

**Stakeholder Meeting Notes  
California State University Chico (CSUC)  
February 13, 2008**



**GROUP CHARACTERISTICS**

There were 29 persons in attendance including students (undergraduate and graduate) and teachers. Most heard about the meeting/workshop through the newspaper, posters, and e-mail notification.

**LIVE POLLING EXERCISE**

Attendees were given individual response cards for live polling to understand their issues, concerns and priorities for Chico's future. Those results were compiled and compared with the telephone survey completed in November 2007. Full results are posted on the project website ([www.chicogeneralplan.com](http://www.chicogeneralplan.com)). Highlights are below:

- 57% have lived in the City between 1 and 5 years
- 92% are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the quality of life in Chico
- 62% responded that they would be interested in a large home with a large yard if they were to relocate within Chico in 10 years
- 87% responded that preserving open space is very important or somewhat important
- 76% responded that reducing traffic congestion is very important or somewhat important
- 34% drive alone most often to get to school or work
- 34% ride a bicycle most often to get to school or work
- Nobody thought Chico's financial situation was excellent – most (35% responded that the financial situation is fair
- 33% respondents get their information primarily from the newspaper

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRESERVE?**

- Tree canopy/tree lined streets.
- Historic neighborhoods and historic houses.
- Downtown atmosphere – neighborhood feel of the downtown area.
- Parks and open space greenways – protect existing resources and expanding those amenities and resources.
- Small town feel/community atmosphere.
- Protect free flowing neighborhoods.
- Greenline preservation – agriculture preservation.
- No cookie cutter houses.
- Upper Bidwell Park needs to be preserved.
- Be cautious in historic preservation so that the homes don't become unaffordable.

## WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE?

- Condition of homes – many are run down.
- Improve the riparian corridors (add pathways). Along with connectivity and public access, reduce invasive species in these areas. Avoid lawns invading these areas.
- Job opportunities – job and business growth for graduates – ultimately looking for bigger and more diverse.
- More incentives for new business to come into the community.
- Improve streets by undergrounding utilities.
- Improve bike friendliness downtown – more bike lockers, better bike facilities. Bike facilities are not safe – can improve this by better maintenance (particularly in the fall).
- More walking paths – safe from vehicular travel.
- Crosswalks on Nord Avenue should include flashing lights given the significant number of students.
- Consider redevelopment incentives for Park Avenue – proactive approach to improving this area.
- Like to see the City use impervious surfaces for needed paving areas
- More neighborhood watches and/or improved police patrolling and service to try to improve the crime situation with home robberies. Need to improve safety in the downtown area.
- Need more parking for the visitor center – consider parking structures.
- Consider requirements for LEED certification – particularly for new big box development.
- Need street lights, sidewalks, curbs.
- Parking in Chico – campus in particular is not sufficient. Students buy parking passes, but there are not sufficient spaces. The parking pass is only a license to hunt for a space, not right for access to a space. Two hour parking downtown is not sufficient. Someone suggested parking in the Avenues. One participant suggested limiting parking to folks that are not in close proximity. Others suggested restricting freshman from bringing a vehicle to school.
- Need public education about the impacts of driving (emissions, etc) to get to more creative solutions.
- Poverty needs to be addressed by making more affordable housing, improving services and facilities for the homeless.
- Consider creating areas of the City where automobiles are not allowed.
- Bus service needs improved frequency and better routes (expanded).
- Tool box of incentives for quality, innovative design and projects. If the right mechanisms/incentives are in place, the developers will do it.
- Conversion of empty lots into community gardens.
- Go to the Smart Technology of purchasing a parking key for parking meters like they have done in downtown San Luis Obispo.
- Limit big box stores.
- Encourage small business. Encourage local business.

## WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD?

- Variety of housing stock. More alternative housing options (e.g., cooperative housing where each unit does not necessarily have a kitchen)

- Allow for the integration of some businesses (neighborhood services) integrated into the neighborhoods. More neighborhood corner stores.
- Dog park. In fact, consider the potential of converting some areas within existing parks that have problems with loitering/homelessness to improve widespread usability of those parks.
- Add law enforcement/code enforcement of traffic regulations, loitering, maintenance.
- Change policing strategy from targeting student crime (e.g., drinking, after hours) to public safety (e.g., throughout the day). Get police to know the folks in the community. Get police engaged with increased neighborhood watch. Want to see young people treated with respect.
- Consider adding an Ombudsman for both Police Department and Government in general.
- Add conservation elements.
- Traffic improvements and frequency of regional public transportation.
- Add better telecommunication services throughout the City and surrounding areas (improve cell phone coverage).
- Disc golf course.
- Smart lights timed at the speed limit.
- Free wi-fi started downtown, then expanded Citywide.
- Green improvements throughout the City.
- More focus on the urban forest – educate the community about it so
- Revisit developer fees in Chico to help our budget situation – need to make sure that the City is not subsidizing development. Developers need to pay the cost of doing development.

## **WHAT WOULD CHICO LOOK LIKE IF YOUR IDEAS ARE IMPLEMENTED?**

- Affordable for all with great neighborhoods.
- Bicycle friendly with great schools that are well funded to meet the City's needs.
- No cars at all, lots of trees, really easy to get around with convenient services.
- Less growth.
- Green City that is self-sustaining (e.g., agriculture)
- Garden City Concept, connected and easy to move about.
- Similar to what it is today – all the things we love about Chico – but enhanced to solve the problems (e.g., parking problems solved, high paying jobs).
- More transportation choices – alternative ways to move around.
- Every house, business, sidewalk is filled with character (unique character) that allows residents and visitors to be proud. Artists are inspired by the unique character of Chico.
- Similar, but less traffic and less crime.
- Not so much physical change, but a change in the way we think, our attitudes.
- Custom Chico.
- People will come, we need to be ready and to plan for it (e.g., infrastructure, housing), but in a compact form. Chico is a Smart City. So well planned that we'll have to pat our City Planners on the back and tell them what a good job they've done.
- City of Views.
- Growing Up, Not Out.
- Chico without conventional zoning – zoning is abolished.
- Healthy Chico – creeks, waterways.