



Community Event #3 Meeting Summary

Introduction

Project description

The River Road and Santa Clara Community Organizations, in collaboration with residents, businesses, the City of Eugene and Lane County, are creating a vision that will guide decision-making in River Road and Santa Clara for decades to come. The plan focuses on five main topic areas: land use planning, economic development, parks and natural resources, transportation, and community. The outcome of our work together will be a Neighborhood Plan adopted by the City of Eugene and Lane County to guide the future growth and development of the River Road and Santa Clara areas.

Community collaboration

This is a collaborative effort among the River Road and Santa Clara Community Organizations, the City of Eugene, and Lane County. The community organizations came together several years ago to work on the SCRROL ([Santa Clara River Road Outreach and Learning, 2012](#)) and SCRRIP (Santa Clara-River Road Implementation Planning Team) initiatives. The community organizations dedicated countless volunteer hours in reaching out to and engaging neighbors. The results have formed a foundation for the neighborhood plan.



Process to date

The project kicked off with a *Reaching Out* phase in fall 2017, where neighbors shared their values and hopes for the future of the neighborhoods. In the *Neighborhood Visioning* phase community volunteers created a neighborhood vision showing the best outcomes for how the neighborhoods will look and feel 20 years from now. The *Neighborhood Priorities* phase dialed into the community input to ask the tough questions and get further input on places where neighborhood values could potentially conflict. In the *Policy Development* phase the Community Advisory Committee took all the input received to date and wrote the draft policies that will turn the neighborhood vision into a reality.

Community event

Community Event #3: Planning In Action marks the cumulation of the *Policy Development* phase and the transition into action planning. The community event was held on Sunday April 6, 2019 and Wednesday April 10, 2019. An invitation was mailed to all residents and businesses within the two neighborhoods, and the event was also publicized through newsletters, posters in businesses, and tabling at local grocery stores. In total, over 200 neighbors attended.

The goal of the community event was to collect input on the set of draft policies, as well as additions to the example action items. The meeting was organized so that participants could move between tables and weigh in on the topics that most interested them. Each table was facilitated by a Community Advisory Committee member and had a discussion question that shed light on areas of draft policies where Community Advisory Committee members wanted additional input.

Meeting results

The following summary results show a sampling of the topics and conversations that emerged in each table discussion. All the notes taken by facilitators are included as an attachment, and meeting materials are available on the project webpage.

Table 1-3: Local Businesses

a. What businesses in RR-SC need support? How do you define 'local'?

b. If more home-based businesses were allowed in residential areas, what concerns would you have, and how could they be addressed? How could it benefit residents?

- Support for dispersed home-based businesses because they reduce car travel
- To regulate parking, a better definition of 'work vehicle' is needed
- There were varying opinions on how to define local businesses. Participants supported the idea of a scoring system.
- Current zoning does not advance the goal of 20-minute neighborhoods
- Expand the definition of neighborhood assets to include the local natural landscape (clean air and water, etc.)
- Abolish nodal development
- Be selective about businesses that are allowed in residential parts of the neighborhoods.
- Need better local knowledge of businesses and skills that exist in the neighborhood.
- Explore City incentives to promote the types of businesses in Neighborhood Plan.

Table 4: Transportation Projects in the Works

Staff from Land Transit District brought information on ongoing projects such as MovingAhead.

- There should be an app for cyclists to trigger traffic signals
- A shorter version of the MovingAhead survey should be made
- Neighborhood lighting helps prevent night-time gathering in dark areas
- Build a secondary bridge to Division over the Willamette River

- Provide safe cyclist passage along River Rd at Beltline
- Clean up paths along river
- Request to add bridge between Maurie Jacobs and Valley River Center

Table 5: Pedestrians, Cyclists and Street Design

How can we creatively address the needs of pedestrians and maintain the rural feel of streets?

- Discussion around traffic calming. Concerns about preserving the natural feel of streets, but also want to slow down traffic.
- Certain streets are good candidates for the ‘Curbless residential’ design standard, such as River Loop 1.
- Would like to see expanded, safe, opportunities for cyclists.
- Better traffic flow is needed. People are using surface streets to speed through the neighborhoods.
- Pedestrian safety issues were identified, including crossing Division Ave.
- Reduce number of vehicles
- Major theme: intersections that are currently not safe for cyclists and pedestrians
- Safer routes to walk to schools
- Educational outreach is needed for neighbors.

Table 6: Transportation Safety

What are your main concerns about safety?

- Challenges with biking from Santa Clara to the rest of Eugene were discussed. Specific areas of concern were identified, such as turns across traffic and unsafe intersections.
- Beltline is a huge barrier for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Define local streets and adjust speeds based on how street is used.
- Need well-located transit hubs
- Bridge improvements or a second bridge to improve safety
- Need more sidewalks and pedestrian crossings in key areas

Table 7: Parks and Natural Areas

a. What locations would you focus in terms of open space, greenway and waterways purchases?

b. What is happening in existing parks, and how to get involved

- Razor Park: consider signage, transition lighting between street and park, trash cans
- Plan for East SC Waterway – an important part of the system
- SC Parks with kids water features and shade are essential
- Provide dog parks
- Better signage, QR scanner to share information, trail maps
- Lighting: less intrusive, orientation of fixtures
- Mowing maintenance issue: intensive mowing causes root ball loss; provide grass root structure protection

- Safety concerns, need sharps containers for needles, Lone Oak Park
- Parking needed at Terra Linda
- Swale protections are important
- Access to Emerald – safety concerns along Howard and Lake

Table 8: Recreation, Family and Senior Services

Review existing services, plan policies, suggest actions

- More athletic fields, family friendly activities
- Trash can and restroom access
- Dog park
- Combine recreational services with social, educational and food services
- Fitness circuits in parks
- Walking buddy program
- Senior center for SC, include families
- Day center for seniors near nursing home
- Consider providing senior services at the Grange on Irvington

Table 9: The Willamette River Greenway

Greenway ordinance in state regulations and local code, how can we do it better?

- Provide service or enforcement to clean up trash along the greenway
- Develop clear and objective standards for the goals, policies, and action plan to make the RRSC policies enforceable.
- Look into ways to expand the buffer set by the /WR overlay zone to add more conservation area along the river (Especially within the public lands in the Santa Clara neighborhood).
- Identify future desires for the redevelopment of the sand and gravel areas north of the beltline. Primarily focus on the protection of these resources and limiting their redevelopment to parks, open space, and conservation areas.
- Offset future development with an appropriate level of parks and open space development.
- Install a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the Beltline.
- Increase safety along the Willamette Greenway bike path and pedestrian and bicycle amenities.
- Vehicular access to the river should be controlled.
- Delta Sand and Gravel appears to be dumping improper fill in their pits.

Table 10: Agriculture

How can we support the needs of current agricultural producers and meet our future needs?

- Explore rural reserves idea, “Heritage Land” idea, see California examples
- Conservation easements
- Community land trust
- RR5 to EFU downzoning
- Make 10.1.3 more specific

- Small farms as a buffer between R1 and EFU
- How many people will we need to feed in future..look at population projections

Table 11 and 12: Housing Types and Density

What types of housing fit where?

- Affordable housing needs
- Property value impacts
- Accommodate smaller households: ADUs, duplexes, tiny homes, cottages, co-housing
- Unhoused community – transitional housing
- R1 standards limit infill to expensive subdivisions
- Create incentives by lowering SDCs
- Create sense of care for new developments, concern about Lombard
- Other concerns: Fire access, density next to greenway, narrow streets, occupancy limits, difficult permit process for building

Table 13: River Road Corridor Plan

Participate in the questionnaire

- Promote 20 minute neighborhoods
- Focus on current zoning along RR corridor and change the commercial zoning to fit the neighborhood
- See RR Corridor Survey Results on City website for more information

Table 14: Privacy and Density

Explore transitions between different types of housing, between housing and commercial, and between housing and the river

- Overall support for solar set backs, sloped setbacks, step backs, vegetation screening
- Desire to utilize the transition standards in R1, as well as transition between R1 and other zones.
- Trees: could be year round, consider evergreen
- A 20 ft buffer from multiplex not too much; buffer should increase with height of building
- Private roads not same as gated communities. Consider private roads as a way to create affordable development.
- Prohibit upper balconies unless there is a visual barrier
- Concern about current density regulations (example: no zero lot line townhomes in areas with ranches)
- Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) tax breaks, ADUs need to be on owner-occupied property
- No higher than 2 story along greenway, support front porches

Table 15: Community

a. What steps can the community organizations take to build trust and support for all residents and businesses?

b. What's going on and how can we get creative in the 'hood?

- Connect through the schools
- How about welcome packets? Through realtors, but then also need to connect with renters
- Unhoused community: churches, housing first, trash receptacles, invite to conversation
- Affordable housing: ADUs, multifamily, landbank before speculators
- Art: facilitate installations in local businesses, more murals, arts education, events, outdoor art, open studio tours, create an amphitheater for gathering and performances, outdoor installations, such as in Razor Park, art as an aspect of future development

Table: 17: Public Services

Review of current state of public services in RRSC and give feedback on the draft goal and policies

- Branch library at new SC Transit Station
- Fire hydrants – problem solve ownership, maintenance
- Sidewalks – empower people to fix their own
- Parks and recreation – expand RRPD
- Consider smooth transition from County to City
- Need urgent care in SC
- Stormwater planning is essential
- Consider role of art in public services
- Fire service might need to merge with City
- Issues in the right of way are complicated, such as trees in slough, sidewalk repairs
- Dog park in RR and SC

Table 16 and 18: Resiliency, Gardening and Permaculture

Examples and inspiration from the neighborhood

- Coordinate with schools on gardening
- Rain water and gray water: Allow onsite use of domestic gray water, create economic incentives for water collection
- Community events, garden spaces, tool share, labor share
- Earth quake preparedness, emergency preparedness

Where we are headed

Community Advisory Committee and Working Group members will edit the draft policies and example action items based on the input received at this community event. The project will then move into action planning, where we create the list of concrete actions that will implement the draft policies. This phase will involve evaluating, editing and adding new action items to create the final action plan. Working group and Community Advisory Committee meetings will be held to ensure that this phase is neighborhood-led and reflects all the public input that has been collected. The *Action Planning* phase will last until we begin the adoption process in Fall 2019.

Get Involved and stay informed!

[Signing up for the project e-newsletter](#) is the best way to stay up-to-date with the neighborhood planning efforts and outreach opportunities. Meeting dates are always posted on our project website (below) and interested community members are encouraged to attend. Project staff and the Community Advisory Committee welcome your feedback and questions! If there is a specific topic area you are interested in, joining a working group is a great way to dive into the details as we evaluate and prioritize action items.

Visit the project website!

www.RiverRoad-SantaClaraPlan.org

