



## Focus Group Meetings – List of Attendees

- Infrastructure 8/17/22
  - Cyndi Urman, RethinkWaste
  - Mike Utz, District Manager, Cal Water
  - Kat Weulfing, Assistant GM, Mid-Peninsula Water District
  - Rene Ramirez, Acting GM, Mid-Peninsula Water District
  - Consultants
    - Darren Choy, RRM
    - Abraham Sheppard, RRM
- Mobility 8/22/22
  - Heather Wolnick, Community Organizer, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
  - Sonia Elkes, Founder, San Carlos Bikes
  - Thomas Feledy, Former Planning Commissioner
  - Jessica Epstein, Government and Community Affairs Manager, SamTrans
  - Gwen Buckley, Senior Planner, SamTrans
  - Mark Leong, District Branch Chief, Caltrans
  - Laurel Sears, Associate Transportation Planner, Caltrans
  - Mark Bauhaus, Bike advocate
  - Karen, Healthy Cities Tutoring
  - Consultants
    - Brain Canepa, Principal, W-Trans
    - Abraham Sheppard, Senior Urban Designer, RRM
- Seniors-Children-Special Needs 8/24/22
  - Caitlyn Matoso, Supervisor, Adult Community Center
  - Susan Rose, Arbor Bay School (children in K-8th grade with mild to moderate learning differences)
  - Terra Fuller, Executive Director, Art BIAS
  - Linda Scannell, Coordinator, Adult Community Center (not in attendance)
  - Monica Nunez, California Clubhouse (not in attendance)
  - Consultants
    - Abraham Sheppard, RRM
    - Jami Williams, RRM
- DT Business and Events (8/30/22)
  - Wendy Schettino (City Parks Dept)
  - Tyler Muela (City Parks Dept)
  - Lauren Schneider (City Parks Dept)
  - Amy Buckmaster (Farmers Market, Chamber of Commerce)
    - Consultant
      - Abraham Sheppard, RRM

# Focus Group Meeting - INFRASTRUCTURE

Aug 17, 2022

## Participants

Darren Choy and Abe Sheppard, RRM

Cyndi Urman, RethinkWaste

Mike Utz, District Manager, Cal Water

Kat Weulfing, Assistant GM, Mid-Peninsula Water District

Rene Ramirez, Acting GM, Mid-Peninsula Water District

Mike Utz, CalWater:

- Redwood City looking at purple water – 24” line from the airport
- No planned projects for main replacements downtown but future capacity/demand could require new mains
- Concrete vs asphalt maintenance
- Ideally, would replace mains before new paving, but understood that this is not always possible dealing with CIP financing
- Development will be responsible for replacing some mains
- Recent work in San Carlos on traffic calming includes some infrastructure improvements to set up for future development
- Definitely wants to be kept in the loop about development projections and capacities
- Layton Low is an alternate POC

Pie in the Sky:

- Desalination: Genentech has talked about desalination, but hasn't heard of anything else
- ok to mention as potential future, but recycled water is the necessary near- and mid-term focus

Rene Ramirez, Mid-Pen:

- Not sure that they have service in the Plan Area. He will get back to us. RRM send email first.
- They have worked on advanced water treatment processes to bring in treated water, but they are a small company and are not looking at purple pipe
- Service area will never conflict or combine with Calwater

Cyndi Urman, RethinkWaste

- 3 bin systems required by SB 1383 (composting law in effect 2022)
- New enforcement mechanisms – future could include “electronic eyes” to monitor adherence to the law against waste
- Underground trash systems worth looking into, but it's complicated now by SB 1383 requiring all 3 bins (trash, recycle, compost)
- We should reach out to Recology to talk about operations (Evan Boyd or Tenny Belvany – Recology or Rethinkwaste to verify names and contact info)
- Recology has contract until 2035

Standards for new development:

- Valve or vault over the main
- Horizontal and vertical clearance between trash and water utilities
- sensor on fire hydrants
- incorporate tracking technology when replacing infrastructure for monitoring flows, capacities, and failure

Future funding, grants, CIP: Capacity-based

Contacts:

- Use focus group members as contacts for additional info, data requests, etc.

# Focus Group Meetings – MOBILITY

Aug 22, 2022

## SamTrans

- Will provide us with their draft Bus Feasibility Study that recommends in-lane bus stops, bus bulb outs, ped and sidewalk improvements (infrastructure that needs to be provided by the City or Caltrans)
- They also have a Reimagine SamTrans report that is going to increase weekend service

## Bauhaus

- Wants density (more multi-modal, fewer cars), climate change action (reduce GHG, provide shade), and provision for e-bikes and scooters
- Thinks current safety is a big deterrent
- Strongly wants dedicated bike routes and intersection priority for bikes
- Wants improved ECR crossings
- Wants downtown to be “pleasant” with fountain, cobblestone, etc.
- Floated the idea of a Barcelona-style “superblock”
- Encouraged higher parking pricing

## Meredith

- Wants better traffic light timing for buses on ECR
- Believes bulb-outs and traffic calming changes have actually increased injuries
- Wants separated facilities for bicyclists

## Attendee

- Need a parking management plan to price appropriately and manage supply
- Strongly supports the closure
- Supports more secure bike parking and notes that e-bike challenges (e.g. need street-level parking)
- Curious to know how many peds are walking in the closure area
- Questions if businesses are negatively impacted by closure – would like to see data
- The street closure has created an unfortunate wall effect
- Parklets need to be designed to face the street

## Caltrans

- Happy with Redwood City and Sunnyvale’s process for parking removal
- Encouraged use of Caltrans SB743/TDM online resources

## Sonia

- Noted that bike/ped plan is pre-COVID – more people walking and biking now
- Believes the currently planned shared lanes for bikes are insufficient
- Supports taking away parking for bike lanes
- Wants to expand closure
- Thinks people should be able to park further away and walk
- Wondered if one-way streets would be preferable if it could result in more space for bike lanes
- Would like secure bike parking (with a mirrored wall!)
- Wants better downtown bike signage (i.e. not walk your bike signs at all times)

- Supports better ECR crossings

#### Attendee

- Consider using the alleys as bikeways
- Notes that more cars are returning making walking/biking less safe
- Need more micromobility options from Caltrain
- Likes the 8:80 rule
- Support for on-street bike corrals/scooter parking
- Noted the San Mateo senior get-around program as a case study

# Focus Group Meeting – SENIORS-CHILDREN-SPECIAL NEEDS

Aug 24, 2022

Focus Group:

- Caitlyn Matoso, Supervisor, Adult Community Center
- Susan Rose, Arbor Bay School (children in K-8th grade with mild to moderate learning differences)
- Terra Fuller, Executive Director, Art BIAS
- Linda Scannell, Coordinator, Adult Community Center (not in attendance)
- Monica Nunez, California Clubhouse (not in attendance)
- Jami and Abe, RRM

Susan: Director – Arbor Bay School non-public school located at Kiwanis building burton park

- Serves on the family committee
- San Carlos resident since 1987

Terra – Art BIAS 30-year anniversary

- 52 artists – all different media
- Starting to have more community events (First Sunday, Open Studios)
- Affordable artists' studio – turning into an arts center with a lot of activities
- 1700 Industrial Road – Industrial area

Caitlyn

- Works for San Carlos Adult Community Center
- Before was overseeing youth programs

## INTRODUCTIONS

Terra:

- Excited about keeping Laurel open
- Fueling creativity, European outdoor walking vibe
- Would love to be located in the central area
- How envision Downtown: retail/restaurant opportunity

Susan

- Lives west of Downtown
- Cuts over to cedar to go to Burton Park, but walk downtown once a week.
- Loves walkability, proximity

- Along SC Avenue, retail is “hit or miss” – some established stores, some revolving/evolving (S. side of Laurel)
- Kids walk along Arroyo to get to Laurel Street
- Would like to see more mix of retail. Some mom-and-pop stores lost.
- Variety of places to work – some Arbor Bay students employed in summer programs and internships around Laurel.
- Would like Laurel to go one-way southbound from Walnut to Olive, and Walnut to go northbound! allows for wider sidewalks.

Terra – creating vibrancy in Industrial Arts Business District

- Would like more of a connection
- Mural at Industrial Arts District and Bianchini’s – murals connecting the neighborhoods
- Build foot activity in IABD in tandem with Laurel
- Coming from all over the area – non-residents visiting San Carlos for lunch

### **SCOOT and other options for kids and seniors**

Susan

- Used to have SCOOT. SCOOT-like transportation Laurel Street to IABD to encourage a connected community between IABD and Downtown
- SCOOT was funded through City and was somewhat popular
- Why did it disappear? Not sure.
- For people too old to drive or not old enough to drive

Caitlyn

- No transportation for kids or seniors. (Ready Wheels and Lyft for seniors). SamTrans for kids. Get word out that folks they represent

### **INDUSTRIAL ARTS AREA**

- 9/10 mile from IABD to part of Downtown. definitely walkable.
- Susan has walked around there – would not walk to the IAA right now
- NOT a pleasant walk from IAA to Downtown. Hot sun and no greenery.
- Connect Downtown corridor to Industrial Arts Area – would be amazing to integrate the two areas so that they feel some connection between both sides of the tracks!

### **DOWNTOWN**

- Seniors walk around downtown
- Folks are enjoying the street closure now (maybe weren’t for it at first!) – more space to walk
- unsafe crossing at San Carlos and Laurel
- Also San Carlos and Walnut – unsafe-feeling intersection

## **LAUREL STREET**

- Terra: would like to be pushed further – now still feels like a street. Would like it to be a true park-like space; cobblestones, fountain

## **EL CAMINO REAL**

- Susan: not interesting, not pleasant, love to walk to antique shops!
- asks what the Plan will address related to ECR
- Jami: Retail and Land Use – housing above retail – what look like?
- Terra: mentions In-pavement graphics across the street near Domenico's (sp) – lots of options to integrate art

## **ALLEYS AND PARKING**

Caitlyn

- alleys are tough for seniors (and everyone) – not accessible, uneven pavements, lots of trash,
- Never finds an issue parking downtown!

## **MEETING CLOSE**

Question: will there be meetings in-person special meetings to groups like the senior center, etc.

Jami- will have other tools like the online survey and online map that are purposeful

Susan: Many families coming to San Carlos – it's a destination. People spend the day in San Carlos who aren't residents of San Carlos.

Susan asks about more outreach to under-involved groups. Can somebody show up at farmers markets, school groups, etc. to get folks that wouldn't normally come to a workshop?

## Focus Group Meetings – DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES AND EVENTS

Aug 30, 2022

### Attendees

- Wendy Schettino (City Parks Dept)
  - parks and rec
- Tyler Muela (City Parks Dept)
  - Rec manager – was on the walking tour
- Lauren Schneider (City Parks Dept)
  - new to the department (April), so new to the Specific Plan
- Amy Buckmaster (Farmers Market, Chamber of Commerce)
  - CEO chamber SM County
  - Representative of DTAC
  - familiarity with San Carlos – grew up there
  - was on steering comm for redwood city dt precise plan
  - CBD Redwood City – Chamber now runs day-to-day operations for that (check on this)
  - Amy - COC ROLE:
    - Good at fundraising, COC supports parks and rec in their programs
    - Provides funding for farmers market and arts and wine festival

### FARMERS MARKET AT 600 BLOCK

#### Wendy:

- Happy to be back downtown
- Farmers market (Sunday mornings 9a-1p) have room to grow – the official footprint also includes Cherry to the alleys,
  - blocked at wheeler currently
  - working around bulbouts – eats into real estate
  - average booth 10x10 or 10x20.
  - at height of summer – up to 40 vendors (now have 25 vendors)
  - used to be at nights (heyday!) – downtown was sleepier then (hot harvest nights)
    - had to close streets at 2 – businesses were not happy, in 2011 decided to move back to morning
  - some nearby communities have two – RC has weekday evening (seasonal May-Sept) in addition to weekend day.

### ART AND WINE FARE

- Art and wine fair October 8 and 9: Arroyo to San Carlos, ECR to Elm
- Westbound lanes on ECR are closed [did I hear this right?]
- Holly and arroyo continue through, so San Carlos, Cherry and Olive are closed.
- Emergency services requires that all vendors need to go against the curb (outdoor seating)
- 12 and 13 blocks of SC Avenue – can not put
- 1100 block of SC or 700 block of Laurel – cannot put vendors
- Palo Alto medical center – shuttle service and parking (go north to harbor and circle around)

Tyler: businesses now used to the street closure now, so may be more open for change in time for farmers market. Many businesses closed after 5 so may be fine with street closure.

Lauren:

- Block party in July – farmers market footprint bled into wheeler plaza, so 600-700 plaza but didn't have booths – many businesses don't like.
- Addition of temporary parklets doesn't allow to add booths for events
- If pedestrians only, how to integrate space for event booths/vendors

Wendy:

- Gets question why not more events in SOLA
- Arroyo South to Eaton– no blocks without residential, so street event is problematic
- Some do not have alley access

## **MOBILITY AND PARKING**

- Arroyo south on ECR – across from Trader Joes and nearby: a lot of underused parking. but feels far.

Prompt: Do people use Caltrain parking lot? Or Wheeler Plaza?

- No - underutilized
- Wheeler Plaza is a “hidden gem” because it is underused, so always parking there. Currently most people use streets.
- Wayfinding needed from Holly and ECR – need to let motorists know.

Other discussion

- Digital parking information would be great. There is a sensitivity to a small-town downtown feel, but signage can be integrated well.
- Ride-sharing drop-off points – needs to be thought through and incorporated into.
- Amy (chamber) chat: would love to see bollard design on laurel blocks if that is included in the Transportation plan

## **EVENT BANNERS**

- Wendy: Banner program needs to be pumped up (look at what Redwood City is doing)
- Amy: COC chat re. banner program « but we fund ours through the CBID unfortunately)
- Tyler: Downtown Laurel Street Banner – cross-street Banner at 800 block. used to advertise events – very popularly requested by event planners. Could be a digital version, keeping it to community-based communications. Or incorporate more cross-street signs (but public works has to coordinate the process and labor, time to place them). There are more events than ability to accommodate all that want to have a banner there.
- Wendy: have to be aware of wind when placing banner

Wendy asks about bike lanes – ECR and San Carlos Avenue

Jami – plan is looking at all transportation aspects, we're at preliminary stages and will be exploring and getting back ideas

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- Oct 8/9 – wine faire
- Goblin Walk end of October
- Night of Holiday nights – first Friday in December

**Next Steps**

- Wendy to send map of Arts and Wine Fair
- Wendy to send map of banner pole locations
- RRM to confirm we have latest list of events