



Alameda County

Spring 2015 Public Engagement Open House Comments, by County

Open House: Wednesday, April 29, 2015
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Alameda County Fairgrounds, Palm Pavilion, Pleasanton

Goals and Targets Station Feedback

At the **Goals and Targets Station**, participants received information about the current goals and targets for Plan Bay Area, as well as the process underway to update them. Participants were asked to select their top three personal priorities from the list of current goals and targets for Plan Bay Area, and to post their other ideas on an adjoining additional board.

Below are the responses when tallied across the nine-county region, and the tally from participants at the Alameda County Open House.



Question: Is anything missing from these goals? Below are responses from Alameda County.

Seismic Safety

Regional trails for healthy communities

Local jobs

Water (plus another vote for this)

Jobs-housing balance to reduce commute trips

How is "adequate" housing defined?

Interaction of goals for livability/sustainability and safety

Question: What are the biggest challenges facing your community? The Bay Area?

Below are responses from the Alameda County Open House.

Affordable housing and housing insecurity. I have had two wrongful evictions in a row for a landlord to raise rent. I live in Oakland and Berkeley. I can hardly afford a studio anymore.

I am so supportive of infill and TOD, but it's unfair to do these projects without sufficient investment in affordable units and mechanisms to stabilize low-income tenants.

Loss of redevelopment agencies/lack of funding to accomplish goals at local government level

Soft-story buildings

Preserve agricultural land to provide healthy, locally-grown produce.

Loss of housing \$

Lack of funding to implement jobs housing balance

Gentrification

Jobs and housing

Youth involvement

AC Transit is a nightmare

Education

Job training access

Affordable housing

Jobs

Jobs and housing connection

Question: What are your ideas for solving these challenges?

Below are responses from the Alameda County Open House.

Lobbying to make it easier for cities to have rent control with teeth by overturning bad laws

Provide more funding for PCAs that specifically target farm and ranch land

Funding for PDAs should specifically incentivize policy proposals for general and affordable housing

Must develop goals/targets for: near term (5-10 years), medium term (11-19 years), long term (20-25 years)

Community land trusts to encourage affordable housing

Prioritize economic justice/equity first

Incentives for rent-controlled housing near transit

Jobs-housing balance solves improves economic vitality and adequate housing

Transportation Station Feedback

How should we support the mobility needs of Bay Area residents now and over the next quarter-century? The Transportation Station included displays about currently planned local and regional transportation projects (highways, public transit, bicycle/pedestrian, local road improvements, etc.). On an accompanying board, participants were asked to post ideas for new projects, then to share their biggest transportation challenges and offer solutions for improving their trips.

Question: What projects are missing? What would make it easier for you to get where you need to go? *Below are responses from the Alameda County Open House.*

Better bus access

BART to Livermore

Improve LAVTA -- More frequency on buses

Secure bicycle parking at major transit stations

True rail transit linked around entire Bay

More transit "distribution" or fanning out within major hubs (SF, San Jose, Oakland)

More dense housing near transit with services in walking distance

Bicycle parking expansion

Very few local streets and roads shown on TIP list

Please invest in local streets and roads where most of us drive

More BART cars/maintenance of BART cars, especially air conditioning

Direct buses to BART from Livermore hourly! Weekend/holidays included.

Reduce traffic and speeding auto

BART to Livermore and beyond

We need to consider mitigating cars

BART to ACE station Livermore

BART down the 680

Safe Routes to Schools, transit and parks makes it easier to travel in our cities

No BART to Livermore. Put the billions into ACE.

Upgrade ACE and take it across the Dumbarton Rail Bridge

Direct bus connection Livermore/Pleasanton and Silicon Valley

Better (faster, reliable, clean and safe) connections between BART and transit stops.

More robust BRT system on regional scale.

Lack of carpool lane on 680N over Sunol Grade

BART to Livermore

Potholes on roadways

Lack of good mass transit options that do not take hours to final destination

Lake Merritt is a profoundly underused area. A streetcar that loops around the Lake ("the Loop") would make a profound contribution to infill in that area and make it a much more special destination for Oakland.

The North and East sides of Lake Merritt and Piedmont Avenue need to be connected to rail-based transit - transit that is more reliable than AC Transit's pathetic service and transit that businesses and developers would be certain would stick around.

I don't own a car and live in the East Bay. I am completely unable to go hiking or visit friends in the North Bay.

How is it possible that BART doesn't make a complete loop through the South Bay and Peninsula? Having to switch between BART, Caltrain and VTA is a major discouragement to commuting by transit.

Question: What are the biggest transportation challenges in your town? In the Bay Area? What would make it better? Below are responses from the Alameda County Open House.

Regional Rapid Highway Bus Rapid Transit serving the underserved commuter corridors

Making bikes and pedestrians more of a priority than vehicles

Running a minute or two behind and there is a timed transfer coming up, the driver will call the other bus and ask them to wait

Slow traffic and create pedestrian access

Clipper for all transportation and more easy connections between modes

Stop expanding BART until current service is sufficient for current ridership

Connecting open space like Niles Canyon to existing bike networks. Include Class A bike trail through Niles Canyon.

AC Transit: There is no predictable schedule.

AC Transit: GPS (NextBus) often does not work.

AC Transit: The system has the rudest bus drivers I have ever met (compared to Boston, NYC, DC suburbs, Portland Oregon). What are their bosses doing to them?

AC Transit: There is no policy for buses to wait when they are ahead of schedule. This leads to longer waits for passengers because they can't trust the schedules and pile ups of passengers that then slow down the next bus, causing the third bus in line to have no passengers and go too fast, keeping the whole cycle going. It's a mess.

AC Transit: Bus drivers should have a means to communicate with other drivers. In Boston, when a bus is running a minute or two behind and there is a timed transfer coming up, the driver will call the other bus and ask them to wait.

Highway 238 carries every truck from Central Valley in and out of Bay Area. It plugs up every day and people get off and use surface streets through Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, Ashland and Cherryland. These communities need help supporting the traffic impact and community disruption and health impact of vehicles moving through and roadbed.

Looking Ahead Station Feedback

To plan for how best to invest in transportation and housing in the future, local agencies, regional agencies, private businesses and community organizations need information on what to expect: Who will live in the Bay area and where? Where will they work? What kinds of jobs and incomes will be available?

At the Looking Ahead Station, participants received information on how ABAG develops population and economy forecasts, as well as how past projections compared to actual numbers. Participants were asked to share their feedback on two key questions:

Question: What possibilities most excite you (about the future of your community)?*Below are responses from the Alameda County Open House.*

Massive public transportation projects that allow everyone to walk to work

Make driving more difficult

Walking, biking to transit, parks and schools

Gray water systems in all housing units to save water

Preserving agricultural land

Get folks out of cars

Bring back street cars

Question: What concerns you about the future of your community? *Below are responses from the Alameda County Open House.*

Water supply

Adequate mass transit

Forecasting is great - but presentation is not clear about what feedback you are asking for.

Political consensus to make choices that benefit the "commons" - the greater good.

Poor road and bridge infrastructure

Suburban sprawl

Job-housing balance in each city should be 50:50

Jobs in the Tri-Valley

Feedback Via Written Comment Forms

Some participants submitted additional comments via a comment form available at the open houses. *Below are comments received at the Alameda County Open House.*

The citizens of Livermore have been paying for BART for over 40 years and there have been three extensions built that were not even in the original plan. Two of those extensions were not even in the BART District. BART should look for money to bring BART past Isabel to the base of the Altamont so that it will connect with the ACE train. They found the money for the other extensions. It's time for BART to do something for Livermore.

Have the Live.Work.Play. Map in an online format.

Encourage people to respond to or provide a link for people to give their comments online so they don't have to come to the meeting (do this for email invite)

Partner with businesses near BART to host your meeting at one of their offices. Advertise your meetings on the different Bay Area transit lines.

You guys rock!

San Jose to Modesto Sky-Tram. Like NYC's Roosevelt Island Tram.

We need more time to give input to PCA plans and to apply for grant funding.

Great forum. The setup of having each station accessible at any time with sticky notes to voice personal opinions is a fantastic way to educate the public. Make people [not legible] and make people feel heard without subjecting everyone else to every individual comment.

A very good format with enthusiastic guides and participants. I was worried about the Agenda 21 crowd, but this format encourages constructive commentary, so good job. A little difficult getting some questions answered but that was mainly because so many had a lot to say. Maybe could use more information on how to become involved at the city level because so many planning decisions, especially for housing, are at the city council level.

Location for these open houses should be more accessible to people - accessible to public transit.

Y'all so cool.

The transportation system should be able to accommodate people over 50 as the population ages.

We're interested in what the projections are for N/W Oakland for the next 30 years?

What should be the planning process for schools?

Small can be beautiful, too! E.g., smaller apartments, smaller apartments, smaller rooms, etc. However, with bigger community groundspace with nature for all to share. P.S. Porches are good...

The City of Oakland has many challenges. In the past neighborhoods have been heavily influenced by issues involved in the 2040 Bay Area Plan. In the future for a meeting it would be helpful to have a planner whose expertise is focused on neighborhoods and how they can evolve or be maintained as desirable places to live.

My neighborhood is already congested. The land use was not mitigated well and the process far from transparent. My neighborhood in Livermore is already stacked and packed. Build this outside of Springtown. We have 100s of dwellings in less than a 1/4 mile - these homes have two roads exiting this neighborhood and there is already traffic gridlock. Stop the building of 58 homes on Los Flores and Bluebell. This is overkill.

I think this is a really awesome environment. It is really awesome to know what a community will look like in 25 years. Thank you for this space. I am a sophomore in college. I am currently enrolled in Stanford University. All my hard work is definitely paying off. Thank you for this [not legible].

Hello. My name is Lizbeth and I am a junior at Oakland High School. I am very concerned about the price of housing. It should be affordable to all because everyone deserves a place to live. Also as a student who takes the bus to and from school, I have trouble taking the bus because there are too many students and not enough buses.

Please, please, please figure out a way to help Oakland invest in affordable housing. As a regional agency, is there any authority you have to establish some sort of tax or revenue sharing policy that forces tech businesses and very high income earners to invest in affordable housing? Their presence is clearly the cause of two wrongful evictions I have experienced so landlords could raise rent. And now I'm looking for housing that costs about 160% of what I was paying before the first one. Property managers are telling me their buildings are filling up with tech workers and that's why rents are spiking. This is a really serious problem. I don't mean to waste your time with a sob story. But I think this is an illustration of the severity of the problem.

More fixed transit in Berkeley-Oakland and the surrounding communities.

Strategies that help protect farm and ranch land (and farmers and ranchers).

Foster a dialogue about regional tax sharing. People want investment and more housing in existing urban areas like Oakland. They don't want "more population" in their Dublin's and Pleasanton's and Napa's. Politically, these communities would support putting their tax dollars into housing being built elsewhere (Oakland) instead of into extending infrastructure for sprawl. Who else is in a position to foster this conversation besides ABAG?

Thank you for your work!

Plan Bay Area and all other ABAG organizations are in the position to guide and broaden planning and thinking for affordable housing for middle income residents. They are falling through the cracks and struggling. Involve more residents in the conversation. This is a problem - how to provide more housing that is close to work places without it being inhuman in scale. Why not pose the problem to the public? What are other countries doing and have done about this problem?

Poor communication advertising meeting. I just happened to see it today, 4/29, in my local paper.

Lots of good info during the meeting. There were several chances to give feedback at stations.

Disappointed water agencies were not included in meeting.

I do not understand what communication channels the groups use besides their web sites. Asked a couple of stations how they arrived at their data. Did they do surveys or hold focus groups. Caller ID is used by many to identify callers if surveys are conducted by phone. I don't answer if I don't know who is calling.

Many projects are late in delivery and over budget. People are turned off when they are told in 7-8 years "x" project will be completed. I heard a number of individuals place blame on politics versus other obstacles to getting projects funded or started.

Hold events closer to transit (use local companies if needed).

Advertise more (put on all regional transit, radio, tv, public announcements) so more people know. Consider weekend events besides eve. Do web presentations and let people text, email, speak with their question.

Need to look at using rail more at the ports besides using trucks.

Airport, need to look more and sharing between them (Oakland, San Jose and SFO are all International) during bad weather.

New housing should have a gray and black water system, water conservation.

Need better connections for mass transit (different agencies, security at train stations an issue; i.e., Oakland Coliseum Amtrak Station).

One week a year have your employee and Execs use just mass transit, not just one day.
