let’s be more creative and aesthetically pleasing.
16	In my community, I love parks because they allow me to get close to nature and enjoy open space.
17	In my community, I love parks and trails because (they allow) a get away from the traffic. But how to get people out of their cars?