

Plan Downtown Charrette Community Feedback Notes

Transcription of Feedback from Boards at the Work-In-Progress Presentation

November 12, 2015

All text in this document represents feedback board commentary generated at the Work-In-Progress Presentation.

[Brackets] include added information for context purposes.

- Each item in bullet point form represents a comment written by a member of the community.

What if? 980

- Great Idea- but fiscally realistic - \$\$ spent on pedestrian Experience
- This will never happen over BART trench. Root-bulb volume will not be enough.
- What if you invested this money in W. or deep East Oak?
- V peak hr flow on 980
- The heart of this neighborhood is 12th & West where the church sits in the center. THAT is the core.
- Repair not gentrification on the corridor [arrow pointing to proposed vision for I-980]
- Do we need 980?
- Affordable housing on new developable land
- Congestion during commute hrs.
- Could you tear it back to 27th as last EXIT. Even more space for parks etc.
- Future BART, but seek closer opportunities for re-connecting
- Love boulevards, but help get real w/ me: keep freeway for now, lose the braided ramps that inhibit real opportunities
- Remove: (980)
 - 12th on-ramp NB
 - 12th off-ramp SB
 - 17th/18th off-ramp NB
 - 17th/18th on ramp SB
 - (12 half blocks of potential dev (w/ out lidding))
- I-980 is not needed. Not much traffic & is huge barrier between West Oakland & Downtown. Please replace w/ surface street & develop land
- No problems w/ freeway, make walking experience better
- Make bridge experiences more interesting
 - Cool lighting

What if? Howard Terminal

- Yes, open space! Save the cranes =)
- I like the idea of a sports area for the public
- If something must happen here, then parks version. This will allow conversion to real port & real production facilities in future
- Sounds great! Love space idea and Port is also key economic engine in Oakland & conflicts w/ this plan.
- Ballpark on the waterfront works well, as S.F. has shown.
- Needs more green between [buildings of the development scenario of Howard Terminal]

What if?

- Maker space retail along 14th along with black arts forums
- More planter boxes, compost collection & edible landscapes
- Affordable outlets for fresh healthy groceries & use transit hub as an asset!
- Art park. Artist housing on public land [in KONO Arts + Production District] area
- Permanent farmers market park & community gardens[at KONO Arts + Production District]
- Affordable commercial spaces for small businesses
- Enhanced bicycle/car transit way on Broadway w/ separated lanes
- Provide raised cycle track w/ separated lanes for BRT/LRT station + cars
- Improve lighting between lake and Whole Foods [along] (Harrison)
- We fought to have the too high zoning a decade ago[in Gold Coast/Lakeside area]. DO NOT raise.
- STOP POLICIES forcing people into settlement zones – PDA's. 5 over/ stack & packs are extractive. [Arrow points at opportunity sites for infill on Broadway]
 - Not sure what this comment means? Extractive of what?
- PED/BIKE bridge is for wealthy in towers @ Oak to 9th and those proposed along estuary connector
- Bike/pedestrian bridge to Alameda
- Attractive and easily maintainable[art and lighting to underpass sidewalks], unlike current art @ Broadway underpass
- I have no reason to come to downtown
- We miss Sears! Need a department store so don't have to go to Emeryville!
- NO ZONING ADJUSTMENTS. (These drives up rents and drives out indies) Keep Oakland's individual flavor.
- Need a grocery store – a healthy one in Uptown!
- Mandatory Affordable Housing Percentages. Affordable Housing must be inclusionary!
- Keep one-way streets. Better flow less congestion.
- Keep public parking open late / weekends & signage to get people to parking. Then make people walk / bike, enjoy downtown like it's a big promenade. Lights please.
- Affordable retail space for independent small business
- More greenways, too [along underpasses]
- Climate resilience around waterways
- Focus on education of local kids – get the tools in their hands! [to facilitate 'Maker Space' Arts/Production District]
- More lighting[along 14th St]
- Yes please to this [14th St Arts District]. Give them agency in this process!
- Extend this [BRT or bike trail, unclear] down Grand Ave! Connect the hoods! And around Lake.
- How would the ballpark get served by transit?
- Arts District

- 14th Black Arts District
- Uptown Arts District
- Downtown Mix Use space rental to Artist
- Henry J. Kaiser Convent (R. Belle proposed) revised World Class performance center

KONO (Koreatown / Northgate)

- That park lot sucks. Turn it into housing. Or galleries
- I agree the Kaiser lot is an eyesore. It could be student or affordable housing. Northgate is full of blight & graffiti. Clean it up and give it back to the people
- Close Northgate to vehicle traffic. Make a Promenade or Marketplace or a Park!!
 - This is a great idea. My car was broken into here. This street is a huge liability and could be wonderful for the Arts community.
- More trees on telegraph w/ planter boxes in bikeway

Old Oakland

- Show evidence of researching other cultures precedents & understanding Latin America (eg. Superwalkways)

How would you preserve and improve the Lake Merritt

Office District?

- Mixed use, not office
- Dam right. This shouldn't be zoned for anything taller than the historic building it's behind... [referring to rendering of potential infill buildings in Lake Merritt Office District] (Actually, I think it was supposed to be post of the park!)
- More benches along walkways for us seniors! (Look at Victoria, B.C.)
- No new buildings in [Snow]Park please! [referring to waterfront building with pier]
- From Grand, left at church on bike and continuing along Lakeside Dr is a dangerous lane change.
- Rec center. Shrink & slow L. side Dr. to absolute min.

How would you preserve and improve West of San Pablo?

- Nothing above ~4 stories
- Keep (-2 floors for commercial + non-profit in office space. There is a business in this bldg.. So. [referring to building at South-East corner of 17th St at San Pablo Ave]
- Is this scale correct? Not 2-way shared? [referring to 2 way shared street sample transformation of 15th St]
- [15th] St is not really this narrow. Sell off sidewalk for development to make it that way! Safer, human-scale; then little parklets in front of existing older buildings that are further setback.
- REPLACE UGLY CITY HALL PARKING GARAGE W/ PUBLIC PLAZA/PARK.
- CONVERT 16TH ST TO TWO-WAY TRAFFIC WEST OF TELEGRAPH.
- [Prefers]No bike box[at 17th St at Jefferson St]. Protected intersection instead.

How would you preserve and improve Lakeside?

- Small, affordable groceries + drug stores
- Parking is still a main concern along 14th St. Affordable parking.
- How do you consider parking lots filled w/ cars underutilized? [referring to parking lot between 13th and 14th St, Jackson St and Alice St]
- Take out one-ways. Replace with one lane each direction & bike lanes. Break up blocks where possible.

How would you define the neighborhoods?

KONO

- High Rise Apt/condo with Affordable element to block sounds of Bart & Hwy 980. Replace Northgate with a new vision.

JACK LONDON

- Keep Industrial / Workspaces
- Jack London is not 1 neighborhood. Multiple/different diaractors of place.

Building Types as “Ingredients” of Place

Small Lot Size: 50-75 feet by 150 feet

- How does this work – elevators?

Medium Lot Size: 100 feet by 150 feet

- Highest density best
- Question: How does light get into buildings?

General comment:

- I’m a member of Art Murmur...but I have to say that low building types are MUCH more essential to preserving the function/character of OLD OAKLAND than of the KONO/OAM district. This plan unfortunately shows “preserving” historic building heights in a corridor along Castco...this linear model doesn’t contribute to a sense of neighborhood, currently created by house-scale units between 7th-11th

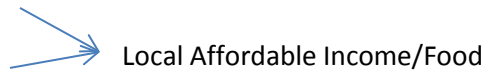
Which Street Designs Would You Choose?

- Make it actually buildable, phaseable! Vision only gets so far.
- Bikes + cars in 1 lane = DEATHS. “Share” [space] in loosest sense
- More Trees better!
- Need protected bike lanes
- Enough with the juvenile lollipop trees. Choose appropriate to develop a real continuous canopy. And the appropriate soft-scaping to allow it to mature.
- Add Crosswalk here (to cross San Pablo) [at San Pablo Ave at William, between 19th and 20th St]
- Prefer 25 MPH street mockup without the center lane |||
- This [overhead mockup view of San Pablo Ave from 20th to 17th St] is completely out-of-scale. Re-think the solution.

Goals for Downtown

-AFFORDABILITY & EQUITY

- Family-sized units
 - Community Gardens
 - Urban Farms
- Take back public land at Northgate for Affordable Housing
- Affordable housing for Artists
- Need family friendly housing for all income levels
- Affordability + Equity = Most important! Help existing Oaklandites stay thru change. All should benefit from economic vitality.
- Accessible to people w/ mobility challenges + elderly
- Playgrounds!
- Please put some benches along all pedestrian walkways for us seniors!
- More 3 BR units will allow families to grow up in Downtown. More 3 BR units will also allow people to share housing. Shared housing will make it more affordable for artists + others.
- Two + Three Bedroom (family) apartments



-CREATIVE CULTURE & ARTS

- Also, informal art such as murals, other street art. Having blank walls – not always a bad thing
- Museum of Craft + Design
- Better + regular maintenance of existing historic cultural buildings – Malonga Casquelourd
- Make Malonga Casquelourd cultural hub of art district. Renovate the theater there.
- Community gardens; edible landscaping; fruit trees; demonstration forum; connection to [illegible] visibility of arts!
- What defines affordable? Who defines it?
-

-PRESERVATION & URBANISM

- Force 980 traffic thru surface streets to revitalize lost retail.
 - Keep through cars on freeway to keep them off streets – leave streets to pedestrians and bikes
 - Avoid unnecessary traffic by getting cars where they need to go, not forcing them where they DON'T want to be

-THE PUBLIC REALM

- forums

-CONNECTIVITY & MOBILITY

- make BRT fiber open for public access + free
- More bike-ways less one ways
- Create shuttle around Lake Merritt – Connect to Broadway Shuttle – “Merritt-Go-Round”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Please bring back an affordable dept. store.
- Resilience to changes in culture / economy + also climate
- Plan ahead!