

Vision Lennox

Workshop 1- Issues and Assets: Summary

Meeting Objectives

*To introduce residents to the visioning process.
To share and receive information on existing assets, issues, and wishes.*

Event Description

On the evening of Monday, March 15th, approximately 25 participants from the Lennox community attended the meeting at Lennox Park. The 2-hour meeting was designed to introduce participants to the visioning process, to share a summary of the analyses on existing conditions done to date, and to receive participants' impressions of the most pressing issues, valued assets, and priority wishes for the community. The meeting was facilitated by staff from the Department of Regional Planning in collaboration with the consultants for the project, Raimi + Associates and MR+E (Metropolitan Research and Economics). The meeting was conducted simultaneously in English and Spanish to accommodate Lennox's diverse residents.



Meeting Summary

The meeting opened with an introduction of the project team, purpose, and process. The project is being undertaken by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning and is being supported by a Southern California Association of Governments Compass Blueprint Grant. The consultants for the Project are Raimi + Associates, Ryan Snyder Associates, and MR+E. The project seeks to develop a shared vision of the future of Lennox through a series of community workshops. The resulting Vision Plan will articulate the community's shared desired future and will help guide County and community work to realize the vision. The project will be completed over a six-month process, which includes three community workshops and concludes in June 2010.

Next, Raimi + Associates and MR+E presented a summary of some of their analyses to date. Lennox is a small unincorporated community of 1.1 square miles with approximately 25,000 residents. It is well connected with access to freeways, buses, and the Metro Green Line. Neighborhoods are mostly single family and stable and the community is served by its own Library, Sheriff's Station, Park, and School District. Housing is relatively affordable, however incomes are relatively low (compared to LA County overall).

After hearing some of the project team's early impressions of the community, participants broke into two small groups to discuss their issues, assets, and wishes for the community. Participants first wrote down their thoughts on comment cards, next they discussed their results in their groups, and finally they



Vision Lennox

agreed upon priorities and mapped them on aerial maps provided. The following table lists all the issues, assets, and wishes that the groups identified.

Issues	Assets	Wishes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unsafe housing conditions - Visual impact of power lines - Access across 405 FWY and Hawthorne Blvd. - Access to Green Line - Library too small - Traffic congestion especially around schools - Lighting- some streets too dark - Parking, especially in residential areas - Air pollution leading to asthma - Too many adult bookstores - Noise pollution - Post Office delivery - Crime reported for area larger than Lennox, which is misleading - Lack of identity - Not known in region- outsiders don't know Lennox exists - Misuse of handicap parking spaces - Need for speed bumps on Buford St. and other high traffic streets - Lots of trash left on streets - Need more information on available services -Stray dog control - Graffiti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civic Center - Library - Own School District - Community feeling - Walkable, small, compact - People come back to community - People are outside - Unique character - Close to LAX - Close to Green Line - Good relationship between County Departments - Sheriff located in Lennox - Lennox Park- full of various activities for kids and adults - Close to jobs - Mom and pop shops - Diversity of restaurants - Match between jobs and housing affordability - Freeway access - Cultural pride - Cinco de Mayo Celebration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Underground utilities - Expand Library - Children's Museum - "Little Farm" area- farming and animals - Expand open space - Recreational opportunities for kids (beyond schools) - Cultural center - Starbucks - History of Lennox - Youth center - Community garden - Transit within community - Area-wide Wi-Fi - Make Hawthorne more walkable - Lennox center of the community- improve - Rethink Civic Center - Increase availability of recycling bins and services - More security in Park - Increase security for youth - More recreational and other classes for adults - More community programs - Close Lennox Blvd. temporarily for pedestrian, bicycle use only - Health clinic - A unique Zip Code for Lennox - Better street cleaning

Of all of these issues, assets, and wishes identified, participants chose the following as priorities, which they reported out to the larger group:

Priority Issues

- Visual impact of power lines
- Traffic congestion/speeding on some streets
- Trash left in front of houses and on streets
- Street lighting
- Lack of information on available services



Vision Lennox

Priority Assets

- Library/Civic Center
- Own School District with great schools
- Community feeling, cultural pride
- Walkable, small scale
- Proximity to LAX, Green Line, freeway, stores

Priority Whishes

- Expand youth services and activities
- Expand community programs
- Area-wide WiFi
- Rethink the Civic Center
- Close portion of Lennox Blvd. temporarily for bicycle and pedestrian access only



Conclusion

The first community workshop served to begin the conversation on the future vision for Lennox and provided the groundwork for the remainder of the Vision Plan. The project team shared its analyses to date, which will be complemented by the workshop participants' observations on existing issues and assets. Participants identified their preliminary vision and gained an understanding of what a Vision Plan is and how it will be developed in Lennox. Residents were brought into the process and invited to spread the word for future workshops on April 19, 2010 and May 24, 2010.

Next Steps

- Summarize meeting outcomes and post online
- Partner with community to publicize Workshops 2 and 3
- Finalize summary report on existing conditions and post online

