

Sustainability Committee Briefing
Albany 2035
General Plan Update

April 29, 2013

Work Session Overview

- Purpose of the General Plan
- Summary of work program and schedule
- Overview of the existing Albany General Plan
- Commissioner discussion and comments
- Public comment

General Plan Basics

- Required since 1937
- Expresses City's policy on land use
- "Comprehensive" =
 - covers entire city
 - covers all topics related to physical development
- "Long-range" (15-25 years)
- Includes narrative ("elements") and diagrams (maps)
- Subject to CEQA

Plan Elements

Mandatory Elements

- Land Use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Open Space
- Conservation
- Safety
- Noise

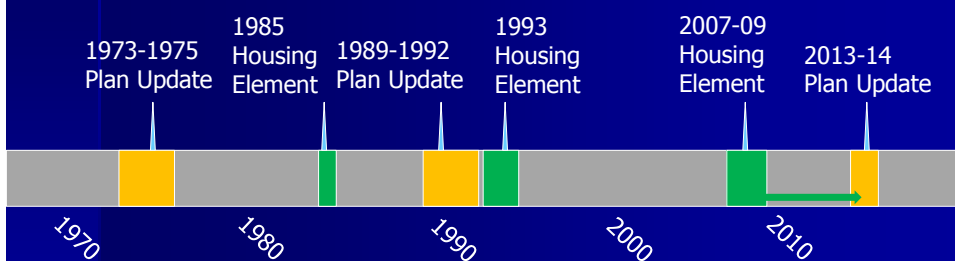
Optional Elements (examples)

- Community Services and Facilities
- Parks and Recreation
- Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Historic Preservation
- Community Design

General Plan Basics

- Goal
"A range of transportation choices for Albany residents."
- Policy
"Maintain a connected system of bike routes and lanes that make it possible to travel around Albany without a private automobile."
- Action
"Provide additional bike racks at City Hall by 2015."

Albany General Plan History



State General Plan Guidelines recommend updates every 10 years

Why Update the Plan?

- Existing Plan is now 20+ years old
- Does not reflect recent city plans, studies, programs
- Does not reflect new legal mandates and requirements
- Does not reflect new issues or changing philosophies since 1992
- Many of the action programs have been completed
- Document itself is not "user friendly"--lacks compelling graphics and has a dated quality

Overview of Work Scope

1. Project Start-Up
2. Community Participation and Outreach
3. Policy Audit
4. Collection and Analysis of Baseline Data
5. Study Sessions on Policy Issues
6. Preparation of Draft Plan
7. Preparation of 2014-2022 Housing Element
8. Environmental Review
9. Plan Adoption

Existing Plans to Incorporate

- Voices to Vision
- 2009 Housing Element
- Active Transportation Plan
- Public Arts Master Plan (2010)
- Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan
- Parks Master Plan (2004)
- Climate Action Plan (2009)
- Residential Design Guidelines
- San Pablo Av Vision Plan (1997)
- Eastshore State Park Plan
- Complete Streets documents
- Plans for UC Berkeley landholdings

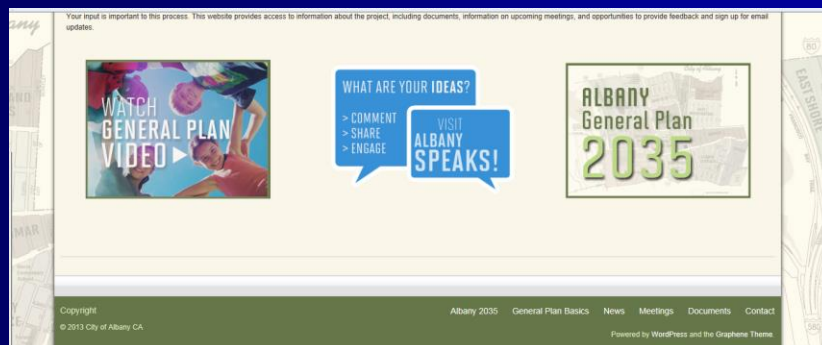
Engaging the Community

- Planning/ Zoning Commission Study Sessions
- City Council Briefings
- Study Sessions with other Commissions
- General Plan “display” for special events
- Press releases and media outreach
- Outreach to established organizations and neighborhood groups
- Project website and feedback links

Engaging the Community: www.albany2035.org



Engaging the Community: www.albany2035.org



Proposed Plan Structure

Current Structure

- Introduction
- Summary
- Land Use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Open Space, Recreation, and Conservation
- Community Health and Safety
- Implementation

Proposed Structure

- Introduction
- **Framework**
- Land Use
- Transportation
- *Housing (summary)*
- Recreation and Open Space
- Conservation/ Sustainability
- Environmental Hazards
- **Community Services and Facilities**
- **Shoreline**
- Implementation

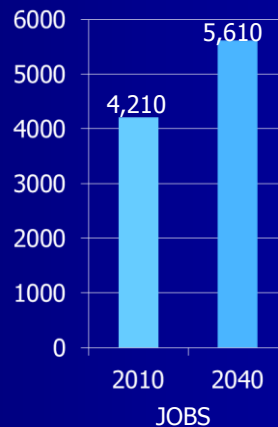
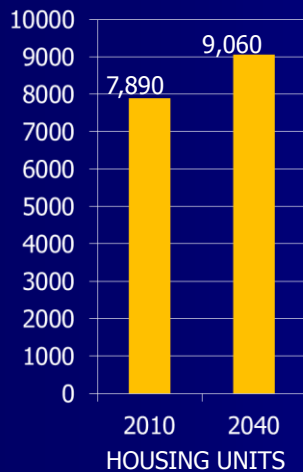
General Plan Environmental Impact Report

- Evaluates impact of General Plan 20-year "buildout" on roads, environment, services, aesthetics, etc.
- Focuses on land use map changes
- Includes setting, impacts, mitigation measures
- Considers alternatives to the proposed Plan, including "no project"
- General Plan is designed to be "self-mitigating"

Typical EIR Topics

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biologic Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology
- Land Use
- Noise
- Population/ Housing
- Public Services/Rec
- Transportation
- Utilities

Housing and Job Projections 2010-2040



Acres Needed to Meet Forecasts

How much land would be needed to add
1,170 units (30 year growth forecast)?

@ 10 units per acre
= +/- 120 acres

@ 30 units per acre
= +/- 40 acres

@ 60 units per acre
= +/- 20 acres



Sustainability in Existing Plan

- Encourage non-auto modes of travel
- Improve air and water quality
- Protect vegetation and wildlife
- Conserve creeks, shoreline, and Albany Hill
- Plan for rising sea level
- Create diverse housing choices

Missing: *Energy, Economy, Green Business, Green Building, Low Impact Development, GHG reduction, etc.*

How should we address Sustainability in the Updated Plan?

- Land use policies?
- Transportation policies?
- Conservation policies?
- Housing policies?

To what extent can *Climate Action Plan* policies and actions be woven into the General Plan?

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Discussion and Comments