

SANTA CLARA-RIVER ROAD IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING TEAM (SCRRPT) Vision Statement and Key Issues for Focus Group review & analysis

NOTE: Vision statements were crafted from 'Best outcomes' shared during the 2014-15 Listening Sessions. Each issue list that follows the Vision paragraph is comprised of ideas, concerns, and solutions neighbors offered during the Listening Sessions.

Land Use. Community-based grassroots planning leads to the creation of neighborhoods that retain the independent character of the River Road and Santa Clara communities through the use of innovative design concepts. By doing so, the community can accommodate anticipated population growth, prepare for development, and welcome the next generation of residents. That level of deliberative decision making comes from an understanding of the rural heritage, functioning natural systems and resources, affinity for and access to the Willamette River, and the need to preserve our local farms and enhance our urban agriculture. Furthermore, as growth and development occurs, let it be appropriately scaled infill that sensitively advances our vision of *20-minute neighborhoods*; that is, our quiet residential areas served by walkable commercial centers along River Road and elsewhere that create the destinations we desire within our neighborhood. The goal is a development pattern that enhances our neighborhoods while creating economic opportunities for small local businesses, enabling people's choice to walk, cycle or ride transit, and increasing livability and environmental sustainability. The end result will manifest our vision to create a living River and Garden District.

Community Character

- fostering an urban tree canopy
- preserving historical character of the neighborhood
- ensuring there is meaningful input in land use decisions [Process issue]
- conservation of farmland and natural areas
- Protection of farmland in Santa Clara, perhaps through some sort of identified Rural Reserves in the Metro Plan
- places for community to congregate
- there needs to be a solid vision for the future identity of the neighborhoods (for instance, River Road designated as the River and Garden District)

Natural Resources/ Stormwater

- Impact of impervious surfaces: high projections for our basin [Not sure what this refers to: High projections of what?]
- impact of development on storm water mitigation
- drywell decommissioning
- protection of swales and lesser waterways

- identify and protect natural resources; address gaps in current natural resources protections
- there needs to be strategies to protect wild spaces
- food security and green preparedness need to be included in the plan
- value the trees and natural assets in the neighborhoods

Residential Lands

- protecting livability of residential neighborhoods
- pay attention to housing dispersal
- maintaining open space by development strategies like cluster development
- maintaining existing large lots
- encourage diversity in housing, discouraging gentrification
- health and safety concerns occasioned by proximity to the railroads

Urban Design/ 20-minute neighborhoods/ Compatibility/ Transitions

- adopt a vision for development that builds community and ensures aesthetic design standards [Two issue topics in this statement]
- adopt development design that trends toward the 20-minute neighborhood
- figuring out how we can increase density without negative input
- consider light pollution

Economic Development

- business development and relationship to land use needs to be examined
- need a vibrant retail commercial area that creates a nodal town so it is not necessary to commute miles to access services (SC)
- lack of commercial services to walk and bike to
- attract businesses that the neighborhood wants and will patronize
- create an enterprise zone for the arts

Transportation. River Road is a safer road for all users, including those driving cars, people walking or cycling, and people using transit. The River Road is more than the asphalt between curbs; it is reinvented as an urban street that is comfortable for walking conveniently to the places residents need and want to go. A safer, slower, and more comfortable River Road establishes a foundation for a vibrant, community-oriented street that hums with local business activity. Neighborhood streets are improved with context sensitive solutions that address safety concerns while retaining the rural character.

River Road

- speeds and traffic on River Road

- How to foster lower River Road as a street, rather than road to increase safety, enhance sense of neighborhood, and attract appropriate commercial activity.
- River Road is unsafe for bicycles and pedestrians
- River Road traffic bottlenecks a half a mile on either side of the Beltline interchange

Streetscapes, Construction, & Design

- equitable financing of improvements to streets that provide access to new developments
- travel time to downtown is too long (SC)
- Beltline improvements and how they might be done without negative impacts on the SC and RR communities
- evaluate improvements to the NW Expressway and how it can be better used to relieve traffic congestion, particularly on River Road.
- poor traffic control on auxiliary streets
- decide which streets need to be improved to urban stds., and which need to be left as is
- Hunsaker and Beaver needs to be improved, but first it needs to be assessed how it should serve the neighborhood
- traffic congestion caused by North Eugene High School and Corridor/Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion on Silver Lane
- resist any bridge crossing the River from the River Road area
- identify and target dangerous intersections throughout the area
- there needs to be another river crossing to take the pressure off of Beltline: possibly in northern Santa Clara

Bicycle & Pedestrian

- bicycle connectivity is poor, especially in Santa Clara
- the West Bank Trail needs to be extended along the river in Santa Clara
- consider new and safe bike routes throughout the area
- lack of pedestrian crossings, especially at schools; gaps along lower River Road [A City/County Conundrum (C3)]
- creative solutions to safe pedestrian travel other than standard sidewalks, such as providing connectivity pathways where there are no through streets.

Transit

- lack of frequent and convenient public transit

Public Safety. Professional law enforcement and the broader community collaborate to create safe, clean neighborhoods that are welcoming to all residents. Increased patrolling, investigation, and prosecution results in access to all resources at all hours of the day, and the community works together to support neighbors by looking out for one another.

Law Enforcement

- County public safety services are inadequate
- confusion over who provides public safety services
- neighborhood crime: low level of County funding to respond
- There is some doubt that a 9-1-1 call will be given the correct response
- not sufficient police coverage and response
- lack of coordination between medical and police response
- lack of visibility of police presence
- poor cooperation between County and City vis-à-vis police proactivity (like crime reporting) [No County Crime data]
- poor funding by the County means those annexed have a much better response than those living in the County
- inequality of community response (like graffiti and homeless campers) a concern for the City but not for the County

Parks and Recreation. Abundant parkland and recreation programs are equitably provided to the full community, access to the river and greenway is improved, and well-maintained parks are the sites for thriving community centers, gathering spaces, and new community gardens.

Willamette River, Greenway

- open and focused access to river
- Santa Clara needs better access to the River for recreation (biking, fishing, etc.)
- a river path needs to be created in Santa Clara

Park land (quantity) & Community Center

- need more family-friendly community parks
- need a dog park, or designated legal dog hours in schoolyards
- recreation services are not available in Santa Clara without a lot of travel – the closest being Emerald Park
- a need for a Santa Clara community and cultural center

RR Parks District

- consider a regional parks and recreation district
- lack of coordination between RR Parks and Rec and City Parks and Rec,

- cost/benefits of, and financial stability for River Road Parks and Recreation District

Governance. Our community embraces open, democratic principles in speaking with a cohesive voice that requests efficient, fair and consistent governance, services provided in a clear and logical manner, and equitable taxation of those receiving services.

Representation & Public process

- if the City controls the lives of RR and SC citizens, the citizens need to have a voice in City decision-making
- split governance means there is no comprehensive plan or profile for the area

Coordination & Communication

- Which governing agency in charge of what needs to be clearer
- City/County confusion and lack of clarity for citizens
- inefficient overlap, holes in services, and different levels of service between City and County (e.g., code enforcement and public safety)
- not enough quality of life regulations and/or enforcement (like loud noises, animal control, etc.)

Annexation

- solve the problem of not being able to improve property because annexation is prohibited
- the current annexation policy has been a disaster for the communities
- the issue of taxation is an impediment to annexation. there needs to be strategies to mitigate this barrier
- are there options to annexation that solve governance issues? What governance problems do we have? Would annexation solve any of them?

Special Districts

- Special districts – especially Emerald Park – need protection from suffocation as annexation progresses [Special districts need a conscious decision-making process to determine how to fulfill the needs of our neighbors most cost efficiently. Some districts might be merged with others, disbanded, enhanced, or new ones emerge. Creativity and compromise is needed to solve the strained relationship between the City and River Road Park District.]
- quality of schools may not be drawing families to the area