

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Agenda Item # 11

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: August 22, 2017

Subject: Downtown Vision – Future Scenarios

Prepared by: Jon Biggs, Community Development Director

Attachment(s):

1. Downtown Maps and Vision Scenario Details
2. Downtown Vision Survey

Initiated by:

City Council

Fiscal Impact:

The City Council has allocated funds for the effort

Environmental Review:

Not applicable

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

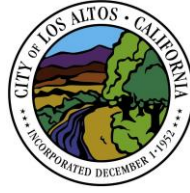
- Do the outlines of the three future scenarios for the Downtown reflect what the City Council would like staff and the Downtown Vision Consultant team to engage the community?

Summary:

- City staff and the consultant team are in the process of developing a Vision for Downtown Los Altos.
- Initial Community engagement has been conducted and the feedback and information gathered in this effort have helped form the basis for three future vision scenarios for Downtown Los Altos.
- Staff is seeking concurrence or direction from the City Council on the three future vision scenarios so that they can be used to engage the Community further in order to get feedback on the scenarios and the various components within each scenario, and evaluated in the fiscal analysis by the economic consultant.

Staff Recommendation:

Concur that the three draft future vision scenarios should be finalized and used as tools to engage the Community in the development of a Vision for Downtown Los Altos and for the fiscal analysis



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Purpose

The three future scenarios, each reflecting varying degrees or intensity of development in the Downtown, are tools intended to engage the community and assist it in providing feedback and guidance on how a Vision document for Downtown Los Altos should be developed.

Background

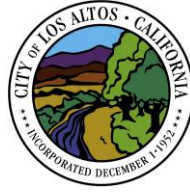
The Downtown Vision consultant team and staff have been engaged in an extensive community outreach effort intended to obtain community input on the Downtown’s future. Outreach efforts to date have included over 22 meetings and pop-up workshops and includes one-on-one interviews, a Kick-Off event held in the Downtown in early April, community pop-up workshops at events like the Farmers Market and Junior Olympics, and meetings and presentations with community groups and organizations. The outreach effort also included event notification mailers and a questionnaire, which is attached to this agenda report. There was also an item on the City Council meeting in July, which was intended to obtain direction on uses that would be appropriate for the Downtown. Postcard reminders (for both the workshops and questionnaire) were mailed to every mailbox in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills and as a result had over 1,500 questionnaire responses from all segments of the community. Once compiled, the information gathered was then put on the Downtown Visioning Webpage for the community to see.

Discussion/Analysis

The community engagement effort has moved into its next phase, which entails taking the information and feedback that has been gathered to date, analyzing it, and developing scenarios that reflect how the Downtown might change in the future based on different levels of development activity.

The three future scenario outlines that have been created include the following:

	<i>Future Scenario 1</i>	<i>Future Scenario 2</i>	<i>Future Scenario 3</i>
<i>Green/Plaza</i>	State and Main Neighborhood Green/Plaza; No LACI Project	State and Main Neighborhood Green/Plaza & LACI Project	Expanded State and Main Neighborhood Green/ Plaza, LACI Project, & Third Street Plaza w/ Node Connections
<i>Connection to Civic Center</i>	At Grade Crossing – Street Level Crossing	Pedestrian Over Crossing – Elevated Crossing	Underground Crossing & Roundabout
<i>Entry Elements</i>	Pavement Treatments	Entry Archways	Monument Columns



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<i>Parking Plazas/ Structures</i>	Restripe Parking Plazas; No Parking Structures	Underground Parking Structures at Plazas 2, 3, and LACI portion of 7	Underground Parking Structures at Plazas 2, 3, 7, & 8. Above Ground Parking Structures at Plazas 2 and 8
<i>Live Theater</i>	-	On Parking Plaza 3	On Parking Plaza 7 – Connection to North First Street Green
<i>Movie Theater</i>	-	-	Movie Theater at Parking Plaza 3 with Third Street Plaza
<i>Intensity Level:</i> • <i>Residential over Commercial</i> • <i>Office over Commercial</i>	1 to 2 Stories in Main and State Neighborhood; 2 to 3 Stories in Rest of Plan Area.	1 to 2 Stories in Main and State Neighborhood; 2 to 3 Stories in Rest of Plan Area.	2 to 3 Stories in Main and State Neighborhood; Up to 3-Stories in Rest of Plan Area.

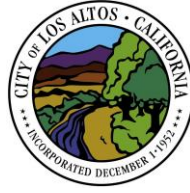
The information provided in this table is further detailed and shown in the scenario maps of the Downtown that are attached with this agenda report.

The City Council is being asked to confirm that the future scenario outlines indicated above reflect what should be used to engage the Community. Staff wants to emphasize that these scenarios are *not* the Downtown Vision, nor are they intended to be a ballot for how the Downtown might change over time. The Future Vision Scenarios are an important tool that will be used to continue the Community Engagement effort and obtain feedback that will help shape the final Vision Document for Downtown Los Altos and there may be elements from each of the scenarios that the Community will want to include in the final Downtown Vision.

The attached maps reflect the details identified in the above table. Additional informative graphics relative to the Future Vision Scenarios and three-dimensional representations of the Downtown will be shown at the City Council meeting. With confirmation of the three scenarios, the three-dimensional models will be refined for each of the scenarios for use in future engagement efforts.

Options

- 1) Concur or provide feedback on adjustments to the outline of three future scenarios for Downtown Los Altos



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Advantages: Allows the Downtown Visioning process to continue moving forward in line with the schedule that has been shared with the community

Disadvantages: None identified

2) Require that different Vision Scenario Outlines be developed in line with City Council direction.

Advantages: Would clarify that changes are needed to the future scenario outline

Disadvantages: Results in a delay in the schedule that has been shared with the Community

Recommendation

The staff recommends Option 1.