



City of National City Focused General Plan Update

Webinar #3 Questions

Saturday, August 29, 2020; 9-10:30AM

Q & A

1. Not a fan of the electric bikes and scooters they clutter the sidewalks and are dangerous
 - Thank you for your comment! We will pass this on to the team for consideration.
2. I do take the trolley on occasion - I like the trolley. I didn't answer public transportation.
 - Thank you for your comment! We will pass this input onto the team for consideration.
3. Will there be a chance to have verbal feedback or only via chat? Also, are we able to see other comments as they are submitted during the webinar?
 - Thank you for your question and for your participation. Please feel free to call in during office hours to get your questions answered verbally or if you would like to hold a brief discussion with our team. We will also be posting questions collected with answers after the webinar on the City's website. Meeting presentation and summaries to be posted online at the project page: [Nationalcityca.gov/FGPU](https://nationalcityca.gov/FGPU)
4. My largest concern is that automobile access is being reduced for better access to pedestrians and bicyclist who don't share in the tax cost.
 - Thank you for sharing your concern with us. We will pass this onto the team for consideration.
5. Your schedule shows "existing conditions analysis" done in Spring 2020. Will this analysis be shared with the public for their input/review etc.? Please explain.
 - We are sharing this analysis with the public today and we were doing this throughout last week. This analysis began in the spring and continued into the summer and is building on previous studies. On the transportation side, the INTRACConnect study, which took a couple of years to complete, has been included in this analysis. Currently, the existing conditions for mobility are still being reviewed by staff and will be shared once completed. The team is still working on establishing the existing conditions for the Housing Element. When completed, this information will go through review and will be shared with the public on the project website.
6. I didn't get to vote on the first question regarding development areas, I DO NOT want more development in downtown NC.



- Thank you for letting us know. We will pass your input onto the team for consideration in the development of our Focused General Plan Update.
7. How much of these transportation methods will be using green energy? Is there a zero emissions target? Will we be adding vertical gardens where possible or more trees/greenery to help with emissions eradication?
 - Part of the answer to this question will be highlighted in one of the upcoming sections of this webinar related to the Climate Action Plan. Yes, the team will be considering transportation holistically. As part of this Focused General Plan update, Climate Action Planning, which includes green energy and reduced greenhouse gas emissions goals, will be considered while developing this Transportation Element.
 8. Will the City/project team be circulating a draft public outreach plan for public comment that will for example discuss what the project description/objectives are, what the detailed scope of work/timeline, how and when community members can participate, description as to how this project is trying to connect the dots on prior/ongoing planning efforts?
 - There is a community outreach plan which we can put on the project website. We are emphasizing throughout this webinar that we are using work that has been previously done to inform our analysis. This will be seen in the existing conditions. We are happy to speak further about how we are using prior work in our work going forward.
 9. Will there be consolidated existing conditions analysis or baseline report that will be comprehensively pulled together and presented to the community for their feedback or is the intent to provide it in a piece meal fashion?
 - The Elements of the existing conditions analysis are separate from each other and have different methodologies, so they are presented in separate documents but the public can review them all. It is critical that all of these elements work together; this is why these portions of the project are being done in concert with one another. The team is coordinating frequently to ensure plans and policies for each Element support each other. There will be one environmental document. While the existing conditions documents for each element will be separate, we are all working together and the elements are informing each other.
 10. Does the city have a cap on population growth?
 - No. Population growth is projected using census data. SANDAG also projects future population using land use data and other means.
 11. Will the public outreach plan that you intend to post online include a detailed SOW, timeline, detailed project description/objectives?
 - The scope of work and contract information is not generally posted online. It is up to the City if they would like to release this information. The general process of developing the



General Plan update is part of the information posted online in order to inform the community about the process and ensure that they understand what the City is doing.

i. Response from the City: Please go through the City to file a public records request.

12. Your schedule shows “Existing Conditions Analysis” done in Spring 2020. Will this analysis be shared with the public? If yes, what is the timeline/scope for this? If not, why?
 - The existing conditions will be shared on the project website and as part of the environmental document. We will let you know when the analyses are available.
13. Your schedule says that you will be completing the existing conditions analysis and then work on goals/policies/land use scenarios during this summer. However, it was mentioned that several pieces of the existing conditions analysis are still underway. Is it not the intention for the City to prepare/circulate at least the draft existing conditions analysis prior to asking for/working on vision, goals, policies etc. with the community? The existing conditions analysis should be vetted by the community so that it can be used to inform vision, goals, policies etc.
 - The process has several components, each of which is being worked on by different parts of the team. We are discussing existing conditions during these workshops and will distribute the existing conditions analysis once it is complete.
14. I think emergency (agency) response time right now is excellent!
 - Thank you for your input! We will pass that onto the team.
15. Does this include tsunami threat areas?
 - Yes. The City is a little further away from where tsunami risks are generally considered. The biggest issue that is typically addressed in plans for tsunami risk areas are evacuation routes. Cities in California are required to have evacuation routes. The team will be taking a look at this.
16. Is it possible for the audience to know how many participants are present?
 - We have approximately 17 participants this morning.
17. Aside from the Spanish only webinar on 9/9, what is the City planning to do to address hard to reach National City community members, particularly in disadvantaged communities?
 - The webinars are being translated into Spanish. All outreach materials – for example, the survey - are also in Spanish. This is a difficult time because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Typically the team would be conducting popup outreach in areas to interact with disadvantaged members of the community who do not typically participate in public workshops. We are at a disadvantage because we cannot go out in public due to the pandemic but we are doing the best we can in this virtual environment. We have seen good participation in these webinars, and this participation has been higher than what is typically



seen in traditional outreach. Post COVID we would like to continue holding webinars in addition to traditional outreach, as the webinars have been a good way to involve the community because participants do not have to worry about childcare or other commitments that may interfere with their ability to attend in-person outreach meetings. The Spanish webinar is fully in Spanish; it is not just interpreted. We also have Spanish office hours.

18. Recommendation: there are a lot of moving parts with this "project" and my recommendation is to explain it in a way that members of the community that aren't as familiar with land use policy/CEQA etc. can understand it...a robust public outreach plan can help with this.
 - We appreciate your input! This will be passed onto the team for consideration.

19. How safe is development on brownfield areas, is this guaranteed? What types of remediation is used? Does the City test the water, etc. for potential contamination coming from these sites?
 - i. Remediation is highly regulated by the state of California and the County. The bar is very high for redeveloping different types of brownfields for residential uses, and redevelopment for this use requires a very high level of remediation. Commercial use requires slightly less remediation. The level of remediation needed is contingent upon the type of use associated with redevelopment. There is a very stringent number of steps that the developer must take. Unless it is a City project, the City is not faced with these obligations but can be a partner in the process depending on what resources they have or can commit. The remediation obligation is on the next user of the site. Generally, these sites are handled with a great amount of care.

20. I don't know if your response is clear regarding my question of whether the existing condition reports will be done prior to working on vision, goals, policies. Please clarify.
 - Yes, the existing condition reports will be done prior to working on vision, goals, and policies. The existing conditions analysis will be comprehensive and include all pertinent information prior to moving to working on vision.

21. What will the City be doing to reverse the disproportionate pollution and incompatible land uses, particularly within disadvantaged communities?
 - Existing land use patterns may have caused disproportionate pollution within certain communities. As part of the land use element the team looks at where those issues may occur in terms of residential areas being close to commercial or industrial areas that may be heavy polluters. This issue is being addressed in the Environmental Impact Report as well. The team cannot address existing circumstances has much but considers potential circumstances and what can be done to mitigate pollution impacts on sensitive receptors in the future.

- i. Response from the City: This has been an ongoing process with the City. The last General Plan update took into account how to mitigate conflicting land uses. This update will involve a conversation of how to evolve that existing plan. The overall analysis in the previous General Plan has set the stage and conversation for additional developments in this update to address this issue.

22. Will the "Spanish only" webinar only allow public comment via chat? Or will there be an option to speak directly to the team?
 - Thank you for your question. Currently, all webinars will only allow public comment via chat, but we do have the option for residents to call in to office hours, or at any time during business hours, to speak to a member of the team.

23. Will your existing conditions analysis not address land use incompatibilities/pollution loads?
 - This is part of the land use element, not the safety element. The safety element looks specifically at existing risks from the types of hazards described earlier. This is a Focused General Plan update, not a full General Plan update. The Housing Element is driving a significant amount of this update. The team aims to ensure that the General Plan can accommodate the necessary housing and is up to date with planning work that has been done so far, while coordinating with transportation. This update looks at existing conditions that have been established through previous planning work. Issues of whether or not a project would result in any new impacts to the community due to pollution or exposure to hazards or toxins will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report.

24. Is it possible for the audience to know how many participants are present?
 - There are currently 17 participants in the webinar.

25. It was recently discovered that rainforest canopies produce rain and clean the air, I propose planting/adding a lot more greenery to existing developments to clean the air. Trees/greenery also lower temperatures around existing structures. Will this element propose planting a lot more greenery to existing developments to clean the air?
 - Tree canopy crosses several different issues. It addresses heat island issues within the city, which is more of a land use issue. Carbon sequestration from tree canopy is beyond the scope of what can be dealt with in this update, and is more of a global issue. The team will look at where to increase street trees, as this is an important concern.
 - i. City Response: The City has been working to study current tree canopy and where there is potential for growth.

26. How will climate equity/disadvantaged communities be incorporated into this CAP update. Also, what is your timeline to get the emission inventory done so that it can be used to inform policies



to address the gap between existing CAP targets and new CAP targets? Is the intention to get the FGPU and the CAP Update done at the same time?

- The issue of incorporating disadvantaged communities is a General Plan question in general. Tara has mentioned that outreach right now is difficult but we are doing our best to reach out to all disadvantaged communities for all General Plan issues. The team is trying to get through the emissions inventory as quickly as possible. This requires a lot of coordination with different entities over which the City does not have complete control. The team is hoping to have the inventory complete within the next couple of weeks. The Climate Action Plan and the Focused General Plan update are moving forward concurrently.

27. Is community choice aggregation something that might be considered for the CAP update?

- This has been an ongoing conversation at the City. Based on data and information from this Focused General Plan update, there may be recommendations, but this requires quite a complex participation and there are many other factors. The City is dealing with this process independently through the Public Works and Engineering department.

28. What about community education regarding community efforts and responsibility to reduce pollution/global warming? I think there is widespread apathy due to a lack of knowledge.

- In the last update to the Climate Action Plan and the General Plan, education was a huge component. It is still a large component of what municipalities can do to reduce emissions. Unless there are outright regulations, the root of getting at incentives is to educate. It is very difficult to advance climate action without education. We hope that education will be a large part of what drives Climate Action Plan implementation moving forward.

29. In terms of equity and CAPs, are you familiar with the City of SD's Climate Equity Index?

- Yes, we are aware of the City of San Diego's Climate Equity Index. We will confer with the team and determine if this is something National City will pursue.

30. When will the chat questions/responses be available to the public?

- A recording of the meeting presentation and summaries of questions and answers will be posted online at the project page: [Nationalcityca.gov/FGPU](https://nationalcityca.gov/FGPU)

31. Can climate action plans be a part of the curriculum in K-12?

- Thank you for your input. Education is an important component of the Climate Action Plan. The team will be considering ways to enhance the Climate Action Plan's efficacy through various education initiatives.