

# Joint Study Session 3-18-08

## Planning Commission and City Council



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# Study Session Purpose

## GP Project Update/Status:

- What work has been done?
- Where are we doing currently?
- What have we heard so far?
- What's next?

## Overview of Project Deliverables:

- Imagine Chico 2030 Vision Book
- Existing Condition Report

# What Action is Required?

- No need for formal action on Existing Conditions Report or Vision Book

# General Plan Project Update

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# Chico 2030 General Plan Process



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2 years

Multiple phases

Key component is  
public input at all  
phases

# Project Status

## ✓ Completed Phases

- ✓ Understanding Chico Phase

- ✓ Completed Initial Visioning Phase

## ■ Commenced Phases

- Key Issues Phase

- Land use map ideas

# What Work Has Been Done?

- Data Collection and Review
- Meetings with City Staff
- Project website setup/update
- Public and media outreach
- Phone Survey (400 residents)
- Stakeholder interviews for initial visioning and issue identification (15+ meetings with 30+ groups)

# What Work Has Been Done?

- Visioning Workshops
  - 12-8-07 and 12-10-07
- GPAC Meetings
  - Kick off 1-7-08
  - Local Economy 2-27-08
- Downtown Ad Hoc Meetings
  - Kick off 2-28-08
- Key Issues Workshop
  - Land Use/Local Economy 3-11-08

# What Are We Doing Currently?

- GPAC “Think Tank” work
- Downtown Ad Hoc Committee advisory work
- Project research and analysis
- Additional community input on key issues
- Soliciting individual land use map suggestions

# What Have We Heard So Far?

## Phone Survey (400 residents)

### Most Important Local Issues:

- Public safety and crime
- Growth and development
- Environment (emphasis on preserving open space)
- Traffic Congestion (concerned, but not embracing solutions)
- Local jobs (more high paying)

# What Have We Heard So Far?

## Stakeholder Interviews (30+ groups)

- Important issues, priorities, and big ideas from initial outreach
- List of 200+ issues/ideas sorted into 8 general plan topics or categories
- Many related/overlapping issues
- Focus now to identify key issues that we need additional public input to understand/address

# Key Issues Matrix

## Chico GP - Preliminary List of Key Issues Heard to Date

General Category of Key Issues	Local Economy/ Econ Dev	Land Use and Growth	Neighborhoods/ Housing	Community Character	Circulation/ Mobility	Public Services/ Safety	Environment	Sustainability
<b>Key Issues Heard to Date (Alphabetical)</b>								
Add mixed use development		✓						
Add pathways along riparian corridors		✓						
Agricultural easement program and no-net loss of farmland		✓						
Attract high value businesses and executives through improved air service	✓							
Attract new business through incentives	✓							
Better define compact urban form		✓	✓	✓				✓
Better define density		✓	✓					
Better define neighborhood compatibility		✓	✓	✓				
Better private sector economy	✓							
Buffer zones between agricultural and urban to protect air quality		✓					✓	
Capitalize on historical assets for tourism	✓			✓				
Collaborate with CSUC on expansion plan		✓				✓		
Compact urban design for sustainability		✓						✓
Compatibility and consistency between existing development and infill		✓						
Connect south part of town to Highway 99		✓			✓			

# What Have We Heard So Far?

## Visioning Workshops (175+ persons)

### Live Polling Exercise:

- More housing choices in 10 years (homes with small and large yards, townhouses, condos and lofts)
- 95% think preserving open space is important
- 84% think reducing traffic congestion is important

# What Have We Heard So Far?

## Visioning Workshops (175+ persons)

### Preserve in Chico in 2030:

- Preserve trees, open space, parks, and views
- Small town feel
- Downtown
- Bidwell Park
- Historic buildings/neighborhoods
- Quality neighborhoods

# What Have We Heard So Far?

## Visioning Workshops (175+ persons)

### Improve in Chico in 2030:

- City's bike paths
- Rail lines and alternate/public transportation
- Traffic
- Pedestrian access/walkability

# What Have We Heard So Far?

## Visioning Workshops (175+ persons)

### Add in Chico in 2030:

- Regional transportation in and out of Chico
- Public transit
- Mixed use development
- Safer, more extensive bike paths and bike lanes

# What Have We Heard So Far?

## Visioning Workshops (175+ persons)

### Chico 2030 will look/feel like:

- Home (same but better)
- More compact/urban
- Downtown is heart of City
- Better jobs, business friendly
- More sustainable
- Parks and open space preservation
- Improved mobility (locally and regionally)
- Healthy residents

# What Have We Heard So Far?

## GPAC – Local Economy/Econ Dev

- Given structural budget deficit, existing service levels may not be sustainable – City should look at new revenue sources
- City should incentivize (not mandate) affordable housing
- City should focus on business attraction as priority to address mismatch of residents' skills and local job availability

# What Have We Heard So Far?

## Key Issues Workshop 3-11-08

### Land Use and Local Economy:

- Ideas for clear growth boundaries and growth areas/opportunities
- Citywide compact urban form
- Half may want to consider higher density than is currently allowed
- Strategic commercial growth areas and ideas for more alternative neighborhood center anchors
- Desired jobs/occupations and best locations
- Ideas to improve business environ.

# What's Next?

- Downtown Visioning March 25th
- Key Issues Workshops
  - April 8<sup>th</sup> Environment/Sustainability
  - May 13<sup>th</sup> Circulation/Public Services
  - June 10<sup>th</sup> Community Character and Neighborhoods
- GPAC Meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays)
- Land Use Alternatives
  - May through August

**Questions?**  
**Comments?**

# Overview of Project Deliverables



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# GP Project Deliverables for Understanding/Visioning Chico

- Existing Conditions Report
  - Executive Summary
  - Existing Conditions Report
- Imagine Chico 2030 Vision Book
  - Vision Book
  - Supporting Materials

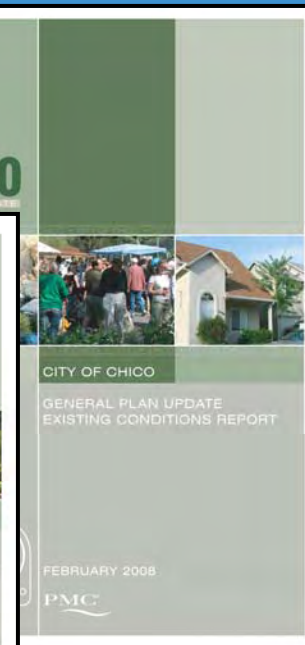
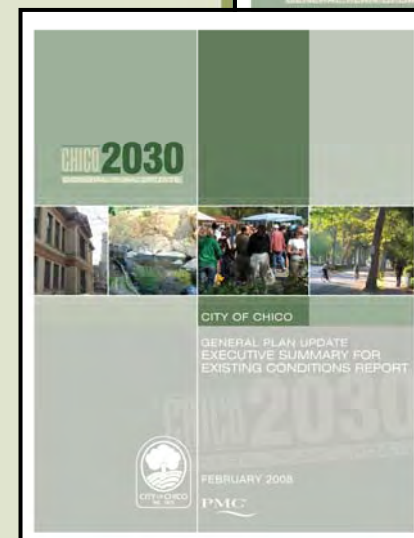


# Existing Conditions Report

## Document Purpose:

- Legal requirement
- General Plan background report
- Existing conditions for CEQA analysis

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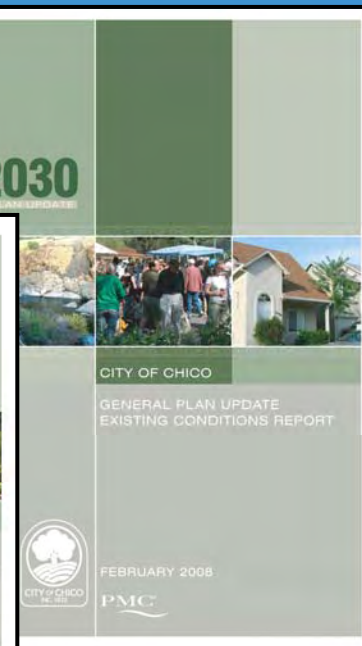
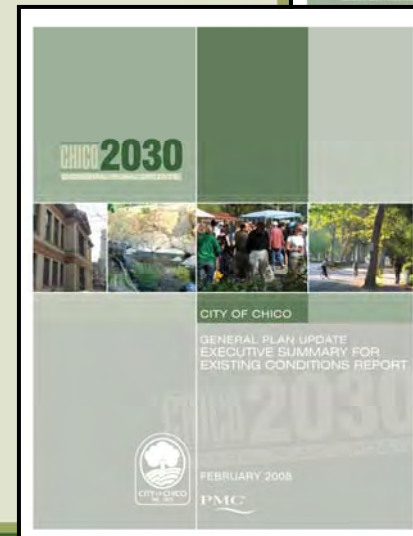


# Existing Conditions Report

## Document Organization/Use:

- Chapters parallel existing and planned GP Elements
- Resource document compiling all relevant information and studies
- Generally not original research

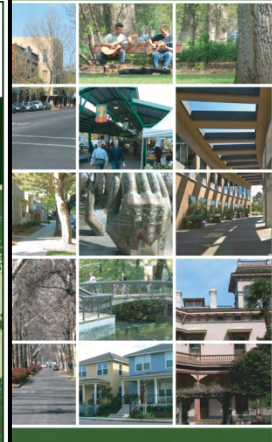
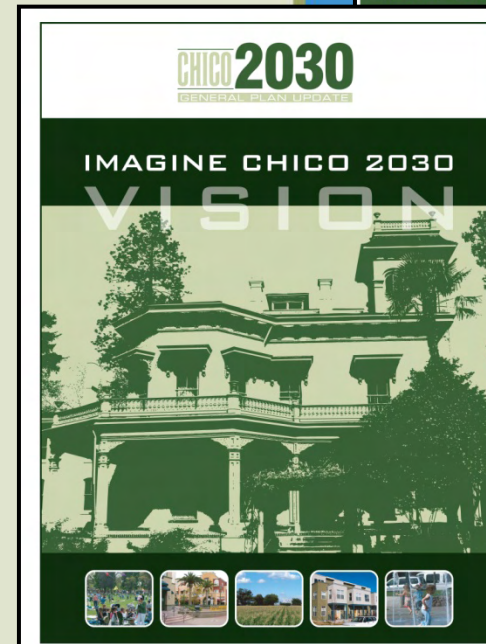
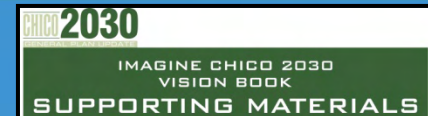
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# Vision Book

## Document Purpose:

- Captures and documents the ideas of hundreds of Chico residents
- Reminder of what residents want as we test ideas, discuss trade-offs, etc.



# Vision Book

## Where Did Ideas Come From:

- You!
- Phone Survey
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Visioning Workshops
- Hundreds of residents volunteering time to share their thoughts/dreams



# Vision Book

## How will the document be used:

- Reminder throughout the process of what Chico residents want in their future City
- Reference and inspiration for creative ways to solve problems and to plan for Chico's future



**Questions?**  
**Comments?**

# Conclusions/Next Steps



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# Conclusions

- Significant progress on General Plan Update 2030
- Important time to participate
- Use of the documents moving forward

# Project Next Steps

- Downtown Meetings
  - Vision Workshop March 25
- GPAC Meetings
  - March 26 (Land Use and Growth)
- Key Issues Workshops
  - April 8<sup>th</sup> Environment/Sustainability
  - May 13<sup>th</sup> Circulation/Public Services
  - June 10<sup>th</sup> Community Character and Neighborhoods
- Land Use Alternatives

# Joint Study Sessions

- Key Issues and Guiding Principles
  - June 2008
- Land Use and Growth
  - July 2008 – followed to select preferred alt

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