



ALTADENA

Community Visioning Process

Vision Report
July 2012

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Introduction

Purpose

In 2012, a visioning process to gather community input about Altadena's future was initiated by the Los Angeles County Fifth Supervisorial District, Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles, and the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. This input was intended to set the direction for any future updates to the Community Standards District – zoning regulations specific to Altadena – as well as provide the County and Altadena leaders with a better understanding of what community members want to see in Altadena's future.

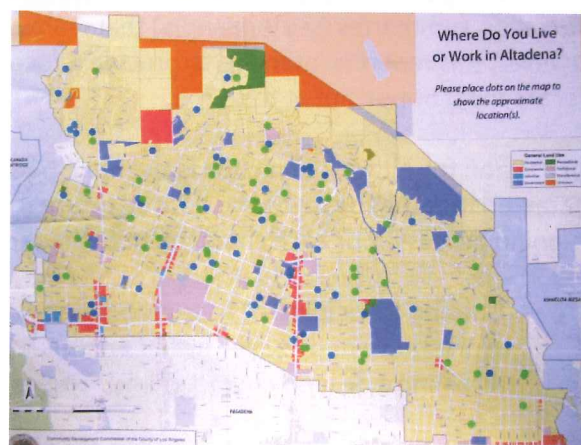
This vision report is a summary of the community input received through the Altadena Community Visioning Process. It describes what community members value most about Altadena, the major issues they feel should be addressed, and the kind of future that they hope to see. It is not a work program but rather a snapshot of a community discussion.

The report will serve as a reference document for the County of Los Angeles in any future planning efforts that may be undertaken when funding and resources become available. Community members may also choose to continue the conversations begun in the visioning process and pursue the suggestions that have been made.

Visioning Process

Beginning in February 2012, the County's consultant team became familiar with Altadena and met with individuals and groups that were expected to have insight into major community issues and assets. These interviews and meetings continued throughout the process. Groups that participated included the Town Council and the Council's Land Use Committee, Altadena Heritage, Chamber of Commerce, the Altadena Library, and Altadena Crest Trail Working Group.

A series of three community workshops was held at Loma Alta Park Gym on the evenings of April 4, April 25, and June 6; each workshop lasted about 2 hours. Efforts to promote participation in these workshops included postcards sent to every property owner in Altadena; flyers sent home in student packets through the public schools in Altadena; emails sent through community lists; notices on the Community Development Commission and Town Council websites; and articles in Altadenablog, the Altadena Patch, and the Pasadena Star News. Emails, flyers, and postcards were written in Spanish as well as English, and Spanish translation was available at the



Top photo: The topic of "New Businesses" attracted attention in the first community workshop. Below, dots show where workshop participants live or work.

workshops.

The first community workshop gathered comments about Altadena’s “treasures,” “challenges,” and “visions” for the future from at least 135 participants through an individual brainstorming exercise followed by small group discussions about the major topics in the comments.

The second workshop (attended by at least 80 people) prompted groups to discuss the input that had been received at the first workshop, the interviews/meetings, and online. This input was presented on a set of discussion sheets that became the basis for the Draft Vision Report.

At the final workshop (attended by at least 50 people), participants heard a presentation giving an overview of the Draft Vision Report, then provided their individual comments at stations organized around the six characteristics in the “Vision for Altadena.” They provided these comments on evaluation forms, flipcharts, and Post-It Notes that they placed on large copies of the Draft Vision Report pages. A “Volunteer Station” was set up to encourage people to talk about launching volunteer initiatives to implement items in the vision report.



Top photo: Groups discussed earlier community input in Workshop 2. (Credit: altadenablog.) In Workshop 3, participants provided individual comments on the draft report.

Report Organization

The visioning process uncovered a wealth of ideas about Altadena’s future, on a wide range of topics. Workshop summaries (see Appendix) that were produced during the process present this input in full; however, this report is intended to provide a focused list of items that community members seem to feel are most important at this time.

The “Vision for Altadena” section is the main body of this report. It is organized around six primary characteristics that describe the desired future for Altadena, as expressed by participants in the visioning process. For each characteristic, the report presents the following:

Guiding Principles – These statements, originally presented to community members in Workshop 2 and revised based on their feedback, describe a general approach for achieving or retaining a desired characteristic. They may be seen as a framework for policy or action.

Visioning Quotes – Key quotes from individuals and small groups explain in community members’ own words what they hope Altadena will achieve.

Key Topics to Address – This section provides community input regarding key topics that residents feel should be addressed. For each topic, related community concerns and suggestions are presented, along with some relevant background information and things to consider. These considerations include instances of suggestions already being implemented, potential contradictions in community members’ suggestions, and other potential issues that the County and consultant are aware of.

The “Going Forward” section provides a list of initiatives that received support in the visioning process and suggests how the vision report may be used by the County and community members.

The Appendices provide more detailed descriptions of the workshops and compilations of the community input received at those workshops.

Vision for Altadena

By identifying Altadena’s “treasures” and making suggestions for the future, participants in the visioning process expressed that their desired future community should have the following characteristics:

Diverse, eclectic, unique character

Views and access to the mountains and nature

Town/district centers with thriving businesses

Safe and peaceful neighborhoods

Community cohesion and strong institutions

Opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, riding, and play

Some of these are existing characteristics that residents want Altadena to retain; others are ideal characteristics that they hope Altadena will achieve. Each characteristic is described on the following pages.

Diverse, eclectic, unique character

Residents appreciate the eclectic and unique character of Altadena. This includes *places* such as historical homes and properties, and locally owned businesses. It also includes an appreciation for *people* with a range of ethnic backgrounds and incomes, and for artists and musicians in the community.

Guiding Principles

- Preserve historic, eclectic, unique character
- Allow a variety of building types and styles in keeping with Altadena's eclectic character
- Value the diversity of Altadena's population
- Allow for diversity in housing types and affordability
- Respect the desire for independence and freedom

Key Topics to Address

Design regulations and guidelines
Income diversity and gentrification

Design regulations and guidelines

Background

As acknowledged by many participants in Workshop 1, Altadena has a rich history that has left a legacy of historic buildings and other sites. The Altadena built environment reflects different periods of growth throughout this history, with different building styles and standards. In the present day, development in Altadena is regulated by the Los Angeles County General Plan, Altadena Community Plan, and Los Angeles County zoning code.

The Community Standards District (CSD) adds to and modifies the underlying County zoning regulations for setbacks, signage, and other aspects of building and site design. It includes language that promotes the use of a "Mediterranean" style for buildings in the Lake Avenue area and limits base building colors to "light earth-tones and muted pastel colors" while allowing "contrasting, more colorful" colors for trim.

The CSD also provides residential regulations for Altadena which address development and grading in County-designated hillside management areas, and provide development standards for R-1, R-2, and R-3 zones. These standards include yard size requirements, required setbacks, height limits,

Visioning Quotes

"Not cookie-cutter - lots of character"
– Treasure, Workshop 1

"Historic homes" – Treasure, Workshop 1

"Unique architecture & design"
– Treasure, Workshop 1

"Creative people: scientists, artists, musicians" – Treasure, Workshop 1

"Eccentrics / diversity of population"
– Treasure, Workshop 1

"Independent spirit of residents & racially diverse groups" – Treasure, Workshop 1

"We need to be more aware of the less 'well off' parts of town"
– Challenge, Workshop 1

"Bringing east + west sectors together"
– Challenge, Workshop 1

"Gentrification is a threat to quiet & racial harmony" – Challenge, Workshop 1

"I live in the same street as my doctor and my gardener - I don't want that to change." – Vision, Workshop 1

"Preserve range of income levels - not become all upper middle class"
– Challenge, Workshop 1

required number of parking spaces, maximum floor area and lot coverage allowed for single family homes, and the inclusion of decorative roofline features for multifamily buildings.

Issues Identified by Community

Commercial areas – The CSD limitations on building style and color seem inconsistent with Altadena’s eclectic and creative character, and do not “fit today’s sensibility for colors / signage / architecture,” in the words of Workshop 2 participants. Participants expressed a desire to promote unique, locally owned businesses rather than chain businesses, but others said that they wanted businesses such as Starbucks and Trader Joe’s. For more on the topic of commercial areas, also see the section **“Town / district centers with thriving businesses”**.

Residential areas – It may be a challenge to apply zoning and design guidelines to the unique patchwork of Altadena’s residential areas. For instance, due to current setback requirements, homeowners in the R-1 zone may need conditional use permits for home expansions if their property is significantly smaller (and therefore their setbacks smaller) than those of their neighbors. A subcommittee of the Town Council’s Land Use Committee produced a report that recommends revisions to the R-1 zoning regulations in the Community Standards District to address this issue and make other adaptations for Altadena’s neighborhoods. Community members made comments both to strengthen the mansionization ordinance and to limit the need for CUPs that it creates.

Fence heights – Many fences in Altadena’s residential front yards are higher than what is allowed by the County zoning regulations, or have high hedges. In the past, community members have suggested using the Community Standards District to accommodate higher fences and hedges. This issue was only brought up briefly in the visioning process. Community members suggested that standards could address height, setback, opacity, materials, impacts to neighbors’ views, preserving visibility for passing traffic, and views to the front door.

Preserving views – Community members wish to preserve views of nighttime skies and to underground power lines that interfere with daytime views. Undergrounding could also protect power lines from wind storms such as the one that caused a major outage in December 2011.

Community Suggestions

- Commercial areas:
 - Provide design guidance that does not dictate a particular style or color scheme, but instead promotes architectural quality and creativity, and allows adaptations for the unique situations of particular sites (slope, dimensions, etc.) without burdensome permitting requirements. Limit standards or guidelines to addressing building uses, mass, setbacks, density, rear parking, and right-of-way intrusion.
 - Encourage third and higher stories to be stepped back to help preserve views of the mountains from the street. Allow building overhangs over sidewalks.
 - Promote and encourage art by revising regulations to allow distinctive murals on commercial or public buildings.
 - Consider establishing a design review process to promote innovative architecture.
- Home additions, accessory buildings, pools:
 - Revise setback/yard requirements in CSD so that homeowners do not need conditional use permits for types of expansions that the community finds acceptable. (For

suggested revisions, refer to the report from Land Use Committee Sub-committee for the Review of the Altadena Community Standards District Zone R1.)

- Revise regulations to be more accommodating of fences and hedges that already exist in Altadena.
- Provide more proactive code enforcement to promote better property maintenance, ensure compatibility with surrounding properties, and preserve oak trees.
- Allow more agricultural uses in residential areas. (Also see Key Topic “Sustainability”)
- Adopt a “dark sky” ordinance to control light pollution. The County recently adopted such an ordinance, which only applies to the portions of Altadena located within the boundaries of the Angeles National Forest.
- Create a long-term plan for undergrounding utilities and power lines.

Considerations

Building heights in much of Altadena’s commercial areas are limited to 35 feet, and community members have differing opinions about whether this limit should be preserved. The suggestion for stepping back stories built above the second story may partly address the concerns of people who wish to retain the current height limit.

The issue of fence- and hedge-height zoning standards seems to need further exploration. It was only touched upon in the visioning process, but the County code is not consistent with fences and hedges that were built before the code was adopted and that some community members favor.

While certain home expansions that currently require a Conditional Use Permit may be generally acceptable to community members, and there were even some calls for scaling back the mansionization ordinance, there is still community support for limiting mansionization and this should be a consideration during any revision of residential zoning.

Income diversity and gentrification

Background

Altadena is diverse in many ways, including its mix of housing options within neighborhoods that allows people with a range of incomes to live in close proximity to each other. As seen in the community quotes, this is something that people treasure.

Issues Identified by Community

Gentrification – This is a term with different connotations. It usually describes a process of transformation in an area that includes an increase in rent prices and an influx of businesses that cater to people with higher incomes. It can occur after an area experiences positive changes that have made it more desirable to live or conduct business there. However, an increase in the cost of living can lead to displacement of people and businesses—in fact, without preventative efforts displacement is likely to occur.

As the Visioning Quotes on page 4 suggest, Workshop 1 participants felt that gentrification is occurring in Altadena and they wanted to preserve the affordability that allows residents of different incomes to live on the same street. Community members also raised concerns about the affordability of

commercial rents in the Lincoln Avenue redevelopment area, child care, and produce at the farmers market.

East/West divide – Although Altadenans value income diversity, residents seem less comfortable with a larger difference they see between the “east side” and “west side” of the community. Community members have identified an economic, physical and social divide, including a lack of east/west connections along corridors, and they perceive differences in the quality of government services provided in these areas.

Infrastructure and utilities – Community members reported issues with electricity reliability, homes using septic tanks, and outdated heating systems in older homes. Further exploration may be needed to determine whether some of these issues are affecting people who need assistance in rehabilitating their homes, and whether there are particular neighborhoods in need of more attention.

Community Suggestions

- Defend homes against foreclosure and fine banks for unmaintained vacant homes.
- Create a community fund to help homeowners to improve or clean up their properties.
- Actions in the section “**Community cohesion and strong institutions**” may address some of the desires for better connections across social divisions, and for providing community supports for people in need.
- Community members made general suggestions to encourage physical connectivity between the east and west through improvements to east-west corridors and transit connections.
- Suggestions for infrastructure included extending sewer systems and providing better communications infrastructure.

Considerations

Some comments from community members simply listed “gentrification” as a concern, and further information is needed in order to identify what specific issues are occurring.

Written comments protested that sewer fees should not be increased in order to extend sewer infrastructure—at least not without agreement by the affected parties.

Mountain views, access to nature, and environmental stewardship

In Workshop 1, the mountains and nature were the most commonly cited treasures of Altadena. Residents appreciate views of the mountains as well as the trails that allow access to nature in the Angeles National Forest, Hahamongna Watershed Park, and Eaton Canyon Natural Area. Local parks, trees, and greenery are valued, as are peace and quiet, darker night skies, and a “rural” or “country” feeling in Altadena.

Community members also showed keen interest in promoting sustainability in Altadena’s built environment, economy, and culture. This goes beyond appreciation of nature, into more general issues of resource use and local independence. One topic in which Altadena shows special interest is the development of a local food system.

Guiding Principles

- Keep hillside neighborhoods in harmony with the natural landscape
- Preserve views of mountains and hills
- Retain peace and quiet
- Allow rural/agricultural uses
- Encourage urban agriculture activities
- Preserve mature trees
- Support healthy wildlife populations in nearby wilderness areas
- Reconnect the Altadena Crest Trail and provide more public access points

Key Topics to Address

Altadena Crest Trail completion and access Sustainability

Altadena Crest Trail completion and access

Background

The Altadena Crest Trail is an east-west trail between Hahamongna Watershed Park and Eaton Canyon Natural Area along the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. Skirting the edge of developed neighborhoods, it serves as a cross-community connector and connects to other trail systems including Angeles National Forest trails and the proposed Emerald Horseshoe. The County of Los Angeles Altadena Crest Trail

Visioning Quotes

*“Access to mountains, trails, nature”
– Treasure, Workshop 1*

“Value the quiet - don't hear freeway noises - do hear birds in trees, see squirrels” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“Our mountains” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“Continue the small-town feel, horses on streets etc.” – Vision, Workshop 1

“An expanded local economy based on camping, hiking, equestrian & mountain biking uses” – Vision, Workshop 1

*“Preserve oaks and other mature trees”
– Vision, Workshop 1*

*“Preserve open space & ‘green’ (pastoral) recreation such as hiking, horse riding, bird watching, open air painting, wild flower walks, moonlight hikes, etc!”
– Vision, Workshop 1*

*“Environmental sensitivity – Go Green!”
– Vision, Workshop 1*

*“Altadena farmers market is the best thing to happen here. It can be done. Therefore, encourage local agriculture.”
– Comment, Workshop 3*

“Altadena can create this brand: outdoor access in L.A.” – Comment, Workshop 3

Improvements Feasibility Analysis identified four gaps along the trail and evaluated potential trail segments to fill those gaps.

Issues Identified by Community

Trail completion – Community members wish to complete the Altadena Crest Trail. According to community members, historical maps show a more complete trail than what exists today and gaps have come about through neglect. Development has encroached on the trail and property owners have erected fences blocking trail use. Community members also reported that the County vacated a portion of the trail.

Trail access – Community members brought up two points regarding access to the Altadena Crest Trail. Access points are being controlled by adjacent property owners, some of whom block entry with locked gates. Also, the trail closes at dusk although Angeles National Forest trails that connect to the trail are open through the night, preventing through travel for users of the National Forest trails and nighttime enjoyment of the trail.

Community Suggestions

- Add language to the Community Standards District that supports trail easements, perhaps looking to other areas for examples (e.g. Acton, Santa Clarita).
- Assign County staff to coordinate with the Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group to work on trail easements and work cooperatively with property owners to ensure access to the Altadena Crest Trail.
- Consider allowing nighttime access to Altadena Crest Trail, like National Forest trails, or provide special night hikes as in Eaton Canyon; but limit disturbance in neighborhoods by continuing to enforce prohibition on parking between 10 pm and 6 am.
- Establish a nature center on the west side of Altadena (near Hahamongna Watershed Park / Arroyo Seco).
- Provide more trail maintenance. Organize volunteer trail maintenance crews.

Considerations

Planning for trail access points should be coordinated with planning for walking, biking, and horseback riding infrastructure in order to allow non-motorized travel to and from trailheads (see the section “**Opportunities for walking...**”). Nighttime access to trails should be balanced with neighbors’ concerns about safety and noise.

Sustainability

Background

At the most basic level, environmental sustainability aims for the long-term stewardship of energy, water, and other natural resources. It is often linked to other community goals including social equity and a stable economy. For Altadena, concern for the environment is linked to enjoyment and stewardship of natural areas and wildlife—as well as an interest in local food production.

Issues Identified by Community

Participants in Workshop 1 saw opportunities for greater localization and independence through promoting a local economy and food system, transportation options, renewable energy generation, and water re-use.

Community Suggestions

- Promote a local food system through community gardening, fruit harvesting and sharing, urban homesteading, farmer's market, and a food co-op.
- Encourage more trees and greenery: tree canopy, green roofs, and living facades. Require shade trees in parking lots and use drought-tolerant plant species that withstand windstorms. Require proper maintenance of trees and landscaping.
- Incentivize sustainable business practices regarding waste, energy, and water.
- In residential areas, encourage activities that reduce waste and conserve energy and water, such as installing solar panels, retrofitting homes to be more energy efficient, capturing stormwater and greywater, using green building methods, replacing lawns with more water efficient landscaping, etc.
- Allow more agricultural uses in residential areas including gardens, small-scale commercial farming, some animal keeping, small nurseries, and food production. (Also see Key Topic "[Design regulations and guidelines](#)")
- Create a corps to install solar panels and rehabilitate homes, perhaps through a vocational education program (suggestions for funding: Southern California Edison and County).
- Promote sustainability through a symposium, website, and sustainability "overlay".
- Leverage youth to be ambassadors of sustainability and encourage school gardens.
- Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and corridors. Listed as an area of concern: Hahamongna watershed sediment removal route.
- Provide animal services that respond quickly and minimize suffering. Consider contracting with Pasadena Humane Society.

Considerations

Some suggestions for the local food system are already being implemented. A certified farmer's market was launched in Altadena on May 30, 2012 and efforts are underway to plan a food co-op for the area.

The Community Standards District already requires maintenance of landscaping "through regular pruning, weeding, fertilizing, litter removal, and replacement of plants as necessary."

Town/district centers with thriving businesses

While residents value the feeling of being removed from larger cities, the proximity to nature, and the sense of quiet in Altadena, there is a desire for the community to have more of the amenities associated with city life and at least one “town center” where people can shop, walk, and gather with other community members. Residents would like to see the commercial areas thriving and occupied with more businesses, expressing a desire for more convenient shopping and for more restaurants and cafes, as well as community events. Some of these comments specifically called out the major commercial corridors Lake Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and Fair Oaks.

Guiding Principles

- Provide parking adjacent to businesses as well as shared parking areas and on-street parking so visitors can “park once” and walk to businesses
- Encourage walking and enjoyment of the streets—bring the streets to life
- Incentivize development, rehabilitation, and re-use of commercial properties
- Encourage restaurants, cafes, and other uses where people can gather
- Encourage a mix of unique and locally owned retail that serves residents and attracts visitors
- Encourage expansion of quality grocery retail
- Allow attractive and visible signage that supports local businesses
- Encourage community events, art, and performances
- Incorporate trees and landscaping

Key Topics to Address

Filling vacancies and addressing blight

Parking supply and regulations

Streetscape improvements

Signage

Visioning Quotes

“More community friendly, locally owned businesses” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Survival of the small business that we know & love” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Redesign Lake area commerce, Ave to be more inviting with shops, restaurants & venues for celebrations and festivals...draw people from other places” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Walkable downtown or town ‘center’ area with restaurants, local shops, gathering places” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Thriving businesses – adding in light manufacturing & service companies” – Vision, Workshop 1

Filling vacancies and addressing blight

Background

Empty buildings are noticeable in Altadena's commercial areas. In addition, there are some large and visible vacant lots such as the fenced lot on Lake Avenue at Calaveras. These properties are potential locations for new or expanding businesses.

Issues Identified by Community

Vacant/underused properties – Besides the smaller vacant storefronts, community members would like to see development or rehabilitation of some large and visible properties including those at Lake and Calaveras, Lincoln and Altadena, and the Rite Aid shopping center. Some are concerned about having too many religious uses occupying storefronts since these spaces could be used by businesses that draw more foot traffic (on most days) and add to the tax base. However, others feel that these uses add value.

Blight – Undeveloped properties and empty buildings are a concern, as well as a lack of property maintenance including weeds and trash/debris, unmaintained landscape, dirty windows and sidewalks, lack of paint, and "ragged" fences.

Regulatory issues – It is difficult for new uses to occupy buildings that do not conform to zoning, which discourages the re-use of these buildings. Additionally, it is difficult for businesses to meet parking requirements, thus discouraging them to open in the community. This is described further in the next section, "**Parking supply and regulations**". Also see Key Topic "**Design Regulations and Guidelines**" for other regulatory issues.

Community Suggestions

- Strongly discourage property owners from allowing their properties to remain vacant, unfinished, or unmaintained. Raise fines for property maintenance violations, and enact a tax on vacant buildings equal to the general fair market rent of the area. Create incentives for landlords to fill vacancies. (Also see Key Topic "**Income diversity and gentrification**" for vacant properties in residential areas.)
- Create a one-stop shop / ombudsman to help businesses through the permitting process to start and expand in Altadena. Comment from Workshop 2: "County needs to remove roadblocks." Lower fees for permits.
- Assist businesses with code compliance before imposing fines. Encourage a working relationship between the County and Chamber of Commerce to provide this assistance. Lower fines for code violations that do not cause blight.
- Expand allowed uses to include light manufacturing, and encourage artist enterprises.
- Grandfather original zoning to allow street front retail businesses to open in nonconforming buildings. Allow existing uses on transfer or sale.
- Plan for and incentivize redevelopment of North Lake around the Ralphs and Rite Aid lots.
- Establish a Business Improvement District to pursue positive changes such as addressing undermaintained properties.
- Consider temporary uses to occupy vacancies, such as agricultural uses on undeveloped land.
- Provide alternative "graffiti safe" locations for graffiti artists.

Considerations

Although community members suggested enacting a moratorium on the uses of storefronts for religious purposes, this is not likely to be legally defensible and others in the community have already objected. Given the amount of attention this issue received, however, further exploration is suggested to address the root concerns surrounding these uses: “dead space” and unused parking spaces in commercial areas during the week.

Some community members feel that adding residential uses in close proximity to commercial areas would add to the vitality of these areas, either through mixed use or higher-density residential development. Others strongly oppose this idea.

Parking supply and regulations

Background

Smaller parcels in Altadena’s commercial areas have limited on-site parking, and larger parking lots are not shared. County zoning requires that businesses provide a certain number of spaces, so for a smaller parcel this can mean that a new business will need a conditional use permit to open.

Issues Identified by Community

Parking requirements – The cost and processing time for obtaining a conditional use permit are prohibitive. At Workshop 2, a community member wrote, “Until parking restrictions are resolved new businesses like restaurants cannot open.” Groups in Workshop 2 said that addressing the issue of parking should be a priority.

Community Suggestions

- Revise parking requirements to reduce the need for businesses to obtain Conditional Use Permits:
 - Allow businesses to count spaces in common.
 - Issue parking permits to limit overflow into residential areas.
- Create public parking spaces:
 - Add diagonal parking on Mariposa Street and Lake Avenue. (See Streetscape Improvements topic for details.)
 - Create parking lots on County-owned land. Suggestion: Empty lot on El Molino Street between Sheriff and fire station.
 - Relocate bus parking/idling areas to free more space for vehicle parking.
- Establish mechanisms for shared use of existing and future parking among commercial, public and non-profit entities:

Case Study: Pop-Up Retail

An experiment in the city of Oakland has made headlines with the simultaneous opening of 6 new stores on a single block that had long-term vacancies. A new business incubator called Popuphood negotiated a deal with the landlord to allow the businesses to occupy his buildings for six months without rent. Popuphood also helped the businesses with the permitting process and securing a grant from the city for tenant improvements. May 4, 2012 marked the end of the six months, when three of the businesses signed long-term leases.

A similar approach could be helpful in areas with multiple vacancies where new businesses may have difficulty attracting attention and foot traffic.

- Allow businesses to meet parking requirements by leasing parking on adjacent / nearby parcels.
- Seek to use the parking lots of religious operations when they are not busy.
- Promote alternative modes of transportation to and from commercial areas. (Also see Key Topics related to “**Opportunities for walking...**”)

Considerations

Some participants suggested completely eliminating parking requirements. However, parking standards are in place to limit the number of cars that compete with surrounding uses for street parking. These uses may be other businesses or residences.

Streetscape improvements

Background

“Streetscape” here refers to the space that lies between the faces of buildings on either side of a street—including the roadway, sidewalks, and amenities such as trees and benches. Community members have made suggestions for beautification and changes to the streetscape in the town/district center areas that they believe will slow traffic, provide parking, and encourage pedestrian activity.

Issues Identified by Community

Pedestrian safety – Commercial areas are not comfortable for pedestrians, and crossing streets in front of downhill traffic can feel unsafe.

Street parking – Current parallel parking on streets does not provide a sufficient number of spaces (see Parking topic).

Community Suggestions

- Create parking/gathering space in the middle of the Mariposa Street right-of-way (similar to the new median in Lancaster’s downtown, or a row of diagonal parking).
- Create diagonal parking on Lake Avenue as part of a redesign that narrows the street and calms traffic. Consider feasibility of a single lane each way.
- Use urban design and landscaping to make pedestrians feel safe and create gathering spaces.
- Encourage outdoor dining.
- Add trees and landscaping. (Also see Key Topic “**Sustainability**”)
- Incorporate water/stormwater features that help prevent flooding while allowing stormwater to replenish groundwater resources and adding aesthetic value. (Also see Key Topic “**Sustainability**”)
- Work to organize art projects such as large scale murals that community groups and local schools can participate in.
- “Brand” business districts (e.g. NOLA for North Lake Altadena) and promote the brands through locally designed banners on the light poles.
- Improve the median on Woodbury Road.

Considerations

Past proposals to modify the roadway have been discouraged due to County staff concerns or policies—for instance, safety concerns about any diagonal parking that would result in cars backing into downhill traffic. However, as seen above, community members continue to believe that changes are needed.

Signage

Background

Both the underlying County zoning code and Community Standards District (CSD) regulate signage according to community desires that have been expressed in the past, and the CSD contains standards for sign size, height, placement, as well as what types of signs are allowed. For instance, the CSD prohibits roof signs in the Lake Avenue area, and freestanding signs such as sandwich boards are not permitted on sidewalks or the public right-of-way.

The CSD prohibits billboards in the Lake Avenue area and “West Altadena Area” (Lincoln Avenue between Figueroa Drive and Woodbury Avenue; Woodbury Avenue between the City of Pasadena and Lincoln Avenue). However, billboards that were present before the CSD was adopted are still present.

Under the County zoning code, murals are prohibited as a form of advertising.

Issues Identified by Community

Sign regulations – Altadena businesses find the current regulations too restrictive. They would like more freedom to promote their business, including the use of sandwich boards and other temporary signs to advertise events such as sales.

Billboards – Several billboards remain in Altadena, including billboards that are not being maintained.

Murals – Comments supported allowing or encouraging art murals in Altadena’s commercial areas.

Community Suggestions

- Allow temporary signs, sandwich board signs, and permanent window signs. Limitations on signage should be minimal but promote attractive signs. Suggestions for limits: no profanity, pornography, obstruction of another business, obstructing pedestrian flow, or political signs.
- Create a process for phasing out billboards, especially those that are not used or maintained. Suggestions: buyout; allowing construction of a single new large billboard elsewhere in exchange for removing multiple smaller billboards.
- Promote and encourage art by revising regulations to allow distinctive murals on commercial or public buildings. If necessary, make a distinction between art and advertising/signage to allow art murals.

Considerations

In general, signage regulations are intended to promote an attractive and uncluttered commercial environment. They can also assist businesses in communicating effectively with customers. Elimination of sign regulations could restrict the ability of the County to enforce signage maintenance and cause a disorderly appearance. Poorly placed sandwich boards can also interfere with pedestrian movement on sidewalks when there are other items blocking the right-of-way such as poles. Further discussion could help find a balance that promotes business communication while making commercial areas inviting.

Safe and peaceful neighborhoods

In Altadena's neighborhoods, residents seek safety from crime, hazards, and nuisances that impact quality of life. Community members cherish the sense of quiet and peace in Altadena, and value good neighbors who take care of their properties.

Guiding Principles

- Promote safety from crime, speeding, and hazards
- Improve appearance of neighborhoods
- Improve commercial areas adjacent to neighborhoods

Key Topics to Address

Safety

Liquor stores

Noise

Safety

Background

A number of neighborhood associations and Neighborhood Watch groups are active in Altadena. The Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA), formed in 2010, serves as a forum for these groups to network and share ideas and best practices.

Issues Identified by Community

Crime – Although at least two Workshop 1 participants said that the feeling of safety was one of the things they valued about Altadena, several others brought up safety as a concern, including challenges with theft, burglary, drugs, guns, and gang activity. A group in Workshop 2 identified crime as a priority issue for neighborhoods.

Emergency preparedness – Participants cited spotty cell phone coverage and the lack of an urgent care center north of the 210 as safety issues for emergencies.

Speeding – This was raised as an issue for neighborhoods and is a Key Topic discussed in another section of this report. (See Key Topic "**Speeding and traveler conflicts**")

Commercial activity – Community members raised concerns about commercial vehicles parking overnight in residential

Visioning Quotes

"Neighborhoods are friendly and relatively safe" – Treasure, Workshop 1

"I want to feel SAFE walking at night / leaving the house – I want Altadena theft/robbery down!"
– Challenge, Workshop 1

"Gangs" – Challenge, Workshop 1

"Better street lighting, neighborhood watches, safety for all citizens & visitors"
– Signals of Success, Group Discussion, Workshop 1

"Well kept homes" – Vision, Workshop 1

"A safe neighborhood to raise your child"
– Vision, Workshop 1

"Quiet neighborhood where people feel comfortable walking"
– Vision, Workshop 1

"Only you and your neighbor can make your neighborhood 'safe + peaceful'.
Reach out and meet your neighbor to do this." – Comment, Workshop 3

areas and blocking views of homes, about filming past 11 pm, and about large supply trucks for the Super King market using residential streets.

Community Suggestions

- Encourage more communication and coordination between neighbors to discourage crime. Promote neighborhood block parties as opportunities for neighbors to work together on a project and get to know each other better.
- Provide support and information for Neighborhood Watch activity and promote greater visibility of events such as National Night Out.
- Increase patrolling by officers and surveillance by residents.
- Improve street lighting, while seeking preservation of dark night skies.
- Set up a reverse 911 system for communications about major emergencies.
- Facilitate opening an urgent care clinic in Altadena. Suggestions: New add-ons to existing health care facilities or a new CHAP Care clinic.
- Encourage a local business (e.g. real estate firm) to organize disaster preparation meetings.

Considerations

Los Angeles County has implemented an emergency mass notification system that will be used to contact County residents and businesses via recorded phone messages, text messages or e-mail messages in case of emergency. More information is available about Alert LA County at alert.lacounty.gov.

While some community members desire better cell phone coverage, others have opposed the installation of more cell towers. Aesthetics and maintaining views should be considerations for any proposed wireless telecommunication facilities.

Liquor stores

Background

The Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA) hosted a meeting in 2011 which addressed liquor store regulation. In this meeting, a representative of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control shared statistics showing that Altadena has a lower number of liquor stores per person than Pasadena and other communities ("ACONA looks at filming, liquor stores, and coyotes at Tuesday night's meeting," Altadenablog, August 10, 2011). However, that statistic is for the community as a whole and does not offer any information about the locations of stores within the community.

Issues Identified by Community

Number and concentration of stores – Residents have expressed concerns about the number and concentration of liquor stores in Altadena, due in part to undesirable activities that take place around those stores such as drug dealing and fights.

Community Suggestions

- Limit the number or concentration of liquor stores; consider a moratorium.

- Restrict operating hours, strongly discourage loitering, and require stores to provide security. Suggestion: discourage loitering through fines and elevator music.
- Explore ways to encourage new uses to replace existing stores.

Considerations

Given the desire for additional grocery retail and negative community sentiment about liquor stores, there is a possible win-win situation if some liquor stores can be persuaded to convert their operations into corner grocery stores. Financial incentives related to food access and health may be available to assist in this conversion. A community member cautioned that while there is a desire for restrictions on liquor stores, liquor licenses should still be provided for restaurants.

Noise

Background

Noise is an issue that has come up in Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA) forums.

Issues Identified by Community

Nuisance noise – In the visioning process, concerns were raised about nuisance noise from barking, leaf blowers, music, and nearby non-residential uses such as schools, parks, and commercial areas with special events—including noise at night.

Community Suggestions

- Limit days/hours for leaf blower use, and mandate electric blowers. An Ojai ordinance provides a possible model; it limits hours to 8 am - 6 pm and prohibits gas blowers in residential zones. The City of Los Angeles prohibits the use of gas-powered blowers within 500 feet of residences.
- Limit hours for music in parks and other public areas near neighborhoods.
- Adopt an ordinance to address nuisance barking. Begin with education and training for pet owners, then use fines if necessary. An ordinance of the City of L.A. provides a possible model.
- Increase law enforcement efforts to address nuisance noise.

Considerations

County parks have hours of operation after which any use is not allowed, including activities that make noise.

Suggestions for limiting leaf blowers attracted a mix of comments, both supportive and cautionary. One comment urged that fines for leaf blower use should be directed at homeowners who hire gardeners, not at the gardeners. Another felt that electric leaf blowers would strain an electric grid that already has issues.

A community member pointed out that shifting more trips from driving to walking and bicycling could decrease street noise.

Community cohesion and strong institutions

Residents value the sense of freedom in Altadena and attitude of “live and let live,” while also valuing the “small town feel,” good neighbors, and the other people who get involved in community affairs. Workshop participants spoke up for community institutions including schools, the library, and senior center. Participants expressed the desire for greater community cohesion—between the east and west sides, between community leaders, and between neighbors in both residential and commercial areas.

Guiding Principles

- Promote neighborliness
- Maintain communication between County and community members
- Maintain cooperative community relationships with law enforcement
- Value small town character and foster a culture of “good neighbors”
- Support the library and senior center as community hubs
- Support community schools with community services as hubs for neighborhoods
- Coordinate joint use of public facilities and shared services between PUSD schools and County
- Improve communication within Altadena
- Encourage volunteerism and community involvement
- Provide resources and opportunities for seniors and youth

Key Topics to Address

Community institutions

Code complaints

Community involvement and consensus

Community institutions

Background

County facilities in Altadena include a Community Center that is used for Town Council meetings and as office and meeting space for several nonprofit organizations, as well as a senior

Visioning Quotes

“Community support & neighborliness - people lend a helping hand & say hello” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“Cranky activists” – Treasure, Challenge, and Vision, Workshop 1

“Neighborhood units organized for: parties, neighborhood watch, CERT disaster” – Vision, Workshop 1

“I would know my neighbors even better – working on projects & having ‘parties’ regularly” – Vision, Workshop 1

“The library is great!” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“Community sending kids to public/local schools” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Consensus will be difficult to gain on many issues. Should we try to always get it?” – Comment, Workshop 3

center. There is a library that is supported by its own independent district, which has a main location by the senior center and a branch by Charles White Park. The library is seeking to make physical improvements that are needed for safety and ADA compliance, and would benefit from additional parking spaces.

Public K-12 schools in Altadena are within the Pasadena Unified School District, which recently closed two elementary schools in Altadena. Concerns about schools have led to the formation of an Education Committee which is reporting to the Town Council.

Issues Identified by Community

Schools – Community members cited concerns about access to local schools, as well as the quality of education and safety at schools. Residents would like to see more community connection with public schools: more community support for schools, and schools offering more community services, and joint use agreements for public recreation.

Library – Because the library is a valued asset of Altadena, community members want improvements to be funded.

Urgent care – The lack of an urgent care center north of the 210 to provide emergency health services was a concern.

Group homes – Community members were concerned about insufficient oversight and standards for group homes, as well as the impact on schools needing to provide additional supports to children in group homes.

Community Suggestions

- Offer a variety of services through schools that support children and their families.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships for schools.
- Engage the community at large and County Supervisor in education oversight and support.
- Provide staffed school libraries, arts education, and resources for student health.
- Recruit more tutors. Suggestions: retired teachers, AARP Experience Corps participants, and Pasadena City College students.
- Develop joint use agreements to make school grounds available for community recreation when not in use by schools, and to make community facilities available for school use. (See Key Topic "**Recreation facilities and activities**")
- Re-use closed campuses for educational purposes. Suggestion: adult school.
- Promote youth involvement in community projects such as public art and promoting sustainable practices.
- Work with school principals to have the surrounding neighborhood "adopt" schools and help with cleanup, graffiti removal, etc.
- Tighten standards and licensing for group homes and hold them accountable for children's outcomes.

Considerations

The library is operated by its own district which provides funding, and thus is not under the jurisdiction of the County. However, the County could assist in the library's improvement efforts by facilitating the permitting process.

Code complaints

Background

Enforcement of the zoning code is a reactive process in which the County responds to complaints that are registered. These complaints may be registered by anyone, and the County keeps that person's information confidential.

Issues Identified by Community

Use of complaint process – Community members are concerned about incidents of anonymous code complaints which appear to be registered for vindictive purposes rather than stemming from legitimate concerns (dubbed "code bombing"), and about individuals submitting excessive numbers of complaints.

Community Suggestions

- Help resolve conflicts before they escalate into code violation complaints by providing a process such as mediation.
- Revise the complaint process to discourage excessive code-related complaints from a single anonymous individual.
- Proactively enforce the zoning code rather than relying on community complaints.
- Create a community fund to help homeowners to improve or clean up their properties.

Considerations

Limiting the ability to make complaints about code violations may conflict with other community members' desires to see more code enforcement efforts.

Community involvement and consensus

Background

As an unincorporated community in Los Angeles County, Altadena is governed by the County Board of Supervisors and represented by the Supervisor of the Fifth District, whose local office is located in Pasadena.

Each Census tract in Altadena may elect two representatives to the Town Council. As stated in the Town Council by-laws, "The Purposes of the Altadena Town Council are: (1) to act as an ombudsman for the neighborhoods of Altadena, conveying the needs and wishes of the residents to any county state or federal governmental body or agency, and (2) to provide a forum for a town meeting in which to discuss issues of concern to the Altadena Community." The Town Council has two standing committees—the Executive Committee and the Land Use Committee—and may create other special committees.

The people of Altadena have created a number of organizations to improve the community and provide services. A list of some of these organizations appears at the end of this report, in the "Going Forward" section.

Local news coverage is provided by *Altadenablog*, the *Altadena Patch*, and the *Pasadena Star News*. Representatives from the online news sources *Altadenablog* and *Altadena Patch* were present at all three visioning workshops and posted several news items related to the visioning process, including polls and notes from the workshops.

Issues Identified by Community

Communication and involvement – To promote involvement in civic affairs and community events, some residents feel that more communication is needed about matters that affect them or opportunities to participate, including new development and other matters that come before the Town Council, County decision makers, and County staff. A community member suggested that lack of awareness of Town Council activity could be one reason that two Council seats were left vacant in the recent election.

Lack of consensus – Some people voiced concerns about a lack of community consensus about where the community should be headed, or a feeling that a small group could derail efforts with larger community benefits. One Workshop 1 participant listed “cranky activists” as a treasure of Altadena, a vision for the future, and a challenge. Although Altadena is fortunate to have community members who care enough to get involved in civic affairs, different groups may sometimes work at cross purposes.

Community Suggestions

- Create mechanisms for sending announcements from the Town Council such as a community-wide email database, blog, and social media accounts. Make the blog into a virtual “town square.”
- The Town Council should adopt the Brown Act to ensure fair and open meetings.
- Create communication tools to better connect residents with government. Suggestions include a hotline for reporting graffiti, parking violations, and code violations; and an Altadena app for smart phones.
- Endeavor to hold meetings in Altadena for County matters that are specific to Altadena, to make it convenient for residents to attend.
- Offer more community events, in parks, in town/district centers, on temporarily closed streets.
- Encourage neighborhood block parties as opportunities for neighbors to work together on a project and get to know each other better.
- Publicize future activity related to the Vision Plan.

Considerations

The Town Council has a website at <http://altadenatowncouncil.org/> with a blog on the front page where news items are posted and community members can post comments. There is also a Town Council Twitter account, @Altadenag1001. A graffiti hotline at (800) 675-4357 allows Los Angeles County residents to report graffiti to the Department of Public Works.

Opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, riding, and play

Given their appreciation for the mountains, it is not surprising that community members expressed the desire for more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors on foot, bike, and horseback. They also want to use these modes of transportation to safely get around town, in conjunction with transit service that supports the ability to travel without a car. Participants listed parks as community treasures and have hopes for more recreational activities and facilities.

Guiding Principles

- Provide and maintain pathways throughout Altadena for safe travel on foot, bike, and horseback
- Promote safe sharing of streets between people using different modes of transportation
- Encourage expanded transit service
- Provide disabled access to public facilities and commercial areas
- Expand recreation facilities and activities

Key Topics to Address

Speeding and traveler conflicts

Infrastructure for walking, biking, riding

Recreation facilities and activities

Speeding and traveler conflicts

Background

Speeding is a concern in many communities, but the sloped north/south streets of Altadena may facilitate speeding downhill. Speeding negatively impacts the feeling of safety in neighborhoods; makes it less appealing to walk, bike, or ride a horse on the street; and challenges pedestrians attempting to cross streets in commercial areas, including school children.

Vehicular speeding is a specific instance of a more general issue raised by community members concerning conflicts between different modes of travel, and the need for different users to do a better job of sharing right-of-way.

Issues Identified by Community

Speeding – Speeding traffic in neighborhoods and in commercial areas makes people feel unsafe when crossing or walking along the street. Locations where speeding was cited

Visioning Quotes

"Safety issues for children who must walk to school on streets with no sidewalks + speeding cars" – Challenge, Workshop 1

"A community where neighbors walked to the shops, stores & parks – slower traffic" – Challenge, Workshop 1

"Road repair" – Challenge, Workshop 1

"Public transportation – to Meadows, to top of Lake, etc." – Challenge, Workshop 1

"Bicycle friendly community" – Vision, Workshop 1

"I want to walk and cycle in Altadena...to stores, library, school, etc." – Comment, Workshop 3

"Loma Alta Park is fantastic – playground, pool, baseball, equestrian, garden, tennis, etc." – Treasure, Workshop 1

"More community activities in Farnsworth Park" – Vision, Workshop 1

"More parks & recreation facilities" – Challenge, Workshop 1

as an issue: major north/south streets; Marengo Avenue between Loma Alta Drive and Altadena Drive; Lake Avenue; traffic coming out of La Vina; Windsor Avenue; and Chaney Trail near Alzada Drive. A community member also raised a concern about drivers running stop signs.

Traveler conflicts – Specific comments about conflicts included drivers and bicyclists passing horses too quickly or closely, mountain bikers speeding toward hikers on trails, and insufficient width on trails for different users to safely pass. (Also see Key Topic “[Altadena Crest Trail completion and access](#)”)

Community Suggestions

- Use traffic control and calming devices around neighborhoods such as stop signs, roundabouts, and speed bumps
- Enforce speed limits more aggressively with speed trailers and officers.
- Use streetscape redesign in commercial areas to slow traffic (see Streetscape Improvements topic).
- Use educational articles, events, meetings, and signs to promote understanding of how different users can safely share roads and trails.
- Install more informative signs about travelling safely around horses. Suggestions: “Slow for Horses,” “Pass Horses Slowly,” or “Keep Safe Distance from Horses.”
- Alert drivers to the presence of horses and children on streets, e.g. on Altadena and Loma Alta.
- Try to ensure sufficient width on trails for different users to pass each other safely, balancing this objective with the risk of trail erosion. (Also see Key Topic “[Altadena Crest Trail completion and access](#)”)
- Landscape the east side of Windsor Avenue.

Considerations

Some community members do not feel that traffic calming devices should be a priority for public investment.

Infrastructure for walking, biking, riding

Background

Infrastructure for walking – The presence of sidewalks varies from neighborhood to neighborhood within Altadena. Commercial areas have sidewalks; however, the wide streets and cars speeding downhill can discourage people from wanting to cross the street. Few trees offer shade in these areas.

Infrastructure for biking – The County of Los Angeles adopted a Bicycle Master Plan in March 2012, which shows a network of proposed bikeways through Altadena as well as the segments of existing bike routes in the southeastern part of the community. These segments on Allen Avenue, Washington Boulevard, Altadena Drive, and New York Drive are evidently the only designated on-street bike facilities in Altadena.

Infrastructure for horseback riding – Horsekeeping is allowed throughout Altadena for properties of a certain size; more horses are allowed on properties within the Altadena Equestrian District in west Altadena. Loma Alta Park has an equestrian arena and there are commercial stables located in this part of the community as well. Horses and their riders share the road with other users on their way to nature

trails such as the one accessed at the west end of Altadena Drive, another north of the Loma Alta arena, and Chaney Trail.

Issues Identified by Community

Expanding infrastructure – Community members saw the need for more designated bike lanes, sidewalks, and horse trails in Altadena.

Pedestrian crossings – Residents said that pedestrian crossings in commercial areas are difficult and also identified the following pedestrian crossings as needing improvements: Fair Oaks Avenue and Harriet Street intersection, Altadena Drive and Holliston Avenue intersection, mid-block crossing on Lake Avenue by Ralphs, and Lincoln Avenue near the community garden. Residents also said that the trail/street intersection around the Villa Zanita bridge on Lincoln Avenue did not make trail users visible enough to drivers. Visibility at intersections in neighborhoods was raised as a concern, without citing specific locations.

Transit service limitations – Community members listed shortcomings of the current bus service such as the infrequent nighttime service, limited weekend service, and limited service north of Altadena Drive.

Community Suggestions

- Create a coordinated master plan for bikes, pedestrians, and equestrians that identifies desired routes and facilities for these modes of transportation. The master plan should seek to integrate the local network of bike paths with adjacent cities and planned routes in the County Bicycle Master Plan.
- Provide bike racks at businesses, schools, parks, and trailheads. Suggested locations: along Lincoln Avenue between Woodbury and Altadena; on Fair Oaks in the vicinity of Mendocino Street and Mariposa Street; and on Lake Avenue south of Altadena Drive, at Mariposa Street, and at Calaveras Street.
- Encourage shared parking between Eaton Canyon and Gerrish Swim & Tennis Club to keep parked cars out of the bike lane on New York Drive. (Note: this business is in Pasadena)
- Provide more sidewalks in business districts and ensure sufficient right-of-way to maneuver around newspaper stands, utilities, signs, and benches.
- Provide for safe pedestrian and equestrian crossings. Suggestion: Install pedestrian-activated blinking crosswalks on major streets such as Fair Oaks Avenue, Altadena Drive, Lake Avenue, and Lincoln Avenue. Suggestion: Provide cat walk across Lake Avenue by Mariposa.
- Expand community-wide and inter-community bus service to serve Altadena, and improve transit stops with clean, sheltered benches. Ensure transit connections to Gold Line stations.
- Provide local transit for town/district centers such as street car, trolley, shuttle, or horse-drawn wagon.
- Provide dirt horse trails along roads, for instance along Lincoln where there appears to be excess right-of-way. More than simply dirt shoulders, these pathways should provide unobstructed right-of-way and not be cluttered with roadside debris; ideally, they would be separated from the roadway with a rail or fence.
- Remove horse manure from public areas, with horse owners paying for the service. Suggestion: Contract with solid waste service provider.

- Work with property owners to eliminate encroachments into roadway right-of-way that could be used for trails.
- Encourage walking by installing signage for pedestrians indicating walking times to different landmarks.
- Provide more thorough street cleaning service and only require cars to stay off one side of the street on any given day.

Considerations

Bus connections to the Gold Line stations at Del Mar and Lake Avenue can be found on Metro’s online Trip Planner.

Recreation facilities and activities

Background

Public parks in Altadena consist of County-owned Charles S. Farnsworth Park, Loma Alta Park, Charles White Park, and the Altadena Golf Course. Other recreation facilities exist on school grounds and on private property, but may not be accessible to the public. There are natural parks on either side of Altadena as well as Angeles National Forest land.

Issues Identified by Community

More recreation opportunities – Residents asked for more recreation facilities, community events, and activities in parks.

Community Suggestions

- Expand Farnsworth Park by developing the plot next to the park, while preserving oak trees. Create a community center building, tennis center, and off-leash dog park.
- Offer more community activities and events, including events at parks and street fairs.
- Convert unused or vacant lots into small neighborhood “pocket parks” such as dog parks, meditation parks, and other spots for gathering and recreation.
- Increase activity and safety at parks by providing more staff and offering free classes and league play.
- Develop joint use agreements to make school grounds available for community recreation when not in use by schools, and to make community facilities available for school use. (Also listed in Key Topic “**Community institutions**”)
- Consider options for a new park in Altadena. One suggested location: East of Lake Avenue.
- Use vacant lots for community gardens.

Considerations

Participants who made the suggestion to expand Farnsworth Park were under the impression that the adjacent plot is publicly owned. However, it is privately owned.

The desire for peace and quiet in neighborhoods should be a consideration when expanding recreational facilities and activities.

Going Forward

This vision report is a starting point for community discussion and action, not an end. There are unresolved differences of opinion about how to maintain the things that people love about the community and how to make improvements, including different ideas about the types of regulation that are appropriate. However, some potential next steps can be identified.

Community members indicated support for the following initiatives:

- **An update of the Community Standards District**, especially to address issues with parking;
- **Increasing access to parking in town/district centers** through management of existing spaces and/or additional public spaces;
- **Business development**, including offering assistance with permitting and making efforts to capitalize on local assets such as nature, artists, and food production;
- **Street improvements** to support people walking, biking, and horseback riding, especially to promote walking in town/district centers;
- **Changes to County processes**, such as code enforcement, and development review in areas along Altadena Crest Trail;
- **Organizing volunteer efforts** for youth and other community members, including cleanups, Neighborhood Watch, trail maintenance, and tutoring;
- **Creation of community hubs or centers**, whether these are town/district centers, schools, other public facilities, or community events.



County Involvement

As stated in the Introduction, this document will serve as a starting point for any future County planning efforts that may be undertaken when funding and resources become available. Although there have been no staff or resource commitments for such efforts in the near term, the County of Los Angeles has demonstrated an interest in learning community members' aspirations for Altadena by conducting this Community Visioning Process. With a better understanding of what is important to Altadena residents, the County can be a better advocate for Altadena's interests.

Community Involvement

The capacity of the community to carry out suggestions made in the visioning process may be limited by the lack of staff and other resources. The Town Council is not a body for governance or implementation, but rather the community's elected representatives who gather public opinion and speak for Altadena's interests by making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles. Community organizations in Altadena tend not to have their own dedicated staff, but rely instead on the efforts of volunteers.

However, the people of Altadena have demonstrated their passion for this special place and their willingness to roll up their sleeves to make it better. Following are some of the local organizations that may be interested in pursuing suggestions from the visioning process, if they are not already doing so. They are listed here as potential resources.

- *Altadena Bicycling Club*
- *Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA)*
- *Altadena Community Center*
- *Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group*
- *Altadena Heritage*
- *Altadena Historical Society*
- *Altadena Library District*
- *Altadena Senior Center*
- *Arroyo Seco Foundation*
- *Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy*
- *Chamber of Commerce*
- *Christmas Tree Lane Association*
- *Pasadena Unified School District & Schools*
- *Residential In-season Produce Exchange of Altadena (RIPE Altadena)*
- *Town Council*
- *Town Council Beautification Committee*
- *Town Council Education Committee*
- *Town Council Land Use Committee*

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Appendix

Notes from Workshop 1

- Notes from Group Work
- Post-It Notes

Notes from Workshop 2

Notes from Workshop 3

- Comments from Evaluation Forms
- Comments from Flipcharts
- DRAFT Vision Report with Comments

Altadena Visioning Process Workshop 1 • April 4, 2012 Notes from Group Work

For this exercise, the workshop facilitator reviewed aloud the major topics that had emerged in the Post-It Note exercise as potential topics for further discussion in small groups. She asked for feedback from participants, who suggested modifications and added topics. Facilitators then placed a sign with a topic name at each of about a dozen tables while participants took a break for a few minutes. Participants moved to the topics that they wished to discuss, among the following (in alphabetical order): Businesses (All Businesses, New Businesses), Diversity, Improved Schools, Infrastructure & Utilities, Nature, Neighborhood Enhancement, Parks & Rec, Regulations, Safety, Small Town, Streets & Mobility (two groups), and Sustainability.

Groups recorded notes from their discussions on worksheets which are transcribed below. During the discussions, and afterwards when the worksheets were posted on the wall, some individuals added their own notes and Post-Its to the worksheets; these are called out separately below. There were also aerial and land use maps on the tables for reference and for additional input, and two of these were used by participants as shown below.

Topic: All Businesses

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase commerce • Tax revenue • Local jobs • Beautification – Altadena standards (design guidelines) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current/New 	<p>Helping local businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional parking (angle) • Infrastructure efficiency <p>Balance local & national businesses</p> <p>Local representatives apply the pressure to our elected officials</p> <p>Finish “unfinished projects”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction improvements 	<p>Increase fines [for?] blight</p>

Group Members: Not listed

Topic: New Businesses

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<p>New businesses do not mean new churches “places of worship”</p> <p>Churches do not contribute to tax base</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have all the parking • Empty 6 days a week <p>Plan to create new parking spaces and/or lift parking regulation restrictions</p> <p>Allow ample signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows • Sidewalks <p>Promote small business, not corporate</p> <p>Lift permit fees + one stop shop for permits for new + expansion</p> <p><i>Notes added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove “Spanish style” requirement on Lake • Hold parking in common for counting parking spaces 	<p>Have the county help by lifting regulations on parking</p> <p>Investigate legitimacy of store front churches + moratorium</p> <p>Tax breaks for occupied commercial properties + engage landowners in conversation</p> <p>Increase penalties on blight and lower fees for new + existing businesses.</p> <p>Change codes so one disgruntled resident or business can’t stop progress that benefits whole community</p> <p><i>Notes added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small churches even store fronts serve and enhances a large portion of our community • It doesn’t have to be a cathedral to be someone’s place of worship • Master plan of commercial area is needed • No public storage at Lake & Altadena • Great, local businesses at Lake and Altadena Drive 	<p>Meet with county officials to discuss parking needs + fee structures</p> <p>Review & revise CSD</p> <p>Have intermediary from county / ombudsman</p>

Group Members: Not listed

Topic: Diversity

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Racial <- doesn't exist in Altadena Occupational Cultural Thoughts Values We don't desire DIVERSITY – we have it!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Altadena's "kids" – they are raised (in some cases) to ignore pigment / ethnicity Recognize & acknowledge our cultural differences/gifts <i>Notes added:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve it Enhance it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More places where we all can naturally gather Showcase our gifts More accessibility More arts venues, arts festivals located

Group Members: Not listed

Topic: Improved Schools

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more removal of schools Safe schools "Good" schools – quality teachers, small classes Community schools as hubs for neighborhoods Scholarships Healthy kids (recreation, food, shots) Arts, music resources, libraries & computers Joint use of facilities, sharing of facilities with County <i>Notes added:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of schools appropriate for the community Adult Education and Vocational Schools in case of job loss can get retrained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening closed schools all across town Make all schools community schools with wrap-around support for children & families Good schools = good futures for kids = happy, healthy communities Fully-funded schools Visual & performing arts in curriculum Fully staffed libraries K-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisor needs to be more engaged with public education – participate in Joint Meetings with Altadena Town Council Education Committee & other community ed. committees Community members can actively participate in Board Meetings & PUSD District task forces & committees More partnerships with County Sheriffs Support organizations that support public schools like NAACP, invest in PUSD kids, PTAs, school site councils, Town Council Education Committee Tutor, maybe through the Senior Center or Library. Use retired teachers. Organize them. Deploy them to sites requesting their help, or bring students to them at key sites

Group Members: Monica Hubbard, Fred Shair, Barbara Boekenooogen, Lane Wong, Mrs. Joan Kearney Turner, Mr. Elijah Price Jr.

Topic: Infrastructure & Utilities

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
Overhead utilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ugly as sin Unreliable Poor power quality 	Bury power lines & utility	Create long-term plan like Pasadena has
Communication Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-speed data Ubiquitous access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiber optic lines Better cell coverage City-wide free wi-fi
Street lights		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved water quality Reduced cost 	Reduce minerals & contaminants	
Sewers <i>Notes added:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No increase of sewer fees No increase in sewer fees 	Public sewers replace private septic systems	Plan to extend sewers
<i>Notes added:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce required hardscape areas for cars to drive on and allow lattice concrete/pavers/gravel drives Stop wasting money on useless "traffic calming" 	<i>Notes added:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve traffic flow via smarter stop lights Limit cell towers Limit/no cell towers 	<i>Note added:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract w/Pasadena Humane

Group Members: Not listed

Topic: Nature

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
Urban trees: Community character, shade, urban wildlife habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of mature trees • Protection of all species of large trees (deodars, pines, oaks) even on private property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Forestry Advisory Committee to protect trees • Heritage tree registry (as on Xmas Tree Lane) • Recognition of trees' value • Zone to require shade trees in parking lots—not sparse, tiny trees that offer no shade, but medians of shrubs and large, appropriate shade trees to provide shaded spaces and reduce asphalt heat island effect. "Green" medians should be drought tolerant species, preferably natives. Require parking lot owners to properly maintain trees and landscaping (water, proper pruning)
Access to trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community embrace plans to increase access • Nature center established on the west side of Altadena <p><i>Note added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Connect trail system across Altadena; ACT+</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve, enhance, enable • Expand access to trails • Increase parking near trails
Wildlife corridors and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy local wildlife populations. • (Birders and G—[illegible] for Altadena) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat & corridors • Prohibit hunting on the "front range"
Scenic views of mountains hillsides and ridges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hillside neighborhoods in harmony with the natural landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent large hillside subdivisions & development • Respect low density zoning

Group Members: Not listed

Topic: Neighborhood Enhancement

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<p>Landscaping – cost of water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public spaces + residential • Meter charge increasing <p>Street appearance – Woodbury area looks bad; couches left on street, trash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No curbs, gutters • Priority areas + commercial strips blighted • Work by neighborhoods, focus on certain regions at a time. • Focus on Lake Ave. <p>Street parking a problem, especially overnight.</p> <p>Single family residences being converted into multi-unit housing (increases public parking issues, safety issue)</p> <p>Concentration of liquor stores + check cashing stores a problem</p> <p>Commercial vehicles prohibited on residential streets</p> <p><i>Notes added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Renting the back house has a long tradition here. It builds the community.</i> 	<p>Improve areas by focusing on individual areas at a time</p> <p>Lake Avenue – restoration of corridor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better landscaping on island • Calaveras + Lake corner improved (site of former bank) – Chase property <p>Need comprehensive community plans with clear priorities, enforcement + accountability to complete the plan</p> <p>Blighted areas needing improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mariposa + Lake ("Old Town") • Lake Chase Bank site • Lincoln Ave. – Woodbury to Figueroa • Fair Oaks – Woodbury to Altadena • Rite Aid site at Altadena + Lake • Head Start bldg on Mendocino 	<p>Identify where the tax money is, how it's planned to be spent.</p> <p>Work more closely with the Supervisor's office.</p> <p>Have subcommittee of Town Council work closely w/Supervisor's office to accomplish the community plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus project by project, including public input + hearings. <p>Identify county regulations that aren't being enforced or are hindering the improvement of areas.</p> <p>Improve commercial strips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street improvements <p><i>Note added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contract w/Pasadena Humane</i>

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parking of trucks on residential streets – regulate</i> • <i>Restrict parking on Lincoln/Loma Alta adjacent to houses. Park users should use park parking lots. Cut down on noise + loitering in front of residences.</i> 		

Group Members: Not listed

Topic: Parks & Recreation

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<p><i>Note added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Health</i> • <i>Fitness</i> • <i>Vitality</i> 	<p>Development of the publicly owned plot next to Farnsworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building / community center • No destruction of Cal Oaks • Tennis center at Farnsworth • Off-leash dog park <p>Free classes and league play at parks for all</p> <p>Consider a new park (then there would be 4)</p> <p>More staff at parks = more jobs, more activities and better safety</p> <p><i>Note added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bicycling classes</i> 	<p>Some plans have been drawn up already but they're stalled in the county bureaucracy</p> <p>Raise public awareness of what the possibilities are</p>

Group Members: Not listed

Topic: Regulations

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
Fence height	Director's review; debate height & transparency	Public input -> agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Note added: Bring back the solutions Steve Bass hammered out w/planning & Ken Balder killed</i>
Noise	Enforcement, education	Enforcement!
<p>Commercial regs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Signs • Eating • Booze liquor lic. 	<p>More & easier for start-ups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking changes for req'ts • Signs: More diversity & opportunity • Eating: More opportunity <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate Spanish style requirement • Count all parking in common when issuing permits on Lake Fair Oaks & Lincoln as suggested a decade and a half ago by ATC & ACC joint committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revolutionize parking regulations • More signage options • Sidewalk regs
<p>Agricultural regs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic uses • Contemporary zoning • "Urban agriculture" 	<p>Small productive farms</p> <p>More community gardens + plots</p> <p><i>Note added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Allow vineyards & groves on unbuilt hillsides</i> 	<p>Definitions in code? Find out what is allowed</p> <p><i>Note added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contract w/Pasadena Humane</i>

Group Members: Not listed

Topic: Small Town

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More community communication • Bringing awareness to local opportunities and activities • Bringing diverse people "to the center" (inclusivity) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more activities to establish community • Create more destinations for young people • Support local businesses & events • Establish more direct avenues of communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage new local businesses & fill empty spaces/lots • Encourage & support local creativity • TALK to each other!! Get to know folks in Altadena ☺

Group Members: Hana Ali, Kelley Williams, Dale Lacasella

Topic: Safety

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety for the entire family at any time of night/day and indoors / outdoors • Park/lighting • Traffic on Lake / Fair Oaks / Altadena / Lincoln <p><i>Notes added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We have unresponsive Animal Care and Control (animal shelters) services. Injured animals, dog bites, dog & cock fighting, stray / barking complaints go unanswered in Altadena. Baldwin Park can't serve 37 communities adequately and is far from Altadena. This is a chronic problem that causes suffering and affects public safety. Altadena is surrounded by communities served by the Pasadena Humane Society. PHS is close to Altadena and is qualified to serve us.</i> • <i>I agree – the call center is unresponsive!</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better street lighting • Neighborhood watches • Safety for all citizens & visitors <p><i>Notes added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Eliminate multi families living in single family homes</i> • <i>Response to animal emergency calls in 10 mins. Local, competent animal care and control services and educational humane programs. Humane officers qualified to conduct euthanasia in the field instead of transporting fatally injured animals (including wildlife) over an hour in traffic to the Baldwin Park Shelter.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More & better policing • Neighborhood watch • Lighting on streets • Speed bumps and speed traps (esp. coming out of La Vina) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Note added: Crosby</i> • Blinking crosswalks on Fair Oaks, Altadena, Lake, Lincoln (all major streets) • Less/fewer liquor stores / convert to renewed businesses that truly add to community life <p><i>Notes added:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enforce no parking after 2AM</i> • <i>Enforcement of residential zoning (ex. people living in garages)</i> • <i>Use the Pasadena Humane Society</i> • <i>Dump the Baldwin Park Animal Shelter - Find a way to contract with nearby Pasadena Humane Society that already serves all the communities around Altadena!</i>

Group Members: Not listed

Topic: Streets & Mobility

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Flow • Multiple modes • Accessibility • Sidewalks • Routes (established for various uses) • Sharing • Calm • Signage • Solar MPH speed indicators • Speed • Visibility • Public transportation • Roadway design • Pedestrians • Livable communities • Aging in place • Dog walkers • Equestrians • Cyclists • Mass transit (local – like ARTS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Trolley/Redcar • More stop signs on problem streets 	Innovative traffic calming – roundabouts, one-way streets, road diets	ID locations, write proposal, get community buy in
	Reduce pedestrian/cyclist injuries & deaths	Educational programs
	Master plan/map of clear mobility routes for all modes of transportation	Get local people using different modes of transportation sharing + talking
	More sidewalks or accessible pedestrian / cyclist / equestrian paths (natural)	Identify streets/areas where needed
	County safety maintenance of intersection, signage, roadways (including horse hitches, cleanup -> trail maintenance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be the squeaky wheel • Ask county to allocate conservation corps crew to Altadena
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need a dedicated rep for Altadena @ Sup. Antonovich • Petition for traffic studies/counts, etc. • Ask for mobility study – grad student @ Cal Poly Pomona (free) • Get on agenda on every Altadena community group • Increase involvement in Altadena governance / meetings • Call Town Hall meetings 	

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail connectivity ACT Road diets Bridle path Traffic calming Pedestrian signals – illuminated crosswalks 		

Group Members: Ericka Lozano-Buhl, Hans Rosenberger, Jeff Herring, Dorothy Wong, America Solis-Bowman, Greg Lozano-Buhl

Topic: Streets & Mobility (2nd group)

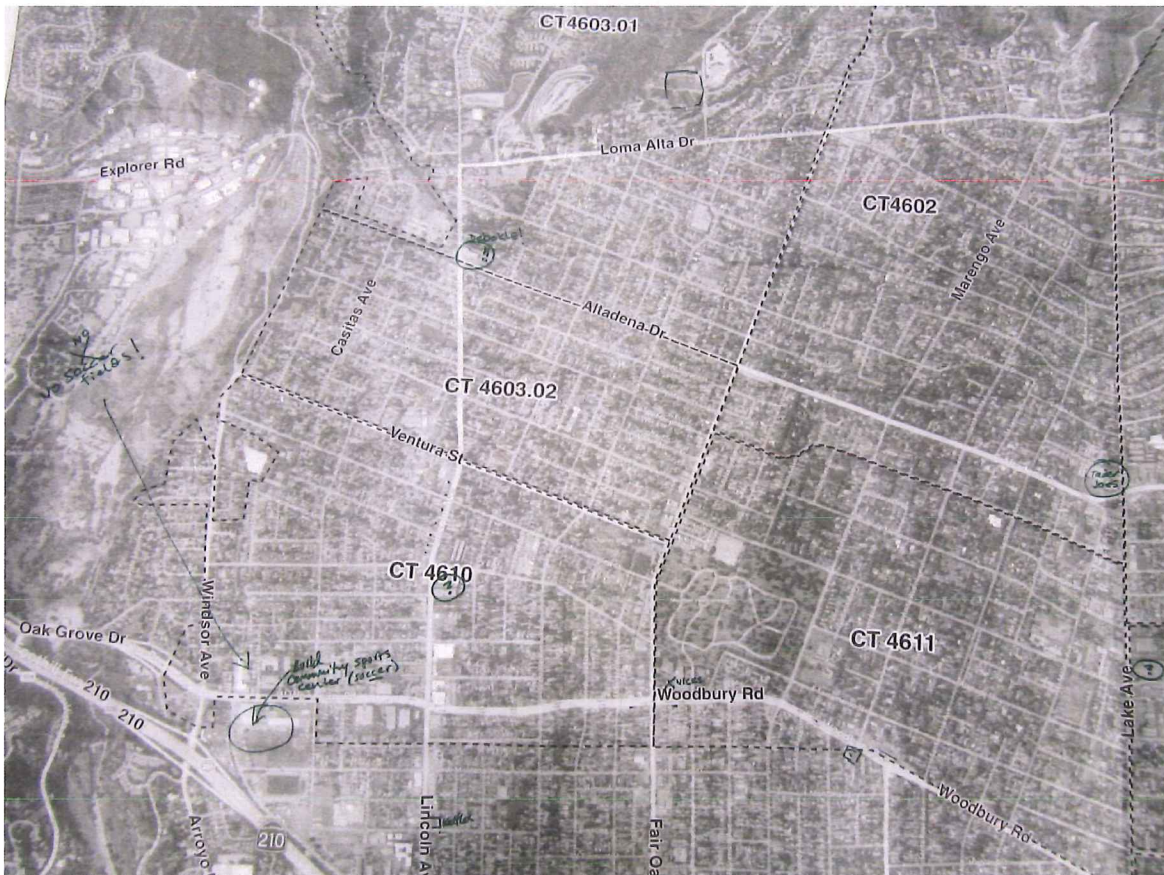
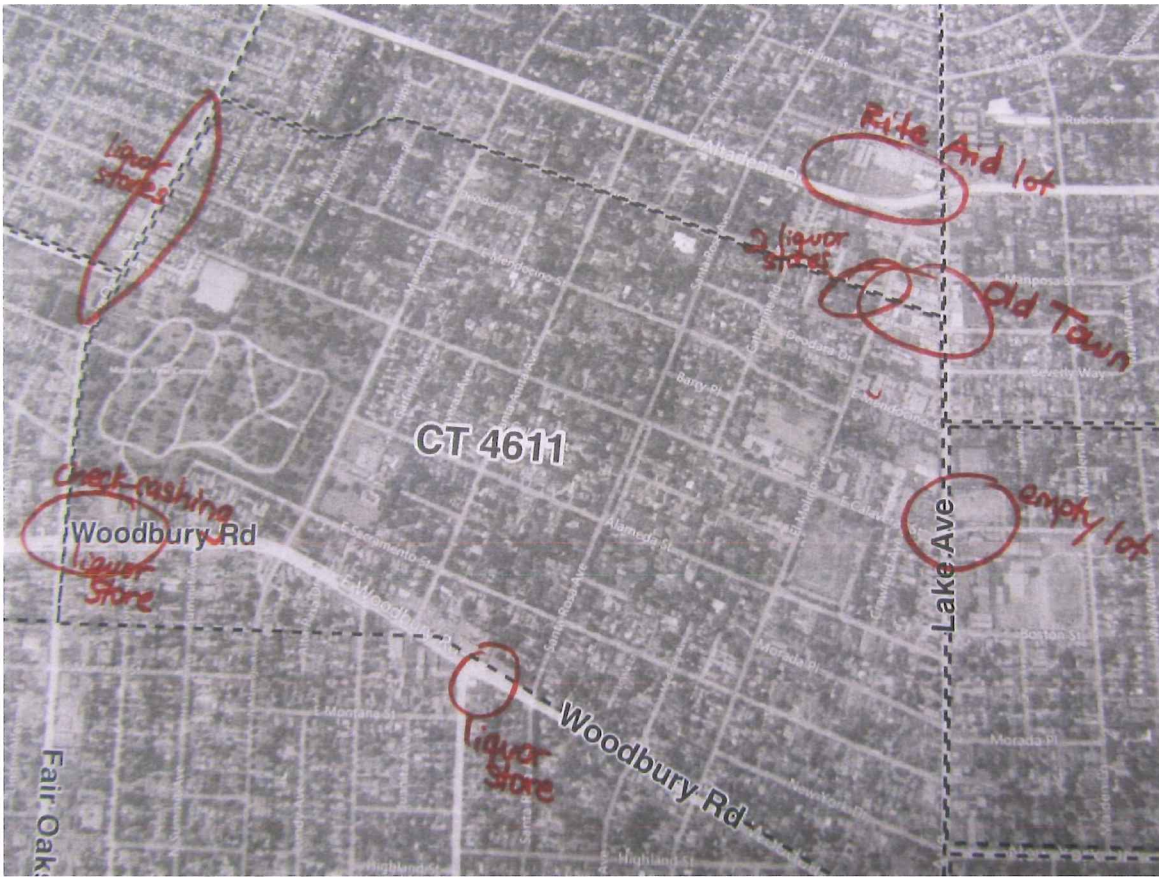
What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
Safe streets		
Walker friendly Bike friendly	Walking bike and horse path	
Sidewalks		
Traffic calming	Control flow of traffic Maintain ER vehicle access	
All streets paved		
Bus stops w/covers		
Metro rail stops	More rapid bus service and smaller buses	
Horse path		

Group Members: Gloria

Topic: Sustainability

What does this topic mean to you?	Signals of Success	Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downscale Reduce carbon footprint Support local resources Recycle/reuse Empowerment Buy local (co-op) Eliminate toxicity Education/knowledge/infrastructure Composting Landfill reduction Regulations – conflicts Independence Balance Localization Reduce traffic (vehicular) <p>Notes added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Idea of community pets/pet share Care for animals Streetcars Trash separation (blue/green/brown/glass/paper) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More community gardening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: Help elderly owners with mature fruit trees harvest/prune/etc. Urban homesteading Promote green building Educational initiatives Allow mixed use Farmer's market [Note: w/petting zoo] Arroyo food co-op Incentives for solar – for insulation/weather stripping equipment upgrade Reduce parking (?) Living facades Green roofs Eliminate urban heat island Tree canopy Transportation: incentives for alternatives (electric/natural gas) Pedestrian friendly/bike friendly Integrated network of bike paths Promote AB 811 (i.e. solar!) Stormwater runoff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: Community/individual plan – assistance with implementing Grey water – incentives Swaps (bike, clothes, etc.) <p>Note added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Pets, wild animals injured, etc. can be cared for through partnership (sub-contract) with Pas Humane Society</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symposium Incentives to businesses Create a sustainability "overlay" Create a sustainability website to coordinate initiatives Specific plan for certain areas (business district) to reduce parking + traffic Support local + family owned business <p>Notes added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Modify County regulations to allow some manufacturing (non-polluting)</i> <i>Zoning regulation review</i> <i>Altadena seed bank/library</i>

Group Members: Sonja-Sophie, Thomas Stahl, Michael Holland, Thom Sanford, Alan Zorthian, E K Fleming



Altadena Visioning Process

Workshop 1 • April 4, 2012

Post-It Notes



In order to capture the key issues and ideas on the mind of each person in the room, participants were asked to write three “treasures,” three “challenges,” and three “visions” on Post-It Notes and place them on the wall. Participants contributed over 900 ideas through this exercise. Facilitators arranged these notes into topic areas and reviewed the topics aloud, reading from some of the notes. Due to the large volume of notes and limited time, facilitators were able to capture only the most prominent themes, but after the workshop team members transcribed the notes and spent additional time categorizing them. Therefore, the topics below are similar to the ones used in the workshop, but with some refinements.

Topics are presented in alphabetical order under the three major headers: Treasures, Challenges, and Visions. Each bullet point is a Post-It Note or a distinct comment from a Post-It Note (e.g. from notes where comments were labeled 1, 2, 3 or were bulleted). Bullet points are repeated under different topics, if more than one topic applies. The notes are provided verbatim, with the following types of edits for readability: spelling corrections, full words for some abbreviations, and addition of dashes or commas to reflect where line breaks on the original note indicated breaks in thought.

Treasures

Treasures are the aspects of Altadena that people value most—the reasons they moved to Altadena and choose to stay.

Architecture & Design

- Built Environment
- Mansions - several old buildings i.e. Farnsworth structures
- Architecture
- New lighting for streets in the community
- Parking + width of some roads
- Architectural diversity
- Architecture
- Historic architecture
- Diverse architecture
- Architecture
- Uniqueness of homes (architecture)
- Beautiful historic architecture of many styles and character
- Unique architecture & design
- Unique character of houses & streets
- Diversity of people, of architecture

Artists & Arts

- Rich in artists
- Altadena is an intellectual, artistic community.
- Artistic - value creativity
- Artists who live here
- Arts
- Creative people: scientists, artists, musicians
- Diverse eclectic arts community

Diversity

- Diversity
- The diversity of Altadena's population
- All colors of peoples!
- Great mix of cultures -> global mix
- Diversity
- Diversity all kinds
- Diversity
- Diversity of people, of architecture
- Racial diversity
- The diversity of a small but powerful community
- Diverse interesting people
- Diverse community
- Multi Ethnic Community
- Social & economic diversity of residents & business
- Diverse community
- Diversity
- Diversity of residents
- Diversity
- Diversity
- Diversity of cultures & thought

- Diversity
- Diverse eclectic arts community
- Multicultural community
- Comfortable racial & economic diversity
- Independent spirit of residents & racially diverse groups

Eclectic & Unique

- Eclecticism of community
- Informal nature of community (for example, do it yourself landscaping)
- The differences; no property is the same
- Eccentrics / diversity of population
- Eclectic mix of people (unique)
- Not cookie-cutter - lots of character
- Non-commercial, non-chain, non-corporate
- Residential mix (on my street)

Freedom & Governance

- Lack of code enforcement
- Not regulated as much as Pasadena
- Freedom
- Unincorporated
- Not as regulated as Pasadena
- Live & let live attitude
- More individual freedom than most communities
- Live & let live attitude
- Freedom from restrictive stifling govt.

History & Historic Buildings/Sites

- History
- Historical data per se
- The historic buildings
- Xmas Lane
- Historical homes
- Christmas Tree Lane
- Xmas Tree Lane
- John Brown's sons gravesite
- Historic homes + stories
- Historic buildings (houses)
- Historical buildings preserved
- History; historical sites + homes
- Historic buildings
- Old houses which give interesting streets

- Eccentrics / diversity of population
- Value so many people walking in the neighborhood + the eclectic mix of people
- Diverse Population
- People: diverse, friendly, neighborly

- Uniqueness of homes (architecture)
- Beautiful historic architecture of many styles and character
- Diverse eclectic arts community
- Unique architecture & design
- Unique character of houses & streets
- Eclectic mix of people (unique)
- Pioneer history (Mt. Lowe Railway, Owen Brown's grave, unique neighborhoods of old Craftsman home and Jane's Village, artist enclaves, etc.)

- Freedom to be different - not too much interference from others (live & let live)
- Independence in governance (not getting ticketed for parking in my yard)
- Quasi local representation thru the Town Council
- The freedom from extra zoning regulations like City of Pasadena
- Unincorporated LA County

- Pioneer history (Mt. Lowe Railway, Owen Brown's grave, unique neighborhoods of old Craftsman home and Jane's Village, artist enclaves, etc.)
- Historic buildings
- History
- Smaller neighborhoods of historic homes
- Historical value
- Historic
- Historic homes
- Historic homes
- Historical - Craftsman homes
- The old houses
- Historic homes & bldgs

Hometown / Small Town

- Small town feel
- Small town atmosphere
- Small town feel not crowded
- Small town community oriented
- Small town feel
- Altadena is my hometown. I've seen it turn around and what [sic] like to see more changes.
- Small community atmosphere i.e. no overwhelming commercialism

- Small town, but close to cities
- Small town feel of the community
- We have a small-town feel
- Small community
- Small town feel
- Simple lifestyle
- Small town feel
- Small town feel
- Rural feel or small town feel

- Quietness + small town
- We have a small-town feel

- Rural "village" feel (atmosphere)

Involvement / Activism

- Independent spirit of residents & racially diverse groups
- Great local news coverage from Altadenablog + Altadena Patch
- Working with others
- Involved community
- The residents are quiet but concern
- Cranky activists

- People who get involved - we need more of them
- The diversity of a small but powerful community
- Well-educated and engaged citizens
- Small town community oriented
- Good neighborhood communications & discussions
- Community support & neighborliness - people lend a helping hand & say hello

Library & Education

- Good library
- Altadena Library
- Altadena Library
- The library is great!
- Library

- Altadena Library
- Library
- Library - heart of the community
- Library
- Education

Local Businesses

- Small family-owned businesses
- Super King - good produce, good prices
- Lake Ave. businesses
- The small businesses (not lots of chains)
- Motivated business owners
- Non-commercial, non-chain, non-corporate
- Local businesses (wish there were more)

- Altadena Ale House / Pub
- My business is located in Altadena
- Local businesses rather than corporate
- Plenty of big stores
- Locally-owned small businesses
- Locally-owned small businesses
- Social & economic diversity of residents & business

Location

- Proximity to city, Pasadena + Downtown (close, yet so far)
- Location - near foothills + JPL
- Location, location, location
- "Remote" from L.A.
- Close to Caltech + JPL
- Views
- Convenience to major cities

- Altadena sits at the apex of an original freeway 110
- Proximity to cultural resources
- Foothill setting
- Small town, but close to cities
- Hillside & seclusion area
- Proximity of urban and nature

Low Traffic

- Ease of taking care of business (not much traffic)
- Low traffic on East Palm St.
- Low traffic on E Palm St.
- Generally not too crowded - no traffic jams

- Mostly local traffic; few big noisy trucks / buses
- Low traffic density
- Low traffic density
- Serene (limited traffic)

Mountains

- Mountains
- Peaceful + mountain view
- Beautiful mountains
- Mountain view - restrict housing dev in the mountains
- Hillside & seclusion area
- Mountains - close to nature
- Access to mountains, trails, nature
- Mountains

- Nature trails / canyons
- Close to mountains
- The mountains / nature
- Mountain views
- Mountain access
- Mountains
- Our mountains
- View of mountains
- Natural hillsides

- Mountains
- The view of the mountains
- Mountain terrain
- Access to mountains
- Proximity to mountains + forest
- Mountains
- Access to mountain trails
- Natural beauty - mountains, trees, fresh air
- Mountains; hills; fresh, clean air
- The hillside above Altadena - the mountains as backdrop
- Mountains (nature)
- Proximity to nature (mountains, forests, etc.)
- Beautiful mountains
- Mountains, hills, free access to trails & nature;

- The Mountains
- Views of mountains
- San Gabriel Mountains
- Mountains
- San Gabriel Mountain
- Mountains
- San Gabriel Mtns
- Proximity to spectacular San Gabriel Mts (Angeles National Forest), its wildlife, trails, natural beauty
- Foothill setting
- Eaton Canyon trails - all trails
- Eaton Canyon
- Echo Mtn Trail
- Natural space; access to the mountains

Nature

- Climate + environment
- Biking in the local mountains
- Proximity to spectacular San Gabriel Mts (Angeles National Forest), its wildlife, trails, natural beauty
- Open space
- Dark(er) skies!!
- Close proximity to nature
- Arroyo Seco
- Connection to nature - mature trees, hiking trails, gardens
- Proximity of urban and nature
- Arroyo Seco
- Nature
- Wilderness access
- Access to nature - mountains/trails, parks, etc.
- Close to nature
- Proximity to nature
- Nature areas + trails
- Proximity to National Forest

- Natural environment
- Natural surroundings
- Nature - not overdeveloped
- Nature
- Natural beauty
- Natural space; access to the mountains
- Mountains - close to nature
- The mountains / nature
- Natural beauty - mountains, trees, fresh air
- Mountains (nature)
- Proximity to nature (mountains, forests, etc.)
- Trails/wilderness
- Easy access to nature/trails/hiking
- Rural character of Altadena (dark skies, no sidewalks, no neon street lights)
- Access to mountains, trails, nature
- Nature trails / canyons

Neighbors & Neighborhoods

- A welcoming neighborhood, you know your neighbor
- Neighborhood Watch
- Commercial business limited in residential areas
- Good neighbors
- Nice neighborhood
- Residential mix (on my street)
- Unique character of houses & streets
- Friendly neighbors
- Janes Village Homes
- Neighborhoods are friendly & relatively safe
- Affordable interesting housing
- Good neighbors
- Neighbors who know one another

- Good neighborhood communications & discussions
- Residential areas remain non-commercial areas
- Residential community to remain a place for single families. No four to five families living together.
- Primarily residential
- Warm, friendly, discreet neighbors
- Sense of neighborhood
- Community support & neighborliness - people lend a helping hand & say hello
- Smaller neighborhoods of historic homes
- Value so many people walking in the neighborhood + the eclectic mix of people
- People: diverse, friendly, neighborly

Parks & Recreation

- Cultural activities
- Value Farnworth Park--space for meeting, sports, music in amphitheater; open in evenings
- Local parks
- Parks
- Local parks
- Loma Alta Park is fantastic - playground, pool, baseball, equestrian, garden, tennis, etc.
- Parks
- Henninger Flats campground

People

- People
- Cranky activists
- Community support & neighborliness - people lend a helping hand & say hello
- Progressive community
- People who get involved - we need more of them
- Elderly population
- People's friendly attitude
- Well-educated and engaged citizens
- People
- Creative people: scientists, artists, musicians

Quiet & Peaceful

- Serene (limited traffic)
- Quiet
- Quiet
- Quietness + small town
- The quietness
- Peaceful & comfortable place to live
- Peaceful
- Peaceful

Rural / Country

- Rural atmosphere
- Rural feel or small town feel
- Rural "village" feel (atmosphere)
- Access to open land
- Low population density
- Agri-friendly
- Feeling of being out in the country
- Semi-rural atmosphere
- Feeling of country
- Low population density

Sense of Community & Safety

- Feeling of community
- Sense of community
- Safety
- A welcoming neighborhood, you know your neighbor
- Neighborhood Watch
- Good neighbors

- Parks
- Parks
- Equestrian facilities
- Parks
- Develop parks for community use
- Pool!!
- Wonderful hiking & outdoor sports
- Greenscape: trails, parks, trees
- Access to nature - mountains/trails, parks, etc.

- Many people have been part of the community for 20+ years which gives a sense of roots
- Togetherness
- People: diverse, friendly, neighborly
- Love
- My family has been Altadena residents since the 1950's
- Eclectic mix of people (unique)
- The residents are quiet but concern
- Altadena is an intellectual, artistic community.

- Quiet
- Value the quiet - don't hear freeway noises - do hear birds in trees, see squirrels
- The quiet nights where we can escape the sounds of the city.
- Peaceful + mountain view
- Hillside & seclusion area

- Maintain green rural nature
- Ability to have certain types of livestock
- Rural feel of Altadena
- Rural
- Local equestrian character: stables, urban farms
- Rural character of Altadena (dark skies, no sidewalks, no neon street lights)
- Low population density
- Equestrian facilities
- Nature - not overdeveloped

- Friendly neighbors
- Neighborhoods are friendly & relatively safe
- Good neighbors
- Neighbors who know one another
- Good neighborhood communications & discussions
- Warm, friendly, discreet neighbors
- Sense of neighborhood

- Community support & neighborliness - people lend a helping hand & say hello

- People: diverse, friendly, neighborly

Trails

- Hiking trails
- Hiking trails
- Wonderful hiking & outdoor sports
- The trails
- Hiking trails
- Trails system
- Hiking trails
- Eaton Canyon trails - all trails
- Mt. Wilson trail
- Walking/hiking trails
- The hiking trails
- Eaton Canyon
- Echo Mtn Trail
- Hiking trails
- Trail access
- Trails
- Trails/wildernees
- Trails, hiking
- Access to the mountain trails

- Chaney trail
- Easy access to nature/trails/hiking
- Biking in the local mountains
- Access to mountains, trails, nature
- Nature trails / canyons
- Wilderness access
- Mountain access
- Access to nature - mountains/trails, parks, etc.
- Nature areas + trails
- I love the trees & hiking
- Access to mountain trails
- Proximity to spectacular San Gabriel Mts (Angeles National Forest), its wildlife, trails, natural beauty
- Connection to nature - mature trees, hiking trails, gardens
- Mountains, hills, free access to trails & nature;
- Greenscape: trails, parks, trees
- Natural space; access to the mountains

Trees & Greenery

- The trees + greenery
- Trees
- Trees
- All the greenery, trees
- Pine trees - protect the pine trees
- Beauty - trees
- Greenery (trees)
- Mature urban landscape - trees
- Lots of trees
- Beautiful trees
- Wooded
- Beautiful trees

- I love the trees & hiking
- Gardens
- Mature trees
- Beautiful trees
- Trees
- The old trees (protect)
- Greenscape: trails, parks, trees
- Oak trees
- Connection to nature - mature trees, hiking trails, gardens
- Maintain green rural nature
- Natural beauty - mountains, trees, fresh air

Challenges

Challenges are issues that people feel are negatively impacting Altadena, or are changes that they feel should be made.

Activities, Parks & Services

- Public tennis facility
- Bring back Old Fashion Days Parade
- Funding more community concerts
- Intercommunity events
- Seniors - things to do
- Community block parties & fairs
- More things for our youth
- Lack of coordinated support for foster kids & kids in group homes (esp. as this affects local schools)

- Loma Alta Park gym needs a weight training room
- More parks & recreation facilities
- Funding for parks & recreation
- Not enough care for our hills and parks
- More cohesion - events with heavy participation from most of community
- One person's complaint can stop communal events from continuing

Affordability & Gentrification

- Lack of reasonably priced child care (love Loma Alta Tiny Tots)
- At risk of gentrifying the community
- Rapid (seeming) gentrification
- Gentrification is a threat to quiet & racial harmony
- Sustainable affordable neighborhoods

Animals

- Service by Pasadena Humane Society (Baldwin Park ignores us + is FAR)
- Animal cruelty
- Animal shelter close to home
- Altadena needs an agreement with Pasadena Human - Baldwin Park is too far and unable to serve us.
- Get qualified and responsive animal care services. Baldwin Park Shelter is far, horrible, and

Business Growth, Support & Attraction

- Altadena lacks vibrant businesses (not big box stores or generic chain fast food, but "indie" cafes, farmer's markets and coffee/tea shops, services, organic food, etc)
- Local, unique, independent businesses - not overly regulated by County
- More support of local businesses
- Make Altadena more attractive to business (family oriented) - not liquor stores
- More community friendly, locally owned businesses
- Assist local businesses, some of whom are struggling
- Business environment
- Need more businesses
- Need more family owned bizness
- Make Altadena more self-sustainable for small businesses. Too many regulations
- Sustainable small businesses
- Lack of services & businesses that would keep Altadenans shopping & spending in Altadena
- Fostering the business community - assisting local businesses
- Vacant businesses and absentee landlords
- Business development - local & long term
- Bringing more relevant businesses without over-commercialization
- Attracting businesses

Community Involvement

- Not allowing small group to stop things that benefit the population as a whole
- Even more opportunities for KIDS to be part of community
- More volunteering by professional individuals and groups
- Cranky activists
- Keeping our young people engaged

- Lack of affordable housing
- Preserve range of income levels - not become all upper middle class
- Rapid gentrification
- We need to be more aware of the less "well off" parts of town

incompetent. Contract with nearby Pasadena Humane Society that serves all communities around Altadena.

- Dump Baldwin Park Animal Shelter, and instead contract with Pasadena Animal Shelter
- Animal shelter
- Animal shelter
- Improve animal shelter

- Difficult for businesses to start up & cut through red tape
- Make it easy for residents to start business
- Bring in selective businesses
- Need more interesting businesses
- Overkill regulation and permitting of small businesses
- Attracting new businesses
- Supporting existing businesses
- Have to go to Pasadena for everything
- Attract businesses by encouraging entrepreneurs
- Supporting small businesses instead of chasing big box retail
- Commercial opportunities lacking
- Viable business & retail
- Business growth & development
- The development of commerce & development / retention of small businesses.
- Help grow small businesses
- Marrying-matching needs of inner communities with commerce
- Commerce
- Make it less expensive to obtain business permits
- County restrictions to small business improvements
- Thriving businesses on Lake Ave & Lincoln Ave
- Restrictions for business expansion (i.e. parking)

- Overcoming citizen inertia
- I would know my neighbors even better - working on projects & having "parties" regularly
- Increase opportunities to volunteer via library etc.
- Inactivity of public in this process
- More meeting like tonight
- Getting community buy-in for changes
- NIMBYism

Cohesion

- Lack of cohesive community vision
- Getting community buy-in for changes
- Cultural & ethnic segregation
- Develop feeling of community
- NIMBYism
- Building community support
- Economic disparities along racial lines
- More cohesion - events with heavy participation from most of community
- Bringing east + west sectors together
- Not well connected / as a community
- East-West split
- One person's complaint can stop communal events from continuing
- Lack of unified voice to call for support & services we need (e.g. Edison response during windstorm, when we needed more help)
- Gentrification is a threat to quiet & racial harmony
- Join the 3 corridors: Lake, Fair Oaks, Lincoln
- Bureaucratic process for change - all the various agencies working together

Commercial Areas

- Plethora of "bad" businesses: liquor stores, pay day loan shops, and failed small businesses such (ephemeral salons for nails, etc)
- Too many churches in commercial areas (not against churches they just have an effect on local businesses)
- Town Center
- Need fewer churches & thrift shops
- Underdeveloped commercial buildings & blight
- Less vacant buildings & parking lots
- Commercial properties
- Loosening restrictions on parking in commercial areas
- Planned shopping district with narrow streets, less traffic
- Better use of commercial areas
- We need a business district
- Regulate commercial development better. Example: Northeast corner of Lincoln - Altadena.
- Poor quality of commercial space
- Rite Aid shopping center (redevelop)
- Lack of commercial space
- No churches, liquor stores, check cashing
- Lack of quality commercial district - poor grocery shopping, lack of restaurants
- Upgrade neighborhood commercial areas
- Create more of a downtown area that promotes walking
- Too many nonprofit organizations versus commercial stores (schools)
- Commercial district enhancement
- Join the 3 corridors: Lake, Fair Oaks, Lincoln
- Control of negative commercial development
- Empty parking lots (Rite Aid, Ralphs)
- Vacant storefronts
- Empty commercial lots
- Need to improve on retail/commercial
- Bringing more relevant businesses without over-commercialization
- Commercial opportunities lacking
- Need more restaurants & commercial
- Underdeveloped or vacant lots in commercial spaces

Communication & Governance

- Communication
- Lack of accountability on part of the city. Who makes decisions?
- Getting questions answered
- End rule of disgruntled minority
- A more effective Town Council
- Keeping gov't oversight to a minimum
- Never hearing what is going on that will affect residents (no communications)
- Inactivity of public in this process
- More meeting like tonight
- Keep Altadena independent for individuals. No creeping nanny state
- Profit before people
- Lack of unified voice to call for support & services we need (e.g. Edison response during windstorm, when we needed more help)
- Wish there were a local weekly paper for Altadena
- Police interaction with young African American men
- Not allowing small group to stop things that benefit the population as a whole
- Overcoming citizen inertia
- Bureaucratic process for change - all the various agencies working together
- Bureaucracy to move projects along

Economic / Fiscal

- Economy
- A more economically vibrant community
- Need more revenue for services
- Economy
- Economic redevelopment
- Incentive to bring investors

- Economic development sustained & local
- We need to be more aware of the less "well off" parts of town

Groceries & Food

- Own food store co-op, or healthy cool food store - TJs, Sprouts, etc.
- Altadena farmers markets
- Better grocery stores
- Renovated and upgraded supermarket (Ralphs is subpar)
- Trader Joe's
- No Trader Joe's
- We need a Trader Joe's
- Affordable quality local food available

Growth & Development

- Controlled growth to meet the community vision
- Containing growth + building up into the hills

Identity & Appearance

- Being a "destination" city
- Isolated. People are not knowing this area.
- Keeping up its beautification!
- Negative stigma
- Need to address challenges related to design
- Streetscape
- Overhead utilities - bury them!

Infrastructure & Utilities

- Cell phone coverage
- Telecommunication needs updating
- Improved infrastructure
- Provide sewers for Altadena residents
- Maintenance of infrastructure - both public and private - failures of SCE - large residential lots beyond owners resources
- Make phone service better
- Power outage frequency

Involvement

- Even more opportunities for KIDS to be part of community
- More volunteering by professional individuals and groups
- Cranky activists
- Keeping our young people engaged

Jobs

- Income for Altadena Residents - Jobs or???
- Job opportunities
- Local jobs

Lake Avenue

- Change Lake Ave back above Altadena Dr.
- Lake business district needs revitalization

- Economic disparities along racial lines

- Lots of fruit trees planted years ago - now elderly homeowners & unpicked fruit & lots of low income folks
- Can't get vegetarian/vegan foods up here!
- Lack of quality commercial district - poor grocery shopping, lack of restaurants
- Need better shopping (i.e. Trader Joe's)
- We need a few more restaurants and an updated or additional markets

- Growth in population density
- Controlling development

- The electric supply system - outdated, should be underground
- Reduce amount of chain-link (cyclone) fencing visible in residential areas
- Residential neighborhoods - upgrade landscaping
- Improving standards for residential appearances

- Overhead utilities - bury them!
- Lack of reliable electrical power
- The electric supply system - outdated, should be underground
- Aging infrastructure
- Electrical outages
- Lights

- I would know my neighbors even better - working on projects & having "parties" regularly
- Increase opportunities to volunteer via library etc.
- Inactivity of public in this process
- More meeting like tonight

- Employers
- Lack of local jobs

- Thriving businesses on Lake Ave & Lincoln Ave

- Improve Ralph's and adjoining lot on Lake + Mariposa
- Some businesses were shut down on Lake Ave where close to Altadena Dr. There are not enough people willing to go shopping over there, so a good business can't survive.
- Can a landscaped median be provided along Lake Ave as was provided in Lake in Pasadena?
- Steep slope of Lake St
- Lake Ave: Get rid of empty lots, beautification of stores (pride), more parking, create a nice downtown
- The hill on Lake

Lincoln Avenue

- Lincoln Ave from Woodbury to Altadena Drive
- Lincoln Ave
- North Lincoln Ave's commercial district needs redevelopment - attract new businesses
- Empty, unfinished building at Lincoln & Altadena
- Reduce number of liquor stores on Fair Oaks & Lincoln above Woodbury

Liquor Stores

- Too many liquor stores + check cashing stores on Fair Oaks
- Less liquor stores
- Too many liquor stores / check cashing places
- Excess of liquor stores / check cashing places, storefront churches - no added value

Maintaining / Enhancing Treasures

- Maintaining the peaceful & comfortable environment
- Making change while protecting treasures
- Maintain Christmas Tree Lane
- Modernized library
- Give the library as much money as they need!

Mobility & Transportation

- Public transportation - to Meadows, to top of Lake, etc.
- Few bicycle lanes/paths on streets
- Bike friendly
- Transportation
- Lack of sidewalks
- Need more bicycle racks for businesses
- Traffic
- Traffic on Lake Ave. and Woodbury
- Lack of walkable streets (need better urban design)

Nature

- Not enough care for our hills and parks
- Save the hillsides
- Preservation of wooded features

- N. Lake parking
- Get rid of Spanish requirement for Lake remodels - allow design freedom
- The signage along Lake Ave seems excessive. Does Altadena have a sign ordinance or do we follow L.A. County? Can we reduce the amount of signage. Are the pylon signs along Lake Ave in compliance with sign ordinance?
- Traffic on Lake Ave. and Woodbury
- RFS vacant lot - Lake & Calaveras (what will happen)
- The "WaMu crater" (Lake/Calaveras) - Lake is looking like a SLUM!

- Lincoln Ave area
- Beautifying Lincoln Ave
- Make the intersection at Lincoln Avenue and Altadena Drive appealing
- Thriving businesses on Lake Ave & Lincoln Ave
- Regulate commercial development better. Example: Northeast corner of Lincoln - Altadena.

- Plethora of "bad" businesses: liquor stores, pay day loan shops, and failed small businesses such (ephemeral salons for nails, etc)
- Make Altadena more attractive to business (family oriented) - not liquor stores
- Drug sales outside liquor stores
- Reduce number of liquor stores on Fair Oaks & Lincoln above Woodbury

- Modernizing the library
- Need better rules / reg. for preserving historic homes and their architecture
- We (heart) Coffee Gallery
- Bringing more relevant businesses without over-commercialization

- A community where neighbors walked to the shops, stores & parks - slower traffic
- Traffic calming on Altadena Drive - reduce width - one lane each way everywhere
- Bike lanes on Altadena Drive - safe place to exercise
- Lack of sidewalks - not walker-friendly
- Safety issues for children who must walk to school on streets with no sidewalks + speeding cars
- Create more of a downtown area that promotes walking

- Not protecting the oak trees by allowing buildings in their drip lines
- Containing growth + building up into the hills

- Keep healthy balance between residential and Nat.

Forest / wildlife concerns

Neighborhoods & Housing

- Possibility of "profit before people" - seeking to place "business" in residential neighborhood
- Improve things in one neighborhood without breaking things in another
- Improve bad neighbors
- Reduce amount of chain-link (cyclone) fencing visible in residential areas
- Residential neighborhoods - upgrade landscaping
- Poorly maintained residential properties / blight
- Keep all homes single families. Do not let garages, attics to become living areas.
- No mansions
- Improving standards for residential appearances

- Regulate home sizes - no more mansions
- Keep unclutter - no industrial trucks on residential streets
- Blighted housing areas
- Number of group homes
- Revise the mansionization ordinance so that it reflects the already built Altadena environment
- Moratorium on group homes + better monitoring of existing group homes
- Sustainable affordable neighborhoods
- Need better rules / reg. for preserving historic homes and their architecture

Parking

- Parking
- Parking
- Parking
- Very little parking (needs to change)
- More parking on Fair Oaks

- Loosening restrictions on parking in commercial areas
- Restrictions for business expansion (i.e. parking)
- N. Lake parking

Property Maintenance

- Property maintenance
- Harsher penalties for absentee landlords + property owners for allowing property to become a blight
- Maintenance of infrastructure - both public and private - failures of SCE - large residential lots beyond owners resources

- Derelict vacant land/building owners
- Poorly maintained residential properties / blight
- Vacant businesses and absentee landlords
- Eliminate blight (vacant lots, poorly maintained property, etc.)

Regulation

- One person's complaint can stop communal events from continuing
- Codes & ordinances need to be aligned & internally consistent
- Streamline permitting process
- Reduce local regulations - Coffee Gallery backstage issue
- Lack of enforcement of noise
- Need to address challenges related to design
- Restrictions for business expansion (i.e. parking)
- One dimensional zoning
- County restrictions to town initiatives - neighborhood gatherings, farmer's market
- Revise the mansionization ordinance so that it reflects the already built Altadena environment
- Regulations important and needed
- Moratorium on group homes + better monitoring of existing group homes
- Less helicopter noise
- Overbuilding residential houses
- Growth in population density
- Planning + zoning
- Restrictive codes from county

- Controlling development
- Cost of CUP for fence height \$8K!
- Fence height limit in front yard
- 3 1/2 foot fence in front yard
- Building permit process
- Over-regulation of unimportant codes that kill events, community character, etc (i.e. Altadena Urban Mkt, murals, etc)
- Bureaucracy to move projects along
- Over regulation
- Have less regulations
- County restrictions to small business improvements
- Local, unique, independent businesses - not overly regulated by County
- The signage along Lake Ave seems excessive. Does Altadena have a sign ordinance or do we follow L.A. County? Can we reduce the amount of signage. Are the pylon signs along Lake Ave in compliance with sign ordinance?
- Make Altadena more self-sustainable for small businesses. Too many regulations
- Difficult for businesses to start up & cut through red tape

- Overkill regulation and permitting of small businesses
- Not protecting the oak trees by allowing buildings in their drip lines
- Keep healthy balance between residential and Nat. Forest / wildlife concerns
- Harsher penalties for absentee landlords + property owners for allowing property to become a blight
- Make it less expensive to obtain business permits

Restaurants

- Need more restaurants
- Not enough good local eateries - we need more & better restaurants
- No local restaurants
- No restaurants in old town area
- Chain restaurants
- Restaurants

Retail/Shopping

- No bookstores
- More niche stores - how do we become Montrose or Clairmont
- Need to improve on retail/commercial
- Full, quality commercial + retail services + stores
- Better retail
- Getting gas
- Lack of a vibrant retail environment (need better options)
- Starbucks!

Revitalization

- Clean up various blight areas
- Projects that are started here and just sit unfinished
- Some abandoned buildings (former Salvation Army & building @ corner of Altadena + Lincoln)
- Blighted housing areas
- Number of group homes
- Empty parking lots (Rite Aid, Ralphs)
- Graffiti in public places
- Trash on street
- Empty commercial lots
- Urban blight
- Old Scripps home property (what will happen)

Safety

- Safety with community concerns
- Crime on increase
- Crime
- Crime
- Drug sales outside liquor stores
- Areas of crime - 2 shootings in a WEEK?
- Drug labs
- Guns / gunfire
- More Sheriff patrolling in the community
- Burglaries

- Control of negative commercial development
- Get rid of Spanish requirement for Lake remodels - allow design freedom
- Regulate commercial development better. Example: Northeast corner of Lincoln - Altadena.
- Need better rules / reg. for preserving historic homes and their architecture

- Need more restaurants & commercial
- We need a few more restaurants and an updated or additional markets
- Too little business presence for daily needs - e.g. restaurants
- Lack of quality commercial district - poor grocery shopping, lack of restaurants

- Need better shopping (i.e. Trader Joe's)
- Planned shopping district with narrow streets, less traffic
- Lack of services & businesses that would keep Altadenans shopping & spending in Altadena
- Supporting small businesses instead of chasing big box retail
- Viable business & retail
- Too little business presence for daily needs - e.g. restaurants

- Beautifying Lincoln Ave
- Make the intersection at Lincoln Avenue and Altadena Drive appealing
- Rite Aid shopping center (redevelop)
- Improve Ralph's and adjoining lot on Lake + Mariposa
- Eliminate blight (vacant lots, poorly maintained property, etc.)
- Lake Ave: Get rid of empty lots, beautification of stores (pride), more parking, create a nice downtown

- I want to feel SAFE walking at night / leaving the house - I want Altadena theft/robbery down!
- Safety!!!
- Wind storms
- To feel safe walking home at night
- Loitering/homeless
- Gang activity
- Crime
- Gangs
- Safety

- Crime
- Gun control
- Bangers

- Police interaction with young African American men
- Crime
- Poor visibility at intersections in neighborhoods due to tall untrimmed plants/bushes, etc.

Schools

- Superior education achievements
- Board of Ed working with parents and betterment for students
- Educational system unequal - private vs. public
- Improving quality of schools
- Public school quality
- Lack of decent public schools
- Lack of support for / connection with our public schools
- No top performing public school in area

- PUSD closing schools in town
- Improve K-12 schools!
- Underperforming school district
- More public schools
- Need to improve public schools - grades, more funding
- Need an East Altadena School District
- Lack of coordinated support for foster kids & kids in group homes (esp. as this affects local schools)
- Clean air, clean parks, good schools

Streets

- Road repair New York Drive Allen to Lake
- Lack of walkable streets (need better urban design)
- Road repair
- Speeding cars
- Potholes on streets (street repair generally)
- Streets
- A community where neighbors walked to the shops, stores & parks - slower traffic
- Traffic calming on Altadena Drive - reduce width - one lane each way everywhere
- Bike lanes on Altadena Drive - safe place to exercise

- Lack of sidewalks - not walker-friendly
- Road improvements
- Safety issues for children who must walk to school on streets with no sidewalks + speeding cars
- Poor visibility at intersections in neighborhoods due to tall untrimmed plants/bushes, etc.
- Necessity for speed bumps along Hill Street at Calaveras / Country Club Drive
- Streetscape
- Can a landscaped median be provided along Lake Ave as was provided in Lake in Pasadena?

Vacant Lots & Buildings

- Vacant storefronts
- Eliminate blight (vacant lots, poorly maintained property, etc.)
- Derelict vacant land/building owners
- RFS vacant lot - Lake & Calaveras (what will happen)
- Underdeveloped or vacant lots in commercial spaces
- The "WaMu crater" (Lake/Calaveras) - Lake is looking like a SLUM!
- Projects that are started here and just sit unfinished

- Some abandoned buildings (former Salvation Army & building @ corner of Altadena + Lincoln)
- Less vacant buildings & parking lots
- Empty, unfinished building at Lincoln & Altadena
- Vacant businesses and absentee landlords
- Lake Ave: Get rid of empty lots, beautification of stores (pride), more parking, create a nice downtown
- Empty parking lots (Rite Aid, Ralphs)
- Empty commercial lots

Visions

Visions are the ideas that people have for Altadena's future—what they would like to see happen, or what would make Altadena better.

Activities, Parks & Services

- Maybe religious open-house events - different churches
- Freedom to have events w/o groups shutting us down
- More community - wide events - town halls, concerts, lecture series, etc.

- More creative outlets for kids, more indep./family-owned businesses, boutiques
- Bringing my recreation + leisure activities
- Supportive of (organizing) physical activity
- More recreational activities
- More community activities in Farnsworth Park
- Dog park

- More community events
- Updated library
- More inner community events
- Community activities bringing population together
- More parks & rec facilities
- Informal performance venues (parks) well used
- Community activities: play, parents lectures, etc...
- Pool activities - warm weather, safe healthy exercise
- Workout equipment in all parks
- Community youth opportunities and internships

- Competitive swim team, b-ball team (year round) (whirlpool, year round)
- Clean air, clean parks, good schools
- Redesign lake area commerce, Ave to be more inviting with shops, restaurants & venues for celebrations and festivals...draw people from other places
- Community fair on lake - shut lake down
- A vibrant public education system with schools as community hubs for activities + services
- Altadena High School with a football team

Appearance / Beauty

- Ideal Community - Beautiful on all facets
- Clean, well maintained
- (not to get rid of horses) Clean, no horse poop
- Clean
- Prettier community - overhead utility poles; run-down housing
- Quaint appearance (like Sierra Madre)
- Beautiful
- Keep our beautiful scenery & landscaping well serviced for community endeavors
- Lovely, historic + happy

- More homeowners and fewer home renters which promotes pride of ownership and more beautiful streets
- A happy beautiful place where there are good schools
- Beautiful Lake Avenue
- Lovely gardens in front yard
- A beautiful shopping ctr with a Jamba Juice, Starbucks
- Business districts appealing in appearance

Arts

- Creative art guild (like Sierra Madre in Altadena)
- Artist colony
- More art activities because lots of artists are live in this area
- Community approved mural!
- More art opportunities for kids

- Once a month have kid's art walk
- Music & nightlife thriving
- Lively business & arts districts
- Preserve open space & "green" (pastoral) recreation such as hiking, horse riding, bird watching, open air painting, wild flower walks, moonlight hikes, etc!

Bicycling

- Bike friendly
- Bicycle friendly community
- Implement bike path plan
- Bike lanes
- Make a 100% bike friendly town

- Roundabouts calm traffic - bicycles
- A bike friendly and pedestrian friendly area, tree canopy, benches, green....? Bike pavilion, medians crosswalks

Character / Feel

- Keep Altadena unique (architecture, community gardens, community gatherings and neighborly support)
- A community with a rural, independent, diverse character that values history, local environment and trails, and retains its "village" feel
- I like Altadena just the way it is
- Maintain the unique feel + vibe
- Lovely, historic + happy
- Still a small town feel

- Continue the small-town feel, horses on streets etc.
- Vibrant
- Best town in Calif
- A better Altadena: a hopeful positive attitude, but realistic about human nature & govt
- Peaceful & Happy
- A happy beautiful place where there are good schools

Commercial Areas

- Less "places of worship" in commercial/economic zones
- We need a business district

- Nicer buildings (get the old run down buildings cleaned up)
- All buildings painted

- NW Altadena (Lincoln - Fair Oaks) Vibrant walking / shopping district
- I hope expanding the commercial areas i.e. a shopping mall and a technical college
- Support more businesses to open on Fair Oaks
- Get new re-development projects done
- Commercial districts
- Removal of blight at Northwest corner of Lake and Altadena
- No storefront churches
- No check cashing
- No liquor stores + check cashing stores on Fair Oaks

- Remove zombie Rite Aid or upgrade
- Lively business & arts districts
- No empty storefronts
- Business districts appealing in appearance
- Business districts that are functional
- Successful business district hiring local people
- Windows for Altadena Ale House
- Commercial areas where residents can gather
- Pedestrian friendly commercial zones that are open after 6pm
- Better schools! Fewer Churches!

Community Involvement

- I would know my neighbors even better - working on projects & having "parties" regularly
- Cranky activists
- More community engagement

- Neighborhood units organized for: parties, neighborhood watch, cert disaster
- Community increased involvement in our PUBLIC schools (close achievement gap in Altadena)
- Expanded neighborhood associations

Diversity

- Diversity in economic, cultural & religious population
- All races & cultures working together & appreciating each other
- Diverse law enforcement personnel

- I live in the same street as my doctor and my gardener - I don't want that to change
- A community with a rural, independent, diverse character that values history, local environment and trails, and retains its "village" feel

Economy

- A more economically vibrant community
- Property tax revenue from Altadena is returned to Altadena
- An expanded local economy based on camping, hiking, equestrian & mountain biking uses
- Stable housing market

- That those people come to use the hillsides for recreation also contribute to the economy by commercial services
- Unemployment is greatly reduced
- Local jobs
- Grow businesses & economy
- Putting our county taxes to work in altadena

Growth / Development

- Intelligently planned & controlled growth
- Establish monitorium or new, rural development - preserve open space
- Mixed use development at Rite Aid area Lake + Altadena Dr.
- Have building projects completed (why do so many projects get stopped?... Regulations? Hoops to jump? Poor planning? Too costly to build here?)

- A town free of dense development
- See all the projects completed ex: west corr #4610 finished
- Protect the natural habitat, wild land, wildlife, and wildflowers in Altadena from subdivisions and "tract mansion" projects!

Infrastructure & Utilities

- Improved infrastructure
- Reliable power everywhere (fewer outages)
- No cell phone towers w/o community support

- Prettier community - overhead utility poles; run-down housing

Lake Avenue

- Thriving businesses on Lake Ave & Lincoln Ave
- Redesign lake area commerce, Ave to be more inviting with shops, restaurants & venues for

- celebrations and festivals...draw people from other places
- Community fair on lake - shut lake down
- Mariposa / Lake a destination to Sierra Madre

- Nightlife on Lake Ave
- Development of Lake Ave and Woodbury - attract more business
- Redesign of N/ Lake to be more homey - small town like Sierra Madre or Montrose
- Beautiful Lake Avenue
- A well-developed n/ lake with vibrant businesses
- Vibrant business area on lake & mariposa w. outdoor dining nightlife
- Major grocery store on lake w/ services, bakery, meat, flower or refurbish Ralphs

- Mixed use development at Rite Aid area Lake + Altadena Dr.
- Removal of blight at Northwest corner of Lake and Altadena
- Flowers, trees; people walking down lake
- A nice café, music, bookstore on top of Lincoln or Lake
- Shopping district w/ restaurants at Lake + Mariposa
- North Lake Avenue would have walkable areas with community plaza & great mix of vibrant retail
- Make the area @ Mariposa/Lake walking, shopping, district like Sierra Madre

Lincoln Avenue

- Thriving businesses on Lake Ave & Lincoln Ave
- NW Altadena (Lincoln - Fair Oaks) Vibrant walking / shopping district

- Street car to connect Lincoln to Allen
- A nice café, music, bookstore on top of Lincoln or Lake

Local Businesses

- Support small local business; less regulation and permit fees to get businesses started
- More community friendly, locally owned businesses
- Strong locally owned business base
- Family owned business, boutiques
- Business plan cohesive *stay in Altadena
- Survival of the small business that we know & love
- Small businesses thrive - coffee & restaurants ; bookstores
- Has small locally owned businesses I can walk to
- Local small thriving business community of small businesses
- No large chains
- Ease parking restrictions for new businesses
- Allow off street parking for businesses
- Sustainable business
- Small mom & pop businesses
- Too many challenges for small businesses
- Thriving local businesses community w/ less restrictions
- Thriving businesses

- Thriving businesses - adding in light manufacturing & service companies
- A more active & successful assortment of quirky, local businesses
- Small business start up hub
- Free up codes to make small business friendly
- A more business friendly community that encourages development and investment
- Less restrictions on sidewalk café seating/signs/murals
- Thriving local businesses
- More creative outlets for kids, more indep./family - owned businesses, boutiques
- Development of Lake Ave and Woodbury - attract more business
- A well-developed n/ lake with vibrant businesses
- Grow businesses & economy
- Promote desirable local businesses such as cafes, plant nurseries, coffee shop (indie or Peet's coffee & tea)

Nature & Environment

- Clean air, clean parks, good schools
- Protect small areas for small wildlife (more "pocket parks" and fountains) & wildlife corridors
- Organized nature hikes
- Preservation of nature
- Environmentally aware
- Protect the natural habitat, wild land, wildlife, and wildflowers in Altadena from subdivisions and "tract mansion" projects!
- Preservation of trails + parks
- Preserve hillsides
- Preserve open space & "green" (pastoral) recreation such as hiking, horse riding, bird watching, open air painting, wild flower walks, moonlight hikes, etc!

- Environmental sensitivity - Go Green!
- The leading greenscape in Southern California - preservation of trails; trees/natural feel
- Carbon neutral community - at least get a start at it
- More nature trails, less traffic
- Establish monitorium or new, rural development - preserve open space
- Educate - re: Astronomy w/ dark(er) night skies - telescope in our area...
- Thriving outdoors recreation center like Eaton Canyon (maybe at Cobb Estate)
- An expanded local economy based on camping, hiking, equestrian & mountain biking uses

Neighborhoods & Housing

- Houses that blend into the community
- More homeowners and fewer home renters which promotes pride of ownership and more beautiful streets
- Supportive housing for homeless families & veterans
- Well kept homes
- Lovely gardens in front yard
- Expanded neighborhood associations
- Quiet neighborhood where people feel comfortable walking
- Available senior citizen housing
- Would maintain residential "feel"
- I would know my neighbors even better - working on projects & having "parties" regularly
- Neighborhood units organized for: parties, neighborhood watch, cert disaster
- A safe neighborhood to raise your child
- Prettier community - overhead utility poles; run-down housing

Night Life

- Music & nightlife thriving
- Nightlife on Lake Ave
- Pedestrian friendly commercial zones that are open after 6pm
- Vibrant business area on lake & mariposa w. outdoor dining nightlife

Quiet & Peaceful

- Don't hear freeway noise
- Peaceful setting
- Quieter environment
- Peaceful & Happy

Regulation & Government

- Implement the Altadena preliminary community general plan by the Regional Planning Commission, County of LA, CA April 1969 - It's got great elements
- Equal service for both east & west side
- More autonomy from the County of LA
- County sub office locally
- Putting our county taxes to work in altadena
- Ideal community: one of freedom-loving people who have a true understanding of the limits of Government
- No magic thinking or coercion masquerading as utopia
- Support small local business; less regulation and permit fees to get businesses started
- Zoning for neighborhood cafes & restaurants
- Property tax revenue from Altadena is returned to Altadena
- Ease parking restrictions for new businesses
- Allow off street parking for businesses
- Have building projects completed (why do so many projects get stopped?... Regulations? Hoops to jump? Poor planning? Too costly to build here?)
- Thriving local businesses community w/ less restrictions
- Free up codes to make small business friendly
- A more business friendly community that encourages development and investment
- Less restrictions on sidewalk café seating/signs/murals
- A better Altadena: a hopeful positive attitude, but realistic about human nature & govt

Restaurants & Cafes

- Zoning for neighborhood cafes & restaurants
- Restaurants
- Making the Mt Lowe Power House a nice restaurant
- Restaurants in Old Town
- Restaurants with ample parking
- Community Café / Coffee shop (not a chain)
- More restaurants - good ones
- A few highend restaurants would be nice
- I don't want to drive 2 to 5 miles to eat out, shop for groceries or buy office supplies
- A couple of chain restaurants
- Starbucks - YES
- More restaurants
- More restaurants
- More restaurants
- Roof top dining
- Good asian dining
- Wine tasting shop
- More restaurants less liquor stores + nail salons
- Small businesses thrive - coffee & restaurants ; bookstores
- Retail stores / restaurants
- Promote desirable local businesses such as cafes, plant nurseries, coffee shop (indie or Peet's coffee & tea)

- Shopping district w/ restaurants at Lake + Mariposa
- Vibrant business area on lake & mariposa w. outdoor dining nightlife
- Fun shops & places to eat
- Redesign lake area commerce, Ave to be more inviting with shops, restaurants & venues for

celebrations and festivals...draw people from other places

- Walking area / dining like Colorado Blvd., Sierra Madre...Silver Lake
- A nice café, music, bookstore on top of Lincoln or Lake

Retail/Shopping

- Would not like to see any Box Stores
- A nice café, music, bookstore on top of Lincoln or Lake
- More major retailers like Jamba Juice, TGI Fridays, Starbucks...
- A community where residents want to shop
- Retail stores / restaurants
- NO big box retail
- Farmer's Market Food co-op
- More shops
- 50% less liquor stores
- Promote desirable local businesses such as cafes, plant nurseries, coffee shop (indie or Peet's coffee & tea)
- Hiking supplies; organic food or farmer's markets; Trader Joes!
- Shopping district w/ restaurants at Lake + Mariposa
- Get rid of all the liquor stores
- A beautiful shopping ctr with a Jamba Juice, Starbucks

- Fun shops & places to eat
- Family owned business, boutiques
- I hope expanding the commercial areas i.e. a shopping mall and a technical college
- Ability to walk to nice grocery store (Ralph's outdated)
- I don't want to drive 2 to 5 miles to eat out, shop for groceries or buy office supplies
- More restaurants less liquor stores + nail salons
- Major grocery store on lake w/ services, bakery, meat, flower or refurbish Ralphs
- More creative outlets for kids, more indep./family - owned businesses, boutiques
- North Lake Avenue would have walkable areas with community plaza & great mix of vibrant retail
- Small businesses thrive - coffee & restaurants ; bookstores
- Make the area @ Mariposa/Lake walking, shopping, district like Sierra Madre

Rural & Agriculture

- Expanded space for urban agricultural and farming
- Preserve Altadena's rural character
- Support the equestrian life style - don't squeeze horses out!
- Maintaining the semi-rural status
- Small urban farmstands
- Farmer's market
- A community with a rural, independent, diverse character that values history, local environment and trails, and retains its "village" feel

- Farmer's Market Food co-op
- Continue the small-town feel, horses on streets etc.
- Hiking supplies; organic food or farmer's markets; Trader Joes!
- Preserve open space & "green" (pastoral) recreation such as hiking, horse riding, bird watching, open air painting, wild flower walks, moonlight hikes, etc!
- Establish monitorium or new, rural development - preserve open space

Safety

- Higher sheriff presence to reduce gang activity in NW Altadena
- The crime rate is greatly reduced
- Safe streets
- A safe neighborhood to raise your child
- Get rid of "gang" element
- Gun buy back program to get guns off our streets

- Further crime reduction
- No parking after 2 am; keep streets clean & safe!
- Diverse law enforcement personnel
- Better control of students so we can have our kids go to community schools
- The schools are excellent & safe

Schools & Youth

- School district GREATLY improved
- Highest % of students going to college in the county
- Neighborhood schools - good schools that aim to become CA Distinguished Schools

- Magnet school
- Educate - re: Astronomy w/ dark(er) night skies - telescope in our area...
- Best schools in Calif
- Better schools! Fewer Churches!

- Libraries & schools w/ all the money they need
- Our community embraces youth and our schools & community services are strongly linked
- More accessible schools for kids in Altadena
- A happy beautiful place where there are good schools
- A vibrant public education system with schools as community hubs for activities + services
- Community sending kids to public / local schools
- Improved school scores
- Adult education / vocational school
- Better control of students so we can have our kids go to community schools
- Supportive organizing of education
- The schools are excellent & safe
- Move back to Public Schools

- Top rated school system
- Community increased involvement in our PUBLIC schools (close achievement gap in Altadena)
- Better public schools
- Altadena High School with a football team
- Public & private schools & other youth-oriented programs work together
- A safe neighborhood to raise your child
- More art opportunities for kids
- Once a month have kid's art walk
- Community youth opportunities and internships
- Clean air, clean parks, good schools
- I hope expanding the commercial areas i.e. a shopping mall and a technical college
- More creative outlets for kids, more indep./family-owned businesses, boutiques

Sense of Community

- Neighbor help neighbor...does one exist? I can do....., I need.....
- Promote local communities
- Close-knit community
- I live in the same street as my doctor and my gardener - I don't want that to change
- Consideration for neighbors' preferences
- Courtesy
- Positive atmosphere for raising children

- Environment where sharing of ideas is encouraged
- More to gathering in Altadena
- Many people walking & talking
- All races & cultures working together & appreciating each other
- Keep Altadena unique (architecture, community gardens, community gatherings and neighborly support)

Streets

- Develop and construct streets for safety
- No parking after 2 am; keep streets clean & safe!
- Improved street maintenance
- Private streets paved
- All streets paved

- Repaved roads
- Public parking at trail entrances; keep cars off streets in residential areas; eliminate parking restrictions

"Town Center"

- "Sierra Madre" like centers
- Make the area @ Mariposa/Lake walking, shopping, district like Sierra Madre
- A mixed use Town Center w/ government civic, commercial, residential entertainment uses w/ parking
- A bike friendly and pedestrian friendly area, tree canopy, benches, green....? Bike pavilion, medians crosswalks

- Redesign of N/ Lake to be more homey - small town like Sierra Madre or Montrose
- Walking / sitting business district
- Walking area / dining like Colorado Blvd., Sierra Madre...Silver Lake
- Commercial areas where residents can gather
- Meeting places
- Walkable downtown or town "center" area with restaurants, local shops, gathering places

Transportation & Traffic

- A community where neighbors walked to the shops, stores & parks - slower traffic
- More accessible public transportation
- Roundabouts calm traffic - bicycles
- Street car to connect Lincoln to Allen
- Town public transport service to reduce CO2 emission

- Have some metro stops on East, Central & West areas to connect East & West areas of the valleys
- Improved public transportation
- More traffic calming devices
- Less cars on street
- Not too much traffic
- More nature trails, less traffic

Trees & Greenery

- Flowers, trees; people walking down lake
- Preserve oaks and other mature trees
- Lots of old oak trees
- Trees along streets
- Development of more "green space"
- Keep our beautiful scenery & landscaping well serviced for community endeavors
- A bike friendly and pedestrian friendly area, tree canopy, benches, green....? Bike pavilion, medians crosswalks

Visitors / Attractions

- Bring back the Mt. Lowe railroad and hotel! Along with Rancho BB+H anex!
- Something where scripps home was park?
- Thriving outdoors recreation center like Eaton Canyon (maybe at Cobb Estate)
- An expanded local economy based on camping, hiking, equestrian & mountain biking uses
- That those people come to use the hillsides for recreation also contribute to the economy by commercial services
- Redesign lake area commerce, Ave to be more inviting with shops, restaurants & venues for celebrations and festivals...draw people from other places

Walking

- Pedestrian (not motor) traffic
- More foot traffic
- Pedestrian friendly commercial zones that are open after 6pm
- People walking around
- North Lake Avenue would have walkable areas with community plaza & great mix of vibrant retail
- Ability to walk to nice grocery store (Ralph's outdated)
- A bike friendly and pedestrian friendly area, tree canopy, benches, green....? Bike pavilion, medians crosswalks
- More sidewalks
- I want to see Altadena with sidewalk on all streets
- Walking / sitting business district
- Walking area / dining like Colorado Blvd., Sierra Madre...Silver Lake
- A community where neighbors walked to the shops, stores & parks - slower traffic
- Walkable downtown or town "center" area with restaurants, local shops, gathering places
- Flowers, trees; people walking down lake
- Has small locally owned businesses I can walk to
- Make the area @ Mariposa/Lake walking, shopping, district like Sierra Madre
- Quiet neighborhood where people feel comfortable walking
- Many people walking & talking
- NW Altadena (Lincoln - Fair Oaks) Vibrant walking / shopping district

Altadena Visioning Process Workshop 2 • April 25 Notes from Workshop 2

After a short presentation about the Altadena Visioning Process and overview of community input received so far, participants were asked to join groups to discuss the following prominent themes in the community input: Business Environment (2 groups formed), Neighborhoods (3 groups formed), People and Community (2 groups formed), Mobility and Recreation (1 group formed), and Town/District Centers (3 groups formed).

Discussion sheets were used as launching points for the group discussions. These sheets were initial summaries of the community input that had been received in the visioning process until that date—input from the first workshop, meetings with community groups, comments from the Altadenablog survey, and comments received by email. Discussion questions were posed on these sheets, **in bold underlined italics**. Groups wrote directly on the sheets to answer questions and to offer revisions to the text.

The following pages are a synthesis of the marked-up discussion sheets, notes on a flip chart, notes on maps, and notes by individuals on their own copies of the discussion sheets and on sticky notes.

Comments are shown in “track changes” **red underlined text**. Several groups used dot stickers to indicate items that they considered to be higher priority than others. These are indicated by **yellow highlighting**. If a group indicated an item to be low priority, this is indicated with **grey highlighting**. Notes in brackets [] are comments added for clarification.

For the Mobility and Recreation theme and Town/District Centers theme, groups were asked to draw on aerial maps provided at those tables. Their notes on the maps are also provided in this document.



BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Encouraging and Supporting Businesses

Topics: Local businesses, retail, jobs, parking, signs, startups, regulation, sustainability

Guiding Principles

- Encourage new businesses to occupy vacant buildings in commercial areas, make permitting easier, allow existing uses on transfer or sale
- Encourage more restaurants and cafes [Individual comment: through relaxation of parking requirements]
- Encourage expansion of grocery retail [Individual comment: Quality of store not mega store]
- Encourage a mix of unique, locally owned, and small-format chain retail that serves residents and attracts visitors [Individual comment: Through permit fee waivers & space building]
- Provide parking adjacent to businesses as well as shared parking areas and on-street parking so visitors can “park once” and walk to businesses [Individual comment: Yes]
- Encourage attractive and visible signage that supports local businesses
- Consider mixed use zoning in commercial areas (condos) – more density to create more vibrancy. One person [in group] against mixed use.

Issues

- Parking – Smaller parcels have limited on-site parking, and larger lots are not shared. County zoning requires a certain number of spaces per business, so for a smaller parcel this means a new business will need a conditional use permit to open—the cost and delay for such a permit are prohibitive. Diagonal parking. Restripe Lake for better parking (possibly diagonal)
- Liquor stores – Community members feel that there are too many of these businesses and that they are hotspots for unsafe activity.
- Signage – Business owners feel that limits on signage are too restrictive [underline added], for both permanent and temporary signs (for instance, sandwich board signs are not permitted on sidewalks).
 - Free it up!!!
 - Murals painted on buildings should be permitted.
- Fines – Fines for code violations related to signs, etc. are higher than fines for lack of property maintenance, but some community members feel that it is more important to discourage blight. Punish slum lords and reward active business owners.
- Storefront churches-religious institutions – Some feel that in commercial areas, storefront churches are less desirable than businesses because they are only active a few days a week and do not pay taxes [underline added]—however, they could help by allowing parking lots to be used by business customers.
 - No more cell phone, check cashing businesses
 - Perhaps make it a condition of their permit to allow parking in their lots when church is not in session.

Community Suggestions for Regulations

- Revise parking requirements to allow businesses to count spaces in common and reduce the need for them to obtain Conditional Use Permits. ***How can the community make the best use of available spaces?***
 - Specific Plan / overlay relaxing parking
 - Until parking restrictions are resolved new businesses like restaurants cannot open
 - [Individual comment: Public square parking]
- Allow temporary signs, sandwich board signs, and permanent window signs. ***What kinds of standards should be in place?***
 - No porn bad language or other regulation other than no obstruction [of] [an]other biz, & same standards for realtors
 - Current standards do not fit today's sensibility for colors / signage / architecture
 - [Individual comment: Allow - no political]
 - [Individual comment: Why do we need those?]
- Limit the number/concentration of liquor stores. ***What is a reasonable standard?***
 - No more!!
 - [Individual comment: Let market regulate]
 - [Individual comment: We already have the 2nd highest concentration in California— would like to convert those to bar & grille operations.]
- Allow murals. ***Does a distinction need to be made between advertisement and art?***
 - No
 - Yes – but a loose distinction. Encourage art and murals in public places. Expose the artist community.
- Create bigger disincentives (increase fines) for vacant and unmaintained properties. Raise fines for property maintenance violations, and enact a tax on vacant buildings equal to the general fair market rent of the area. Lower fines for code violations that do not cause blight, and lower fees for permits. ***What types of violations are most associated with blight?***
 - Empty, unlighted, landscape not maintained, building windows dirty, unpainted
 - Weeds, trash, paint, ragged fences
 - [Individual comment: Very important – absentee owners]
- Enact a moratorium on storefront churches in commercial areas. Yes!
Others do not want to discourage churches, so is there another way to address this issue? Is this only a temporary issue until demand for commercial spaces increases? No
- Encourage sustainability by supporting a local economy, and incentivizing sustainable business practices regarding waste, energy, and water. [Individual comment: Yes]
- Re-evaluate the CSDs
- Grandfather original zoning to allow present day businesses to open (street front retail)
- Light manufacturing use could be allowed to encourage better business use (i.e. artists) + employment
- [Individual comment: Don't pass new ordinances w/o reviewing current ones. i.e. oversize pkg 25' vs. RV parking restrictions.]

Other Community Suggestions

- Create a one-stop shop / ombudsman [underline added] for permitting to help businesses start and expand – locally in Altadena. Yes
 - Find some way to encourage neighborhood markets (like Urban Farmers' Market and Eat Well Market)
- Discourage excessive code-related complaints from a single anonymous individual. Yes.
If the code reflects what the community wants, is this still an issue?
 - Yes
 - [Individual comment: Yes, we have neighbors who use the code for personal revenge. The LACSD won't respond to late night parties after multiple calls; why zoning after 1 crank?]
- Move bus layovers away from prime parking areas.
- Encourage working relationship between County / Chamber of Commerce so businesses can get help first
- Create some parking areas on County owned land (i.e. empty lot on El Molino between Shariff and Fire) + street S/Mariposa

Potential Resources

- Chamber of Commerce

Notes from Discussion

- Parking issue – Steve has history
- Better public transportation / our own bus line? Like Arcadia? Shuttle.
- Problem – we're unincorporated. Problem of resistance from County for permits, e.g. County needs to remove roadblocks
 - Zoning
 - Conditional use permit process
- What do we mean by quality businesses?
 - Not "chain"
- Allow existing uses on transfer or sale
- Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC)
- Specific plan / overlay
- Sandwich board signs
 - Standards re: porn/language, obstruction, size
 - Same standards for realtors as businesses
- Murals – low priority
- Vacant/unmaintained
 - Lincoln/Altadena Dr. property

NEIGHBORHOODS

Enhancing Altadena's Historic and Diverse Residential Areas

Topics: Historic character, safety, fences, home additions, property maintenance, trees, landscaping, peace and quiet, rural/agricultural character, infrastructure & utilities, group homes, parking, "mansionization," sustainability

Guiding Principles

- Preserve historic, eclectic, unique character Stricter bldg codes such that you don't have a property which does not blend w/the neighborhood
- Allow for diversity in housing types and affordability
- Retain peace and quiet
- Promote safety
- Improve appearance
- **Promote neighborliness** Pocket parks (dog parks, neighborhood gathering spots, meditation parks, etc.)
- Allow rural/agricultural uses
- Improve commercial areas adjacent to neighborhoods
- Preserve mature trees
- Preserve views of mountains and hills

Local treasure: Compost man!! (of Mountain View), Canadian geese

Key Issues

- **Crime** – Concerns include burglaries, robberies, gang activity, and guns/shootings. Strengthen neighborhood watch/associations to help reduce crime. When neighborhood/businesses experiences more than 1 issue of major concern—i.e. burglary, murder, graffiti, vehicle or home vandalism, have law enforcement install (temporarily / at owner's request) security cameras for 30-90 days—to identify criminals or period data suggests that crimes will be repeated. May install 3-4 security cameras on high-crime street. Roving use of cameras i.e. silent watch dogs!
- Property maintenance and trash cleanup
- Speeding
- Noise (e.g. barking, leaf blowers, nearby non-residential uses)
- Animal control
- Parking (e.g. overnight, commercial vehicles, film crews)
- Group homes and single-family conversions to multiple units
- Nearby liquor stores
- Infrastructure and utilities – Community members report issues with electricity, high-speed Internet, cell phone coverage (is extremely spotty in areas – directly affects safety), homes using septic tanks, water quality and affordability, and heating in older homes.
- Light pollution from residences
- Mansionization

- Hillside development
- New construction bypassing bldg codes [group members provided example of multi-family construction in R1 zone]
- What's up with the halfway houses? Group homes. Who's approving this and overseeing it?
- Time restrictions on music (live + radio) in common spaces (parks etc) to protect habitability of neighborhood.

Community Suggestions for Regulations

- Fence heights – Revise regulations to be more accommodating of fences and hedges that already exist in Altadena. **What limits should there be? Height? Opacity? Materials? Impacts to neighbors' views? Visibility for traffic? View to front door?**
- Home additions, accessory buildings, pools – Revise setback/yard requirements in zoning code so that homeowners do not need conditional use permits for types of expansions that the community finds acceptable. **(See detailed report from Land Use Committee sub-committee for recommended revisions.) [Individual comment: setbacks a limitation.]**
- **Liquor stores** – Limit the number/concentration. Limit hours!!! **What is a reasonable standard?**
 - Payday stores + check cashing! Stores are leech businesses, we don't want them!!!
 - Thrift shops—good reuse of stuff—and—please neat, clean, attractive
 - We need businesses—not new liquor stores. Not run down, garish signs, repellant feel.
 - [Individual comment: No loitering, close at midnight or earlier, security]
- Parking – Limit overnight parking. **Are there issues with spillover parking from commercial areas? [Individual comment: Not to my knowing.]**
- Mansionization ordinance – There are seemingly conflicting suggestions to strengthen it and to weaken it. **What are the community experiences with this ordinance? Is it addressing its original purpose? Seems to be working. Combine this suggestion with the one above about revising setback/yard requirements in zoning code.**
- **Leaf blowers** – Limit days/hours for their use, mandate electric blowers (see Ojai ordinance which limits hours to 8 am - 6 pm and prohibits gas blowers in residential zones).
- Barking dogs – Adopt ordinance (see L.A. City ordinance, with hearings for nuisance barking and fines for first, second, third-offense). [Note sent afterward said group's intent was to suggest providing education first, before imposing fines. "We did not mean to remove the path of fines if other remediation does not solve the problem."]
 - Why are dogs barking? Education and training for owners—not fines. We want dog/pet owners—both happy!
- Enforcement/non-enforcement (plan check + insp.) and lack of proper permitting
 - Oak tree preservation needs to be addressed
 - Retaining wall without permit – used/constructed to get around height ordinance for R-1. Case study: new construction house removed grade/soil didn't put back, put in retaining wall under canopy of oak tree.
 - Height ordinance of R-1. Does the standard work for us? No. It is not helping b/c it is not being enforced.

- Urban agriculture – Encourage more urban agriculture activities such as small farms, community gardens, homesteading, a farmer’s market, and beekeeping. ***Have there been conflicts with regulations?*** Use vacant lots for community gardens, and use public or unpicked fruit on private property at owner’s wish. Make public gathering food stuff i.e. jam like Pasadena Earth Day—fun! Why not have our own co-op market 7 days a week? i.e. Arroyo Coop.
- Keep hillside neighborhoods in harmony with the natural landscape.
- ***Do current regulations provide adequate protection?***
 - We want to see if the recent changes to this reg will be adequate.
 - [Individual comment: need view protection.]
- Promote sustainability by encouraging activities that reduce waste and conserve energy and water, such as installing solar panels, retrofitting homes to be more energy efficient, capturing stormwater, using green building methods, etc.
 - Use local labor (youth/adults) to install solar in Alt communities. Get grant \$ from SoCal Edison. Use same group to rehab older homes and give youth credit—voc ed—for graduation requirements.
 - Should be encouraged and supported.
- Adopt a “dark sky” ordinance to control light pollution. The County recently adopted such an ordinance, which only applies to the portions of Altadena located within the boundaries of the Angeles National Forest.
 - [Individual Comment: Filming in residential neighborhoods is a problem.]
 - [Individual Comment: No permits should be needed for garage sales.]

Other Community Suggestions

- More enforcement to address property maintenance, noise, speeding.
- Install traffic calming elements to address speeding. [Individual comment: speed bump.]
- Underground utilities and power lines – Create long term plan (see Pasadena for an example).
- Neighborhood “pocket parks” and dog park – both areas to occupy presently unused or vacant lots
- Hotline Directory: A way to alert community to #s to call for graffiti, cars left on our streets, people selling products from home.
- Allow for grand-fathering of some ordinances
- Altadena blast-reverse 911: texts, calls, emails for major incidents
- Call Vine->Ask Eliot
- Altadena app! iPhone/Android

Potential Resources

- Town Council Land Use Committee – Sub-committee for the Review of the Altadena Community Standards District Zone R1
- Town Council Beautification Committee
- Altadena Heritage
- Altadena Historical Society

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

Getting Involved & Getting Together; Our Institutions and Services

Topics: Community events, gathering and meeting places, governance, diversity, schools, library, animal services, involvement, neighborliness, communication, safety, freedom/independence, arts, sustainability, emergency/urgent care services

Guiding Principles – In general we agree with these

- ~~Recognize and promote~~ Value the diversity of Altadena's population
- ~~Preserve~~ Value small town character and foster a culture of "good neighbors"
- ~~Provide opportunities for residents to meet and build relationships~~
- Promote safety from crime and hazards All of Altadena [unclear if comment was intended for this bullet point or the next one]
- Support community schools with community services as hubs for neighborhoods
- Support the library [Individual comment: & senior center] as a community hub
- Allow Coordinate joint use of public facilities and shared services between PUSD schools and County
- Improve ~~community member awareness of community affairs and resources~~ communication
- Encourage volunteerism and community involvement
- Provide resources and opportunities for seniors and youth
- Maintain communication between County and community members
- Maintain cooperative community relationships with law enforcement
- Respect desires for independence and freedom

Issues

- Schools – Residents are concerned about school closures, quality, and safety, and want to see more community connection with public schools.
- East/West divide – Community members have identified both a physical and social divide, including a lack of east/west connections along corridors and differences in the quality of infrastructure provided in these areas. Previously (1970s) absolutely beautiful historical information includes 210 Fwy as part of divide.
- Gentrification – There are concerns about maintaining affordability of housing and economic diversity.
- Safe streets – Identified issues include insufficient street lighting and speeding.
 - Off loading of supermarket – big rigs at Super King past 9 am.
 - [Individual comment: Sidewalks]
- Communication and involvement – To promote involvement in civic affairs and community events, some residents feel that more communication is needed about things that affect them or that they might want to participate in.
- Lack of consensus – Some people voiced concerns about a lack of community consensus about where the community should be headed, or a feeling that a small group could derail efforts with larger community benefits.

- Library – Physical improvements are needed for ADA compliance and safety; additional parking would help meet demand.
- Lack of emergency room or urgent care facility in Altadena.

Community Suggestions for Regulations

- Are there any regulations affecting these topics that should be considered or revised?

Other Community Suggestions

- Town Council – Create a mechanism for Town Council announcements such as a community-wide email database. Council should adopt Brown Act to ensure fair and open meetings.
- Resolve conflicts between neighbors and neighboring businesses before they escalate into code violation complaints (“code bombing”). Who might play the role of mediator? County process is inadequate & inappropriate – needs stepwise process for dispute resolution
- Encourage more Neighborhood Watch activity.
- Contract with Pasadena Humane Society to provide animal services.
- Develop a creative arts guild/group, arts venues, and arts festivals. Offer more arts activities and education for kids. Support visual and performing arts opportunity for all ages
- Schools - Develop and strengthen partnerships in community to support schools. Engage community and Supervisor in education oversight and support. Deploy retired teachers as tutors. Provide staffed school libraries, arts education, and resources for student health. Develop joint use agreements to make school grounds available for community recreation when not in use by schools, and to make community facilities available for school use. Make all schools community schools with wrap-around support for children and their families. Support public schools period!!
- Offer more community events, in parks, in town/district centers, on temporarily closed streets.
- Promote sustainability through a symposium, website, and sustainability “overlay”.
- Show how Altadena tax revenue is used to benefit Altadena (capital improvements etc.)
- Find some way to encourage block parties. This would give neighbors the chance to work together on a project and get to know each other better.

Potential Resources

- Town Council Education Committee
- Altadena Community Center
- Altadena Senior Center
- Altadena Library District
- Pasadena Unified School District [Individual comment: Schools]
- Nonprofits such as Quality of Life Center, Neighbors Empowering Youth...

MOBILITY AND RECREATION

Biking, Walking, Riding, and Hiking Across Altadena

Topics: Altadena Crest Trail, parks & recreation, bicycle movement, equestrian movement, pedestrian movement, safety, traffic calming

Guiding Principles

- Reconnect the Altadena Crest Trail
- Provide more public access points to Altadena Crest Trail
- Provide and maintain pathways throughout Altadena for safe travel on foot, bike, and horseback
- Promote safe sharing of streets between people using different modes of transportation
- Encourage expanded transit service
- Provide disabled access to public facilities and commercial areas
- Enhance recreation facilities at parks
- Support healthy wildlife populations in nearby wilderness areas
- Identify routes for various modes of transportation

Issues

- Gaps in Altadena Crest Trail
- Trail access points being controlled by adjacent property owners
- Inability to use Altadena Crest Trail after dark
- Intersections where pedestrian / equestrian crossings seem difficult
- Accessibility improvements needed at library
- Lack of designated bike lanes and sidewalks
- Traffic/speeding enforcement
- Lack of coordinated master plan for bikes, pedestrians, and equestrians (integrate local network of bike paths with County bike plan)

Community Suggestions for Regulations

- Add language to the Community Standards District that supports trail easements, perhaps looking to other areas for examples (e.g. Acton, Santa Clarita).

Other Community Suggestions

- Identify corridors for future installation of facilities for people on foot, bike, and horseback.
Using the County Bicycle Master Plan as a starting point, where should these facilities be prioritized and what types of facilities are desired? (Please use map.)
 - Connect Altadena/County bike plan to Pasadena / adjacent city. Horse specific route – where? Horse hitches? Don't block pedestrian access on existing sidewalks. Add more sidewalks in business districts. Be sure to have curb cuts. Bike racks at bus[inesse]s?, schools, parks, trail head (Lincoln / Fair Oaks / Lake)
 - [See map for suggested locations of bike racks.]

- Assign County staff to work on trail easements and resolving issues with property owners to ensure access to the Altadena Crest Trail. **How can the community support this work?**
Involvement with existing working group.
- Allow nighttime access to Altadena Crest Trail, like National Forest trails.
If there are concerns that led to the current restrictions, how might these concerns be addressed? Problems with crime? With drinking, noise, racing on Lake. No parking 10 pm – 6 am (well enforced). State land – forest NFS?
- Expand community-wide and inter-community bus service to serve Altadena and improve transit stops (e.g. clean, sheltered benches).
 - Bus at Altadena/Fair Oaks -> connect to Del Mar station.
 - [Individual comment: After 8 pm limited]
- Provide transit for town/district centers such as street car, trolley, shuttle, horse-drawn wagon.
- **Where is more or special transit service a good idea?**
- Expand Farnsworth Park by developing publicly owned plot next to the park, while preserving oak trees. Create a community center building (1), tennis center (2), and off-leash dog park (3).
Harold C. has architectural plan for (1) and (2). 4 acres
- Increase activity and safety at parks by providing more staff and offering free classes and league play.
- Consider options for a new park in Altadena. **What are some possible locations, or areas in need of parkland? (Please use map.)**
- Establish a nature center on the west side of Altadena. Hahamongna / Arroyo Seco
- Use stop signs, speed bumps and speed traps around neighborhoods, especially coming out of La Vina. **Where else is speeding an issue? (Please use map.)**
 - Major n/s streets. Windsor.
 - [Map notes indicate “speeding” on Chaney Trail near Alzada, and “serious speeding issue” along Marengo Avenue between Loma Alta and Altadena.]
 - [Individual comment: Traffic calming, roundabouts]
- Provide blinking crosswalks on major streets such as Fair Oaks, Altadena, Lake, and Lincoln.
What are the locations of important pedestrian crossings where visibility is a concern? (Please use map.)
 - Downhill speeds at Marengo, Lake.
 - [Map notes indicate issues with pedestrian crossings at Fair Oaks Avenue and Harriet Street intersection, and Altadena Drive and Holliston intersection.]
- Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and corridors. **Are there particular areas of concern? (Please use map.)** Hahamongna watershed sediment removal route.
- Need exiting [existing?] trash company [to] provide cleaning service for horse droppings—the owners pay bill.
- Cleaning of horse manure in public areas – who/how? Athens contract?
- East Altadena needs a park east of Lake Ave.

Potential Resources

- Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group
- Altadena Bicycling Club
- County of Los Angeles Bicycle Master Plan
- County of Los Angeles Altadena Crest Trail Improvements Feasibility Analysis
- Arroyo Seco Foundation
- Joint use opportunity with schools

Map Notes from Mobility and Recreation Group

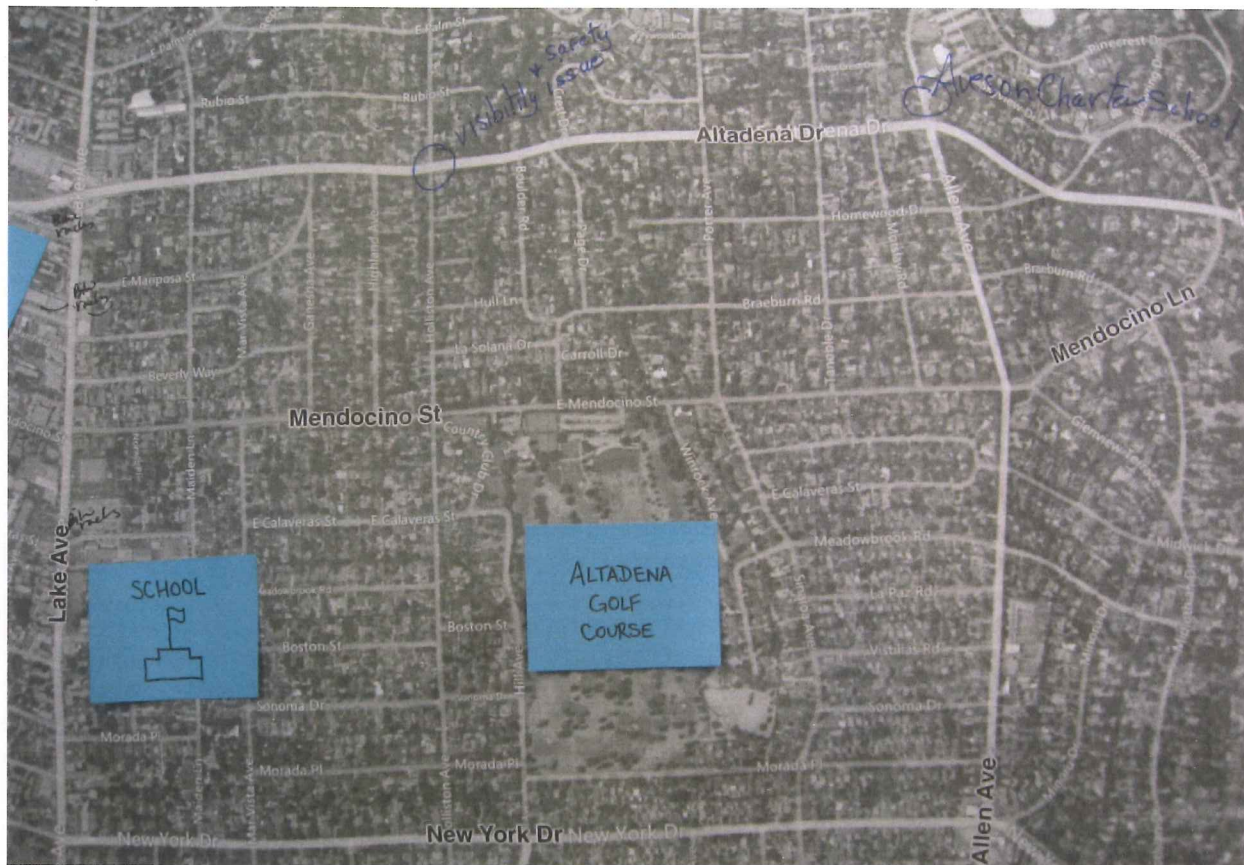
Sticky notes indicating landmarks were placed on the map before the workshop.

Map Close-Up 1: Lincoln Avenue and Fair Oaks Avenue



Map notes on this close-up suggest bike racks along Lincoln Avenue between Woodbury and Altadena, and on Fair Oaks in the vicinity of Mendocino and Mariposa. "Dangerous crosswalk" indicated at intersection of Fair Oaks Avenue and Harriet Street.

Close-Up 2: Lake Avenue and Altadena Drive



Map notes on this close-up suggest bike racks on three locations on Lake Avenue: south of intersection with Altadena, at Mariposa, and at Calaveras. "Visibility + safety issue" indicated at Altadena Drive and Holliston intersection. Presence of Aveson Charter School indicated north of Altadena Drive on Allen.

Close-Up 3: Farnsworth Park Vicinity



Map notes on this close-up indicate "speeding" on Chaney Trail near Alzada, and "serious speeding issue" along Marengo Avenue between Loma Alta and Altadena. Near the trailhead at Loma Alta and Lake, notes suggest a bike rack and "keep 10-6 parking restriction." On Lake Avenue near Athens, note says "like the restriping."

TOWN/DISTRICT CENTERS

Creating Places for Gathering, Shopping, and Culture

Topics: Pedestrian environment, parking, retail, design, trees and landscaping, gathering and meeting spaces, development, property maintenance, sustainability

Guiding Principles

- Encourage walking and enjoyment of the streets—bring the streets to life
- Encourage restaurants, cafes, and other uses where people can gather
- Encourage community events, art, and performances
- Encourage residents to come on foot, bicycle, and transit
- Provide parking adjacent to businesses as well as shared parking areas and on-street parking so visitors can “park once” and walk to businesses
- Allow a variety of building types and styles in keeping with Altadena’s eclectic character
- Incentivize development and rehabilitation of properties
- Incorporate trees and landscaping Use wind resistive trees – peppers shatter

Issues

- Walking – Commercial areas are not pedestrian-friendly, and crossing streets in front of downhill traffic can feel unsafe.
- Vacant/underused properties – Besides the smaller vacant storefronts, community members would like to see development or rehabilitation of some large and visible properties including those at Lake and Calaveras, Lincoln and Altadena, and the Rite Aid shopping center.
- Parking – Smaller parcels have limited on-site parking, and larger lots are not shared. Overlay should hold in common
- Billboards – These are undesirable for a number of reasons and are not allowed in the current Community Standards District code but still remain. Some appear to be unused or not maintained. Not permit digital billboards!
- Design – The current Community Standards District seems to dictate a Mediterranean style and bland building colors that some feel do not promote Altadena’s eclectic and creative character.

Community Suggestions for Regulations

- Create process for phasing out billboards, especially ones that are not used/maintained. [Individual comment: buy-out]
- Revise parking requirements to allow businesses to count spaces in common and reduce the need for Conditional Use Permits. Eliminate parking requirements for businesses / issue parking permits to limit overflow into residential areas.
- Provide design guidance that promotes architectural quality without dictating a particular style or color scheme. What kinds of standards should be in place?
 - Limit requirements to building mass, setbacks, density. Every story higher – have setback requirement.
 - Setback, height, massing, rear parking, right of way intrusion, allow rain resistive overhangs from sidewalk to door

- Eliminate 35-foot height limit and encourage developments that bring more people into town/district centers such as two-story and higher mixed use buildings. For buildings higher than two stories, set the upper stories back as needed to preserve mountain views from the street. However, one person said to preserve this limit—how do others feel about the 35-foot height limit on Lake Avenue? 35 limit OK. If higher should “zigzag” up as [it] rises
- Encourage development of housing around Lake Avenue to bring residents closer to businesses—e.g. mixed use development on Lake, or “bungalow court” housing nearby. Bungalow courts can be low rise very dense. Allow reduced parking space size if units come w/mini car
- Reduce heat island effect – encourage upgrades for businesses / aesthetic and energy-saving.

Other Community Suggestions

- Use urban design and landscaping to make pedestrians feel safe and create gathering spaces.
- Add angled parking. If safety is a concern for vehicles backing up, how can this be addressed?
 - No! Angled parking calms traffic. Approved.
 - County engineer has ruled this out repeatedly over this exact concern
- Create parking/gathering space in the middle of the Mariposa right-of-way (similar to the new median in Lancaster’s downtown, or a row of diagonal parking as in Pacific Grove).
- Parking reform #1 priority. Establish a mechanism for shared use of existing and future parking among commercial, public and non-profit entities. Or create new public parking. Eliminate or reduce County parking requirements for new businesses.
- Head-in parking on Lake – redesign + narrow street to calm traffic.
- Allow businesses to meet parking requirements by leasing parking on adjacent / nearby parcels.
- Commercial development—eliminate style standards. Possibly maintain a “reflectivity index” for exterior surfaces.
- Look at examples of other communities where sloped streets are successful (e.g. Park City UT). Also, Sierra Madre.
- Create stronger disincentives for landlords to allow properties to remain vacant, unfinished, or dilapidated. Tax empty commercial space
- Add trees and landscaping. Require shade trees in parking lots and use drought-tolerant plant species. Require proper maintenance of trees and landscaping.
- Incorporate water/stormwater features that help prevent flooding while allowing stormwater to replenish groundwater resources and adding aesthetic value.
- Create specific plans for town/district center areas.
- Establish a Business Improvement District to address existing underkept business properties, especially on Lake between Calaveras & Mariposa.
- Create the regulatory environment to create a town center – a business-help-ombudsman. We need the tools that cities have!
- Leverage youth (via schools) to be ambassadors of sustainability and who carry the message to the community
- Overlays – right size: quality, quantity

Potential Resources

- Altadena Heritage – North Lake Avenue Sub-committee

Map Notes from Town Centers/Districts Groups

These groups were provided with aerial close-ups of the four major commercial areas in Altadena, on Lake Avenue, Fair Oaks Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and Washington Boulevard. Scans of the maps are provided on the following pages.

Participants circled prominent buildings, blocks of buildings, and portions of streets without writing notes to explain; these markings may indicate the structures that they feel are significant features of these commercial districts, areas that could be focal points, and/or portions that they feel deserve special attention. They also circled portions of streets and large parking lots.

The following notes from participants are repeated in the captions for the maps on the remaining pages.

Fair Oaks Avenue

- "Expand park" at Charles White Park.
- "Restore" at property just south of Mountain View intersection.
- "Connect / support on both sides / Altadena / Pasadena" south of Woodbury.

Lake Avenue

- "Monte Cedro" on vacant lot at Calaveras and El Molino.
- "Park" on vacant lot at El Molino north of Mariposa.
- "Very bad" indicated at Rite Aid shopping center.
- "Traffic calming – streetscape" indicated on Lake Avenue between Fontanet Way and Morada Place.
- "Mix use + houses" indicated on vacant lot north of Calaveras.

Lincoln Avenue

- "Area study" indicated on Woodbury east of Lincoln Avenue.
- "Update" indicated on west side of Lincoln Avenue between Crosby and Figueroa.

Washington Avenue

- "Updated" at intersection of Altadena and Washington. Location of "Steve's Flowers" indicated at same intersection.

TOWN DISTRICT / CTB



TOWN DISTRICT / CTES



Notes: "Monte Cedro" on vacant lot at Calaveras and El Molino. "Park" on vacant lot at El Molino north of Mariposa.

TOWN CTRS / DISTRICT



TOWN DISTRICT / CTBS



Notes: "Very bad" indicated at Rite Aid shopping center. "Traffic calming – streetscape" indicated on Lake Avenue between Fontanet Way and Morada Place. "Mix use + houses" indicated on vacant lot north of Calaveras.

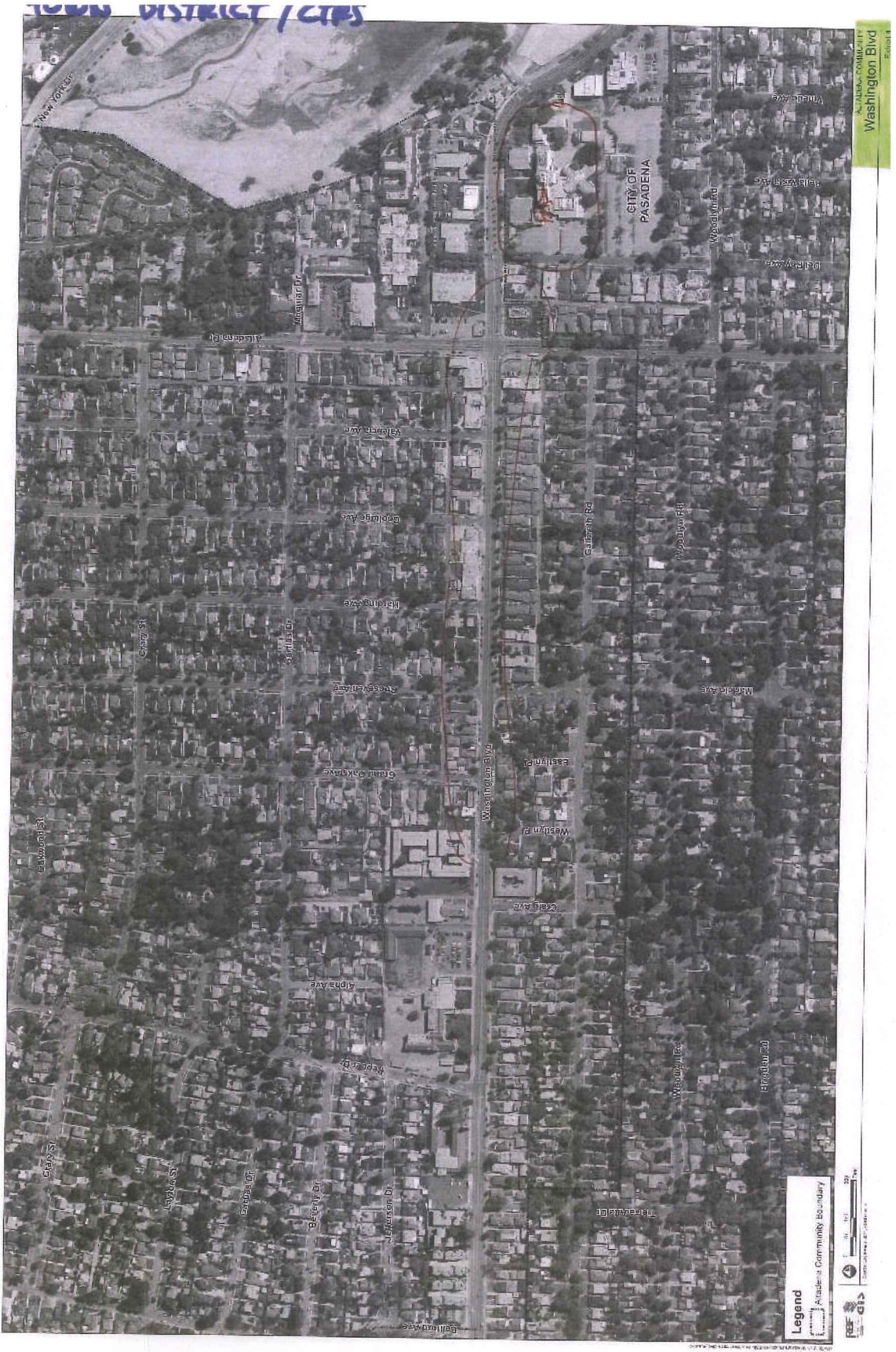
TOWN DISTRICT / CTAS



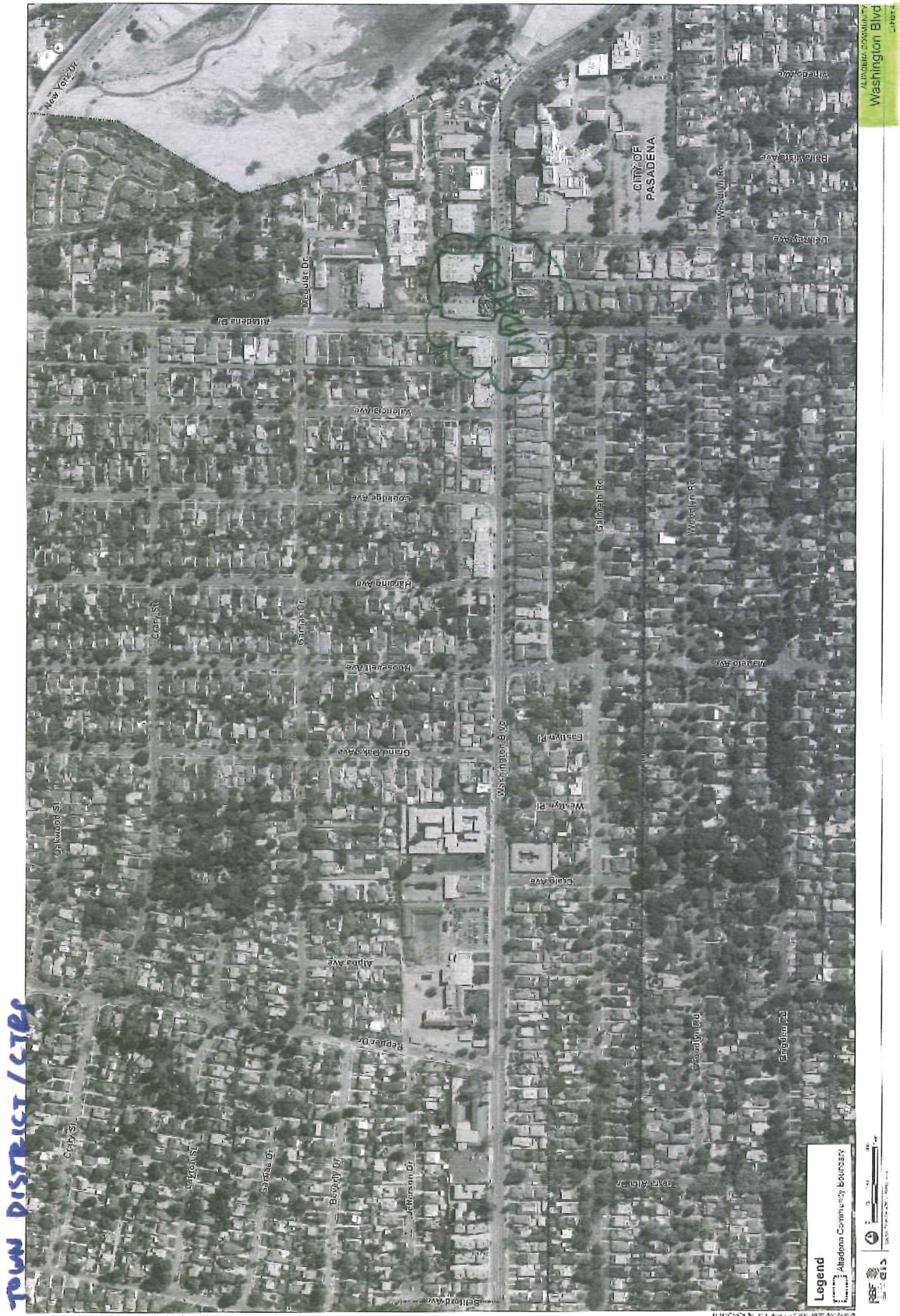
Notes: "Area study" indicated on Woodbury east of Lincoln Avenue. "Update" indicated on west side of Lincoln Avenue between Crosby and Figueroa.

TOWN DISTRICT / CTBS





Note: "PAS" indicates portion of this corridor that lies in Pasadena.



Note: "Updated" at intersection of Altadena and Washington. Location of "Steve's Flowers" indicated at same intersection.

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Comments from Evaluation Forms

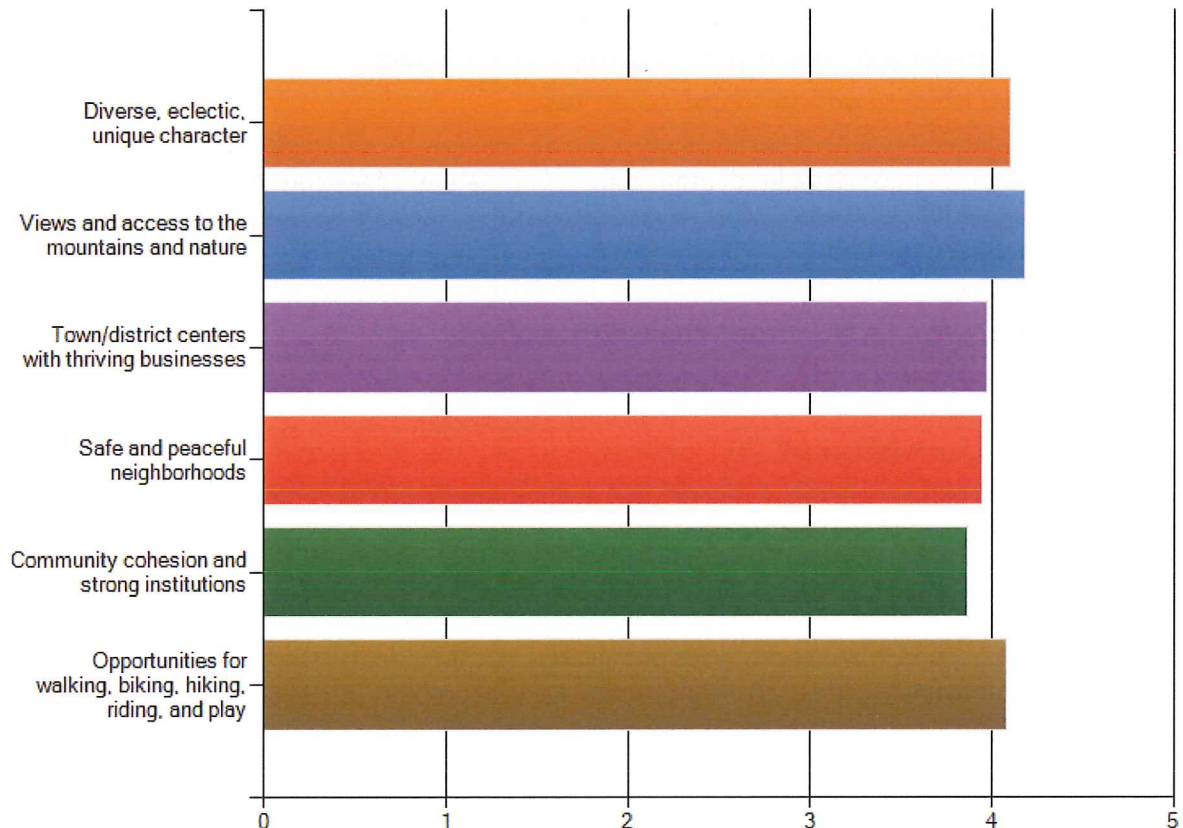
Participants in the final visioning workshop completed evaluation forms to provide individual feedback on the Draft Vision Report. A total of 45 forms were returned.

How Comfortable?

Participants were asked to rate “how comfortable” they were with each of the six main sections of the Draft Vision Report—the six characteristics in the “Vision for Altadena.” As seen in the table below, a rating of 1 signified “not comfortable,” 3 signified “neutral”, and 5 signified “very comfortable”. The table shows details on participants’ ratings, while the bar chart shows average ratings.

Report Section	1 - Not Comfortable	2	3 - Neutral	4	5 - Very Comfortable
Diverse, eclectic, unique character	1	2	3	19	14
Views and access to the mountains and nature	0	2	5	16	16
Town/district centers with thriving businesses	1	2	6	17	12
Safe and peaceful neighborhoods	1	2	5	21	10
Community cohesion and strong institutions	0	4	8	15	11
Opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, riding, and play	0	2	8	14	15

How comfortable are you overall with this section of the Draft Vision Report?



Additional Comments

Participants also provided additional comments for each section, as follows.

Diverse, eclectic, unique character

Comments:

- Most important to revise CSD to open design freedom in commercial & revise mansionization ord to cause fewer CUPs. Should only require over counter review & Altadena Town Council Land Use approval.
- Altadena is the “Berkeley” of Southern California—I love the diversity!
- Gentrification issues not well identified or discussed.
- We want to keep it this way! It is a very wonderful aspect of Altadena.
- Stepping back building volume at each floor kills cohesive architecture and streetscape, step back after 2nd floor is sufficient.
- Vague language concerning providing more proactive code enforcement. Didn’t like comment on community members seem to find fences acceptable.
- Foreclosure solutions—local enforcement or properties owned by banks. Promote diversity.
- Gentrification will help attracting better businesses and an area/era of safety / pedestrian friendly areas.
- All good. I especially agree with allowing for some architectural creativity on commercial businesses.
- Strongly agree w/allowing greater range of R-1 home expansion w/o CUP->very important. The gentrification portion is very wishy-washy.
- What is meant by a variety of bldg types and styles—Greek temple vs. organic? Bldg types—garage repair shop next to a upscale restaurant.
- CSD needs to work on a case by case basis.
- Maintaining our historic diversity is job #1. We aren’t La Canada, Pasadena or Sierra Madre—much less a lot of more distant San Gabriel Valley communities. But the East-West split is kind of “diversity” of neighborhoods that I believe is undesirable. We need a bridge between the two.

Views and access to the mountains and nature

Comments:

- Corps to install solar?
- I don’t know anyone who came to Altadena who wasn’t attracted by the mountains & trails! Not all use them, but are attracted.
- Keep buildings low and change telephone poles to underground cables.
- Move sustainability out of the “nature corner”—it affects all topics.
- Suggestion to set back stories of buildings further than the story beneath it is going to lead to unbuildable sites and will not solve the view problem. Every site is different and a generic solution like this is only going to create problems.
- Height of building should be controlled and new building should be respecting this (35 ft no higher) rule (condominium complexes)
- Encourage and promote public access to public trails and other public facilities without encroaching on private property.

- Good! I feel Altadena Crest Trail is too prominent though. Hahamongna is a huge resource for Altadena too! (and ANF)
- Re: sustainability, we should encourage + educate, but not set new regulations or take punitive actions—should move community together as a whole.
- Ralphs/vacant site adjacent/Rite Aid needs thoughtful master plans & incentives to promote development. Could be a nucleus & linked by a transit shuttle down Lake Avenue.
- Sustainability is not “nature”. It’s practice, effort, choice.
- Trails on public land only—not private.
- Private property rights need to be preserved; no trampling of private property rights.
- On “preserve mature trees”, please be aware that the Christmas Tree Lane Association is trying to work with homeowners & others to protect the deodars against the oak root fungus.

Town/district centers with thriving businesses

Comments:

- None of the community comments here are new. These have been expressed for at least 40 years. We went thru the Altadena Community Plan—no County action. We went thru visioning for Lincoln, had a great project & architect, and County & developer turned that to crap—that’s why no one is participating.
- Business->revenue->taxes->funds for community services
- This is an absolutely vital issue for survival of Altadena.
- We need more restaurants! A small theater would be nice too!
- Integrate sustainability issues/incentives. Please don’t promote sandwich signs—conflict with other regulations, sidewalk width (ADA), clutter, visual blight. Allow for private use of public space where it makes sense (sidewalk cafe), outdoor seating for El Patron restaurant.
- Design review. Alleviate blight. Temporary 6 mo. – 18 mo. agricultural use.
- Need design review to promote & insure innovative & creative solutions to commercial areas that have become stagnant. Creating exciting pedestrian oriented architecture is crucial to economic viability on Fair Oaks, North Lake & Lincoln.
- Billboards regulation should be part of the cohesive design discussion.
- Encourage and promote housing and mixed use development in the commercial areas.
- Pop up shops is a great idea!!
- Def agree w/taxing vacant/blighted properties. Create surface lots for shared parking.
- Parking north Lake businesses. Perks for landlords that attract businesses in vacant [properties?].
- Make it easier for businesses.
- We need to encourage and promote medium to high density, multi-family housing and mixed-use projects in and around the commercial areas to help revitalize those areas and to support and bring new businesses and services to Altadena.
- Some of the “blight” problem is due to private property owners with unrealistically high demands for rent. Don’t know if this is addressable.
- Town/district center “dead space” is a huge challenge to our having the vibrant community we desire. On the plus side, not having chain retailers (to a large extent) lifts my spirits! The codes issues badly need review and, likely, reform.

Safe and peaceful neighborhoods

Comments:

- Our present liquor stores are a problem, this does not mean we should restrict permits. We want places to eat that serve alcohol.
- Only you and your neighbor can make your neighborhood “safe + peaceful”. Reach out and meet your neighbor to do this.
- Try to integrate night sky (dark sky) and safety issues.
- Strongly discourage loitering in vicinity of liquor stores.
- I feel like something is missing for dealing with gangs/burglary/drugs/shootings. The quiet of Altadena is a huge treasure.
- Community needs to do more, take more ownership in this area. Agree strongly w/moratorium on liquor stores + like the idea of support for conversion to groceries. Leaf blower issue is very ugly->think hard about this one.
- Communication prime importance. How to achieve—cell phone among neighbors—cell phone sites inadequate.
- Speeding, more neighborhood watches, liquor stores & noise are modestly on my radar, but not my primary concerns. More street traffic (see last section: opportunities...) will do much to alleviate easy crimes of opportunity. Knowing our neighbors may help in noise relief. “Human scale” is essential.

Community cohesion and strong institutions

Comments:

- These support themselves quite well already, thank you.
- Please consider all comments mentioned, and keep us posted as to the progress of the future action of the project committee.
- Add public schools as community hubs. Some kinds of basic health services are already offered in some schools. Those services could be expanded to entire neighborhoods under the community schools model.
- Town Council is broken.
- Like the joint use idea! Also agree on supporting public hubs.
- Neighborliness—how to organize. Sheriff neighborhood [watch?]; disaster prep mtgs organized by real estate firm.
- I’m not sure we’re ever going to be cohesive!
- Altadena high school age students should go to a “county” driven high school—Pasadena will always give preference to Pasadena residents over Altadena residents.
- Increased participation and communication in our community life will increase community cohesion. It’s not a good sign that two Council seats will go unfilled! Still, we do believe in “live and let live”—so we can’t be scolds about this. Economically & otherwise, people have a lot on their minds.
- Could be stronger.

Opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, riding, and play

Comments:

- We need better bus service & rail should come here. Most Altadena too steep for bicycle.
- Roundabouts are confusing when you have stop signs. Make it possible to reach Lake Ave station using public transportation from Altadena. Funding issues not addressed.
- Integrate community activities and desire for peaceful/quiet neighborhoods.
- Horse riding seems more difficult.
- Dog parks please! Blinking crosswalks do no good if they blink all the time—must be pedestrian-activated.
- Dog park, joint use agreement w/schools to create more public recreation facilities.
- Trail safety—mountain bikes speeding. Pathways must [be] safe. Example: So Pas abandoned their pathway along RR right-of-way.
- Need more trail maintenance.
- [This is] Kinda a gimme.
- No night access to trails!
- Local public transportation: in areas north of Altadena Drive away from the main arteries (e.g. along Loma Alta Drive; up Olive Ave.)
- I'm hearing some grouching about traffic calming ideas, but in my opinion we can't have biking and walking opportunities and participation w/o limiting heavy traffic and road noise. Traffic calming will promote the residential character that we say we value. Bike trails will encourage more interactions with neighbors.

Key Topics to Address

Participants were asked to “Write 1, 2, and 3 next to the topics that are your first, second, and third highest priorities” among the Key Topics to Address that appear in the Draft Vision Report. They interpreted these instructions in two different ways: some chose three items from the list and assigned each one a 1, 2, or 3; while others assigned a 1, 2, or 3 to each topic in the list.

The table below shows how many times each topic received a 1, 2, or 3. Participants were allowed to write another topic under “other” and these are also listed below.

Key Topic	Number of times this topic was rated a...		
	1	2	3
Altadena Crest Trail completion and access	3	4	6
Code complaints (complaint process)	10	3	3
Community institutions (incl. library, schools)	8	4	6
Community involvement and consensus (incl. communication)	6	4	5
Design regulations and guidelines (incl. commercial and residential areas, fence heights, preserving views)	8	6	5
Filling vacancies and addressing blight (incl. vacant/underused properties, regulatory issues)	12	4	6
Income diversity and gentrification (incl. gentrification/affordability, east/west divide, infrastructure, utilities)	2	7	4
Infrastructure for walking, biking, riding	3	5	6
Liquor stores (number and concentration of stores)	6	3	3
Noise (nuisance noise in neighborhoods)	2	3	6
Parking supply and regulations	7	5	2
Recreation facilities and activities (incl. community events)	4	5	5
Safety (incl. crime, emergency communication, speeding)	12	5	4
Signage (incl. sign regulations, billboards)	4	6	3
Speeding	3	5	5
Streetscape improvements (incl. pedestrian safety, street parking)	6	8	1
Sustainability (incl. local economy and food system, transportation, energy, water)	4	9	8
Other: Not complaints, but the code <u>burden</u> is so onerous!	1		
Other: Simplify regs and process		1	
Other: An urgent care facility in case of a disaster	1		
Other: Encourage restaurants, cafes, pubs and other uses where people can gather	1		
Other: Encourage more local retail businesses, make it easier for “start-ups” to be successful	1		

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Comments from Flipcharts

Participants in the final visioning workshop wrote individual comments on flipcharts at the workshop stations organized around the six main sections of the Draft Vision Report—the six characteristics in the “Vision for Altadena.” Some participants also made comments to a facilitator who wrote them down, and one participant provided a comment on a piece of notepaper. All these comments are reproduced below. In a few cases, comments have been listed under the topics that they address rather than being listed under the station topics where they were originally written.

Diverse, eclectic, unique character

Comments:

- Promote and encourage art in our community by revising/changing regulations to allow distinctive murals on commercial or public buildings.
- Consensus will be difficult to gain on many issues. Should we try to always get it?
- Don't change the fence regulations because a few people aren't interested in the fence heights at these meetings. Don't revise the regulations based on a few opinions. I disagree completely. Especially if summer pools are involved, a six-year-old child died last week in Canada in a summer pool. Hedges aren't fences; keep fence height regulations enforced. Distinguish between a fence and a hedge.
- Provide proactive code enforcement. Provide a place to report problems and/or questions about buildings that look like there is a possible code violation. Builders get around the community standards and County building inspectors let things pass. I called the Altadena land use committee a few years ago when my neighbor didn't have an Oak Tree Permit and lied on his application permit, and didn't have a permit for grading and building a retaining wall. But no one would answer my emails or return my phone calls. If there was some knowledgeable people on the land use committee who could help homeowners who have questions about possible code violations, or explain that the new building does meet the community standards, that would help. Also it would expose ways that buildings get around the community standards and therefore the regulations could then be strengthened and clarified. People getting away with building things like this- effects neighbors a long time- you always remember that guy who built the monstrous building and got away with it and then moves away and the long time residents who really love the character of the community are left living next to it.
- Foreclosure solutions: Promote economic diversity by siding with homeowners. Blighted properties should be fined heavily if bank owned. Promote economic diversity by locally help keep its current diversity.

Views and access to the mountains and nature

Comments:

- Encourage and incorporate trail access and community connections with business development. Altadena's identity/mountains can be the draw for unique businesses to promote like interests, i.e. ecotourism...we have bobcats, cooper hawks. Who else can say that in L.A.? Altadena can create this brand: outdoor access in L.A.

- Farmer's market should be local farmers and more affordable, to make fresh fruits and veggies available to everyone.
- "Forage Oakland"- is a community App to share fruit and veggies between neighbors- Altadena blog...better online presence.
- Clarify County's agricultural codes and enforcement with regard to goats, chickens and flies.
- Altadena farmers market is the best thing that happened here. It can be done. Encourage local agriculture.
- Food safety and agribusiness, making cheese at home should be permitted.
- Every school should grow something; have a garden.
- There should be a cash incentive for greywater systems, tankless water heaters and/or ridding your house of a lawn.
- Zoning-wise, what provision under food security would allow for temporary zoning for urban agriculture?

Town/district centers with thriving businesses

Comments:

- Is there any way to reduce the rent for retail in the Lincoln Ave. redevelopment district? The rent is so high that only one local business is there currently, (Bills Chicken) and it is really struggling.
- Walmart is coming (Figueroa and Lincoln). Is the County aware of this? This will discourage local business!!!
- NO "Walmart" No "Home Depot"
- Give property owners incentive so that they sell their properties instead of waiting for land to go up in value.
- Encourage local youth (elementary – high school) to get involved with supervised public art such as murals.
- Need for emergency health services or urgent care center.
- Walmarts and Home Depots don't really provide the "Character" centers for small communities. Comment: (3 stars)
- Landscape Windsor Ave (East).
- Reconsider the "No drive-thru" ordinance in Altadena...can attract businesses with drive thru...and they don't need to be fast food!!!
- Re-name or "brand" business districts, i.e. NOLA (North Lake Altadena) and add "banners" to the light poles...banners designed by local artist.
- Have clear definition of what art is versus advertising so some local murals are allowed.
- Crackdown on billboards...maybe get companies to remove some small ones in trade for a larger one.
- Fair Oaks between Woodbury and Altadena Drive needs HELP. It is seriously blighted.

- One of the major facts of having quality tenants and neighborhood is the condition of commercial buildings. I own a commercial property in Altadena and it has been over 4 years that I have spent lots of time and money to get the permit to facelift the building for the benefit of all. Now (a year ago) I found out that CUP has been expired and I need to file a new CUP. It has been over 1 year that my architect is working on this CUP process and we still have NO results. It is so frustrating. All ideas discussed in these 3 workshops are nice but imagine if this is the process of CUP we are wishful thinkers. I rather sell this property and move out of Altadena.

Safe and peaceful neighborhoods

Comments:

- Loitering is very common in areas- more control over it. Comment: (2 checkmarks)
- Limit hours of filming...nothing past 11 pm, nothing before 7am. Comment: "disagree brings money to the community."
- Communication - is necessary among neighbors.
- Cell phone sites inadequate
- I want to walk and cycle in Altadena...to stores, library, school, etc. Bike lanes - pedestrian lanes will make Altadena a viable walking/cycling community! Comment: "I strongly agree! Need a more human scale."
- Discourage loitering at liquor store through fines and elevator music.
- Street cleaner should do a better job.
- Stop issuing parking tickets for overnight parking. If you have street cleaning "no parking" signs out, they should be different days for each side of the same street. We own the streets! It isn't fair to have all cars off street on the same day and same times.
- Commercial vehicles should not be allowed to park overnight on residential streets- major safety issue!!

Community cohesion and strong institutions

Comments:

- Work with school principals to "adopt" a school by a neighborhood- help with school cleanup, graffiti removal, etc.
- Altadena Elementary School could use some love - Greg White is doing what he can with declining resources.
- In a major disaster or emergency there are no urgent care or emergency care facilities in Altadena (or above 210 Freeway). We've lost St. Luke, but urgent care clinics could be attached to some of the health-related facilities, or contacts signed with Chapcare to open an urgent-care clinic on the east or west side.
- School children need safe passages (sidewalks and controlled intersections) to and from school. The lack of sidewalks around some schools is dangerous for children.
- School hub. Vacant lot or underused sites - Noyse, Burbank

- Neighborhood – how to organize: neighborhood watch meeting, real estate broker organize disaster prep
- Please inform the community if a Walmart is under construction under another name
- Licensing of group homes is not consistent. Standards are not consistent. Need better monitoring of group homes. Hold the license holders accountable for outcomes of the children. Provide PUSD the resources needed to address special needs of students from group homes attending Altadena schools.
- Local regional planners do not spend enough time interacting in Altadena. Staff at building and safety are transferred too often.
- Community web blog/virtual Town Square.
- Altadena should have a blog, twitter and Facebook

Opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, riding, and play

Comments:

- Move and/or relocate bus stops to create more parking on streets.
- Pedestrian activated blinking lights at major crosswalks in the middle of streets (i.e. Ralphs/post office).
- Possibly a single lane each way on Lake between Altadena and NY to address speeding.
- Don't go crazy with community gardens on vacant lots.
- Add more trails, rebuild the broken trails.
- Organize volunteer trail maintenance crews with dates and times.
- Walk Altadena - signage for pedestrians to indicate time to walk from one area or landmark to another.
- Better bus route for church and school. There is no bus on Sunday to go to church.

General Comments

Comments:

- Suggestions for vision process: Incorporate examples of cities that work...let community members know what's possible...give the community tools for making decisions.
Comment: "best practice is the idea". Comment 2: Post examples, case studies on website to motivate and encourage community with a vision.

**Altadena Visioning Process
Workshop 3 • June 6, 2012**

DRAFT Vision Report with Comments

In the final visioning workshop, participants placed Post-It notes on large copies of pages from the six main sections of the Draft Vision Report—the six characteristics in the “Vision for Altadena.” One participant marked up a printed copy of the report. Comments from these Post-It notes and markup are reproduced on the following pages. Each Post-It comment is “attached” to the last word of the bulleted item that the comment addresses.

Draft Vision Report

June 2012

Altadena Community Visioning Process

DRAFT

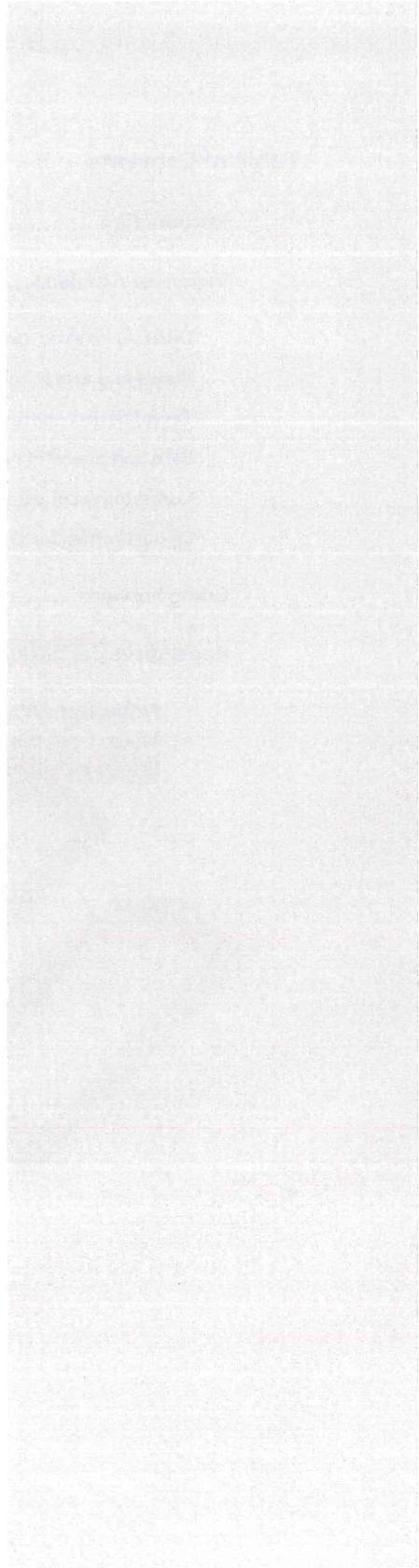


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Appendices [not included in this document; refer to project website]	
Notes from Workshop 1: Group Work Notes and Post-It Notes	
Notes from Workshop 2	
[To be added: Notes from Workshop 3]	

DRAFT

Introduction

Purpose

In 2012, the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning initiated a visioning process to gather community input about Altadena's future. This input was intended to set the direction for any future updates to the Community Standards District –zoning regulations specific to Altadena – as well as provide the County and Altadena leaders with a better understanding of what community members want to see in Altadena's future.

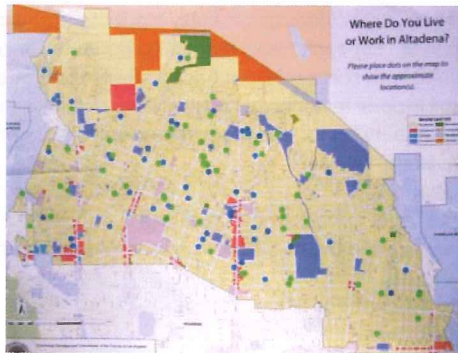
This vision report is a summary of the community input received through the Altadena Community Visioning Process. It describes what community members value most about Altadena, the major issues they feel should be addressed, and the kind of future that they hope to see. It is not a work program but rather a snapshot of a community discussion.

The report will serve as a reference document for the County of Los Angeles in any future planning efforts that may be undertaken when funding and resources become available. Community members may also choose to continue the conversations begun in the visioning process and pursue the suggestions that have been made.

Visioning Process

Beginning in February 2012, the County's consultant team became familiar with Altadena and met with individuals and groups that were expected to have insight into major community issues and assets. These interviews and meetings continued throughout the process. Groups that participated included the Town Council and the Council's Land Use Committee, Altadena Heritage, Chamber of Commerce, the Altadena Library, and Altadena Crest Trail Working Group.

A series of three community workshops was held at Loma Alta Park Gym on the evenings of April 4, April 25, and June 6; each workshop lasted about 2 hours. Efforts to promote participation in these workshops included postcards sent to every property owner in Altadena; flyers sent home in student packets through the public schools in Altadena; emails sent through community lists; a notice on the Community Development Commission and Town Council websites; and articles in Altadenablog, the Altadena Patch, and the Pasadena Star News. Emails, flyers, and postcards were written in Spanish as well as English, and Spanish translation was available at the workshops.



The topic of "New Businesses" attracted attention in the first community workshop. Below, dots show where workshop participants live or work.

The first community workshop gathered comments about Altadena's "treasures," "challenges," and "visions" for the future from at least 135 participants through an individual brainstorming exercise followed by small group discussions about the major topics in the comments. The second workshop (attended by at least 80 people) prompted groups to discuss the input that had been received at the first workshop, the interviews/meetings, and online. This input was presented on a set of discussion sheets that became the basis for this vision report.

[Description of Workshop 3 to be added here in the final report.]



Groups discussed earlier community input in Workshop 2. Credit: altadenablog.

Report Organization

The visioning process uncovered a wealth of ideas about Altadena's future, on a wide range of topics. Workshop summaries (see Appendix) that were produced during the process presented this input in full; however, this report is intended to provide a focused list of items that community members seem to feel are most important at this time.

The "Vision for Altadena" section is the main body of this report. It is organized around six primary characteristics that describe the desired future for Altadena, as expressed by participants in the visioning process. For each characteristic, the report presents the following:

Guiding Principles—These statements, originally presented to community members in Workshop 2 and revised based on their feedback, describe a general approach for achieving or retaining a desired characteristic. They may be seen as a framework for policy or action.

Visioning Quotes—Key quotes from individuals and small groups explain in community members' own words what they hope Altadena will achieve.

Key Topics to Address—This section provides community input regarding key topics that residents feel should be addressed. For each topic, related community concerns and suggestions are presented, along with some relevant background information and things to consider. These considerations include instances of suggestions already being implemented, potential contradictions in community members' suggestions, and other potential issues that the County and consultant are aware of.

The "Going Forward" section provides a list of initiatives that received support in the visioning process and suggests how the vision report may be used by the County and community members.

The Appendices provide more detailed descriptions of the workshops and compilations of the community input received at those workshops.

Vision for Altadena

By identifying Altadena's "treasures" and making suggestions for the future, participants in the visioning process expressed that their desired future community should have the following characteristics:

- **Diverse, eclectic, unique character**
- **Views and access to the mountains and nature**
- **Town/district centers with thriving businesses**
- **Safe and peaceful neighborhoods**
- **Community cohesion and strong institutions**
- **Opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, riding, and play**

Some of these are existing characteristics that residents want Altadena to retain; others are ideal characteristics that they hope Altadena will achieve. Each characteristic is described below.

DRAFT

Diverse, eclectic, unique character

Residents appreciate the eclectic and unique character of Altadena. This includes *places* such as historical homes and properties, and locally owned businesses. It also includes an appreciation for *people* with a range of ethnic backgrounds and incomes, and for artists and musicians in the community.

Guiding Principles

- Preserve historic, eclectic, unique character
- Allow a variety of building types and styles in keeping with Altadena's eclectic character
- Value the diversity of Altadena's population
- Allow for diversity in housing types and affordability
- Respect the desire for independence and freedom

Key Topics to Address

- Design regulations and guidelines
- Income diversity and gentrifications

Design regulations and guidelines

Background

As acknowledged by many participants in Workshop 1, Altadena has a rich history that has left a legacy of historic buildings and other sites. The Altadena built environment reflects different periods of growth throughout this history, with different building styles and standards. In the present day, development in Altadena is regulated by the Los Angeles County General Plan, Altadena Community Plan, and Los Angeles County zoning code.

The Community Standards District (CSD) adds to and modifies the underlying County zoning regulations for setbacks, signage, and other aspects of building and site design. It includes language that promotes the use of a "Mediterranean" style for buildings in the Lake Avenue area and limits base building colors to "light earth-tones and muted pastel colors" while allowing "contrasting, more colorful" colors for trim.

The CSD also provides residential regulations for Altadena which address development and grading in County-designated hillside management areas, and provide development standards for R-1, R-2, and R-3 zones. These standards include yard size requirements, required setbacks, height limits, required number of parking spaces, maximum floor area and lot coverage allowed for single family homes, and the inclusion of decorative roofline features for multifamily buildings.

Visioning Quotes

"Not cookie-cutter - lots of character"
– Treasure, Workshop 1

"Historic homes" – Treasure, Workshop 1

"Unique architecture & design"
– Treasure, Workshop 1

"Creative people: scientists, artists, musicians" – Treasure, Workshop 1

"Eccentrics / diversity of population"
– Treasure, Workshop 1

"Independent spirit of residents & racially diverse groups" – Treasure, Workshop 1

"We need to be more aware of the less 'well off' parts of town"
– Challenge, Workshop 1

"Bringing east + west sectors together"
– Challenge, Workshop 1

"Gentrification is a threat to quiet & racial harmony" – Challenge, Workshop 1

"I live in the same street as my doctor and my gardener - I don't want that to change." – Vision, Workshop 1

"Preserve range of income levels - not become all upper middle class"
– Challenge, Workshop 1

Comment [RR1]: More housing in commercial areas!!

Comment [RR2]: Change signage regulations to encourage/allow artistic murals.

Comment [RR3]: Leave our eclectic look alone!

Issues Identified by Community

Commercial areas – The CSD limitations on building style and color seem inconsistent with Altadena’s eclectic and creative character, and do not “fit today’s sensibility for colors / signage / architecture,” in the words of Workshop 2 participants.

Residential areas – It may be a challenge to apply zoning and design guidelines to the unique patchwork of Altadena’s residential areas. For instance, due to current setback requirements, homeowners in the R-1 zone may need conditional use permits for home expansions if their property is significantly smaller (and therefore their setbacks smaller) than those of their neighbors. A subcommittee of the Town Council’s Land Use Committee produced a report that recommends revisions to the R-1 zoning regulations in the Community Standards District to address this issue and make other adaptations for Altadena’s neighborhoods.

Fence heights – Many fences in Altadena’s residential areas do not conform to the County zoning regulations, but community members seem to find the fences acceptable.

Preserving views – Community members wish to preserve views of nighttime skies and to underground power lines that interfere with daytime views.

Community Suggestions

- Commercial areas:
 - Provide design guidance that promotes architectural quality without dictating a particular style or color scheme.
 - Establish standards or guidelines for building mass, setbacks, density, rear parking, and right-of-way intrusion.
 - Require that each story be set back farther than the story beneath it, to help preserve views of the mountains from the street. Allow building overhangs over sidewalks.
- Home additions, accessory buildings, pools:
 - Revise setback/yard requirements in CSD so that homeowners do not need conditional use permits for types of expansions that the community finds acceptable. (For suggested revisions, refer to the report from Land Use Committee Sub-committee for the Review of the Altadena Community Standards District Zone R1.)
- Revise regulations to be more accommodating of fences and hedges that already exist in Altadena.
- Provide more proactive code enforcement to promote better property maintenance, ensure compatibility with surrounding properties, and preserve oak trees.
- Adopt a “dark sky” ordinance to control light pollution. The County recently adopted such an ordinance, which only applies to the portions of Altadena located within the boundaries of the Angeles National Forest.
- Create a long-term plan for undergrounding utilities and power lines.

Considerations

Building heights in much of Altadena’s commercial areas are limited to 35 feet, and community members have differing opinions about whether this limit should be preserved. The suggestion for stepping back any stories built above the ground floor may partly address the concerns of people who wish to retain the current height limit.

Comment [RR4]: No issue w/fence or hedge heights, but should not block view of traffic flow (set back issues, not height).

Comment [RR5]: Is this a verb? Definitely agree with this idea – esp. after severe wind damage to power lines Dec. 2011 (we lost power 7 days).

Comment [RR6]: Non issue.

Comment [RR7]: No rigid design rules.

Comment [RR8]: No! set backs.

Comment [RR9]: Set backs need more study.

Comment [RR10]: Strongly agree w/ revising regulation on R1 homes.

Comment [RR11]: Good idea!

Comment [RR12]: Height limit is okay.

Comment [RR13]: Set back height, but also more density and height overall.

Income diversity and gentrification

Background

Altadena is diverse in many ways, including its mix of housing options within neighborhoods that allows people with a range of incomes to live in close proximity to each other. As seen in the community quotes, this is something that people treasure.

Issues Identified by Community

Gentrification – This is a term with different connotations. It usually describes a process of transformation in an area that includes an increase in rent prices and an influx of businesses that cater to people with higher incomes. It can follow positive changes to an area that have made it more desirable to live or conduct business there. However, an increase in the cost of living can lead to displacement of people and businesses—in fact, without preventative efforts displacement is likely to occur. As the Visioning Quotes on page 4 suggest, Workshop 1 participants felt that gentrification is occurring in Altadena and they wanted to preserve the affordability that allows residents of different incomes to live on the same street.

Comment [RR14]: I'm up for it if it gets out the riff raff.

East/West divide – Although Altadenans value income diversity, residents seem less comfortable with a larger difference they see between the “east side” and “west side” of the community. Community members have identified an economic, physical and social divide, including a lack of east/west connections along corridors, and they perceive differences in the quality of government services provided in these areas.

Infrastructure and utilities – Community members reported issues with electricity reliability, homes using septic tanks, and outdated heating systems in older homes. Further exploration may be needed to determine whether some of these issues are affecting people who need assistance in rehabilitating their homes, and whether there are particular neighborhoods in need of more attention.

Community Suggestions

- There were no direct suggestions relating to gentrification. However, actions related to “Community cohesion and strong institutions” may address some of the desires for better connections across social divisions, and for providing community supports for people in need.
- Community members made general suggestions to encourage physical connectivity between the east and west through improvements to east-west corridors and transit connections.
- Suggestions for infrastructure included extending sewer systems and providing better communications infrastructure.

Comment [RR15]: No limitations to residential use- gardens, chickens.

Considerations

Written comments from Workshop 1 protested that sewer fees should not be increased in order to extend sewer infrastructure.

Comment [RR16]: It makes sense to upgrade and expand systems, but we need to discuss costs and agree to pay for improvements.

Views and access to the mountains and nature

In Workshop 1, the mountains and nature were the most commonly cited treasures of Altadena. Residents appreciate views of the mountains as well as the trails that allow access to nature. Local parks, trees, and greenery are valued, as are peace and quiet, darker night skies, and a “rural” or “country” feeling in Altadena. Appreciation for nature leads some residents to desire greater sustainability in the built environment.

Guiding Principles

- Keep hillside neighborhoods in harmony with the natural landscape
- Preserve views of mountains and hills
- Retain peace and quiet
- Allow rural/agricultural uses
- Encourage urban agriculture activities
- Preserve mature trees
- Support healthy wildlife populations in nearby wilderness areas

Key Topics to Address

- Altadena Crest Trail completion and access
- Sustainability

Altadena Crest Trail completion and access

Background

The Altadena Crest Trail is an east-west trail between Hahamongna Watershed Park and Eaton Canyon Natural Area along the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. Skirting the edge of developed neighborhoods, it serves as a cross-community connector and connects to other trail systems including Angeles National Forest trails and the proposed Emerald Horseshoe. The County of Los Angeles Altadena Crest Trail Improvements Feasibility Analysis identified four gaps along the trail and evaluated potential trail segments to fill those gaps.

Issues Identified by Community

Trail completion – Community members wish to complete the Altadena Crest Trail. According to community members, historical maps show a more complete trail than what exists today and gaps have come about through neglect. Development has encroached on the trail and property owners have erected fences blocking trail use. Community members also reported that the County vacated a portion of the trail.

Visioning Quotes

"Access to mountains, trails, nature"
– Treasure, Workshop 1

"Value the quiet - don't hear freeway noises - do hear birds in trees, see squirrels" – Treasure, Workshop 1

"Our mountains" – Treasure, Workshop 1

"Continue the small-town feel, horses on streets etc." – Vision, Workshop 1

"An expanded local economy based on camping, hiking, equestrian & mountain biking uses" – Vision, Workshop 1

"Preserve oaks and other mature trees"
– Vision, Workshop 1

"Preserve open space & 'green' (pastoral) recreation such as hiking, horse riding, bird watching, open air painting, wild flower walks, moonlight hikes, etc!"
– Vision, Workshop 1

"Environmental sensitivity – Go Green!"
– Vision, Workshop 1

Comment [RR17]: As per the recently reused hillside standards that we spent years hashing out. No new hillside regulations.

Comment [RR18]: Yes! Encourage and allow agricultural and commercial agricultural uses!

Comment [RR19]: Without condemning private properties!

Comment [RR20]: "Sustainability," is lifestyle and technology- not nature.

Trail access – Community members brought up two points regarding access to the Altadena Crest Trail. Access points are being controlled by adjacent property owners, some of whom block entry with locked gates. Also, the trail closes at dusk although Angeles National Forest trails that connect to the trail are open through the night, preventing through travel for users of the National Forest trails and nighttime enjoyment of the trail.

Comment [RR21]: Locked gate at Mt. Wilson is on a Toll Road has been an issue for a long time...I would love to see movement!

Community Suggestions

- Add language to the Community Standards District that supports trail easements, perhaps looking to other areas for examples (e.g. Acton, Santa Clarita).
- Assign County staff to coordinate with the Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group to work on trail easements and resolve issues with property owners to ensure access to the Altadena Crest Trail.
- Allow nighttime access to Altadena Crest Trail, like National Forest trails, or provide special night hikes as in Eaton Canyon; but limit disturbance in neighborhoods by continuing to enforce prohibition on parking between 10 pm and 6am.
- Establish a nature center on the west side of Altadena (near Hahamongna Watershed Park / Arroyo Seco).

Comment [RR22]: Completing a trail would be good, but not at the expense of private property owner's rights.

Comment [RR23]: Priority- good compromise.

Comment [RR24]: Nighttime access would be a problem- partying, drinking, etc. and increase the risk for fires - bad idea!

Comment [RR25]: Need zoning to encourage commercial agricultural uses.

Considerations

Planning for trail access points should be coordinated with planning for walking, biking, and horseback riding infrastructure in order to allow non-motorized travel to and from trailheads.

Comment [RR26]: How does this fit in with Hahamongna sediment removal plan?

Sustainability

Background

At the most basic level, environmental sustainability aims for the long-term stewardship of energy, water, and other natural resources. It is often linked to other community goals including social equity and a stable economy. For Altadena, concern for the environment is linked to enjoyment and stewardship of natural areas and wildlife—as well as an interest in local food production.

Issues Identified by Community

Participants in Workshop 1 saw opportunities for greater localization and independence through promoting a local economy and food system, transportation options, renewable energy generation, and water re-use.

Comment [RR27]: Move sustainability into own category- it affects all areas and needs to be more prominent.

Community Suggestions

- Promote a local food system through community gardening, fruit harvesting, urban homesteading, farmer's market, and a food co-op.
- Encourage more trees and greenery: tree canopy, green roofs, and living facades. Require shade trees in parking lots and use drought-tolerant plant species that withstand windstorms. Require proper maintenance of trees and landscaping.
- Incentivize sustainable business practices regarding waste, energy, and water.
- In residential areas, encourage activities that reduce waste and conserve energy and water, such as installing solar panels, retrofitting homes to be more energy efficient, capturing stormwater, using green building methods, etc.
- Create a corps to install solar panels and rehabilitate homes, perhaps through a vocational education program. Seek grant funding from SoCal Edison.
- Promote sustainability through a symposium, website, and sustainability "overlay".

Comment [RR28]: RIPE Altadena should be on list of community partners at end of draft.

Comment [RR29]: Allow for small commercial agricultural uses- fruit groves, nurseries, etc.

Comment [RR30]: And County.

Comment [RR31]: Great idea!

- Leverage youth to be ambassadors of sustainability.
- Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and corridors. Listed as an area of concern: Hahamongna watershed sediment removal route.
- Provide animal services that respond quickly and minimize suffering. Consider contracting with Pasadena Humane Society.

Comment [RR32]: Very important.

Comment [RR33]: Very strongly agree-priority.

Considerations

Some suggestions for the local food system are already being implemented. A certified farmer's market was launched in Altadena on May 30, 2012 and efforts are underway to plan a food co-op for the area.

Comment [RR34]: How will you inform the community about - Garden Farmer's Market?

The Community Standards District already requires maintenance of landscaping "through regular pruning, weeding, fertilizing, litter removal, and replacement of plants as necessary."

DRAFT

Town/district centers with thriving businesses

While residents value the feeling of being removed from larger cities, the proximity to nature, and the sense of quiet in Altadena, there is a desire for the community to have more of the amenities associated with city life and at least one “town center” where people can shop, walk, and gather with other community members. Residents would like to see the commercial areas thriving and occupied with more businesses, but also expressed a desire for more convenient shopping and for more restaurants and cafes, as well as community events.

Guiding Principles

- Provide parking adjacent to businesses as well as shared parking areas and on-street parking so visitors can “park once” and walk to businesses
- Encourage walking and enjoyment of the streets—bring the streets to life
- Incentivize development, rehabilitation, and re-use of commercial properties
- Encourage restaurants, cafes, and other uses where people can gather
- Encourage a mix of unique and locally owned retail that serves residents and attracts visitors
- Encourage expansion of quality grocery retail
- Allow attractive and visible signage that supports local businesses
- Encourage community events, art, and performances
- Incorporate trees and landscaping

Key Topics to Address

- Filling vacancies and addressing blight
- Parking supply and regulations
- Streetscape improvements
- Signage

Filling vacancies and addressing blight

Background

Empty buildings are noticeable in Altadena’s commercial areas. In addition, there are some large and visible vacant lots such as the fenced lot on Lake Avenue at Calaveras. These properties are potential locations for new or expanding businesses.

Issues Identified by Community

Vacant/underused properties – Besides the smaller vacant storefronts, community members would like to see development or rehabilitation of some large and visible

Visioning Quotes

“More community friendly, locally owned businesses” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Survival of the small business that we know & love” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Redesign Lake area commerce, Ave to be more inviting with shops, restaurants & venues for celebrations and festivals...draw people from other places” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Walkable downtown or town ‘center’ area with restaurants, local shops, gathering places” – Vision, Workshop 1

“Thriving businesses – adding in light manufacturing & service companies” – Vision, Workshop 1

Comment [RR35]: Cat walk across North Lake Ave by Mariposa.

Comment [RR36]: Encourage local retail on Fair Oaks (Ventura and Mariposa).

Comment [RR37]: We need residential and mixed use in commercial areas (ie. Pasadena).

Comment [RR38]: We need more restaurants - help!

Comment [RR39]: Work to organize art projects such as large scale murals that community groups/ local schools can participate in.

Comment [RR40]: Bring sustainable incentives into this category.

Comment [RR41]: Please landscape the east side of Windsor Ave. Ref: Sherry Martin [phone number].

properties including those at Lake and Calaveras, Lincoln and Altadena, and the Rite Aid shopping center. Some are concerned about having too many religious uses occupying storefronts since these spaces could be used by businesses that draw more foot traffic (on most days) and add to the tax base. However, others feel that these uses add value.

Blight – Undeveloped properties and empty buildings are a concern, as well as a lack of property maintenance including weeds and trash, unmaintained landscape, dirty windows, lack of paint, and “ragged” fences.

Regulatory issues – It is difficult for new uses to occupy buildings that do not conform to zoning, which discourages the re-use of these buildings. Additionally, it is difficult for businesses to meet parking requirements, thus discouraging them to open in the community (this is described further in the next section, “Parking supply and regulations”).

Case Study: Pop-Up Retail

An experiment in the city of Oakland has made headlines with the simultaneous opening of 6 new stores on a single block that had long-term vacancies. A new business incubator called Popuphood negotiated a deal with the landlord to allow the businesses to occupy his buildings for six months without rent. Popuphood also helped the businesses with the permitting process and securing a grant from the city for tenant improvements. May 4, 2012 marked the end of the six months, when three of the businesses signed long-term leases.

A similar approach could be helpful in areas with multiple vacancies where new businesses may have difficulty attracting attention and foot traffic.

Comment [RR42]: Permanent on street parking also equals blight. Mainly commercial vehicles.

Comment [RR43]: [Re: Pop-Up Retail case study] Love this. Let’s do it on Lake.

Comment [RR44]: [Re: Pop-Up Retail case study] Yes!

Comment [RR45]: I wish there were some ideas about how to fix Fair Oaks and Woodbury.

Comment [RR46]: Strongly agree!

Comment [RR47]: Minimum maintenance should include 1. Hosing sidewalk, 2. No debris

Comment [RR48]: Loosen regulations for artists over empty storefronts.

Community Suggestions

- Strongly discourage property owners from allowing their properties to remain vacant, unfinished, or unmaintained. Raise fines for property maintenance violations, and enact a tax on vacant buildings equal to the general fair market rent of the area.
- Create a one-stop shop / ombudsman to help businesses through the permitting process to start and expand in Altadena. Comment from Workshop 2: “County needs to remove roadblocks.” Lower fees for permits.
- Assist businesses with code compliance before imposing fines. Encourage a working relationship between the County and Chamber of Commerce to provide this assistance. Lower fines for code violations that do not cause blight.
- Expand allowed uses to include light manufacturing, and encourage artist enterprises.
- Grandfather original zoning to allow street front retail businesses to open in nonconforming buildings. Allow existing uses on transfer or sale.
- Establish a Business Improvement District to pursue positive changes such as addressing undermaintained properties.

Comment [RR49]: Improve the Rite Aid lot!

Considerations

Although community members suggested enacting a moratorium on the uses of storefronts for religious purposes, this is not likely to be legally defensible and others in the community have already objected. Given the amount of attention this issue received, however, further exploration is suggested to address the root concerns surrounding these uses: “dead space” and unused parking spaces in commercial areas during the week.

Parking supply and regulations

Background

Smaller parcels in Altadena’s commercial areas have limited on-site parking, and larger parking lots are not shared. County zoning requires that businesses provide a certain number of spaces, so for a smaller parcel this can mean that a new business will need a conditional use permit to open.

Issues Identified by Community

Parking requirements – The cost and processing time for obtaining a conditional use permit are prohibitive. At Workshop 2, a community member wrote, “Until parking restrictions are resolved new businesses like restaurants cannot open.” Groups in Workshop 2 said that addressing the issue of parking should be a priority.

Community Suggestions

- Revise parking requirements to reduce the need for businesses to obtain Conditional Use Permits:
 - Allow businesses to count spaces in common.
 - Issue parking permits to limit overflow into residential areas.
- Create public parking areas:
 - Add diagonal parking on Mariposa Street and Lake Avenue. (See Streetscape Improvements topic for details.)
 - Create parking areas on County-owned land. Suggestion: Empty lot on El Molino Street between Sheriff and fire station.
- Establish mechanisms for shared use of existing and future parking among commercial, public and non-profit entities:
 - Allow businesses to meet parking requirements by leasing parking on adjacent / nearby parcels.
 - Seek to use the parking lots of religious operations when they are not busy.

Comment [RR50]: Yes – esp. near the Post Office!

Comment [RR51]: ...and the street south of Mariposa.

Comment [RR52]: Encourage the return of the Altadena trolley connections in the business districts.

Comment [RR53]: Create surface lots such as those in L.A for shared space for businesses.

Comment [RR54]: Code: problem (Crosby) commercial vehicle parking overnight on residential streets. Safety issue: blocks views of homes.

Considerations

Some participants suggested completely eliminating parking requirements. However, parking standards are in place to limit the number of cars that compete with surrounding uses for street parking. These uses may be other businesses or residences.

Streetscape improvements

Background

“Streetscape” here refers to the space that lies between the faces of buildings on either side of a street—including the roadway, sidewalks, and amenities such as trees and benches. Community members have made suggestions for changes to the streetscape in the town/district center areas that they believe will slow traffic, provide parking, and encourage pedestrian activity.

Comment [RR55]: Improve median Woodbury (ugly).

Issues Identified by Community

Pedestrian safety – Commercial areas are not comfortable for pedestrians, and crossing streets in front of downhill traffic can feel unsafe.

Street parking – Current parallel parking on streets does not provide a sufficient number of spaces (see Parking topic).

Community Suggestions

- Create parking/gathering space in the middle of the Mariposa Street right-of-way (similar to the new median in Lancaster’s downtown, or a row of diagonal parking).
- Create diagonal parking on Lake Avenue as part of a redesign that narrows the street and calms traffic.

Comment [RR56]: Yes! Yes! Yes!

- Use urban design and landscaping to make pedestrians feel safe and create gathering spaces.
- Add trees and landscaping (see Sustainability topic).
- Incorporate water/stormwater features that help prevent flooding while allowing stormwater to replenish groundwater resources and adding aesthetic value.

Considerations

Past proposals to modify the roadway have been discouraged due to County staff concerns or policies—for instance, safety concerns about any diagonal parking that would result in cars backing into downhill traffic. However, as seen above, community members continue to believe that changes are needed.

Signage

Background

Both the underlying County zoning code and Community Standards District (CSD) regulate signage according to community desires that have been expressed in the past, and the CSD contains standards for sign size, height, placement, as well as what types of signs are allowed. For instance, the CSD prohibits roof signs in the Lake Avenue area, and freestanding signs such as sandwich boards are not permitted on sidewalks or the public right-of-way.

The CSD prohibits billboards in the Lake Avenue area and “West Altadena Area” (Lincoln Avenue between Figueroa Drive and Woodbury Avenue; Woodbury Avenue between the City of Pasadena and Lincoln Avenue). However, billboards that were present before the CSD was adopted are still present.

Issues Identified by Community

Sign regulations – Altadena businesses find the current regulations too restrictive. They would like more freedom to promote their business, including the use of sandwich boards and other temporary signs to advertise events such as sales.

Billboards –Several billboards remain in Altadena, including billboards that are not being maintained.

Community Suggestions

- Allow temporary signs, sandwich board signs, and permanent window signs. Limitations on signage should be minimal but promote attractive signs. Suggestions for limits: no profanity, pornography, obstruction of another business, or political signs.
- Create a process for phasing out billboards, especially those that are not used or maintained.

Considerations

In general, signage regulations are intended to promote an attractive and uncluttered commercial environment. They can also assist businesses in communicating effectively with customers. Elimination of sign regulations could restrict the ability of the County to enforce signage maintenance and cause a disorderly appearance. Poorly placed sandwich boards can also interfere with pedestrian movement on sidewalks when there are other items blocking the right-of-way such as poles. Further discussion could help find a balance that promotes business communication while making commercial areas inviting.

Comment [RR57]: Signage that lets visitors know on Altadena and Loma Alta that children and horses use streets.

Comment [RR58]: Distinguish between signage and artwork such as large scale beautiful murals.

Comment [RR59]: Absolutely support removal of billboards.

Comment [RR60]: Yes.

Safe and peaceful neighborhoods

In Altadena's neighborhoods, residents seek safety from crime, hazards, and nuisances that impact quality of life. Community members cherish the sense of quiet and peace in Altadena, and value good neighbors who take care of their properties.

Guiding Principles

- Promote safety from crime, speeding, and hazards
- Improve appearance of neighborhoods
- Improve commercial areas adjacent to neighborhoods

Key Topics to Address

- Safety
- Liquor stores
- Noise

Safety

Background

A number of neighborhood associations and Neighborhood Watch groups are active in Altadena. The Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA), formed in 2010, serves as a forum for these groups to network and share ideas and best practices.

Issues Identified by Community

Crime – Although at least two Workshop 1 participants said that the feeling of safety was one of the things they valued about Altadena, several others brought up safety as a concern, including challenges with theft, burglary, drugs, guns, and gang activity. A group in Workshop 2 identified crime as a priority issue for neighborhoods.

Emergency communication – Community communication was brought up as a general area for improvement, not just in the context of emergencies. Participants also cited spotty cell phone coverage as a safety issue.

Speeding – This was raised as an issue for neighborhoods and is a Key Topic discussed in another section of this report (see "Opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, riding, and play").

Community Suggestions

- Encourage more Neighborhood Watch activity and encourage neighborhood block parties as opportunities for neighbors to work together on a project and get to know each other better.

Visioning Quotes

"Neighborhoods are friendly and relatively safe" – Treasure, Workshop 1

"I want to feel SAFE walking at night / leaving the house – I want Altadena theft/robbery down!"

– Challenge, Workshop 1

"Gangs" – Challenge, Workshop 1

"Better street lighting, neighborhood watches, safety for all citizens & visitors" – Signals of Success, Group Discussion, Workshop 1

"Well kept homes" – Vision, Workshop 1

"A safe neighborhood to raise your child" – Vision, Workshop 1

"Quiet neighborhood where people feel comfortable walking" – Vision, Workshop 1

Comment [RR61]: Allow apartments, condos and mixed use in commercial areas to increase vitality and safety.

Comment [RR62]: Agree.

Comment [RR63]: Maybe better info, support for National Night out and other common events.

Comment [RR64]: These suggestions don't really address gangs/drugs/etc. Need more policy involvement (and for speeding).

- Install security cameras temporarily in areas experiencing new serious criminal activity, as a roving group of “silent watch dogs” in the community.
- Improve street lighting.
- Set up a reverse 911 system for communications about major emergencies.

- Comment [RR65]:** Too 1984, patrol or community watch volunteers.
- Comment [RR66]:** Consider ground based lighting?
- Comment [RR67]:** Yes – seems do-able without much more discussion.

Considerations

Because community members also value the dark night skies in Altadena, this should be a consideration when installing street lighting. Los Angeles County has implemented an emergency mass notification system that will be used to contact County residents and businesses via recorded phone messages, text messages or e-mail messages in case of emergency. More information is available about Alert LA County at alert.lacounty.gov.

Comment [RR68]: L.A. County is very large - we need a system specifically for Altadena.

While some community members desire better cell phone coverage, others have opposed the installation of more cell towers. Aesthetics and maintaining views should be considerations for any proposed wireless telecommunication facilities.

Comment [RR69]: Cell coverage is key for safety as landlines disappear.

Liquor stores

Background

The Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA) hosted a meeting in 2011 which addressed liquor store regulation. In this meeting, a representative of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control shared statistics showing that Altadena has a lower number of liquor stores per person than Pasadena and other communities (“ACONA looks at filming, liquor stores, and coyotes at Tuesday night’s meeting,” Altadenablog, August 10, 2011). However, that statistic is for the community as a whole and does not offer any information about the locations of stores within the community.

Issues Identified by Community

Number and concentration of stores – Residents have expressed concerns about the number and concentration of liquor stores in Altadena, due in part to undesirable activities that take place around those stores such as drug dealing and fights.

Community Suggestions

- Limit the number or concentration of liquor stores; consider a moratorium.
- Restrict operating hours, discourage loitering, and require stores to provide security.
- Explore ways to encourage new uses to replace existing stores.

- Comment [RR70]:** Strongly consider.
- Comment [RR71]:** Yes!
- Comment [RR72]:** High priority.

Considerations

Given the desire for additional grocery retail and negative community sentiment about liquor stores, there is a possible win-win situation if some liquor stores can be persuaded to convert their operations into corner grocery stores. Financial incentives related to food access and health may be available to assist in this conversion.

Comment [RR73]: Are [available]! See the CA Endowment’s new “CA FreshWorks” healthy food financing initiative! www.calendow.org Funds available for this exact purpose.

Noise

Background

Noise is an issue that has come up in Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA) forums.

Issues Identified by Community

Nuisance noise – In the visioning process, concerns were raised about nuisance noise from barking, leaf blowers, music, and nearby non-residential uses such as schools, parks, and commercial areas with special events—including noise at night.

Community Suggestions

- Limit days/hours for leaf blower use, and mandate electric blowers. An Ojai ordinance provides a possible model; it limits hours to 8 am - 6 pm and prohibits gas blowers in residential zones. The City of Los Angeles prohibits the use of gas-powered blowers within 500 feet of residences.
- Limit hours for music in parks and other public areas near neighborhoods.
- Adopt an ordinance to address nuisance barking. Begin with education and training for pet owners, then use fines if necessary. An ordinance of the City of L.A. provides a possible model.
- Increase law enforcement efforts to address nuisance noise.

Considerations

Some of the community suggestions may have already been addressed; for instance, County parks have hours of operation after which any use is not allowed, including activities that make noise.

Comment [RR74]: Agree.

Comment [RR75]: Fines for use should be assessed to homeowners - Do your own gardening instead of hiring and see if you prefer to use a leaf blower.

Comment [RR76]: Good idea!

Comment [RR77]: We already have electrical grid issues. Electrical blowers will just add to it.

Comment [RR78]: Ban gas blowers altogether.

Comment [RR79]: Disagree on limit music hours.

Comment [RR80]: Increasing pedestrian travel and decreasing vehicles plays huge into noise / keeping Altadena quiet.

Comment [RR81]: Limit days to 1 or 2 per week per neighborhood.

DRAFT

Community cohesion and strong institutions

Residents value the sense of freedom in Altadena and attitude of “live and let live,” while also valuing the “small town feel,” good neighbors, and the other people who get involved in community affairs. Workshop participants spoke up for community institutions including schools, the library, and senior center. Participants expressed the desire for greater community cohesion—between the east and west sides, between community leaders, and between neighbors in both residential and commercial areas.

Guiding Principles

- Promote neighborliness
- Support the library and senior center as community hubs
- Maintain communication between County and community members
- Maintain cooperative community relationships with law enforcement
- Value small town character and foster a culture of “good neighbors”
- Support community schools with community services as hubs for neighborhoods
- Coordinate joint use of public facilities and shared services between PUSD schools and County
- Improve communication within Altadena
- Encourage volunteerism and community involvement
- Provide resources and opportunities for seniors and youth

Key Topics to Address

- Community institutions
- Code complaints
- Community involvement and consensus

Community institutions

Background

County facilities in Altadena include a Community Center that is used for Town Council meetings and as office and meeting space for several nonprofit organizations, as well as a senior center. There is a library that is supported by its own independent district, which has a main location by the senior center and a branch by Charles White Park. The library is seeking to make physical improvements that are needed for safety and ADA compliance, and would benefit from additional parking spaces.

Visioning Quotes

“Community support & neighborliness - people lend a helping hand & say hello” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“Cranky activists” – Treasure, Challenge, and Vision, Workshop 1

“Neighborhood units organized for: parties, neighborhood watch, CERT disaster” – Vision, Workshop 1

“I would know my neighbors even better – working on projects & having ‘parties’ regularly” – Vision, Workshop 1

“The library is great!” – Treasure, Workshop 1

“Community sending kids to public/local schools” – Vision, Workshop 1

Comment [RR82]: and public schools.

Comment [RR83]: Agree.

Comment [RR84]: Community fund to help homeowners improve property, clean up etc.

Comment [RR85]: Altadena has no emergency care or urgent care facilities. There are none above 210 fwy. We need a health care facility in a disaster.

Comment [RR86]: Revise! Revise! Procedure.

Public K-12 schools in Altadena are within the Pasadena Unified School District, which recently closed two elementary schools in Altadena. Concerns about schools have led to the formation of an Education Committee which is reporting to the Town Council.

Comment [RR87]: Town college adult school could be a good use of closed campus.

Issues Identified by Community

Library – Because they value the library, community members want improvements to be funded.

Comment [RR88]: Good!

Schools – Community members cited concerns about school closures, quality, and safety. They hope for more community connection with public schools.

Comment [RR89]: Major concern about impacts of group homes and FFA's on public schools.

Community Suggestions

- Offer a variety of services through schools that support children and their families.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships.
- Engage the community at large and County Supervisor in education oversight and support.
- Provide staffed school libraries, arts education, and resources for student health.
- Deploy retired teachers as tutors.
- Develop joint use agreements to make school grounds available for community recreation when not in use by schools, and to make community facilities available for school use.

Comment [RR90]: Partnership PCC - create college credit for students who get involved in tutoring.

Comment [RR91]: Look into AARP Experience Corps.

Comment [RR92]: Need consistent licensing standards, monitoring and accountability for group homes/FFAs.

Considerations

The library is operated by its own district which provides funding, and thus is not under the jurisdiction of the County. However, the County could assist in the library's improvement efforts by facilitating the permitting process.

Code complaints

Background

Enforcement of the zoning code is a reactive process in which the County responds to complaints that are registered. These complaints may be registered by anyone, and the County keeps that person's information confidential.

Issues Identified by Community

Use of complaint process – Community members are concerned about incidents of anonymous code complaints which appear to be registered for vindictive purposes rather than stemming from legitimate concerns (dubbed "code bombing"), and about individuals submitting excessive numbers of complaints.

Community Suggestions

- Provide a process to resolve conflicts before they escalate into code violation complaints.
- Revise the complaint process to discourage excessive code-related complaints from a single anonymous individual.
- Proactively enforce the zoning code rather than relying on community complaints.

Comment [RR93]: 6 cops, person from DPW and 4 cars, 1 van showed up at my house following an anonymous call- complaint was eventually closed/ dismissed but it left a bad taste.

Comment [RR94]: Look at mediation training for neighborhoods to help address conflict one-on-one/ neighbor to neighbor.

Considerations

Limiting the ability to make complaints about code violations may conflict with other community members' desires to see more code enforcement efforts.

Community involvement and consensus

Issues Identified by Community

Communication and involvement – To promote involvement in civic affairs and community events, some residents feel that more communication is needed about matters that affect them or opportunities to participate.

Lack of consensus – Some people voiced concerns about a lack of community consensus about where the community should be headed, or a feeling that a small group could derail efforts with larger community benefits. One Workshop 1 participant listed “cranky activists” as a treasure of Altadena, a vision for the future, and a challenge. Although Altadena is fortunate to have community members who care enough to get involved in civic affairs, different groups may sometimes work at cross purposes.

Community Suggestions

- Create a mechanism for sending announcements from the Town Council such as a community-wide email database.
- Council should adopt the Brown Act to ensure fair and open meetings.
- Create communication tools to better connect residents with government. Suggestions include a hotline for reporting graffiti, parking violations, and code violations; and an Altadena app for smart phones.
- Offer more community events, in parks, in town/district centers, on temporarily closed streets.
- Encourage neighborhood block parties as opportunities for neighbors to work together on a project and get to know each other better.

Considerations

A graffiti hotline at (800) 675-4357 allows Los Angeles County residents to report graffiti to the Department of Public Works.

Comment [RR95]: Agree.

Comment [RR96]: Agree.

Comment [RR97]: Pertinent L.A. County meetings should be held in Altadena so residents can easily attend, ie. bicycle master plan meetings.

Comment [RR98]: Make a graffiti safe area!

Comment [RR99]: Arrange canvased areas for graffiti.

Opportunities for walking, biking, hiking, riding, and play

Given their appreciation for the mountains, it is not surprising that community members expressed the desire for more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors on foot, bike, and horseback. They also want to use these modes of transportation to safely get around town, in conjunction with transit service that supports the ability to travel without a car. Participants listed parks as community treasures and have hopes for more recreational activities and facilities.

Guiding Principles

- Provide and maintain pathways throughout Altadena for safe travel on foot, bike, and horseback
- Promote safe sharing of streets between people using different modes of transportation
- Reconnect the Altadena Crest Trail and provide more public access points
- Encourage expanded transit service
- Provide disabled access to public facilities and commercial areas
- Expand recreation facilities and activities

Key Topics to Address

- Speeding
- Infrastructure for walking, biking, riding
- Recreation facilities and activities

Speeding

Background

Speeding is a concern in many communities, but the sloped north/south streets of Altadena may facilitate speeding downhill. Speeding negatively impacts the feeling of safety in neighborhoods; makes it less appealing to walk, bike, or ride a horse on the street; and challenges pedestrians attempting to cross streets in commercial areas, including school children.

Issues Identified by Community

Speeding – Speeding traffic in neighborhoods and in commercial areas makes people feel unsafe when crossing or walking along the street. Locations where speeding was cited as an issue: major north/south streets; Marengo Avenue between Loma Alta Drive and Altadena Drive; Lake Avenue; traffic coming out of La Vina; Windsor Avenue; and Chaney Trail near Alzada Drive.

Visioning Quotes

"Safety issues for children who must walk to school on streets with no sidewalks + speeding cars" – Challenge, Workshop 1

"A community where neighbors walked to the shops, stores & parks – slower traffic" – Challenge, Workshop 1

"Road repair" – Challenge, Workshop 1

"Public transportation – to Meadows, to top of Lake, etc." – Challenge, Workshop 1

"Bicycle friendly community" – Vision, Workshop 1

"Loma Alta Park is fantastic – playground, pool, baseball, equestrian, garden, tennis, etc." – Treasure, Workshop 1

"More community activities in Farnsworth Park" – Vision, Workshop 1

"More parks & recreation facilities" – Challenge, Workshop 1

Comment [RR100]: Respect private property rights.

Comment [RR101]: Who will maintain?

Comment [RR102]: No nighttime access.

Comment [RR103]: And stop sign running.

Comment [RR104]: Crosby St - speeding constantly - big food trucks for market accesses the street, large 6 car transport has come through 400 block - real safety issue.

Comment [RR105]: Reduce 35 mph zones to 30mph for safety and enforce with more cops, speed trailers.

Comment [RR106]: Extra effort need to stop speeders.

Comment [RR107]: Visibility at intersections in neighborhoods also inhibits safety.

Community Suggestions

- Use traffic control and calming devices around neighborhoods such as stop signs, roundabouts, and speed bumps, and enforce speed limits more aggressively.
- Use streetscape redesign in commercial areas to slow traffic (see Streetscape Improvements topic).

Considerations

Some community members do not feel that traffic calming devices should be a priority for public investment.

Infrastructure for walking, biking, riding

Background

Infrastructure for walking – The presence of sidewalks varies from neighborhood to neighborhood within Altadena. Commercial areas have sidewalks; however, the wide streets and cars speeding downhill can discourage people from wanting to cross the street. Few trees offer shade in these areas.

Infrastructure for biking – The County of Los Angeles adopted a Bicycle Master Plan in March 2012, which shows a network of proposed bikeways through Altadena as well as the segments of existing bike routes in the southeastern part of the community. These segments on Allen Avenue, Washington Boulevard, Altadena Drive, and New York Drive are evidently the only designated on-street bike facilities in Altadena.

Infrastructure for horseback riding – Horsekeeping is allowed throughout Altadena for properties of a certain size; more horses are allowed on properties within the Altadena Equestrian District in west Altadena. Loma Alta Park has an equestrian arena and there are commercial stables located in this part of the community as well. Horses and their riders share the road with other users on their way to nature trails such as the one accessed at the west end of Altadena Drive, another north of the Loma Alta arena, and Chaney Trail.

Issues Identified by Community

Existing infrastructure – Community members saw the need for more designated bike lanes and sidewalks in Altadena.

Pedestrian crossings – Residents said that pedestrian crossings in commercial areas are difficult and also identified the following pedestrian crossings as having issues: Fair Oaks Avenue and Harriet Street intersection, and Altadena Drive and Holliston Avenue intersection. Residents also said that the trail/street intersection around the Villa Zanita bridge on Lincoln Avenue did not make trail users visible enough to drivers.

Transit service limitations – Community members listed shortcomings of the current transit service such as the infrequent nighttime service and lack of service north of Altadena Drive on Lake Avenue.

Community Suggestions

- Create a coordinated master plan for bikes, pedestrians, and equestrians that identifies desired routes and facilities for these modes of transportation. The master plan should seek to integrate the local network of bike paths with adjacent cities and planned routes in the County Bicycle Master Plan.

Comment [RR108]: A shuttle going up and down Lake Ave commercial district, because Lake Ave is steep.

Comment [RR109]: Too much "stuff" in sidewalks on Lake (benches, signs, newspapers, etc.).

Comment [RR110]: Cat walk across N. Lake Ave (by Mariposa).

- Provide bike racks at businesses, schools, parks, and trailheads. Suggested locations: along Lincoln Avenue between Woodbury and Altadena; on Fair Oaks in the vicinity of Mendocino Street and Mariposa Street; and on Lake Avenue south of Altadena Drive, at Mariposa Street, and at Calaveras Street.
- Provide more sidewalks in business districts and ensure pedestrian access on existing sidewalks.
- Provide for safe pedestrian and equestrian crossings. Suggestion: Install blinking crosswalks on major streets such as Fair Oaks Avenue, Altadena Drive, Lake Avenue, and Lincoln Avenue.
- Expand community-wide and inter-community bus service to serve Altadena, and improve transit stops with clean, sheltered benches. Suggestion: Provide connection to Del Mar station from Altadena/Fair Oaks.
- Provide local transit for town/district centers such as street car, trolley, shuttle, or horse-drawn wagon.
- Provide dirt horse trails along roads, for instance along Lincoln where there appears to be excess right-of-way.
- Remove horse manure from public areas, with horse owners paying for the service. Suggestion: Contract with solid waste service provider.
- Work with property owners to eliminate encroachments into roadway right-of-way that could be used for trails.

Comment [RR111]: This would be a great initial project.

Comment [RR112]: Yes! Please!

Comment [RR113]: Gerrish swim club should share parking with Eaton Canyon to make bike lane more accessible.

Comment [RR114]: Yes, New York Drive bike lane is dangerous because of business parking - shared parking would help (swim club/Eaton Canyon).

Comment [RR115]: Can we open up school property for public recreation use? Tracks, playgrounds, etc. (Joint use agreement).

Recreation facilities and activities

Background

Public parks in Altadena consist of County-owned Charles S. Farnsworth Park, Loma Alta Park, Charles White Park, and the Altadena Golf Course. Other recreation facilities exist on school grounds and on private property, but may not be accessible to the public. There are natural parks on either side of Altadena as well as Angeles National Forest land.

Issues Identified by Community

More recreation opportunities – Residents asked for more recreation facilities, community events, and activities in parks.

Community Suggestions

- Expand Farnsworth Park by developing the plot next to the park, while preserving oak trees. Create a community center building, tennis center, and off-leash dog park.
- Offer more community activities and events, including events at parks and street fairs.
- Convert unused or vacant lots into small neighborhood “pocket parks” such as dog parks, meditation parks, and other spots for gathering and recreation.
- Increase activity and safety at parks by providing more staff and offering free classes and league play.
- Consider options for a new park in Altadena. One suggested location: East of Lake Avenue.
- Use vacant lots for community gardens.

Comment [RR116]: Brilliant.

Considerations

Participants who made the suggestion to expand Farnsworth Park were under the impression that the adjacent plot is publicly owned. However, it is privately owned.

Comment [RR117]: Good suggestion.

Comment [RR118]: Who owns it? Can it be bought? Leased?

Going Forward

This vision report is a starting point for community discussion and action, not an end. There are unresolved differences of opinion about how to maintain the things that people love about the community and how to make improvements, including different ideas about the types of regulation that are appropriate. However, some potential next steps can be identified.

Community members indicated support for the following initiatives:

- An update of the Community Standards District, especially to address issues with parking;
- Increasing access to parking in town/district centers through management of existing spaces and/or additional public spaces;
- Street improvements to support people walking, biking, and horseback riding, especially to promote walking in town/district centers;
- Changesto County processes, such as code enforcement, and development review in areas along Altadena Crest Trail;
- Creation of community hubs or centers, whether these are town/district centers, schools, other public facilities, or community events.

County Involvement

As stated in the Introduction, this document will serve as a starting point for any future County planning efforts that may be undertaken when funding and resources become available. Although there have been no staff or resource commitments for such efforts in the near term, the County of Los Angeles has demonstrated an interest in learning community members' aspirations for Altadena by conducting this Community Visioning Process. With a better understanding of what is important to Altadena residents, the County can be a better advocate for Altadena's interests.



Community Involvement

The capacity of the community to carry out suggestions made in the visioning process may be limited by the lack of staff and other resources. The Town Council is not a body for governance or implementation, but rather the community's elected representatives who gather public opinion and speak for Altadena's interests by making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles. Community organizations in Altadena tend not to have their own dedicated staff, but rely instead on the efforts of volunteers.

However, the people of Altadena have demonstrated their passion for this special place and their willingness to roll up their sleeves to make it better. Following are some of the local organizations that may be interested in pursuing suggestions from the visioning process, if they are not already doing so. They are listed here as potential resources.

- *Altadena Bicycling Club*
- *Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (ACONA)*
- *Altadena Community Center*
- *Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group*
- *Altadena Heritage*
- *Altadena Historical Society*
- *Altadena Library District*
- *Altadena Senior Center*
- *Arroyo Seco Foundation*
- *Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy*
- *Chamber of Commerce*
- *Pasadena Unified School District & Schools*
- *Town Council*
- *Town Council Beautification Committee*
- *Town Council Education Committee*
- *Town Council Land Use Committee*