

March 27, 2013

Albany Planning and Zoning Commission

General Plan Study Session #1

The first Albany Planning and Zoning Commission General Plan Study Session was convened at 6:30 PM on March 27. All Commissioners were present.

Consultant Barry Miller did a PowerPoint presentation outlining the legal requirements for a General Plan, the status of the existing Albany General Plan, the process for updating the Albany Plan, and issues to be addressed/resolved in the course of the General Plan Update.

The following comments were made by Commissioners:

- Conduct the EIR scoping session as soon as possible to identify key issues to be addressed in the Plan
- Use the baseline studies (of existing environmental conditions) to develop the “alternatives” that need to be examined in the EIR. Use the traffic analysis to test the sensitivity of
- Are there sections of the Government Code regarding General Plans that don’t apply because Albany is a charter city?
- How does “Plan Bay Area” affect the content of the General Plan?
- What are goals and requirements related to the Regional Housing Needs Allocation?
- Note that there was a traffic plan done around 2000 by Korve Engineers
- Look at the San Pablo Avenue Design Guidelines as part of this process
- How was UC involved in development of the 1992 Plan? Need to engage them in this process
- Post the University Village Plan (including the Gill Tract plans) on the website
- What does the General Plan say about public safety and crime?
- How will the Plan address the Measure D requirement to provide two parking spaces per housing unit?
- Use new information on liquefaction and seismic safety in this plan
- Look at sea level rise.... How can we quantify the risk to land relating from rising sea level?
- Do we have data on BART noise? It is a big concern. Engage BART in this process.

The following comments were made by the public:

- San Pablo Avenue Design Guidelines should be added to the list of documents to be consulted. Also, the San Pablo Vision Plan, although the design guidelines take precedence.
- Suggest a charette where you lay a map of the city out on the table and ask the public questions
- Use Albany Speaks: Over the next 20 years, I hope Albany.....(fill in)
- Dwell on the positive, not the negative. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it