

Open House Summary

INTRODUCTION

On October 1, 2013, the City of Sonora held a Community Open House to share the draft Vision Sonora Plan with the community and seek input on the components of the draft Plan. During the Open House, community members had the opportunity to visit five “stations” with presentations or displays:

- Station 1: Background Presentation
- Station 2: Tourism, Local Economy and Community
- Station 3: Community Design Elements
- Station 4: Getting Around Town
- Station 5: Streetscapes and Public Spaces

Project team members were available at each station to answer questions. At Station 6, comment cards were available for participants to provide feedback.



COMMUNITY COMMENTS

The following are comments written on comment cards during the Open House. The comments are provided verbatim.

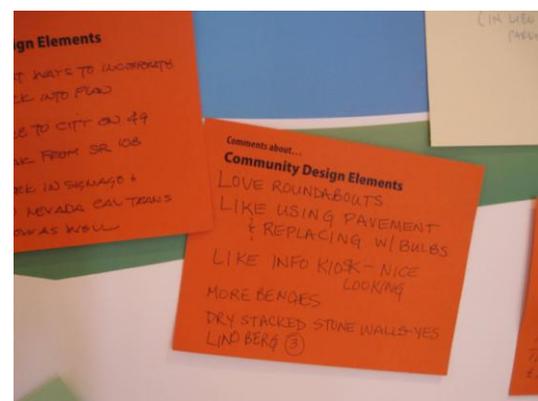
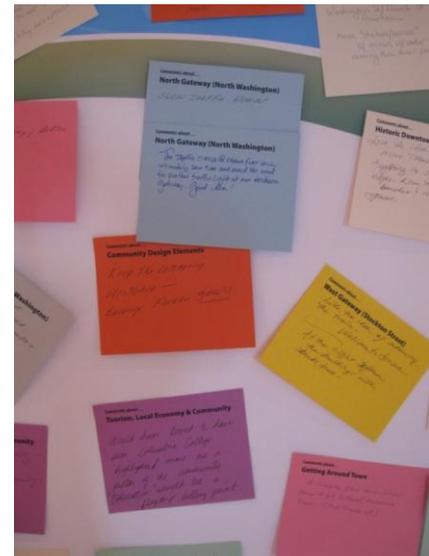
Tourism, Local Economy & Community

- More public art would make the town seem more appealing and modern. But not realism art, something more 21st century like abstract, or Banksy-like
- There is no “community center” to offer programs and classes – especially to adults (residents)
- Very smoky downtown, that is: second-hand smoke is very prevalent, keeps people from coming back to the downtown
- Fiscal support for “2nd Saturday Art Night”. Make that program integral to economic sustainability for arts tourism
- Would have loved to have seen Columbia College highlighted more as a pillar of the community. “Education” should be a flagship selling point
- Love “2nd Saturday Art Nights” Keep those murals coming
- Combine all (3). Concern of impacts to community if and when Court relocates



Community Design Elements

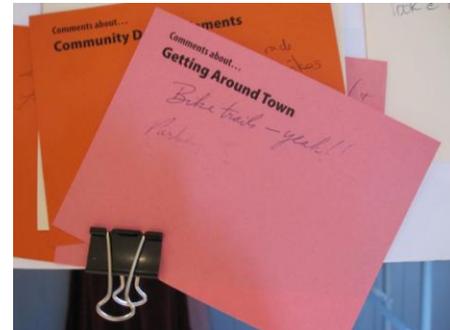
- Really like: Paseo, walking trail, defined city entries, bulbouts, safe and visible pedestrian walkways and railway bridge signage
- Should look at ways to incorporate courthouse park into plan
- Main entrance to city SR 49 is very weak for SR 108
- NDOT can work in signage and sculpture in Nevada. Caltrans should allow as well
- Love the street closures and park spaces – Love it!
- The fairgrounds are intersected in collaborating with the City to facilitate the pathway along Stockton Street and provide access from the trail to the fairgrounds (bathrooms) (museum) and park for lunch, etc. We want to make the fairgrounds more visible from Stockton St. and path
- Love the convertible streets and more downtown walkways. Try to protect old houses & buildings
- Love roundabouts. Like using pavement and replacing with bulbs. Like info kiosk – nice looking. More benches, and dry stacked stone walls. Yes Linoberg (3). Info kiosks – with parking info. Sonora APP for phone
- Better usage of Coffill Park. Foot bridge from Mexican restaurant to Coffill Park. Extra lights, 2-3 small shops in Coffill Park – Small retail, stained glass, jewelry, coffee, etc. Could be small gazebos
- The Stewart Plaza is an absolute must! Start with gateways and Stewart Plaza and watch the success!
- Bike rack = old bikes
- A big plus is to have a walking street. Good for business and for the public
- Love the Linoberg Paseo. Right now crossing the street is treacherous for someone with a walker or wheelchair
- Expose the creek under the Farmer’s market. If necessary, two parking lots could be kept. Better yet, make parks on each side of the creek, but level enough for a Farmer’s market
- More murals for historical showplace!
- Regrading streets such as: Yaney Ave., Jackson, Lytton, and Shepard. Streets are too steep for walking, bicycling, and driving
- Bike trails, outside dining and a creek!
- Awesome – we absolutely need outside dining! The more the better!
- Regrading the existing sidewalks on Stewart Street (west side, too high) over 3 feet above street grade
- Keep the community historical. Encourage federal grants
- Need for recycling receptacles along with trash ones



- Our vision board group asked for outside dining, trees, opening up the creek, making farmers market a park (restaurants could take order), beautifying Stockton Street. Love that these may actually happen

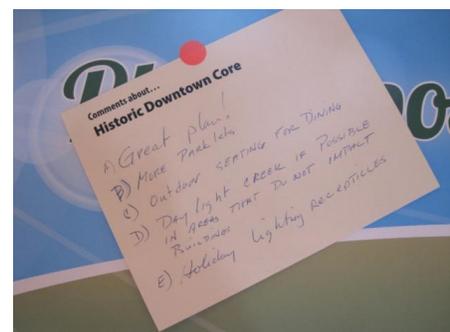
Getting Around Town

- Make Washington Street one way southbound and Stewart Street on way northbound. (Think Ashland). Roundabout at Red Church
- Transit stop next to the court house should be closer with shelter, especially for the disabled
- Pedestrian crosswalk on Stewart Street and Mehun Street. There are two parking lots there, and no designated place to walk to businesses on Stewart & Washington Streets
- Bike trails – yeah!!
- Need traffic light or something to control turns from all streets meeting at N. Washington/Elkin/Snell/SR 49
- Like the bike trail and bike lane!
- A bicycle lane down Lyons doesn't fit without removing trees (bad trade off)
- Encourage walking, bike, trails



Historic Downtown Core

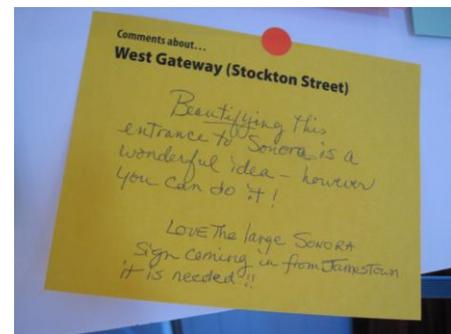
- Linoberg Alley not Linoberg Paseo. Plus there are old letters on the building that need to be included it says Lindberg. Email to get a picture
- Like the Paseo, and parklets. Didn't see parking changes
- Arch sign – no, but yes on the Linoberg close off. Bulbout with landscapes is a great idea!
- I love the trees and plants. The Linoberg Paseo is wonderful, it draws people to the back streets
- Open the creek – yes! (in lieu of current parking lot)
- Please consider a free Wi-Fi zone, downtown zone
- Please go to historic museum and look at what Sonora did look like. Now you have a 70s look to Sonora. Historic Sonora has gone! Need trees, benches, much less concrete. Restore building to “historic look”
- I like the plans so far.... How about undergrounding the telephone and power lines on Green Street and Stewart. This would make more sidewalk room as well as improve visual aesthetics. Of particular importance for planned pedestrian plaza near Linoberg
- Thank you so much for the idea of Linoberg Paseo – it is something I've wanted and will certainly use!
- Must have crosswalk at S. Stewart and Mehun – many businesses across Stewart form parking lots



- Love the idea of parklets – more trees downtown. Anything to soften the hard edges. Love the idea of benches and community gathering spaces
- Look at Campbell Ave. in Campbell, CA & Levenworth, WA.
- I really think the parklet idea is great. Being a 15 year old, I can't drive yet, so I need to walk everywhere. It would be nice to have a little sitting area once in awhile to rest on the way to walking somewhere
- Washington/Church St fountain. Have statues/bronze of miners with water running through their pans
- Great plan! More parklets. Outdoor seating for dining. Day light creek if possible in areas that do no impact buildings. Holiday lighting receptacles
- Limiting the heavy truck traffic with a bypass
- Trees on Washington St. They will provide shade, reduce the harshness of solid store fronts, and reduce noise

West Gateway (Stockton Street)

- Fairgrounds wants to be an integral part of all of the enhancements & improvements along Stockton Street
- Fairground is interested in collaborating with the City as we are developing a strategic plan and want to work with all agencies to secure funds
- Stewart Street Class II bicycle street from Church Street to Mono Way. Too much traffic and vehicles driving too fast
- High school students need overhead pedestrian crossing to get to classes across Shaw's Flat Road
- Between the fairgrounds and Stan & Jim's Body Shop, remove concrete parking structure to expose the creek more, and make a small park
- How does the Stockton Street trail connect with Woods creek trail in the RTP? (Jamestown to Sonora)
- More landscape, use of creek
- Like the idea of enhancing the train – Welcome to Sonora. At the light, soften the buildings with shrubs, trees
- Beautifying this entrance to Sonora is a wonderful idea, however you can do it! Love the large Sonora sign coming in from Jamestown, it is needed!

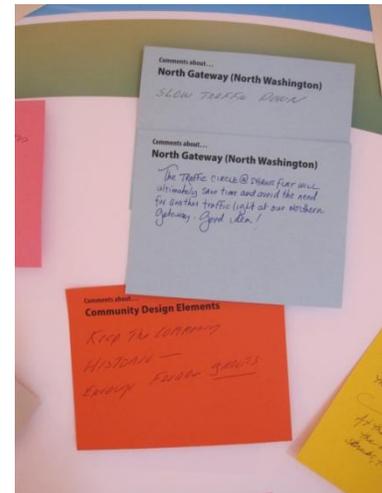


South Gateway (South Washington)

- The Sonora on the overcrossing of SR 108 is too late as a directional sign, unless it says “you just missed....”
- Stairway to Dome – Existing, rehab/make visible, add connection to downtown
- Like the widening of sidewalks and landscaping. No parking on Washington?
- Love the idea of signage for Sonora. This is a popular entry for locals

North Gateway (North Washington)

- Overall, a very impressive plan. What an improvement!!!
- Put in a “roundabout” in front of the Red Church
- With the idea of roundabout on School, Columbia, and SR49, possibly sending bicycle traffic up Columbia to tie into road that becomes Shepard to make a safer route to Stewart for cyclists
- The traffic circle @ Shaws Flat will ultimately save time and avoid the need for another traffic light at our northern gateway. Good idea!
- Slow traffic down



Other Comments

- Have one blue striped handicap parking spot on each block on Washington Street
- Consider adding interactive kiosk with visitor information downtown or an Iphone App or Tour of Sonora (especially interesting for California history)
- Love the Stockton Road pathway! Let’s see more walking access! A more “fit” community
- Full free WiFi zone in the city of downtown. 2 bars currently on 10/1/13
- Recently moved to Sonora from the Bay Area. The “vision” looks good. Thank you for improving downtown!
- Sonora “historic” element is huge. Need to clean up and promote to get residents to come downtown as well as visitors and tourists
- Please do not disturb or take down the historic buildings and trees. The area needs to have the feel of the “49ers” – and I don’t mean the “team”
- Terrace/amphitheater east end of Coffill Park.
- Grind down asphalt in street to restore 6” concrete curbs
- Improve façade of Bank of Stockton to show Sonoran influence. Allow plenty of space @ planter bulbouts, because cars will tend to destroy trees, more than you think.
- Regarding Railroad bridge over SR 108 “Sonora” should be on a separate frame rather than attached to bridge beams
- Looks good! Hope you can get the funding!

The following are additional notes taken by project team members during discussions with community members that were not captured on the comment cards.

- Explore options for trail on fairgrounds side- fairgrounds manager on board
- Sycamore trees not allowed by City code- check landscape palette
- Linoberg paseo- something besides bollards on Washington- moveable planters?
- Bollards- more simple design- maybe like ties on bike rack or having horse head on a few?
- Can signal arm mimic gateway arch?
- Look at amphitheater style seating in Coffill park stepping down from Washington