GENERAL PUBLIC VERSION

Santa Clara/River Road Implementation Planning Team (SCRRIPT)

KEY CHALLENGES FOR THE SANTA CLARA/RIVER ROAD AREA PLAN

Santa Clara and River Road neighborhood listening sessions generated a number of concerns that we sorted into the categories of Land Use, Transportation, Public Safety, Parks & Recreation, and Governance. This paper is a summary of key challenges identified by the neighborhood listening sessions and SCRRIPT work sessions. Each category is introduced with a vision statement of possible best outcomes derived from the listening sessions. Focus questions precede each set of key challenges.

Land Use

Vision Statement: Community-based grassroots planning leads to the creation of neighborhoods that retain the independent character of the River Road and Santa Clara communities through the use of innovative design concepts. By doing so, the community can accommodate anticipated population growth, prepare for development, and welcome the next generation of residents. That level of deliberative decision-making comes from an understanding of the rural heritage, functioning natural systems and resources, affinity for and access to the Willamette River, and the need to preserve our local farms and enhance our urban agriculture. Furthermore, as growth and development occurs, let it be appropriately scaled infill that sensitively advances our vision of *20-minute neighborhoods*; that is, our quiet residential areas served by walkable commercial centers along River Road and elsewhere that create the destinations we desire within our neighborhood. The goal is a development pattern that enhances our neighborhoods, creates economic opportunities for small local businesses, enables people's choice to walk, cycle or ride transit, and increases livability and environmental sustainability. For the River Road neighborhood, the end result will manifest our vision to create a "River and Garden District."

Focus Questions for Land Use

How can we preserve the character of current neighborhoods, and agricultural and natural lands as we accommodate projected population growth?

Key Challenges

- Maintain existing large lots, large trees, and some streets without sidewalks

- Preserve historical character of the neighborhood

- Protect livability of neighborhoods

- Protect farmland and urban agriculture (food security and sustainability)

- Conserve natural resources

- Improve access to the river

How can we best articulate a vision of how we want our area to grow?

Key Challenges

- Quiet residential neighborhoods

- Diversity in housing

- Places for community to congregate

- Thriving local business community

- 20-minute neighborhoods that allow more walking, cycling, short drives to local business services / nodal commercial services

How can we influence how new development will be built?

Key Challenges

- Provide meaningful input in land use decisions

- Increase density with minimal negative impact

- Maintain open space by development strategies like cluster development

- Foster street trees

- Address impact of development on drainage and stormwater mitigation

- Protect natural waterways (creeks, sloughs, swales, lesser waterways)

- Address areas that are toxic to neighbors, such as railroad contamination

Transportation

Vision Statement: River Road is a safer road for all users, including those driving cars, people walking or cycling, and people using transit. The River Road is more than asphalt between curbs; it is redesigned as a neighborhood street that is comfortable for walking conveniently to places residents need and want to go. A safer, slower, and more comfortable River Road establishes a foundation for a vibrant, community-oriented area that hums with local business activity. Neighborhood streets are improved with context sensitive solutions that address safety concerns and retain the historic and rural character.

Focus Question for Transportation

How can we improve the transportation system to address safety, traffic, and alternative modes?

Key Challenges

- Safety for everyone (cars, bicycles, pedestrians, including those with disabilities) on River Road and neighborhood streets
- Encourage a business corridor that attracts customers
- Input into solutions for traffic bottlenecks
- Safety and livability of neighborhood streets
- Public transit - more frequent and convenient
- Bikes and pedestrians—improved connectivity along the river, on streets, and other passageways
- Equitable financing of amendments on existing streets to accommodate development
- *River Road South of Beltline*
  - Lower speed limit for safety and to help create a business corridor that attracts customers (River Road as a street, not a road to somewhere else)
  - Solutions for commuters passing through (greater use of NW Expressway)
- *River Road North of Beltline*
  - Solutions for commuters (Beltline, NW Expressway, potential new bridge, Hunsaker and Beaver improvements)
  - Extension of West Bank trail in Santa Clara
  - Addition of pedestrian crossings

Public Safety

Vision Statement: Professional law enforcement and the broader community collaborate to create safe, clean neighborhoods that are welcoming to all residents. Increased patrols, investigation, and prosecution results in access to all resources at all hours of the day. The community works together to support neighbors by looking out for one another.

Focus Questions for Public Safety

How can we improve police coverage and response for all residents?

How can we support community crime watch?

Parks and Recreation

Vision Statement: Abundant parkland and recreation programs are equitably provided to the full community, access to the river and greenway is improved, and well-maintained parks are sites for thriving community centers, gathering spaces, and new community gardens.

Focus Question for Parks and Recreation

How can we best provide parks and recreation services for all residents in the area?

Key Challenges

- Preserve services provided by River Road Parks and Recreation
- Improve access to river
    - Support creation of a river path in Santa Clara
- Add more family friendly parks
- Add places for community gatherings
    - Add recreation services in Santa Clara

<u>Governance</u>

Vision Statement: Our community embraces open, democratic principles in speaking with a cohesive voice that requests efficient, fair and consistent governance, services provided in a clear and logical manner, and equitable taxation of those receiving services.

Focus Question for Governance

How can we improve governance in this area?

<u>Key Challenges</u>

- Increase residents' voice in governmental decision-making
- Clarify public understanding of coordination and communication between governmental agencies
- Improve quality of life regulations and enforcement (loud noises, animal control, etc.)
- Understand options for solving governance issues
    - Investigate connection between service provision, taxation, and annexation
    - Investigate service provision through Special Districts