

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1 SUMMARY

### Introduction

On February 25, 2019, the City of Santa Clara conducted its first of three community workshops for the Freedom Circle (FC) and Patrick Henry Drive (PHD) Specific Plans as a joint session with the Kylli project at 3005 Democracy Way. The purpose of the workshop was to both present planning principles for each project area and the City North Vision Area as well as to learn about key community priorities, which will help refine the overarching vision and emerging concepts for this urbanizing area.

Andrew Crabtree, Community Development Director, opened the meeting and welcomed participants. He then introduced Ellie Fiore, Project Manager with MIG, Inc. to present a short introductory presentation, which was followed by an interactive open house with four stations: City North, Patrick Henry Drive, Freedom Circle, and Kylli. Approximately 28 community members attended the workshop.

Open house exercises asked participants to rank examples of height, scale and density ranges for both Freedom Circle and Patrick Henry as well as share ideas about parks and open space, community amenities, and transportation.

This document presents a summary of input and ideas from participating community members for City North, Patrick Henry Drive and Freedom Circle, organized by both Specific Plan area and topic.



## City North

### Parking

- Plan appropriately for continued gameday parking overflow from Levi's Stadium.
- Consider providing compact parking spaces for small electric vehicles (EVs).
- Plan for less car parking in the future. Construct buildings so that parking areas can be converted into other uses as demand declines over time.

### Housing and Community Amenities

- Include the provision of sufficient housing for working and middle-income families, so that residents can remain in Santa Clara.
- Consider how City North could accommodate enough housing to balance jobs and housing citywide.
- Look at the Agrihood project as a model for environmental sustainability and urban agriculture.
- To establish complete neighborhoods that improve walkability and reduce auto dependence, City North should provide amenities that fulfill residents' daily needs. Examples include a 24-hour gym, school, grocery stores, and farmers' markets.

### Public Services and Infrastructure

- Preserve fire and emergency vehicular access to ensure public safety.
- Plan infrastructure improvements to enhance both earthquake resilience and wastewater treatment. Mitigate impacts on the water table.
- Add cameras and lighting along the Creek trails.

### Other

- Maintain a buffer between the new high-density development and low-density single-family neighborhoods.
- Use high traffic impact fees, transportation demand management (TDM) and transit-oriented development (TOD) to manage vehicle traffic.
- Include neighborhood greenways for pedestrian and bicycle travel throughout City North.

## Freedom Circle Specific Plan



### Community Amenities

- Some participants supported retail development in the area, while others suggested limiting the influx of big-box retailers due to Amazon’s market dominance.
- Meeting participants recommended community amenities including a daycare center, fitness center, expanded dining options and experience-based retail.

### Parks and Open Space

- Participants expressed support for both a dog park and neighborhood park.
- Community members support locating a park along the San Tomas Aquino Creek trail.
- Meeting attendees suggested park programming including basketball courts, soccer fields and playgrounds.
- A participant noted that demand for soccer fields may increase due to the impending redevelopment of a nearby amenity to provide more parking for Levi’s Stadium.
- Parks should include barbecue areas as additional amenities to support more leisurely forms of recreation.
- A participant noted that buildout of the nearby City Place project may increase demand for a golf course elsewhere in the City.
- Consider widening the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail.

### Building Types and Scale

- Support was greatest for high-density 8-story structures at over 100 dwelling units per acre (du/ac). One participant suggested allowing residential densities up to 330 du/ac.
- Though support was only modest for office uses and structures exceeding 10 stories, one participant favored taller building heights as it would help preserve ground-level areas for open space.

### Transportation

- Build roundabouts instead of traffic signals and stop signs.
- Create more pedestrian-focused walking streets and other design concepts similar to the Freedom Loop.

### Other

- A participant expressed interest in a skybridge connecting the two Specific Plan areas across Great America Parkway, which would serve as “Santa Clara’s highline”.

## Patrick Henry Drive Specific Plan

### Community Amenities

- Develop a school, library, and community gardens in the Plan area.
- Encourage an “urban village” form of development should proceed with schools, grocery stores, daycares, and retail amenities clustered in close proximity to one another.

### Parks and Open Space

- As in the FC Specific Plan area, participants expressed support for both a dog park and neighborhood park.

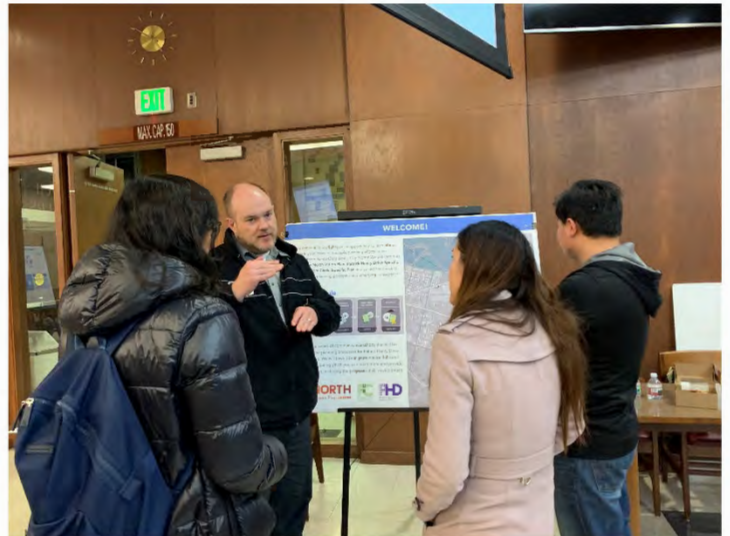
- Participants support development of a soccer field and other programmed exercise areas.

#### Building Types and Scale

- Support was greatest for high-density structures (up to 220 du/ac) exceeding 10 stories, including 20+ story towers.
- There was no support for structures lower than 8 stories.

#### Transportation

- Prioritize traffic calming improvements.
- Several pedestrian pathways and protected bicycle lanes should be added. Shared lanes with vehicles should be discouraged.
- Design bike lanes in such a way as to not impede access for emergency vehicles.
- Improve public transportation service to mitigate impact of urban-scale development on local circulation.
- Create a Transportation Management Association (TMA)
- Widen all streets surrounding the Specific Plan area.



#### Next Steps

Feedback collected during this session will be used to refine the overall vision and draft concepts for the Specific Plans. These preliminary concepts and recommendations will be presented to the City Council in early April to further inform the path toward a preferred plan for each Plan area.