

**KEY ISSUES WORKSHOP AGENDA**  
**Workshop #3 Transportation/Circulation**  
**and Public Safety and Services**  
**May 13, 2008 6:30 – 8:30 pm**



I. **Welcome/Introduction (5 minutes)**

II. **Project Update, Context/Framework Discussion**  
**Workshop Plan – (10 minutes)**

What Have We Heard so Far?

Highlights of the Existing General Plan

Next Phase of the Project – Development of Land Use Alternatives

Workshop Plan for Tonight

III. **Key Topic Issues – (25 minutes)**

Transportation / Circulation Powerpoint Presentation

- Who Are Streets Meant to Serve?

- Decoding and Understanding Level of Service (LOS)

- Transportation / Circulation Trade-offs

IV. **Work Stations on Transportation/Circulation and Public Safety**  
**and Services (65 minutes)**

Introduction and Work Station Instruction

Work Station #1 – Vehicular Transportation and Circulation

Work Station #2 – Pedestrian, Equestrian and Bicycle Circulation

Work Station #3 – Public Transportation (planes, trains and buses)

Work Station #4 – Public Safety and Public Services

V. **Conclusions and Next Steps (10 minutes)**

Summary of what we heard?

How will that information be used?

What's next? Ways to get involved!

# VEHICULAR CIRCULATION



Most Chicoans use a car to get to work, school or to make routine trips. People plan their trips based on a number of factors, such as: travel time, anticipated traffic, driver comfort, etc.. In addition, agriculture uses, businesses and manufacturers utilize the transportation system to move goods and supplies and plan their operations on similar factors.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to ask for input regarding the routes residents currently use for commuting and/or other purposes and which routes they would *prefer* to use but do not because of congestion or other issues.

**Are there certain destinations you avoid trips to due to congestion? Explain the destination, route, and time of day?**

## Yes - 22

### Destinations:

- E. 20<sup>th</sup> Mall Area
- North Chico Area, along Mangrove
- Hegan Lane Business Area
- Downtown

### Routes Listed:

- E. 20<sup>th</sup> Area, between Forest and Highway 99 (8)
- East Avenue, between Esplanade and Cohasset (6)
- E. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, along Manzanita, Oleander, and in Freeway Area (5)
- Mangrove Avenue, some reference to intersection w/ Vallombrosa (4)
- On-Ramps/Off-Ramps, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Park Ave. (3)
- Nord, including sections along 1<sup>st</sup> St. to 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Walnut, and onto Steward Ave. (3)
- Downtown Area, along W 2<sup>nd</sup> (2)
- Manzanita and Vallombrosa (2)
- E. Park and Hegan Lane (2)
- Cohasset and Pillsbury area (1)

### Time of Day:

- Generally, peak hours listed, between 7:30 am to 8:30am and afternoons from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

## No - 2

**What large scale improvement would significantly improve circulation within the City, if money was not an issue? Assuming money was an issue, what small scale improvement would improve circulation?**

### Money Was Not an Issue:

- Completion of a "Ring Road" around City (3)
- Downtown improvements, including slowing traffic, improving bike and pedestrian use and moving the stoplights to overhead (3)
- East Park continuing through to Otterson (2)
- More timed lights w/ pedestrian crossings (2)
- More North/South routes across the creeks (2)
- Improve back road/secondary road quality, to allow for alternative routes (2)
- Bike & Pedestrian under/over pass at Vallombrosa, Downtown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to CSUC
- Underpasses at RR Xing
- Improve roads with frontage roads & a median (i.e. Esplanade between 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Bidwell Mansion)

- Mangrove Road improvements
- Improve 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue safety
- Good bike lanes
- Secondary Paradise/Chico Route
- Subway
- Light rail system
- Return trolley system
- Free bicycles and amenities

**Money Was an Issue:**

- Improved bus transportation, increased frequency (3)
- Good bike lanes, including improvement on Esplanade (2)
- Improve the intersection at Manzanita and Vallombrosa
- Parking for delivery vehicles downtown
- Roundabouts on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue at Magnolia & Oleander
- Improvement of Hegan & Park intersection
- Increase speeds on all arterial and major collector streets
- More left-turn only lanes
- Offer programs that reward citizens who use public transit, bike, walk, etc. to work

**Do you believe that the existing street system functions efficiently to move goods and materials in and throughout the City? What Improvements to the circulation system do you believe would enhance opportunities for business and commerce in the City?**

**Yes – 5**

**No – 4**

**No Answer/Not Stated – 15**

**Recommended Improvements:**

- Improve delivery system downtown, blocks traffic on Main and Broadway (7)
- More North/South routes over waterways, current bridges are not pedestrian, bike or stroller friendly (3)
- Extend East Park Ave. to Otterson Drive (2)
- Better artery to/from 99 to downtown and Highway 32 (2)
- “Ring Road” to reduce traffic on current major roads
- Extend Hegan Lane to Highway 99
- Widen Cohasset to the Airport
- Train to the Airport
- More roads to relieve congestion

**What types of traffic control improvements do you support in Chico? (e.g. narrower streets, roundabouts, traffic signals, etc.)**

**Recommended Improvements:**

- Roundabouts (9)
- Traffic signals where needed, i.e. timed traffic signals (6)
- Narrower new streets (4)
- No roundabouts (3)
- No narrower streets (2)
- Cameras to ticket red light violations (2)
- More traffic lanes/wider streets (2)
- Traffic calming in neighborhoods and at school and pedestrian intense sites
- Traffic control to keep traffic off side streets
- Screen roundabouts so that headlights don't shine into homes
- Speed bumps
- 4-way stops

- Bulbing at intersection
- Require CSUC and Enloe to benchmark # of vehicle trips/day, require a certain # of students/employees to not travel in the city center by private automobile
- Reduced LOS
- One-way roads
- Closure of streets to vehicular traffic
- No more Yield signs
- Parkway between road and sidewalk on busy streets

**What are the top three items you would like to see in the City's roadway network?**

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| A) Wide Lanes for Vehicles            | F) Wide Sidewalks                                   |
| B) Bike Lanes                         | G) Detached Sidewalks                               |
| C) Improved Safety (slower speeds)    | H) No Travel Delays                                 |
| D) Raised, Landscaped Medians         | I) Landscaping at Edge of Roadway                   |
| E) Pedestrian Refuges on Wide Streets | J) Completion of a "Ring-Road" Loop Around the City |

**#1: B) Bike Lane** with 20.3% of the votes

**#2: and #3: Tie between F) Wide Sidewalks and J) Completion of a "Ring-Road" Loop Around the City**, with 14% of the votes

Ranking of other items:

- Tie between C) Improved Safety and H) No Travel Delays (11%)
- G) Detached Sidewalks (9.4%)
- D) Raised, Landscaped Medians (8%)
- E) Pedestrian Refuges on Wide Streets (6.3%)
- Tie between A) Wide Lanes for Vehicles and I) Landscaping at Edge of Roadway (3%)

# PEDESTRIAN, BIKE, & EQUESTRIAN CIRCULATION



Below are tabulated responses to a questionnaire which requested input regarding the types and location of circulation facilities that residents would prefer, desire, or believe would best suit the Chico area.

## Where do you currently bike, walk, or ride your horse? (listed by number of responses)

- 8 - Anywhere, except to travel or haul
- 10 - Home to downtown
- 8 - Home to park
- 6 - Home to school
- 4 - Around home/within neighborhood
- 3 - Home to work
- 1 - Don't walk or ride

## Where would you like to bike, walk, or ride your horse to but don't due to lack of facilities, connectivity or other reasons?

Specific locations or road segments that were mentioned multiple times (3-4) among the array of answers were Bruce Road, Mangrove Avenue, North Esplanade, and Park Avenue (lack of facilities).

Other general responses included: North Chico, East Chico, automobile-oriented drainage crossings, areas without sidewalks or bike lanes, and residential neighborhoods with cul-de-sacs.

## What large scale improvement would significantly improve circulation within the City, if money was not an issue? (listed by number of responses)

Nearly all surveyed responded that in improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities would significantly improve biking and walking circulation within the City (Other responses included light rail and auto-oriented, non-applicable concepts.). Listed under the main concept are sub-topics that were mentioned, and the number of times they were listed.

- 18 - Enhance the overall Ped/Bike system throughout City
- 4 - Add additional Class 1 bike lanes with overpasses
- 2 - Construct bike paths along creeks connecting sections of City
- 2 - Connect all schools and neighborhoods with safe ped/bike facilities
- 1 - Better, wider, safer sidewalks
- 1 - No more cul-de-sacs, reinstate grid street pattern
- 1 - Employ Esplanade model of shared street design elsewhere

**Assuming money was an issue, what small scale improvement would improve circulation?** (listed by number of responses)

- 7 - Bike lanes where none currently exist
- 4 - Connect existing discontinuous ped/bike facilities
- 3 - Additional bike rack locations
- 2 - Improved ped/bike crossings/intersections
- 2 - Traffic calming measures
- 2 - Additional or increased law/code enforcement
- 1 - Greenways
- 1 - Wider sidewalk standard

**What are the BEST bike/pedestrian/equestrian facilities in the City?** (listed by number of responses)

- 8 - "Old Trolley" bike path to Airport, Durham
- 7 - Bidwell Park
- 7 - Class 1 lanes
- 1 - West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue streetscape

**Do you consider Chico to be a bike / pedestrian / equestrian friendly City (safe / convenient / connected)? If so, why? If not, why not?**

Generally, for this prompt, respondents answered in the affirmative or negative, then made a comment or recommendation to make Chico more ped/bike friendly. Below the number of Yes and No answers are listed the comments/recommendations.

- 12 - Yes
- 8 - No

Comments/Recommendations:

- 7 - Insufficient ped/bike facilities in some areas of City
- 2 - Some routes are dangerous for children
- 2 - City needs to treat biking as a primary means of transportation
- 1 - City is responsive to biking problems, but not pedestrian problems
- 1 - Need additional bike parking
- 1 - Need improved connectivity

# PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Public transportation provides a valuable service to the community by offering alternatives to the driving alone in a car.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to request participant input regarding the types and location that residents would prefer, desire, or believe would best suit the Chico area.

## **What trip purposes do you use public transit for (i.e., work, shopping, school, etc.)?**

*Of the surveys collected, the majority (approximately 75 percent) stated they do not currently use public transit in Chico. Surveys indicated that those who do utilize public transit primarily use it to get to school. Some people stated that they use it to get to work, and a few stated that they use it to get to Oroville or other area in Butte County. Only one person indicated that he/she utilizes public transit to get to Chico's commercial areas for shopping.*

## **Where would you take public transit to if there was a route available?**

*Suggestions included routes between downtown and most areas of Chico, including California Park, Otterson Drive, the airport, and various residential areas.*

## **If you do not use public transit, what factors discourage you from using it (e.g., time, location of transit stop, quality of transit stop, etc.)?**

*According to surveys, the most common factor which discourages residents from using public transit was not enough frequency of buses, with long delays between pick-ups. Other factors listed included too much time between stops, not enough bus stops, difficulty figuring out bus route times, not enough benches at bus stops, and buses not running late enough in the day.*

## **What one change would encourage you to use public transit (e.g., more frequent trips, quicker trips, etc.)?**

*Most people surveyed were split between two very inverse answers, with approximately half stating that more stops, perhaps located every block or two, would encourage them to utilize public transit. The other half stated that more direct routes between major destinations with less stops would encourage them, because it takes too long to get places with stops every 2-3 minutes. Most agreed that the frequency of buses should be increased to reduce waiting time at the stops. Approximately 20 percent said that nothing could be done to encourage them to use public transit in Chico because it's easier to drive, walk, or bike ride.*

## **What destinations would you like to see additional commercial airline service to?**

*Destinations listed included primarily Southern California, especially Los Angeles. Other suggested destinations included Sacramento, Seattle, Las Vegas, Reno, Oakland, and Portland.*

## **Are there forms of transportation, transit or goods and materials movement that do not currently exist within the City of Chico that you believe are appropriate, feasible and desirable for the City to consider?**

*Answers listed included a light-rail service within the City and better transportation services that can link Chico to other cities.*

# PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC SERVICES



Public Safety and Public Services (water, wastewater, storm drainage, parks and trees, etc.) are some of the core services that cities and service agencies provide to their residents or clients. Input received from City residents and project participants through phone surveys, public outreach meetings, stakeholder meetings and key issues workshops have continued to indicate that public safety and public services are of significant interest to City residents.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to request participant input regarding your perceptions of the safety and level of service of the City relative to the services that the City of Chico provides to its residents.

**When we surveyed Chico residents they told us that safety was extremely important. Why do you think public safety is an issue for Chico citizens?**

*The majority of survey respondents indicated that safety is a core issue to Chico residents because it is fundamental to the Quality of Life that Chico residents enjoy. Respondents indicated that the prevention of crime helps to maintain a relaxed and worry-free attitude that leads to a positive perception of the City. A small number of respondents indicated that they had experienced theft and other crimes. Almost all survey respondents wanted Chico to be as safe as possible and a place where residents can feel comfortable letting their kids play outside without fear.*

**Over the past 20 years, has Chico become more or less safe?**

*Survey respondents were split on this answer. Some respondents felt that the streets were safer because there was a larger police presence in the downtown area, especially during special events and college holidays. Other respondents said they felt that crime had increased, but felt that the perceived increase in crime was inevitable due to the overall growth of the City. Nobody surveyed indicated that they considered Chico to be an "unsafe" place to live, especially as compared to other cities in California.*

**Are there certain areas of Chico that are less safe than others? If so, where and why?**

*Some answers given included Nord Avenue, the West Sacramento area, and the areas between Rancheria and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where it was stated that there is little visible police presence. Other responses suggested that the downtown area felt unsafe at night and that an increase visible police presence in the area might encourage more adults to frequent downtown services. A few responses indicated that they believed that newly-annexed areas and homes on cul-de-sacs were less safe than other places in the City. A few responses also listed the Canyon Oaks areas as being unsafe at night due to a large presence of amateur street- who make the roads very unsafe for other drivers and for people who live in that area.*

**Are there services that the City currently provides that you do not believe are functioning efficiently or which you believe are unnecessary?**

*Most answers referenced the lack of police presence in the areas listed previously. It was stated that police presence seems exclusive to the downtown areas and around the University and not enough presence in outlying residential areas.*

**Are there services that the City does not currently provide that you think the City should be providing?**

*Answers included the need for local "beat-cops" on bikes that could patrol neighborhoods and parks. Police Safe Rides and free late-night public transit to reduce drunk driving were also listed.*