

Vision Sonora



*Creating a More
Vibrant Community*

Vision Sonora
Let's talk about parking, beautification,
pedestrian safety, biking, business
development and more!
Get Involved! • Visioning Week is January 16th - 19th • www.visionsonora.info

Vision Sonora

Community Visioning Summary

April 2013



Welcome to Historic
SONORA



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Introduction

Vision Sonora Project

Funded by a grant from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Vision Sonora project was initiated to provide Sonora with a plan for a more vibrant community by directing physical improvements along the Highway 49 and Washington Street corridors. The plan may also address related programs and activities to support the community's vision. To develop the plan, the City and project team are working in partnership with the Tuolumne County Transportation Council and members of the community. The community vision captured in this document will form a foundation for the plan, which is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2013.

About This Summary

This document is a summary of the main points made by participants in the community visioning process, through the interactive MindMixer website and Community Visioning Week activities as well as minor additions from a project Steering Committee meeting held after Community Visioning Week. These main points are organized into a set of goals and suggestions for carrying out these goals. The Appendix provides notes from the week's activities, including original comments from individuals and groups of participants as well as facilitator notes.

Community Visioning Process

The Community Visioning Process began with an interactive website launch in September 2012 to allow community members to begin generating and discussing ideas before Community Visioning Week was held in January 2013. The interactive website was still running as this report was finalized in April 2013.

Interactive Website

An interactive website was established at Visionsonora.info in September 2012 to provide a forum for community idea generation and feedback. Provided by vendor MindMixer, this website allowed contributors to share new ideas, "second" other people's ideas, expand upon existing ideas, and respond to questions and polls from the project team. The website also showed which topics were generating the most discussion and which online contributors were most active on the site. Launched in December before Community Visioning Week, the website was still in use at the time this summary was created.





Community Visioning Week

Community Visioning Week provided the Sonora community with four days of opportunities to create ideas for future improvements to Sonora's downtown and commercial corridors. From Wednesday, January 16th through Saturday, January 19th, 2013, a team of community planners and transportation engineers worked alongside the community to develop concepts for the "Vision Sonora" plan.

Events during Community Visioning Week included community workshops, a Sonora Chamber of Commerce mixer, walking and trolley tours, discussion groups, and open house hours when community members could drop in at the Opera Hall where the project team was working. All told, at least 200 people participated in Community Visioning Week—not including online participation.

Community Workshops

Community workshops represented major milestones during Community Visioning Week. Each workshop built upon the previous workshop as well as the input received in other Visioning Week activities.

- *Community Workshop Part 1: Visions of the Future* presented some of the project team's findings about Sonora; then participants were asked to brainstorm what they felt were Sonora's key "treasures" and "challenges" as well as their "visions" or ideas for the future. Participants then joined small groups to further develop ideas for the major themes that emerged in the brainstorm activity.
- *Community Workshop Part 2: Streets and Streetscapes* presented information about how communities can encourage walking and bicycling, calm traffic, and create a sense of place. Attendees then participated in an electronic poll about desired street features, with discussions about what they liked and didn't like in the images that were shown.
- *Community Workshop Part 3: Hands On Design Workshop and Presentation* began with a presentation of the key themes in what the team had heard from the community throughout Visioning Week. Participants then worked in





groups to draw and write concepts on maps for the following topics: Pedestrians, Bicycles & Streetscape; Public Spaces & Placemaking; Parking, Signage & Transit; South Washington Gateway Corridor; and Highway 49 Gateway Corridors.

Youth Workshop

The project team had a special meeting with the Sonora High School Leadership Class to hear youth perspectives on Sonora's future. Activities were similar to those in the first community workshop.



Corridor Walks and Trolley Talks

There were hour-long "corridor walk" workshops on Stockton Street by the Fairgrounds, South Washington Street, and North Washington Street, as well as two "trolley talk" workshops that toured all three areas. During these walks and tours, participants were asked to make observations about land use and development, character and feel, public spaces, pedestrian experience, bicycle and vehicle circulation, and parking. They made comments to the group and recorded their thoughts on forms.



Discussion Groups

Five hour-long sessions were held at Opera Hall to provide opportunities for focused discussions on particular topics; anyone with an interest in those topics was welcome to participate. Topics were as follows: Downtown Businesses and Economic Development; Healthy Sonora; Historic Preservation; Parking and Signage; and Visitors and Tourism.

Interviews

Project team members conducted interviews with Council and Planning Commission members, and with Downtown businesses, to hear their particular perspectives.



Parking Intercept Surveys

Project team members conducted brief surveys with people as they walked to and from parking spaces and lots in Downtown Sonora. These surveys included questions about parking, the purpose of their visit, and what they liked and didn't like about Downtown.



Vision

The following goals capture the main points in the comments, concerns, and ideas of participants in Community Visioning Week. On the following pages, each goal is described and lists of community suggestions are provided.

Vision Goals

- *Strengthen Sonora's Identity & History*
- *Attract & Welcome Visitors*
- *Create Places to Enjoy*
- *Boost Downtown Appeal*
- *Enable Pedestrian & Bicycle Travel*
- *Take Care Of Locals*

"I would like Sonora to be a destination that beckons through strong cultural artistic, healthy, forward reaching, historic expressions of who and what we are here."

"Sierra Nevada destination"

"Sense that our town is valued, cherished, and cared for"

"A city true to its heritage"

"Safe, healthy, walk-friendly, beautiful town"

"Vibrant but still small time"

Vision quotes from Community Workshop Part I



STRENGTHEN SONORA'S IDENTITY AND HISTORY

Sonora, the “Queen of the Southern Mines,” is steeped in history. The Tuolumne County Museum and Historic 49 Trolley are two ways that visitors may explore Sonora’s role in the California Gold Rush and other California stories. Historic buildings such as the Red Church, the Sonora Dome, and many Downtown structures keep a sense of history alive and help to shape Sonora’s unique identity. The community’s physical identity is also shaped by other elements in the streetscape and landscape that are addressed in other sections of this summary. While community members value Sonora’s sense of history, this does not imply that the town should become a museum of its own past; rather, they suggested enhancing and calling attention to historic resources, and maintaining historic continuity as the town continues to change.

Community Suggestions:

Preserve and rehabilitate Sonora’s historic resources

- Building rehabilitation
- Façade improvements
- Provide lighting on buildings
 - Also preserve “dark skies”
- Paint the train engine

Create educational opportunities

- Plaques
- Interpretive signs
- Home tours
- Walking tours
 - Recruit more docents—try students
- Self-guided tours
 - Use wayfinding elements in the sidewalks such as footprints or lines
 - For smart phones: apps and QR codes

Tell the story of Sonora using artifacts and the built environment

- Place historic photos where people will see them
- Murals depicting history
- Showcase lumber & mining equipment
- Local rock walls

Explore ways to maintain a historic atmosphere

- Historic District designation
 - Need education about benefits and process
 - Engage college interns to help
- Retain scale of buildings
- Design guidelines
- Refer to historic photos



HISTORY-RELATED ASSETS

Mentioned by Participants

- Red Church – California Historical Landmark
- Sonora Dome
- Tuolumne County Museum
- Tuolumne County Historical Society website (timeline and photo database)
- Tuolumne was first County in California to get “Preserve America” award
- Fairgrounds area: Rock walls, bridge, barn
- South Washington: Foundry and lime kiln
- Indian camps on Stockton
- Railroad tracks and train engine



ATTRACT AND WELCOME VISITORS

Visitors are drawn to Sonora's beautiful natural surroundings, small town character, cultural events, and history; as well as its opportunities for dining, shopping, and lodging. Others, however, drive through or drive past to other regional destinations without realizing what Sonora has to offer. Proximity to the Bay Area means a significant potential market of people who could visit for a pleasant Sierra Nevada getaway in this friendly community. Community suggestions for building the tourism economy included marketing, gateway improvements, and parking accommodations. Ideas for public spaces, a walkable Downtown, and arts and culture—described in other sections of this summary—also contribute to developing Sonora as a destination.

Community Suggestions:

Promote Sonora as a destination

- Promote as a tour bus stop
- Create vacation packages
- Coordinate event calendars
- Increase web presence
- Smart phone apps
- Use QR codes, Yelp, etc.

Provide a friendly welcome with information about things to see and do

- Visitors Center satellite in Downtown
 - Security Pacific State Bank as a potential location
- “Concierge” training for hoteliers and business employees who serve visitors
- Police on foot patrol
- Kiosks, marquee

Provide wayfinding signage and features

- Welcome signs or features along 108 at Stockton/49 and South Washington
- Directional signage to Downtown and other attractions
- Signage for parking (e.g. County parking)
- Walking and bicycling route signage
- Walking tour/route info embedded in sidewalk

Improve the appearance of “gateway” areas

- Call attention to history as visitors turn north off 108
- Improved landscaping, fences, tree planting on Stockton and Washington
 - Highlight native trees and plants
- Move Stockton service club sign (e.g. to Visitors Bureau area or Woodscreek Park)



Above: Popular slide in Workshop 2 survey



Provide better visitor and event parking

- Need event parking solution
- Shuttle and RV parking at old mill
- Tour bus parking in core Downtown area
 - Courthouse is not close enough to core and there are issues with parking by hotels
 - Tour buses not using Red Church bus parking
 - Try a shuttle connection to core from bus parking

Use parking more effectively

- Directional signage to parking areas
 - Promote use of County lot on weekends
- Encourage employees to park farther away
 - Create dedicated lots with permits (no fee)
- Encourage parking behind businesses
 - Improve business entrances on Stewart
- Agreements to share parking lots
- Trolley along Washington Street

Provide more parking

- New parking structures
 - Possible locations: South Washington, Shepperd at Lyons, Bank of America lot
- Diagonal parking on Washington

SONORA ATTRACTIONS

Mentioned by Participants

- Dragoon Gulch
- Red Church
- Fairgrounds
- Cemeteries
- Tuolumne County History Museum
- Mountain Springs Golf Club

Parking | Street Trees



1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Dislike Neutral Like



1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Dislike Neutral Like

Above: Popular slides in Workshop 2 survey



CREATE PLACES TO ENJOY

Residents and visitors alike enjoy opportunities to spend time outdoors in Sonora. Coffill Park and Courthouse Square are valued as public spaces, and participants had suggestions for improving them while also creating new small parks and plazas. The idea of daylighting Sonora Creek through Downtown and using it as a focal point for public spaces continues to have community support. Community members would also like more outdoor dining opportunities, although they feel that heavy traffic and trucks will make that difficult on some Downtown streets. Some suggestions were driven by a desire to accommodate community events, a variety of which are already held in the Fairgrounds, Downtown, and along Sonora's streets.

Community Suggestions:

Create new public spaces

- Create public spaces and pathways along Sonora and Woods Creeks
- Permanently close street segments to create plazas or parks (e.g. Linoberg Street, Theall, Dodge)
- Temporarily close street segments for events or on weekends (e.g. Stewart)

Improve existing park spaces

- Improve Coffill Park
- Redesign Courthouse Square for events
- Provide ADA-compliant public restrooms
- Provide benches
- Provide bins for trash, recycling, dog waste

Encourage night life

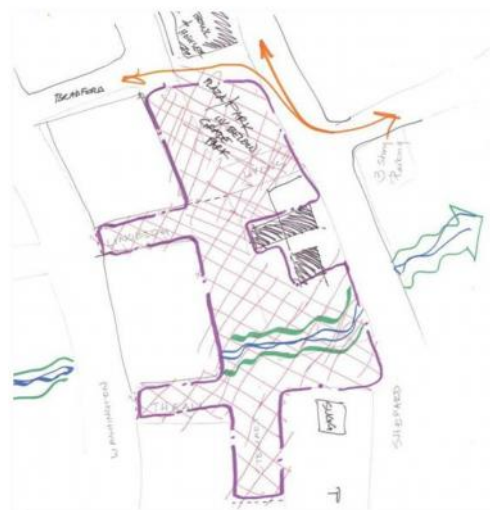
- Extend business hours (e.g. stay open late on Fridays and Saturdays)
- Install lighting to enhance safety and appearance (keeping dark skies in mind)
 - Twinkle lights
 - Lights on buildings
 - Lights for pathways
- Visible police presence (e.g. foot patrol)

Create more opportunities for street life

- Create smoke-free public spaces
- Enable outdoor dining

Offer arts and culture

- Public art (such as murals)
- Extended concert in the park season
- Multi-day County-wide arts event
- Dome campus as community cultural arts center



Concept from Workshop 3 group:
Plaza between Washington and Shepherd
providing a space for dining and events

SONORA EVENTS & CULTURE

Mentioned by Participants

- Mother Lode Round-Up and Parade
- Farmers Market
- 2nd Saturday Art Night
- Christmas Festival and Parade
- Magic of the Night
- Opera Hall events
- Three live theaters
- Music performances
 - Concerts in the Park
 - High school
 - Sonora Bach Festival
 - Local bands



BOOST DOWNTOWN APPEAL AND COMMERCE

Downtown Sonora is a center for activity and commerce for locals and a primary destination for visitors. Community members consider its historic charm, quality restaurants, shops with personal service, park space, and lodging to be assets. Because of its central role in the community's economy and culture, Downtown was the subject of much of the discussion during Community Visioning Week. Thus most other goals in this summary address ways to improve the appeal of Downtown, attract and welcome visitors there, improve access by walking and bicycling, make it easier to find parking, and create places where people can linger and enjoy events. The suggestions below have to do with improving the mix of businesses and how they present themselves, as well as addressing the traffic that community members feel is a detriment to Downtown.

Community Suggestions:

Expand offerings

- Breakfast restaurants, deli, bakery, tasting rooms, bookstore, men's clothing
- Expanded farmers market (e.g. with indoor market)
- Extend commercial district north to Church Lane
- More family and youth activities
- Attract young adults

Make an appealing presentation

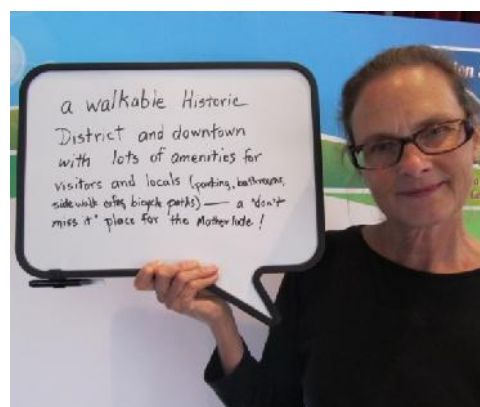
- Better window displays
- Building rehabilitation and façade improvements
- Street trees
 - On-street "parklets" with trees
- Landscaping and flowers

Coordinate among businesses

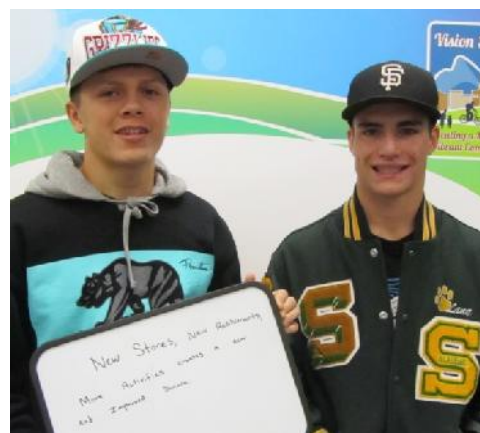
- Expand downtown merchants group
- More business participation in town halls
- Regional business coordination
- Consistent/coordinated business hours

Direct traffic flow

- Reduce truck noise and dust
 - Truck by-pass on Greenly Road extension
- Address congestion
 - Convert Washington and Stewart to one-way
 - Re-route 49
- Roundabouts



Above text: A walkable Historic District and downtown with lots of amenities for visitors and locals (parking, bathrooms, sidewalk cafes, bicycle paths)—a "don't miss it" place for the Motherlode!



Above text: New stores, new restaurants, more activities creates a new and improved Sonora.



ENABLE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAVEL

A city of Sonora's size is ideal for walking and bicycling, activities that can promote health and reduce the number of car trips through town. These are ideal modes of travel for visitors looking to explore Sonora's attractions, stroll through Downtown, and enjoy the scenery. Community members would like to see improved sidewalks and street crossings, and additional connections for walking and bicycling. They feel that traffic flow along the highways and some steep inclines pose challenges. Suggestions for corridors that would make a more pleasant environment for walking are described under the Improving Corridor Aesthetics goal.

Community Suggestions:

Facilitate travel by bike

- Bikeways (e.g. lanes, trails, sharrows)
- Bike parking
- Implement bike plans

Facilitate pedestrian travel

- More visible crosswalks (e.g. lighted crosswalks suggested by Sonora High School and Fairgrounds)
- Downtown sidewalk repair
- Safe Routes to School for Sonora Elementary
- Provide accessibility, including access for electric scooters
- Lighting (keeping dark skies in mind)
- Police foot patrol

Create new walkways

- Walkway or trail between Fairgrounds and Downtown (protected from traffic)
- Elevated walkway on South Washington
- Sidewalk on west side of Stewart

Extend trail connections

- Multi-purpose trail from Sonora to Jamestown along Woods Creek
- Extend Dragoon Gulch trail
- Trail along railroad tracks in southeast part of town

Encourage walking for health

- Walking groups
- Use of Dragoon Gulch and high school track



Parking | Parking Lot Connections (Paseos)



1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Dislike Neutral Like

Pedestrian Crossings | In-Set Pavers



1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
Dislike Neutral Like

Above: Popular slides in Workshop 2 survey



TAKE CARE OF LOCALS

Although tourism is the basis of Sonora's economy and visitors will always play an important role, Sonora is made up of people who live there, own businesses, raise families, and enjoy this beautiful home in their retirement years. These people of Sonora and the small town feeling that brings them together are assets that should be nurtured. Seniors in Sonora are highly skilled from their primary working years and have much to contribute. Youth too can make important contributions if they are asked to participate in community life. During the visioning activities, community members brought up some ways that the people of Sonora can maintain a focus on their own health and quality of life—by addressing the mobility and independence of an aging population, promoting healthy lifestyles, and addressing drug use and homelessness.

Community Suggestions:

Promote Sonora pride

- "Love Sonora" campaign
- Shop local
 - Offer local discount days

Address social issues

- Address drug use
- Housing for homeless
 - Assist with mental illness

Create more smoke-free zones

- Discourage smoking on sidewalks
- Provide smoke-free plaza
- Encourage smoke-free bars

Provide healthy food

- Healthier food retail near high school
- Expand community gardens
- Expand farmers market
 - Accept food assistance payments

Facilitate aging in place

- Provide ADA access
- Provide transit to medical facilities
- Improve conditions for walking

Promote healthy living

- Facilitate aging in place
- Provide active community roles for seniors and youth
- Encourage walking and biking
- Coordinate and promote health programs
 - Existing City program: Get Up, Get Going, Get Healthy
 - Existing Regional Medical Center program: Project HOPE free mobile health clinic





Next Steps

The community vision captured in this document is based on the time, effort, and energy of many people in Sonora who came together to generate and discuss ideas. Those ideas will lay the foundation for the Vision Sonora plan, which will serve as a more detailed guide for Sonora's future. Carrying out the vision will require more of the small-town spirit of shared purpose that was demonstrated during Community Visioning Week. Many potential partners are available to help.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Mentioned by Participants

- State of California (Caltrans, Dept. of Fish and Game)
- County of Tuolumne
- City of Sonora
- Parks, Recreation & Beautification Committee
- Sonora Foundation
- Chamber of Commerce
- Visitors Bureau
- Farm Bureau
- Sonora Regional Medical Center
- Tuolumne County Museum
- Historical Society
- Arts Council
- Master Gardeners
- Native Plant Society
- Rose Society
- Waste Management
- Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD)
- PG&E
- Section 8 Housing
- Habitat for Humanity
- Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA)
- WATCH Resources, Inc.
- Service Clubs
- Hotels
- Business & Property Owners
- Real Estate Agents



Appendix

Summaries and Notes

Community Workshop Part 1 – Post It Notes

Community Workshop Part 1 – Group Discussions

Community Workshop Part 2 – TownScan™ Notes

Community Workshop Part 3 – Group Maps and Drawings

Youth Workshop Notes

Discussion Group Notes

Corridor Walk Notes

Trolley Talk Notes

Parking Intercept Surveys

Website Top Ideas

Website “Idea Report” from MindMixer

Community Workshop Part 1: Visions of the Future

Wednesday, January 16 | Opera Hall

Post-It Notes

In this large-group brainstorming activity, workshop participants were asked to write brief thoughts on Post-Its to say what they thought were Sonora's key "treasures" and "challenges" as well as their "visions" for the future. The notes were quickly organized into themes. For the purposes of this summary, the themes have been refined to highlight additional topics that the facilitators may not have noticed in the limited time that was available during the workshop.

Treasures

Main Themes: *History & Historic Buildings, Natural Assets, People, Businesses, Small Town Charm & Community, Culture & Gathering Places, Walkable, Buildings.*

- History & Historic Buildings
 - Historic
 - Historic
 - History
 - History
 - History
 - Historic richness
 - Old buildings
 - Historic buildings
 - Historic settings- buildings, sites
 - Sonora's not generic. It has evolved and has a distinct history
 - Gold rush era architecture
 - Gold rush history
 - Historic area
 - Historic ambiance and Sonora Cr.
 - Mining and logging history
 - The historical theme
 - Scenic buildings churches and courthouse
 - Blend of history with local charm
 - Historic/goldrush town, vibrant downtown (m--- storefronts need to be filled)
 - Dome- future use to serve community
- Natural Assets
 - Clean air
 - What I appreciate most about Sonora/Tuolumne County- the great outdoors/recreational opportunities
 - Looks
 - Sonora is physically attractive. The landscape and surroundings are beautiful
 - Stream running through town
 - Beautiful seasons
 - Weather
 - Beautiful

- Foothill setting
- Topography
- I love that creek that runs below- should be more visible!
- Trees, creeks, nature
- Mountains
- Green hills
- Dragoon Gulch
- Natural looks of the community- hills, water, greenery
- Dragoon Gulch

- People
 - The local business people
 - People
 - Local community
 - Beauty
 - Friendliness of people
 - The people
 - Friendly
 - Kindness of everyone
 - How friendly everyone is
 - The family feeling
 - Friendly
 - Friendly and clean

- Businesses
 - Personal service from merchants
 - Science R&D facilities
 - Great hospital
 - Variety of restaurants
 - Great restaurants
 - Dining
 - Variety of businesses
 - Friendly shopper
 - Candy Vault
 - Shopping
 - Great dining
 - Great stores
 - The shops
 - The antique shops and other shops
 - Restaurants
 - Great shops
 - Mountain home gifts
 - Washington Street Shops
 - Healthcare

- Small Town Charm & Community
 - Quaintness-small town feeling

- Small town feeling
- Small town
- Home town atmosphere
- Old Town Charm
- Small town feel
- Small town atmosphere
- It's size! Small community
- Absence of big city crime and congestion
- The hometown atmosphere downtown
- Small town quaintness
- Vacation spot for Bay Area travelers
- Community business involvement in special events
- Culture & Gathering Places
 - Art community
 - Farmers Market Plaza
 - Farmers market
 - Courthouse Square/Park
 - Great theater companies
 - Vibrant art community/ galleries
 - Arts & culture connections
 - Courthouse park
 - Activities
 - Great downtown, community events
- Walkable
 - Walkability
 - Walkability of downtown
 - Walkable interesting downtown
 - Safe to walk the streets after dinner
 - Benches to socialize
 - Traffic on main street- make it pedestrian like Europe with fountains
- Buildings
 - The dome needs to be included in this plans skyline
 - Upper story access not from main street
 - Building's HVAC (heating and air)

Challenges

Main Themes: *Economic, Youth and Baby Boomers, Traffic & Transportation, Parking, Lighting, Green Space & Parks, Restrooms Needed, Gathering Areas & Outdoor Dining, Building Improvements & Occupancy, Streetscape Improvements, Downtown Improvements, Signage, Lighting, Bike and Pedestrian Environment, Safety, Public Facilities, Leadership & Communication, Homeless.*

- Economic
 - More restaurants
 - Tourism

- Employment
- Environmentally safe jobs
- Jobs that support a living wage
- Downtown business viability
- Business diversity
- Limited shop hours
- Lack of money
- Difficult to start a business
- Fiscal demands vs. economic problems
- Economic development – more than retail jobs
- Youth and Baby Boomers
 - Activities for youth
 - Not enough for teens to do
 - Providing opportunities for civic engagement and encore careers for aging baby boomers
 - Decline in local employment and decline in school enrollment
 - Proactively coping, generally and specifically, with the “aging” demographic – 40% of Tuolumne County population are 55+
 - Lack of community support for education
- Traffic & Transportation
 - Traffic
 - Transportation
 - Traffic and Noise
 - Too much traffic
 - Traffic
 - Greenly Extension
 - Traffic
 - Traffic
 - Traffic
 - Traffic patterns
 - Downtown traffic on Washington Street is horrible – should be redirected
 - Reroute 49!
 - Traffic
 - Traffic on Washington
 - Speed
 - More transit opportunities
- Parking
 - Parking
 - Parking
 - Parking
 - Parking
 - Parking
 - Parking
 - Parking
 - Parking

- Parking
- Parking
- Parking
- Overcome perceived parking problem
- Parking for merchants
- Green Space & Parks
 - No green areas
 - Undervalued natural beauty – creeks, oaks, shade
 - Not enough “park-like areas” to sit and picnic and talk, eat, etc.
 - Concrete and buildings covering the stream
 - Open space needed
 - Clean up Coffill Park so people want to use it
 - Update Courthouse Park – its too dark and unlevel
 - Remove hedges Courthouse Park
- Restrooms Needed
 - Bathrooms
 - Bathroom
 - Public bathrooms
 - Bathrooms
 - Public Restrooms
 - Lack of public restrooms downtown
 - Bathroom access
- Gathering Areas & Outdoor Dining
 - Outdoor dining
 - No outside dining
 - No public space – like a back street plaza
 - There are no cool places to sit outside and dine – redirect Washington Street
 - Lack of good/large flat gathering place (downtown)
- Building Improvements & Occupancy
 - Paint
 - Shabby appearance – streets, buildings
 - Building deterioration
 - Building improvement
 - Empty buildings once county offices move enticing new businesses
 - Abandonment of buildings and businesses – especially restaurants
 - Shabby buildings
 - Old bowling alley on Stewart
- Streetscape Improvements
 - Clean sidewalks
 - Better sidewalks, curbs, and gutters
 - Beautification - now maintenance
 - Tree lining the streets

- Downtown Improvements
 - Downtown dilapidated and dirty
 - Upkeep/beautification
 - Keep historical value downtown
 - A more attractive appealing, vibrant downtown
 - Information center downtown
- Signage
 - Historic signage
 - Signage
 - Signage
 - Signage
 - Directional signage
- Lighting
 - More lighting
 - Lighting
 - Lighting
 - Lighting
 - Lighting
- Bike and Pedestrian Environment
 - Lack of bike facilities
 - Pedestrian (not) friendly
 - Lack of people exercising outside
- Safety
 - Cops
 - Keep downtown “quality of life” – crimes down
 - The park at Courthouse is scary and unlevel and dark doesn’t work
- Public Facilities
 - Trashcans recycling bins needed
 - Public facilities/spaces
 - Antiquated utility system
- Leadership & Communication
 - Need fresh forward thinking leaders
 - Educate community about how this is not/should not be urbanized
 - Education and communication of needs
 - Analytic survey of the city so that progress can be measured
- Homeless
 - Homeless hanging around downtown
 - Poverty
 - Homeless peoples’ plight

Visions

Main Themes: *Community Character, Friendly/Inviting Destination, Business Growth, History, Events & Culture, Art, Greenery & Flowers, Parks, Public Spaces & Outdoor Dining, Beautiful Streetscape, Walkable, Highway 49 Traffic, Bike Friendly, Circulation & Parking.*

- Community Character
 - A truly livable community for millennials and boomers
 - Slower pace of life
 - Vibrant
 - Vibrant but still small time
 - Home town
 - Very active!
 - Very little change
 - Safe, healthy, walk-friendly, beautiful town
 - Having an operating Vision and Planning Center that all come to
 - Sense that our town is valued, cherished, and cared for
 - Tight knit
 - Community of the Motherlode within a forest!
- Friendly/Inviting Destination
 - A city where new people come to fall in love with because it is beautiful and friendly and appealing.
 - Dog friendly – dog people spend money!
 - Inviting! We need a thriving tourist community – jobs - \$
 - Friendly
 - Tourist friendly – our main industry
 - Friendly service
 - I would like Sonora to be a destination that beckons through strong cultural artistic, healthy, forward reaching, historic expressions of who and what we are here.
 - More attractive, convenient, and comfortable
 - Inviting beautiful artistic (aesthetically pleasing)
 - Provence, France
 - Sierra Nevada destination
 - The place to be in Tuolumne County
- Business Growth
 - Take advantage of internet infrastructure for economic growth
 - More opportunities for business growth
 - Proud business owners working together for a common cause
 - Nanotech Hills Scenic R&D
 - No empty businesses
 - Healthy and full business district
 - Develop right mix of restaurants types of retail and events for downtown.
 - More restaurants
 - Health food store
 - Food sustainability for most. Then to figure this out in conjunction with Urban Farmers and markets
 - More like Murphy's

- History
 - Upkeep of Sonora Red Church
 - Historic mining and lumber
 - Beauty of History on a scale that is meaningful
 - Blend of historic with modern
 - A city true to its heritage...
 - Hitching posts ca. 1880 style
 - Carriage tours
 - Rehabilitated buildings
 - Buildings refurbished in gold rush style
 - Historic buildings still standing
 - Signage western style
- Events & Culture
 - More night time events – something to bring people in
 - Many community events
 - Social events
 - Outdoor theater
 - The vision of the dome campus. Needs to be incorporated into the Vision Sonora Plan. The dome = a community cultural arts center
 - Cultural arts
- Art
 - Murals reflecting history by local artists
 - Painted murals – historic
 - More arts in downtown corridor
 - Arts all the time – active, lively, vibrant
 - Public art needs to be a part of the discussion
- Greenery & Flowers
 - Quaint welcoming clean sidewalks and flowered streets
 - Trees – soften the area
 - More greenery
 - Clean with flowers
 - Flowers
 - More plants
 - Flowers and trees downtown
 - Tree lined streets, with flowers
 - Full of flowers
 - Beautiful landscaping
- Parks
 - Biological connectivity green belts between and throughout
 - More parks – more dog friendly
 - Parks! (a big flat one)

- Public Spaces & Outdoor Dining
 - More public outdoor gathering spaces
 - Pavilion in courthouse park
 - Washington Street becomes a plaza.
 - Open areas, green spaces downtown
 - Restaurants and walking spaces by river
 - Waterway with benches/dining
 - Outdoor dining
 - Pleasant outdoor dining - no noise from traffic
 - Private smoking areas
- Beautiful Streetscape
 - Better window displays
 - Aesthetic treatments of streetscapes
 - Beauty
 - Face lift of the down town shops
 - Clean – trashcans, public restrooms
 - Welcoming entrances
 - Underground utilities on Stewart
 - Lighting
 - Fixed sidewalks and buildings
- Walkable
 - More like small Italian towns with fewer cars and people gathering in squares to eat together
 - Main Street is pedestrian like Europe – fountains – cobblestones – markets – artists – musicians
 - A closed street museum like setting like “Old Sac”
 - Real sidewalk
 - Walking tours/connectivity to other shopping
 - Walking/pedestrian corridor
 - Lighted cross walks (strips along street)
 - People walking along Main Street.
 - People let you cross in crosswalks
 - Walkable downtown with no cars
 - A downtown where it is easy to stroll, enjoy a meal, go to arts and culture in a safe enjoyable downtown.
- Highway 49 Traffic
 - Bypass
 - Re-route 49
 - 49 Re-routed – nice quiet town full of restaurants and good people both local and tourists
 - Can’t get the feel of small town with the type of and amount of traffic
 - Move Hwy 49
 - 49 Bypass Downtown
 - Eliminate large truck traffic
 - Roundabouts

- Bike Friendly
 - Better traffic flows – bikeways
 - Bike lanes (safe ones!) from Jamestown to Columbia
 - Race track
 - Bike trails
 - Less cars, more bike lanes
 - People out walking, running, and riding their bikes
- Circulation & Parking
 - Main Street shuttle
 - Easy 1 way traffic on Washington Street and I way traffic on Stewart Street with Original Parking.
 - Double decker parking with hanging gardens on the exterior walls
 - Parking on edges of downtown
 - Ample parking

Community Workshop Part 1: Visions of the Future

Wednesday, January 16 | Opera Hall

Group Discussions

Participants joined small groups to discuss and develop ideas on the themes that were identified in the Post-It Note brainstorm. They recorded notes from their discussions on large worksheets that were provided. One group also drew ideas.

Group Topic: Plaza Off Street – Public Space

Vision: Nightlife – atmosphere, dining, creek, ambiance, dog friendly at farmers market parking lot, twinkle lights, visitors.

Action Steps:

- Smoke Free!
- Create a beautiful plaza
- Open up Sonora Creek
- Create outdoor dining
- Twinkle lights, music along creek to keep pizza and shops
- Indoor market at “old town”
- Public restrooms
- Trees in plaza – fountain
- Weekend traffic closure on Stewart Street.

Key Partners:

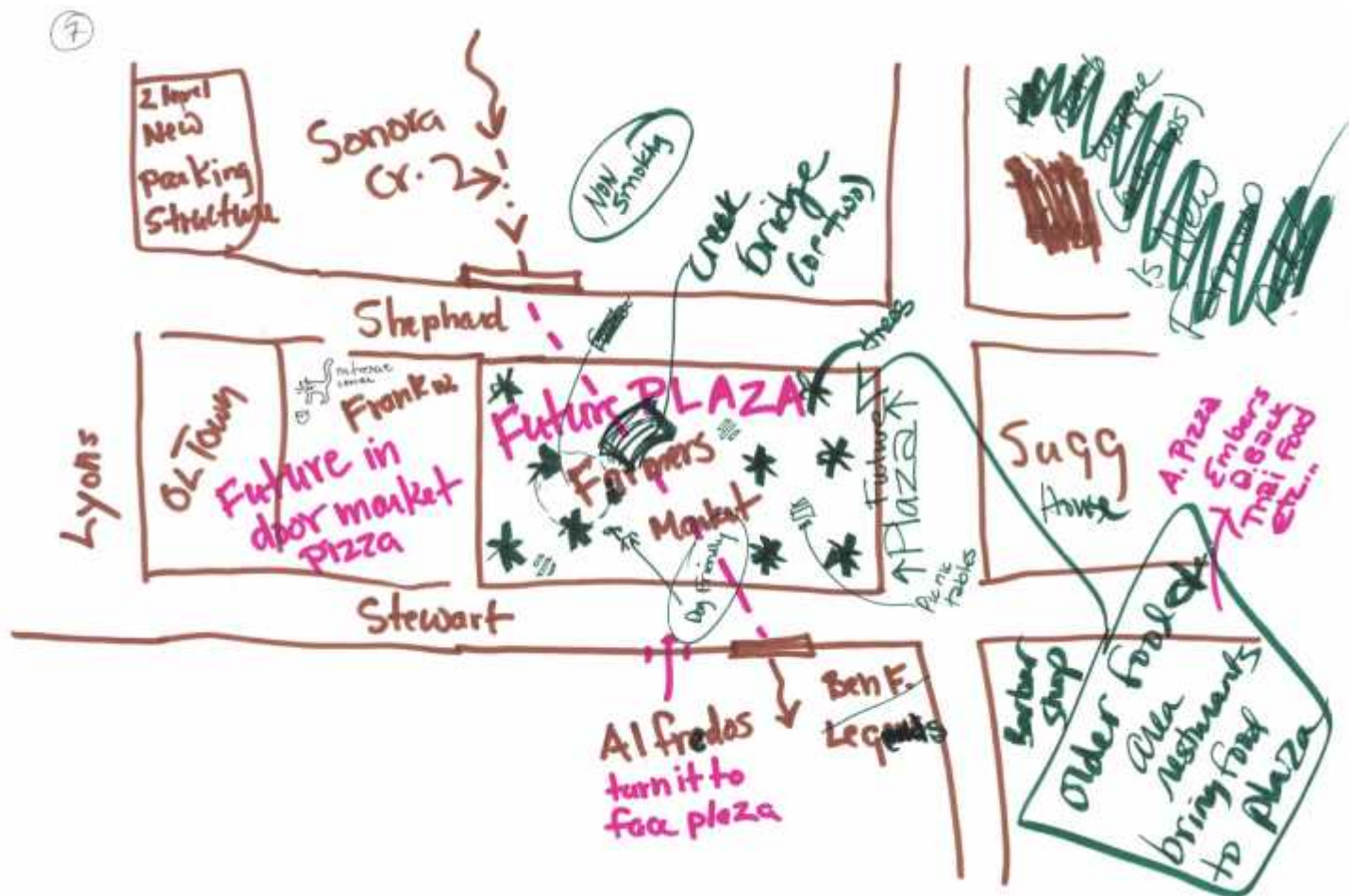
- City
- Caltrans
- Chamber
- County
- Farm Bureau
- CDFG
- Waste Management

Other Considerations:

- Event coordination
- Maintenance
- Increased traffic
- Parking?

[See drawing on next page from this group]

Group Topic: Plaza Off Street – Public Space (continued)



Group Topic: Public Gathering and Recreation

Vision: Underground Parking with Park Above

Action Steps:

- Lyons, Stewart and Shepherd Street
- Design Ideas
- Cost
- Trail along Creek (with patio gathering area with Italian atmosphere)
- Youth activities
- Police station/park area (move)
- Empty lot by fairgrounds
- Lower Save Mart: facelift to “downtown” style

Key Partners:

- Real estate – counselors
- City of Sonora
- Chamber
- Parks and Rec

Other Considerations:

- City already owns the land
- Could increase parking
- NO TRUCKS DOWNTOWN

Group Topic: Dress Up Historic Downtown Sonora

Vision: A downtown people want to spend time in

Action Steps:

- Trees (Sonora designated a Tree City USA in 1995)
- Flower Baskets
- Benches
- Historical Building face lifts (contest for the best)
- Attractive signage (informational pull together N & S Washington Street)
- Additional lumber and mining equipment
- Usable and tourist friendly park area
- Expand business district to side streets
- Signage for parking areas that can be easily seen
- Outline buildings with lights
- Coffill Park – face lift that would make it desirable for visitors and residents to use

Key Partners:

- Master Gardeners
- Rose Society
- Building Owners
- Support of Community Groups
- WATCH PRISON CREWS
- Caltrans
- TUD
- PG&E
- Local landscape designer

Other Considerations:

- Funding
- Availability of Water
- Volunteers
- Design Consensus

Group Topic: Presentation – is Everything!

Vision: Give Sonora a sense of pride and hospitality so locals will shop and visitors would return.

Action Steps:

1. Restoration of Old Buildings
2. Planting and maintain foliage
3. Incentives to business owners to beautify storefronts
4. Public art projects
5. Re-locate the homeless
6. Recycling and Garbage and dog poop bins
7. Make Main Street pedestrian friendly
8. “Love Sonora” Program

Key Partners:

1. Waste Management
2. Government Grant for building incentives
3. Arts Council
4. Master Gardener, Native Plant Society, Rose Society
5. ATCAA and Watch
6. Caltrans
7. City of Sonora
8. Service Clubs

Other Considerations:

1. Grant Writing
2. Funding
3. Maintenance
4. Communication – connection
5. Volunteers

Group Topic: Extended Hours

Vision: Encourage all eateries and retail stores to open late Friday and Saturday to accommodate tourists and local patronage. Keeping our money local.

Action Steps:

1. Encourage Downtown Merchant Meeting attendance
2. Have majority of merchants agree to stay open late on Fridays/Saturdays
3. Have information available throughout downtown (kiosk)(marque)
4. Have adequate lighting to encourage downtown shopping and (safety)
5. *Create local discount days to encourage downtown local shopping

Key Partners:

1. Hotels
2. Visitors Bureau
3. Business Owners
4. City of Sonora

Other Considerations:

1. More Kid friendly events
2. More community events
3. Encourage service club to participate in downtown
4. More shop local events with discounts

Group Topic: Traffic

Vision: Sonora residents have a safe, vibrant, and enjoyable downtown experience

Action Steps:

- Evaluation of new traffic flow
- Come up with alternative traffic plans
- Researching funding systems
- Identify successful case studies

Key Partners:

- Caltrans
- Local business owners
- State of California
- City of Sonora, County, Residents

Other Considerations:

- One way (vetraffic)
 - Stewart Street business improvements
- Round about
- Speed bumps
- Financing
- Tunnels
- UPDATE INFRASTRUCTURE
 - (downtown businesses cannot keep windows open pollution/traffic)
- Like “Stanford”, one way diagonal parking, center art/gardens, cobble stone/stamped concrete
- Transport into town “Yosemite Valley Plan”
- North Washington – okay
- South Washington – traffic speed?
- Manage/Streamline Traffic

Group Topic: Outdoor Dining – Check Feasibility

Vision: To Attract Tourism

Action Steps:

- Does zoning, GP, state highway effect implementation?

Key Partners:

- Planning Department

Other Considerations:

- ADA Compliance
 - Legal Problems: historic buildings
- Stockton Road as option

Group Topic: Strengthen/Improve Social and Economic Demographic Downtown

Vision: A viable economic town center which preserves our historic heritage

Action Steps:

1. Traffic needs to be reduced in order to support desirability for/to a “higher” demographic.
2. Alternative housing is essential for those displaced

Key Partners:

1. Caltrans and State of California
2. City Planning
3. Sonora Foundation (grant writing)
 - a. There are a lot of local grant writers
4. Section 8 Housing (CA)
5. H.4.H. and A.T.C.A.A.

Other Considerations:

None.

Community Workshop Part 2: Streets and Streetscapes


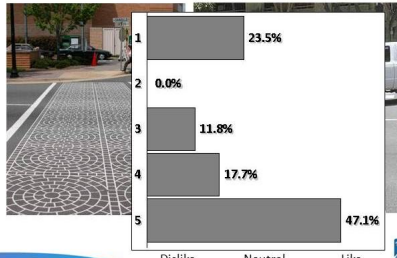

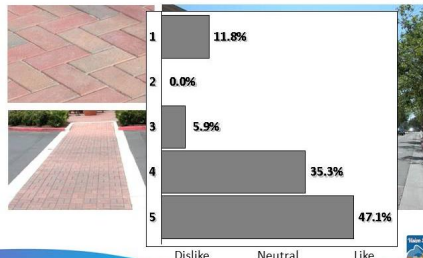

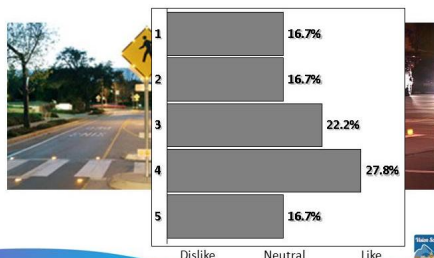
Thursday, January 17 | Opera Hall


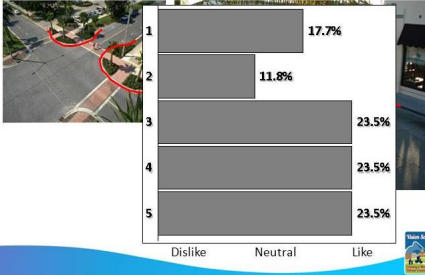



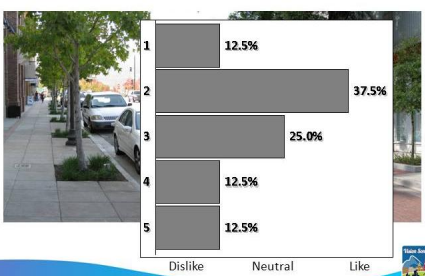

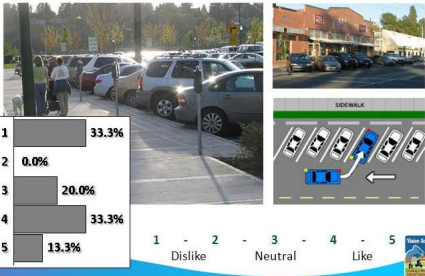
TownScan™ Notes


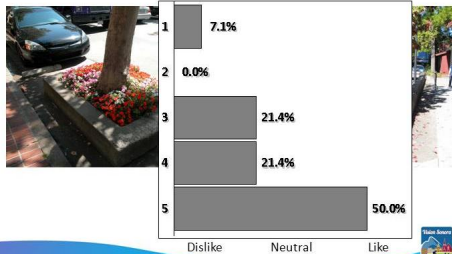

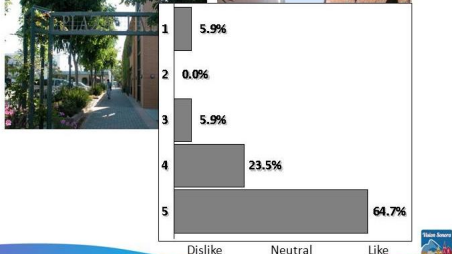

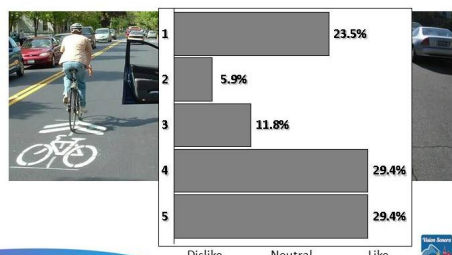

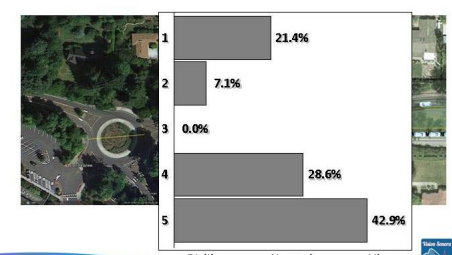

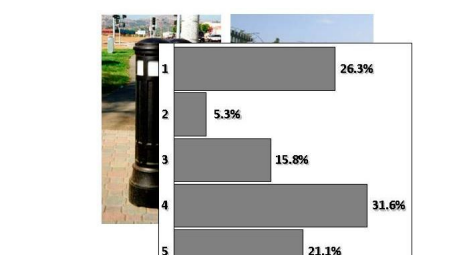
Activity


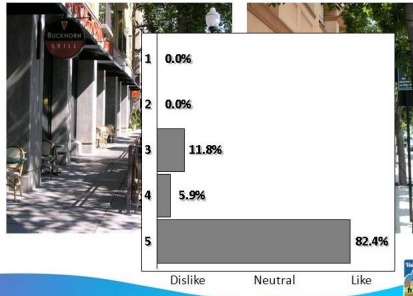

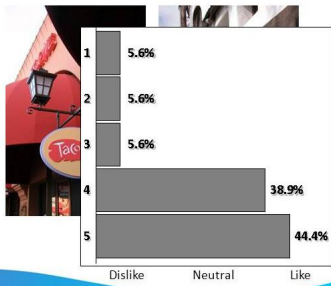

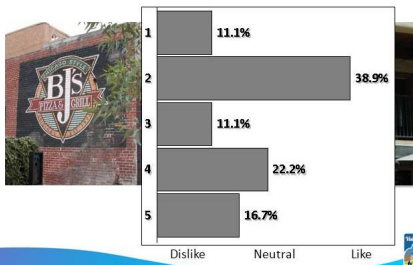

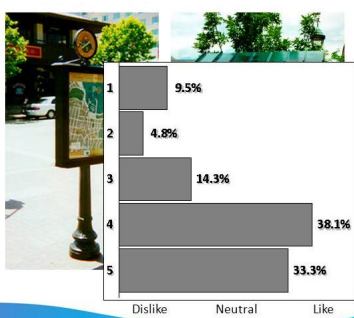
In the TownScan™ Survey, workshop participants reviewed scenes of street elements, including pedestrian facilities, parking, bike facilities, signage, gateways, and wayfinding elements. Using electronic polling devices, they indicated whether they felt the subjects of the images would be desirable in Sonora, rating them from 1 (Dislike) to 5 (Like). For many slides, facilitator asked participants to say what they liked or didn't like about the images.

Survey Results and Comments



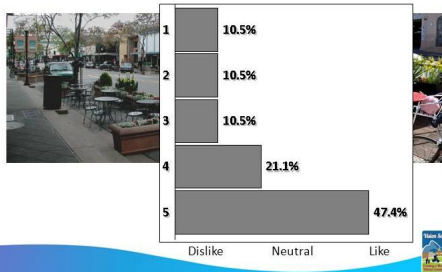

| Slide Image | Results (Like = bottom bar) | Comments | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----------|------------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|---|
| <p>Pedestrian Crossings Painted</p>  | <p>Pedestrian Crossings Painted</p>  <table><tr><th>Rating</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>23.5%</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>0.0%</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>11.8%</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>17.7%</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>47.1%</td></tr></table> | Rating | Percentage | 1 | 23.5% | 2 | 0.0% | 3 | 11.8% | 4 | 17.7% | 5 | 47.1% | |
| Rating | Percentage | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 23.5% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 0.0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 11.8% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 17.7% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 47.1% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Pedestrian Crossings In-Set Pavers</p>  | <p>Pedestrian Crossings In-Set Pavers</p>  <table><tr><th>Rating</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>11.8%</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>0.0%</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>5.9%</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>35.3%</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>47.1%</td></tr></table> | Rating | Percentage | 1 | 11.8% | 2 | 0.0% | 3 | 5.9% | 4 | 35.3% | 5 | 47.1% | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dislike: Not SonoraDislike: Looks like something that would be at a mall |
| Rating | Percentage | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 11.8% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 0.0% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 5.9% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 35.3% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 47.1% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Pedestrian Crossings Illuminated</p>  | <p>Pedestrian Crossings Illuminated</p>  <table><tr><th>Rating</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>16.7%</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>16.7%</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>22.2%</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>27.8%</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>16.7%</td></tr></table> | Rating | Percentage | 1 | 16.7% | 2 | 16.7% | 3 | 22.2% | 4 | 27.8% | 5 | 16.7% | |
| Rating | Percentage | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 16.7% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 16.7% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 22.2% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 27.8% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 16.7% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Slide Image | Results (Like = bottom bar) | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Pedestrian Crossings Corner Bulb-outs</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5</p> <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <p>Pedestrian Crossings Corner Bulb-outs</p>  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like the idea but not sure if it would work here Like: allows pedestrian to get to the edge of the parked vehicle and be more visible Like the idea but needs to be in the right location Like that it gives an extra space to landscape Concerned with changing the geometry because Sonora is known as a place where people stop for pedestrians People watch for pedestrians in the core but towards the edges they don't as much |
| <p>Pedestrian Crossings Mid-block Bulb-outs</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5</p> <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <p>Pedestrian Crossings Mid-block Bulb-outs</p>  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dislike: needs to be tailored to a more rural community; this is not historically accurate Concerned with encouraging people to cross mid-block because you don't expect people to cross Spaces in between parked vehicles encourages dangerous crossing |
| <p>Parking Parallel</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5</p> <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <p>Parking Parallel</p>  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to parallel park Dangerous when you leave your vehicle |
| <p>Parking Back-in Angled</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5</p> <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <p>Parking Back-in Angled</p>  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhaust facing sidewalk Hard to back in |

| Slide Image | Results (Like = bottom bar) | Comments |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Parking Street Trees</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <p>Parking Street Trees</p>  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | |
| <p>Parking Parking Lot Connections (Paseos)</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <p>Parking Parking Lot Connections (Paseos)</p>  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like the concept |
| <p>Bikes Sharrow / Bike Boulevard</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <p>Bikes Sharrow / Bike Boulevard</p>  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be appropriate on Shaws Flat More appropriate on Stewart Street Very few cyclists now Will only get cyclists if you improve conditions Green St is OK, but difficult to get back on Washington (would have to cross through high school) |
| <p>Roundabout</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <p>Roundabout</p>  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns with accidents; Americans don't know how to use them Cuts down on accidents Like the idea of roundabouts but everyone stops instead of yield |
| <p>Bollards</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> |  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could tie to more historic character Don't like the style chosen in example |

| Slide Image | Results (Like = bottom bar) | Comments |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Sidewalk Dining</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> |  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tourist destination; want to enjoy being out ▪ Welcoming |
| <p>Projecting Signs</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> |  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to be authentic ▪ Projecting signs may not be feasible with overhangs ▪ Need to make sure they fit into the character |
| <p>Painted/"Ghost" Signs</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> |  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not authentic ▪ City needs design guidelines ▪ Look at history and mimic historic style ▪ Good because it's not taking up extra space ▪ Better utilization of space than a blank wall |
| <p>Kiosk Directory Signs</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> |  <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Directing people – "love that" ▪ Would be beneficial to have directory ▪ Feels too much like Disneyland; Sonora is functional and we don't want to get too carried away with information |
| | | |

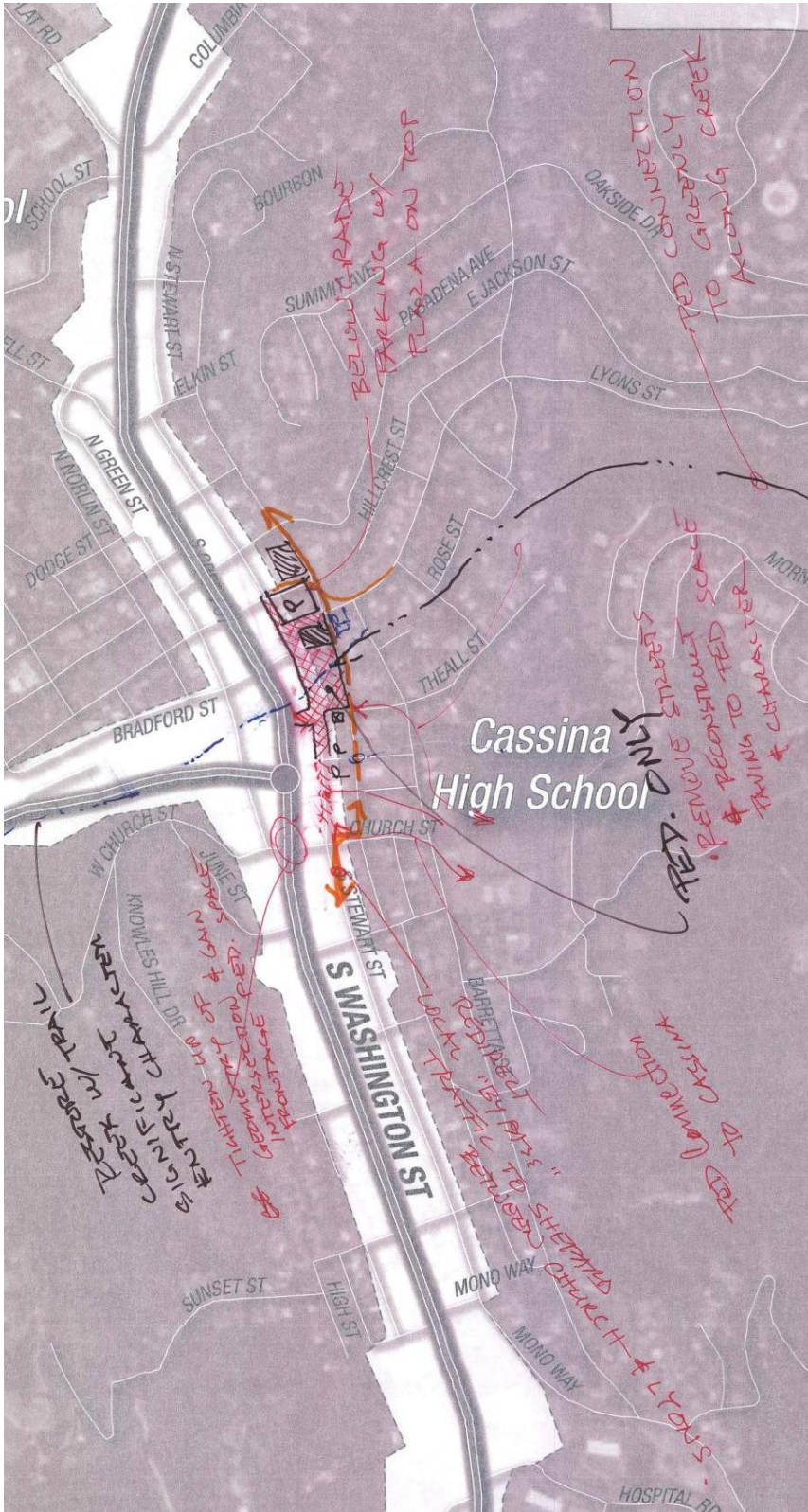
| Slide Image | Results (Like = bottom bar) | Comments |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Gateway Arch</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> |  <p>1 15.8% 2 47.4% 3 10.5% 4 15.8% 5 10.5%</p> <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Want a gateway feature; not necessarily an arch |
| <p>Sonora Gateway Sign</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> |  <p>1 5.0% 2 0.0% 3 20.0% 4 15.0% 5 60.0%</p> <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nice, but too small A gateway is not just a sign; it's an element telling you what Sonora is about Need to be illuminated Need gradual/multiple gateways Calaveras County has carts Should have a "thank you for visiting" sign as well |
|  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> |  <p>1 5.0% 2 5.0% 3 20.0% 4 40.0% 5 30.0%</p> <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like the concept and that there is a parking sign Seating and greenery Problem with signs getting hit by trucks; like the location of this example because it's more protected |
| <p>Sidewalk Markers</p>  <p>1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Dislike Neutral Like</p> |  <p>1 10.0% 2 30.0% 3 25.0% 4 5.0% 5 30.0%</p> <p>Dislike Neutral Like</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horseshoes Like the concept of using the sidewalk for guiding people Most examples are a used poorly or are in bad condition Need better sidewalks before adding these types of features; good to add when the sidewalks are updated Business owner prefers things on sidewalk as opposed to in the window; too much in window and creates clutter or gets lost Great way to guide people; can incorporate with a walking tour Needs to be done tastefully Unique artwork in sidewalk; want to see "surprises!" |

| Slide Image | Results (Like = bottom bar) | Comments | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------|------------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|--|
| <p>Parklets</p> <div></div> <div><div><div>1</div><div>-</div><div>2</div><div>-</div><div>3</div><div>-</div><div>4</div><div>-</div><div>5</div></div><div>DislikeNeutralLike</div><div></div></div> | <div><table><thead><tr><th>Rating</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>10.5%</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>10.5%</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>10.5%</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>21.1%</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>47.4%</td></tr></tbody></table><div><div>DislikeNeutralLike</div><div></div></div></div> | Rating | Percentage | 1 | 10.5% | 2 | 10.5% | 3 | 10.5% | 4 | 21.1% | 5 | 47.4% | |
| Rating | Percentage | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 10.5% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 | 10.5% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 21.1% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 47.4% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Community Workshop Part 3: Hands-On Design Workshop
Saturday, January 19 | Opera Hall

Group Maps and Drawings

Public Spaces and Placemaking Details – Map

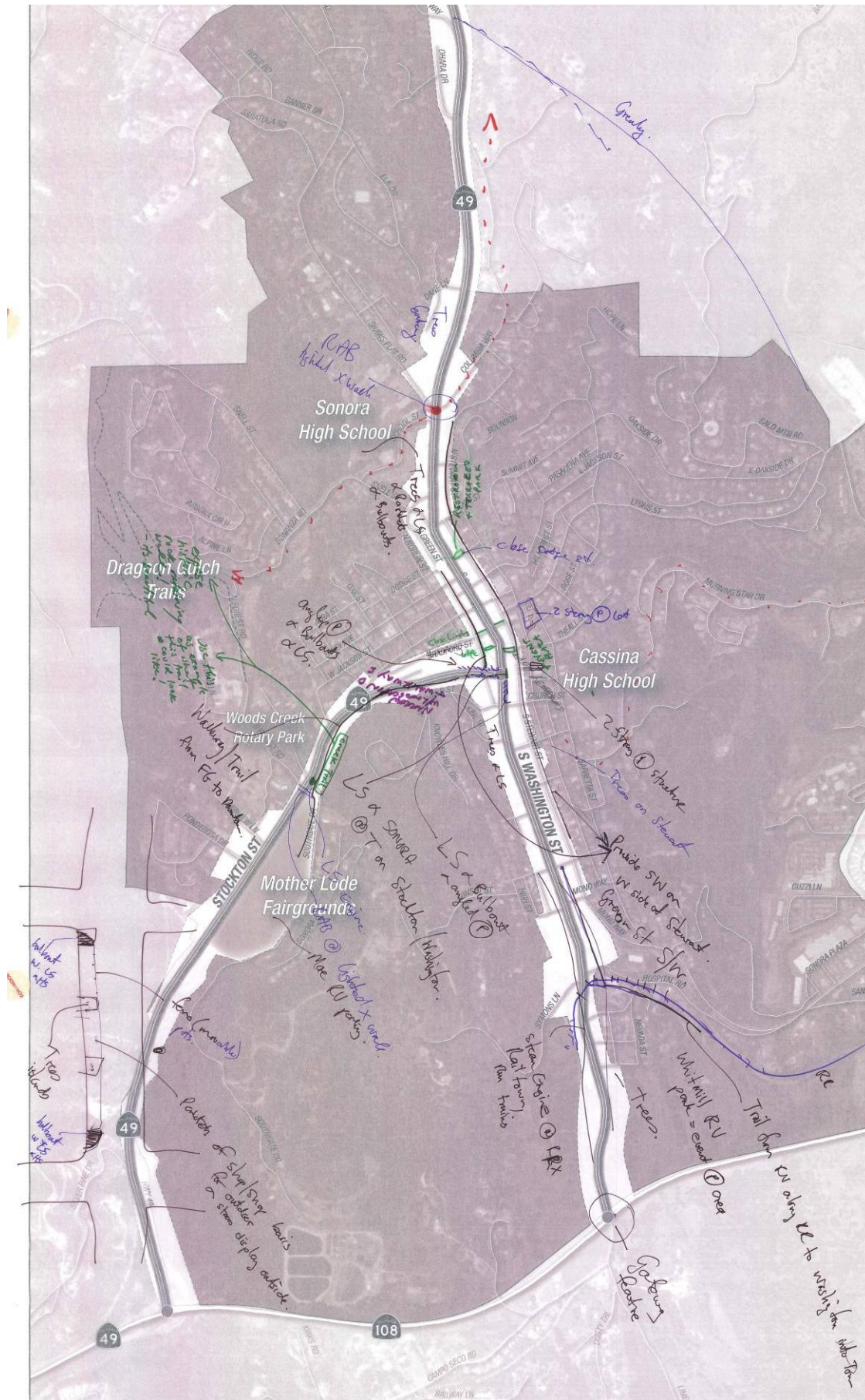


Public Spaces and Placemaking Details – Drawing



01-19-13

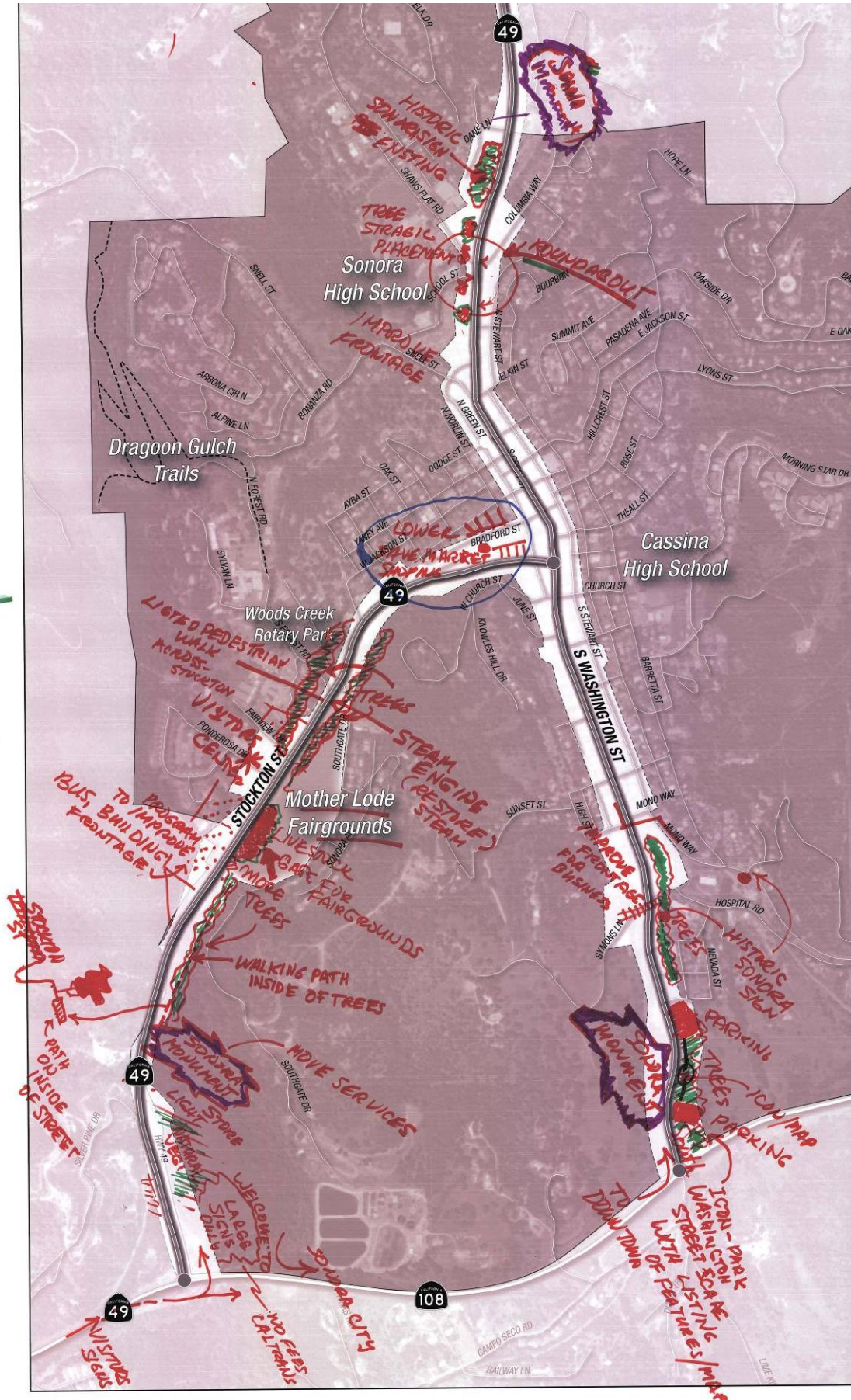
Pedestrians, Bicycles, and Streetscapes – Map



Parking, Signage & Transit – Map



S. Washington Gateway Corridor & Highway 49 Gateway Corridors - Map



Youth Workshop

Thursday, January 17 | Sonora High School

Post-It Notes

In this large-group brainstorming activity, workshop participants were asked to write brief thoughts on Post-Its to say what they thought were Sonora's key "treasures" and "challenges" as well as their "visions" for the future. A few of the students did not appear to take the assignment seriously and those notes have been removed.

Treasures

- The Fairgrounds (2)
- The way the stars look out here – some of the views
- The parks and Fairgrounds
- Dragoon Gulch
- Downtown (2)
- Places for many outdoor activities (lakes, forests, rivers, etc.)
- Small town atmosphere
- The incorporation of nature within the city
- The immense amounts of small businesses within the downtown
- The history of the town
- Fro yo
- I love the yogurt shop
- Heart Rock Café (2)
- Local businesses
- Art galleries
- Veterans museum
- Downtown social area
- Restrooms (2)
- Jebs
- Dodge Ridge Ski Resort
- AMPM
- Starbucks (3)
- Day-O (2)
- Camachos
- Bagel Bin (2)
- Its pretty (2)
- Walmart
- Out athletics and academics
- The small loving community
- Restaurants
- Walking downtown
- I love downtown
- Generally safe community
- That it's a small town
- All the history in Sonora (Jamestown, Columbia)
- Simplicity of the town's structure

- The scenery
- Safety
- Nature (2)
- History
- Small town
- Friends
- The football field (2)
- High Country Sports Arena
- Snow SHS (2)
- Bella my dog
- Sonora High School
- Mr. Winslow
- Everything in walking distance
- Sno-Park is 45 minutes away ☹
- 35 minutes from Dodge Ridge
- All the lake around us
- Tight knit community
- History
- The history
- Friends (2)
- Activities
- Hanging out with friends downtown at Bagel Bin
- Friends/activities
- All the activities that go on during homecoming
- Activities during homecoming at school
- Close enough to Sacramento to visit when necessary
- Small town
- Most everything is engaged with this community
- Small community
- Everyone knows everyone
- Sonora's traditions – Parade, Rodeo, Fair
- Small Town
- Downtown
- Quiet
- Traditional small town

Challenges

- Too many people
- Limited space
- You have to drive to get everywhere – or most places
- It doesn't snow here
- It doesn't snow
- Hotels (2)
- Not many big retail stores
- The growth of the city-like areas. If people want huge shopping centers, etc. they have to drive 45 minutes.

- Rocks
- Parking
- Lack of enforcement of underage drinking and drug use
- Drugs
- Drug/alcohol use – bad!
- Tourists should be more spaced out
- Walmart
- How many druggies stay downtown
- How much traffic there is when SHS gets out!
- I love it all! ☺
- Nothing
- There is nothing fun to do
- There is nothing to do
- There's nowhere to shop
- Not a lot of stores to shop at
- Bad drivers
- The new bypass
- Road networks are narrow and highly used in populated areas (mainly by the school and shopping areas)
- The senior citizens, the trolley, the stupid decisions made by “smart people” and the lack of morals.
- There is not much to do
- Not enough places for activities
- Parking downtown
- Trolley
- Parking
- The trolley is ugly and stupid and we don't live in San Fran!!! Its useless!!!
- There is nothing to do
- Nothing to do here
- Only one bowling alley
- Racism
- Prejudice
- Boring (2)
- No theme parks!
- Not enough places for teens to hang out
- Everyone knows everything (3)
- Total population of: 30
- Cosmo needs own parking lot!!!!
- Not enough (cute) boys
- No mall
- Not much downtown parking
- Lacking friendly/nice people
- People (3)
- Stores
- We need a mall!
- Need better stores!
- The traffic

- All the traffic
- Wish there was more things for teens to do or places to hangout
- Lack of activities
- Not enough places for teen to hang out
- Too much underage drinking and smoking
- Too much drinking and tobacco use
- No secrets
- No job opportunities
- No places for teens to hang out
- Negatives of a small town

Visions

- Target
- Wendy's (2)
- More places for gymnastics
- More kittens
- More activities for teens
- More shopping options – trader joes
- An arcade
- More places to hang out – like an amusement park
- More attractions
- More things to do...shopping, fun places to go to
- A big grass park
- Youth Center
- The town needs to be updated – roads and shops
- It will more likely than not, degrade into a state of disrepair due to the lack of revenue generated within the city, due to the lack of tourism, and its inability to serve the local population.
- Flying cars
- Better people
- More money
- In-n-out (4)
- Arby's
- Hometown Buffet (2)
- A mall (7)
- Camachos coming back
- Waaaaaaaay bigger
- A smaller town
- More activities
- Better restaurants
- New stores
- More places to shop!
- More places to shop for clothes
- More tourists to shop at our local shops
- Panda Express (2)
- ABANDONED (In-n-Out) would be nice

- Chipotle
- Train
- A superhighway to the ocean
- More people
- New areas of commercial development
- More shopping centers
- Small businesses
- Less McDonald's, more In-n-Out.
- Target (2)
- Drive-in Movie Theatre
- Mall
- Under 18 dance club
- More jobs for minors
- Needs an amusement park
- More boutiques (affordable)
- More people
- More people need more stores!
- More stores (4)
- More people (2)
- Sonora on a bigger scale
- More public areas
- Having a Victoria Secret and Target
- More spirit
- Booming economy
- Outdoor mall
- A better place for teens to hang out
- Night club for teens
- Places for teens
- Food places

Discussion Groups

January 17-18 | Opera Hall

Five hour-long sessions were held at Opera Hall to provide opportunities for focused discussions on particular topics; anyone with an interest in those topics was welcome to participate. Topics were as follows: Downtown Businesses and Economic Development; Healthy Sonora; Historic Preservation; Parking and Signage; and Visitors and Tourism. Below are the notes that facilitators recorded during the discussions.

Downtown Business and Economic Development

Thursday, January 17

Challenges

- Lack of local support
- Traffic and parking (supply and location)
- Directional signage for parking
- Employees parking in prime locations
- Calendar of events system and messaging (coordination too)
- Pedestrians crossing streets and safety
- Hours of operation inconsistent and early closing
- Not enough encouragement to “linger”
- Not enough restrooms
- Need more trash cans and trees, benches
- Public smoking in sidewalk areas
- Noise
- Homeless population (particularly at restrooms)
- Drugs
- Visitor center always looks closed

Opportunities

- Handout with parking, restrooms, etc.
- Downtown business retention and expansion
- Information into people’s hands!
 - Kiosk with community volunteers
- Streetscape and add open spaces
- Gateway to draw people in
- Parklets
- Breakfast restaurants
- Tasting rooms
- Bakery, bookstore, men’s clothes
- Deli
- Transform underutilized spaces – gardens and plazas
- Ped-bike trails
- Historic self-guided walking tour integrated into the sidewalk
- Post-dinner activity location
- Better use of Coffill Park

- County-wide arts event (2+ days)
- Event almost every weekend!
 - Start with summer
- Better WIFI access
- Sonora App, QR codes
- Extend concert in park season
- Modern amenities for the future
 - Electric car hook ups
 - Apps
 - Diversity
 - Yelp reviews
- Better evening lighting on buildings
- Façade improvements
- Assistance for renters to make improvements – incentives
- Orientation for new merchants, and information
- Online merchants group
- More businesses to Town Halls
- Window display assistance and contests

Who are the visitors?

- Modesto
- Merced
- Bay Area
- Europeans
- Yosemite visitors
- Buses
 - Opportunity to better understand and influence bus tours – times, etc.

Strengths

- Location – visibility
- Good restaurants
- Theatre – arts
- Boutiques – antiques
- Red Church – photos!
- Historic
- Customer service
- Buy-Shop Local movement
- Business cooperation
- Quaintness – buildings, gold rush days, and architecture
- 2nd Saturday Arts
- Yosemite and other natural resources
- Center of the County
- Support of locals
- Guide to starting business in Tuolumne
- SRMC

Marketing

- Radio
- Facebook
- Word of mouth
- Chamber
- Visitors bureau
- Newspaper
- Email marketing

Future Marketing Ideas

- Reach out to other cities
- Passive ads (placemats)
- Sunset magazine
- Toot our horn!
- “Packages” – spend day, spend weekend
- Hotelier training (“concierge”)
- National Register marketing
- Look at Nevada City
- Brochure – iPhone compatible
- Guidebooks

What’s Missing?

- Breakfast Choices
- Wineries/tasting rooms
- Outdoor dining (it’s not too noisy!)
- More nightlife
- Family and youth activities
 - 12-16 years old
 - Arcades, mini golf, etc
 - Laser tag in bowling alley
- Full circle downtown – young adults
- Venue with pool tables and showcasing local talent
- Remember...roller rink that turned into dance hall?!?! (Twain Harte)
- Private Business initiated (need customers!)
- Restrooms and walk to trails
- Alcohol and youth don’t mix with business
- Informational tools in the hands of business owners
- Tourists want “guidance”
- Kiosks with information and maps
- Employee “concierge” training
- Satellite visitors center downtown
- Signage
- More word of mouth!!
 - What’s here now

- Particularly young adults
- Trolley car as visitors center (roaming)
- Sonora heritage “app”
- Extend hours of operation
- Police could be a bit more “Mayberry”
- Capitalize on RV visitors
- Disseminate tour bus schedule information (emails, word of mouth)
- Traffic gridlock
- Old tunnels under Sonora – open up for tours?
- Historic walking tour
- “Package” promotion
 - What can you do in a day? 2 days? 4 etc...
 - Combine activities (theater and dinner and lodging)

Healthy Sonora

Thursday, January 17

Key Health Obstacles

- Accessibility
- Sidewalk safety
- Bike v. car accidents – need a safe route
 - Back route to college would help
 - Connections to regional
- Implement bike plans
 - Making it a priority
- Potential for rides/routes
 - Start at Farmers Market
- No shoulders

Pedestrian Concerns

- Conflicts between peds and bikes
- Broken sidewalks
- High curbs
- Steep hills
- Lighting
- No connection across Sonora Creek
- Greenways for Pedestrians/cyclists
- Downtown – sidewalks not level
- Dragoon Gulch – nice place to walk
 - HS track – large community use
- \$\$ and partnerships with groups (i.e. HS and City)
- Create paths with recycled plastic bottles
- Publicize routes
- Missing sidewalks
- Access for people in electric scooters
 - Need ADA/safe areas
- Places to stop and rest
 - Orchard Supply corner
 - Example of where needs more thought
 - Dragoon Gulch – good example
 - Trail to the hospital
 - Access to medical appts.
- Transportation to medical facilities is an issue – transit service
- Live well be well center
- County programs
- Healthy Sonora
 - Get Up, Get Going, Get Healthy
 - Dragoon Gulch and connections
 - Promote walking

- Routes for cyclists
- Need info about exciting resources
 - Use weekender to promote
- Working with schools to reduce obesity
 - “Family Fit” and “Fit for that Future”
 - Potential to expand
- ACA \$\$ - SRTS, Healthy Eating Active Living
 - Beverage choice, elderly programs
 - Tobacco smoke in MF housing
 - County highest smoking rate in CA
- Look at waterways for routes.

Food

- Farmers Market
 - Community building
 - Organic demand
 - How to educate others?
 - Currently word of mouth
 - Farmers market coupons
 - WIC certified farmers market needed
 - Look at EBT
 - Extend season, interior
 - Location for winter
 - All year-round
 - Local farmers, not able to extend season
 - Evening/afternoon event potential
- CTG Program – look at accessible to youth
- Convenience food near HS – partner to provide healthier choices
- Master Gardener program
 - Expand community gardens
- Organic Veggie Co-op – delivered
- Fitness Challenge
 - Employers promote with employees
- Senior exercise classes
 - Walk with ease
- Special event walks/groups
 - Heart health
 - Friday walks
 - International walking group
 - Nature walks
- Working on SRTS elsewhere in county
 - No SRTS plan for elementary
 - Very hilly
 - Getting to the State Route deters getting out of car
 - Development pattern and connections
- Project Hope – health van near Walmart

- Create linkage without disturbing historic core
- Healthy fast food!
- Health in all policies example – General Plan
- Housing for people with mental illness
- Mobile units at schools very successful

Interests

- Farmers Market
- Health and active living
- \$\$ for healthy communities
- Connectivity – ped and bike
- Trails/ped/ access
- Development of city/walking/biking
- Control drug problem
- Healthy lifestyle
- Aging in place
- Walking/trails/green spaces
- Trails/connections/safety
- ACA population health
- Partnerships with health care and recruit doctors – senior health

Historic Preservation

Friday, January 18

Balance of Preserving with Improving

- Impact of funding is threatening of key assets
- Railroad
- Fairgrounds
- Get out old photos
 - City has a great collection
 - Historically has trees, signs, etc.
 - New lights are a good model of modern in-line with historical
 - National Register for Historical Places
- Retain Scale
- Feel they are in the “experience”
- Context of Sonora within watershed, geographically
- Resources
- Continuity
- Neon, color is a part of our history
- Older articles
- Look at buildings that need improvement – look at historical value – use old photos as a guide
- Historic District – within the City may help others
- Odd Fellows – has deferred maintenance
 - Grant at Grand Lodge
 - Want to maintain historical integrity
 - May be a stretch for lodge to be National Register
- Any buildings on National Register?
 - Red Church – National Landmark

Signage

- Brown Historic District Signs from the state need to be historic district at federal level
- Presentation of pros and cons of being on National Register
- Survey /paper work may be done
- Need education on what is involved and benefits
- In General Plan indicates “Historic District”
- Tax credits incentive
- Have couple architects in town familiar with historic improvements
- Historical Society’s website has a comprehensive timeline, database of photos
- Do we need a large anchor for National Register?
- First County in CA to get “Preserve America” award
 - Part of work may still be of value
- Historic Homes open for tour
- Society does awards
- Walking tour of homes
- Building and Property Owners need education
 - Advantages

- Regulation/control that may be involved
 - Buy-in
- 4th Grade walking tour started at California's 150th has evolved
 - Do get to go in buildings
- Universities/college interns to look at buildings in historic preservation
- Example – cabins on Forest land – can do anything on inside but outside needs review
- May encourage other buildings to become eligible

What makes Sonora “historically” stand out among other areas

- Tool
 - Docents to meet and talk about Sonora's historic buildings on trolley – just hasn't taken off. Could we engage students to be docents – need program to draw ridership
- From Valley Cities/Bay Area
 - Experience
 - Close to the Bay Area
 - Complete package – combination
 - Safe
 - Human scale
 - Town is clean
 - “feels warm and fuzzy”
 - In a rural area – couple good meals
 - Trolley
 - Red Church
- What we don't have – integrated approach to tell our “story” in the build environment
- Icons (Stamp Mill) to
- Only one or two places to see historic photos
- Large murals

Closing Comments

- Offer Odd Fellow Lodge to 4th grade tour
- Good points
- Encouraged
- Keep moving forward
- Learning and very positive
- More awareness of trolley – great amenity
- Most stores have postcards on trolley
- Challenge will be homes not being taken care of
- Connection with history that is suitable for Sonora
- Don't see enhancement separate from authenticity
 - Have to do hand-in-hand
- Grass roots group to continue to focus on sustainability of community
- Museum has much of the resources
- Look at what we can do as a group!
- Really look at our history – know it to help build current traditions
- Engaging the community has been important.

Parking and Signage

Friday, January 18

- Have used remote lots and shuttles for special events
- Permit parking
 - What happens if court moves?
 - What is revenue back to city? \$20-\$25/month/space
 - Goes to general fund
- Time-restricted spaces – enforced?
 - Restricts visiting businesses
- Employees should park further away
 - Some would park and re-park
- Different times for different areas
- Letter with business license notices
 - Educate on employee v. customer parking
- Parking meters at certain spots
 - Discourage employee use of close
- Customer traffic from back door
 - Cut through (positive)
- Tour busses at courthouse bus not at by Red Church – concern
 - Difficulty dropping off downtown?
- Court in session - # of cars grows and less spaces available
- Renew permits with business license
 - Employer pays fee for employee
- Removing on street parking? Or diagonal parking on Washington and one-way
 - Stewart very tight now
- High curbs = not car door friendly
- Had diagonal on Stewart previously
- Eliminate parking to put in trees, parklets
- Diagonal parking with spaces for trees
- Livermore example
- Parklets generate more revenue
- Had meters previously
 - Maintain/repair issues
- Dedicated business owner/employee lots (permit, no fee)
- Currently in lieu for new uses needing to provide parking – rare
- Central kiosk for pay lots
 - Allow people to get validated ticket
- Amount willing to pay depends on destination
 - Trying to build/enhance Sonora
- Lighting – people park closer to not walk in dark
 - And no foot patrol
- Visitors don't know where parking is
 - Signs at eyelevel
- Visitors haven't complained about finding parking v. locals
 - More willing to look

- Parklets on Washington
- Noise from trucks equivalent to regular traffic noise
- Make downtown less attractive to trucks in future
- Plant/tree buffer between parklet and street
- Outdoor dining and night life growth
- Signage – provide some options for design
- Bike racks and lockers
- All day parking for commuters
- Shuttle/RV parking lot at old Mill

Visitors and Tourism

Friday, January 18

Sonora: What makes us unique as a destination?

- Ambiance – Gold Rush period
- Thriving and vibrant...still!
- Real stores and interesting ones!
- Arts culture – live theaters (3)
 - Music (local bands, college jazz, concerts in park) high school too
 - Classical music festival
 - Used to be at Red Church
- Red Church
- Candy vault building
- Opera Hall (events)
- History – museums, soap box derby
- Fairgrounds and events
 - Round-up (2nd largest in CA)
- Local lodging
- Mom and Pop “feel”
- Local paper promotes events
- Personal touch
- Trolleys
- Variety of dining options (except breakfast)
- State Parks!

Interests

- River walk
- Make things thrive!
- Tourism f f f f f f
- Nosy! ☺
- Black heritage
- History promotion f f f f
- Transit for tourists f
- Beautify entrances
- Business health = city health
- May open business
- Target funding!
- Downtown Commerce f f
- Parking
- Fairgrounds f f
- Music of Gold Rush
- Web development and resources
- More Bay Area tourists!

Corridor Walks

January 16-17 | Multiple Locations

Three hour-long “corridor walk” workshops were held on Stockton Street by the Fairgrounds, South Washington Street, and North Washington Street. During these walks, participants were provided with worksheets and asked to make observations in the following topic areas: land use and development, character and feel, public spaces, pedestrian experience, bicycle and vehicle circulation, and parking. Below are the notes that participants wrote, organized into themes.

Fairgrounds / Stockton Street

Wednesday, January 16

Worksheet Notes

Woods Creek

- Develop Woods Creek as a ped/bike walkway between Sonora and Jamestown
- Undervaluing of creeks and water features
- Undervaluing of natural landscape features (none along Woods Creek) along Stockton Street Corridor.
- Historic rock wall along creek is high value feature
- Creek trail would bring history, walkable community, water together.
- Bike path – creek trail from Sonora to Jamestown along Woods Creek.
- Development potential...the creek.
 - Water slide behind the grandstand
 - Woods creek!
- Benches along south side of woods creek...necessitates trail
- Minimal [pedestrian amenities?] along Stockton Road – could be enhanced along Woods Creek. Could remove invasive species along creek and replant with native grasses.
- Better ped experience – tie in Dragoon Trail to save types of “Woods Creek Trail”
- A bike-able walking trail should be included along the Woods/Sonora Creek corridor.

Trail Between Sonora, Jamestown, and Columbia

- Initial discussion about a walk/jog/bike trail from
 - 1 – north Sonora to Columbia and
 - 2 – Stockton Road to Jamestown
- A bike/walking lane between Jamestown and Sonora is long overdue, as well as Sonora to Columbia. Extend Dragoon Gulch trail/a wonderful feature.
- Again, need public corridor, pedestrian linkages between Sonora, Jamestown, and Columbia.

Rehab & Cleanup

- Can the City condemn/rehab that red building next to the Motel?
- Fairgrounds:
 - Better entrance.
 - Paint the railing on the bridge!
 - Grander entry sign between the flagpole or the light post?
 - Clean up the creek (volunteers/prisoners)
- Maintenance – use prison crew (S.C.C.) to trim trees at Fairgrounds

- Get “Stan’s Aligning and Brake Service: sign (The decoration must be a sign violation or something?)
- Sign on the Brake Shop needs to be repainted

Heighten Sense of History

- Historical information and features are non-existent. Efforts should be made to beautify the area that people pass immediately as they come off 49/108 on to Stockton.
- Little feel of how historic this area is – this is historic 49 – the route of the miners who passed Indian camps and flowing changes. Rehabilitation does not take history into account.
- Architecture assets
 - Restore old barn at fairgrounds – currently has black oak casino sign
 - S.C.C. crews to build upon existing historic rock structures along woods creek
- Any upgrades must retain historic and cultural character. If we do not retain our uniqueness, we will become “just another town” and lose our appeal.
- The 1940 bridge at Fairgrounds – promote and enhance
- Use existing rock walls and build new (historically accurate) rock walls to build up embankment.

Signage & Gateways

- “Welcome” signs (similar to the one on N. Washington) needed:
 - 1 – near the Stockton Road/108/49 and
 - 2 – S. Washington at 108 bypass signal intersection
- Clustered features signage: Dragoon Gulch, Catholic Church, Fairgrounds, Cemetery(s), historic museum.
- Signage on 49/108 directing visitors on Stockton to go to historic downtown district (hotels, restaurants).
- Gateways needed for this corridor. One should be interpretive. Several elements are in place in various locations (locomotive, “service clubs” sign, etc), so several “gateway” icon elements along the route could work well especially if a walking trail is integrated.
- Public art ideas – Murals (schools, clubs, scouts, etc)
- The “Welcome to Sonora” sign near the train engine at the Fairgrounds needs to be duplicated and placed on Highway 49/108 before people take the exit onto Stockton Street.

Underutilized Properties

- Open/disjointed uses
- Some decay and industrial businesses
- Old strip development
- “The Slab” (across from the gas station) needs to be developed!
- The Fairgrounds seems to be under-utilized, but needs upgrading to be more appealing (and better parking).
- I would say 80% of Fairgrounds is under utilized.

Public Spaces

- Need public plaza along Sonora Creek in Farmers Market parking lot.
- Bring back the stone dam vista at intersection of 108 and 49
- Picnic areas along access road – waste water plant
- Types of activities to encourage more R.V. advertising, =\$
- Additional benches and public restrooms are required for Washington Street.

Crosswalks

- Safer crossing into fairgrounds – crosswalk
- In Sonora proper, reinstall crosswalks.
- Busy pedestrian areas...another crosswalk.

Sidewalks

- Build a sidewalk on south side of Stockton Road from Fairgrounds to stoplight – this eliminates crossing Stockton Road. Put the sidewalk behind the guardrail near the locomotive, and put a metal rail between traffic and pedestrians where sidewalk would pass by the shale wall across from Save Mart.

Walking & Biking Along Street

- I used to walk from behind Fairgrounds where I lived and I couldn't wait to get up to Washington. Busy, hard to cross sidewalk runs out and it is loud. I now live in Jamestown and leave work at 11:30 pm. Often there is someone walking or biking on the side of the road in the dark/dangerous.
- In general, bicycle and pedestrian lanes are required.
- No [existing] pedestrian system – (continuous)
- Ideas west and north ped expansion

Circulation & Parking

- Bad intersection at fairgrounds and forest road.
- Unsafe intersections
- Parking for Fairgrounds – activities poor.
- Negotiate with Bank of America and combine the two lots into a 2, 3, or 4, story parking garage. (Grandfather in some designated BofA spaces).

Land Use & Character Observations

- Some nice nodes
- Open/achieving a sense of arrival

Highlight Natural Features

- Fairgrounds: open spaces are important context to the buildings. Large oak has high value.
- Have lost the native plants that make the area cleaner. Need to remove invasive species throughout
- Opportunity to showcase woods/creek

Less Asphalt/Concrete, More Landscaping

- Remove asphalt and put permeable surfaces to protect watershed.
- There is a lot of concrete without much landscaping. Improving Caltrans right of way images would help
- Include landscaping in all developments

South Washington Street

Wednesday, January 16

Worksheet Notes

- Add trees to streetscape
- Native rockwalls
- No more neon
- Railing – historic feeling yet transparent.
- Perhaps use city black tubular! – eg. At Inns of CA
- Recycling containers
- More garbage cans
- Add a few public toilets
- Signage – need more historically accurate signage rather use 108/Washington
- Foundry and lime kiln part of the historic core.
- Better signage for parking
- Better street drainage and system
- Parking structures

North Washington Street

Thursday, January 17

Worksheet Notes

Land Use and Development

- Vacant lot E. Jackson and Stewart?

Character and Feel

- Save the bungalows, clean up curbs in some areas
- Red Church is asset – change fence? (Like wrought iron across street)

Public Spaces

- Park important to community but needs a focus/focal point

Walking & Pedestrian Experience

- Great old buildings – need ADA sidewalks transitions to cross streets
- Can we get big trucks on alternate route?
- Love the rock and marble
- You should have bike lanes? Places to park bike especially Stewart St.

Circulation and Parking

- Roundabout at Sonora High School is a good idea
- Lack of parking spaces
- Parking garage (brick, wrought iron, vines) Great feel for this area.

Trolley Talks

Friday, January 18 | Multiple Locations

Two hour-long “trolley talk” workshops were held to allow participants to view the corridors together. During these workshops, participants were provided with worksheets and asked to make observations in the following topic areas: land use and development, character and feel, public spaces, pedestrian experience, bicycle and vehicle circulation, and parking. Below are the notes that participants wrote, organized into themes.

Worksheet Notes

Wayfinding and Gateways

- No sign to show public parking at County building.
- County parking garage can be used on weekends but no one knows that – need signs (directional) for weekends?
- Stockton – Fair marketing signs
- Need historic signage for invite visitors to business district
- All entrance streets of 108 need to have entrance signs into Sonora (Washington and Stockton)
- Use 108 overpass for historical signs with directions to downtown Sonora (move service club signs to visitors bureau area)
- Light on, “service sign’ here.
- Replace “Sonora” service club signs to a monument
- Sign with Community emblems could be moved – put a more welcoming and historic sign or artifact.
- Wayfinding – consider App instead of lots and lots of signs.
- Love new City of Sonora sign at Stockton Road.
- Multiple signage on bypass to draw visitors in; good gateway elements needed.
- Need way-finding signage

Trees and Landscaping

- Endorse the concept of native trees along both sides of Stockton Street to soften the “industrial feel” of many of the buildings!
- Need natural native plants
- Beautify S. Washington St. and Stockton Street with trees and lighting
- Stockton Road – uninviting -> line with trees, add trail.
- More trees
- Get rid of wooden planter boxes.
- More landscaping and beautification necessary in the transition between the bypass entrances and downtown proper.
- Trees- need more, especially the ones that will turn colors in the fall!

Public Spaces

- Use Linoberg as a park
- Love Coffill Park! Need better use/lighting.
- More needed, even if very small.
- Existing ones (Courthouse Park) are heavily used – more public spaces would likely get similar high use
- Add public art – use local artists
- I like the transit stop by the park, it is pretty, but I’m afraid it attracts the riff-raff.

- Should have murals on Stewart Street shop backs.
- Courthouse Square – work with County to make this area a plaza where events could take place.
- Public restrooms

Walkways and Trails

- Need for better walking facilities along Stockton Road.
- Connectivity between fairgrounds and downtown district.
- Add lights on the trail from Fairgrounds to Sonora
- Like the idea of trails from downtown though and around the fairgrounds. Safer crossing for pedestrians.
- Extend Sonora Creek walkway by the engine past the fairgrounds along Sonora Creek
- Walking – trails for physically fit along the creek. Otherwise, trolleys up and down main street (Washington Street) to assist shoppers, elderly, those with small children to reach north and south ends of town.
- No sidewalks on street
- Would be nice to have wider sidewalks, but the streets downtown are already narrow.

Historic Character

- Transit stop feels historic
- Area across from opera hall needs to look more historic
- Train engine on W. side of Washington Street at hospital road.
- History character must be retained.
- Need to be historic district
- Restore Sugar Pine engine

Building Improvements and Sign Styles

- Very dark at night. Better lighting on buildings. Important that any lighting is dark sky compliant.
- South Washington near probation offices – facades need face lifts and repainting.
- Stockton Street – coming in - Buildings need character – (looks like an industrial area)
- Downtown is looking tired. Need incentives for keeping up buildings (paint, lighting, etc.).
- “Popsicle” signs are not in keeping with historic district and could be phased out in favor of monument signs over time.
- Too many plastic banner signs

Circulation and Parking

- More parking off Washington Street.
- Need for “constant” “trolley-type” ride up and down Washington to increase access to north and south ends of town – and Stewart Street.
- Not bike friendly
- Transit stop needs to be moved – closer to old fire station if it stays at Courthouse Square reverse the one-way.

Tour Buses

- Un-utilized bus parking at Red Church; needs to be moved from there -> bad location for busses
- Drop-off for tourists should be in core area near central areas

- Area outside of downtown corridor for Tour Bus Parking with possible shuttle service to downtown?
- Tour busses – need to find out who is coming for the day – visitors bureau only knows about those who spend nights in hotels.

Creeks

- Using our creek areas as a focal point.
- Creek as a water feature.
- All of Sonora Creek needs to be kept maintained (prison)

Other Ideas

- Visitor Center satellite office at vacancy near “Day –O Coffee”?
- Sonora General Plan references City’s scenic corridors, gateways, “daylighting” Sonora Creek, parks and recreational trails.

Parking Intercept Surveys

January 17-19 | Various Locations

A parking survey was performed between Thursday, January 17, 2013 and Saturday, January 19, 2013 in various locations to intercept people as they walked to and from parking spaces and lots. A total of 63 surveys were conducted.

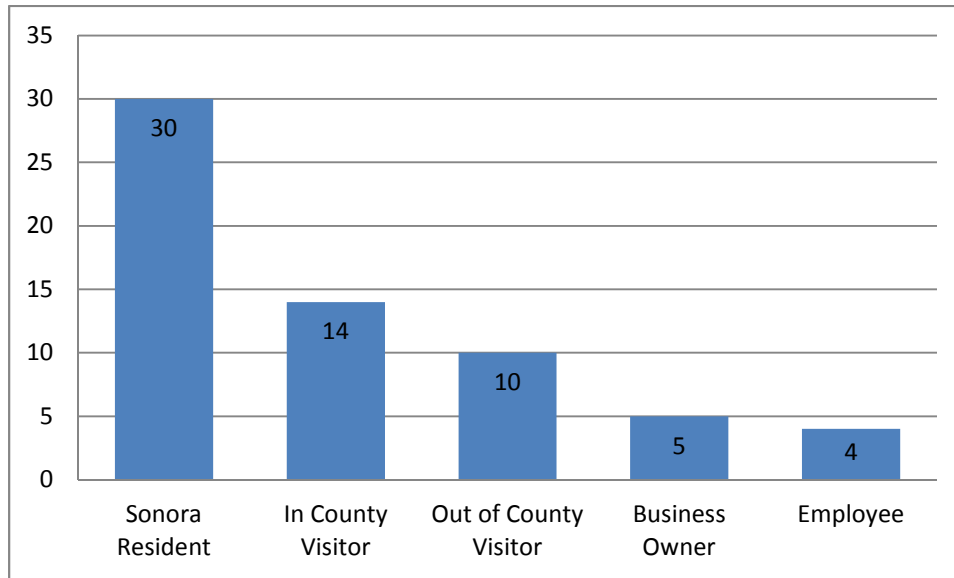
The survey questions included the following:

- 1. Are you a:**
 - a. Sonora Resident
 - b. In county visitor
 - c. Out of county visitor
 - d. Business owner
 - e. Employee, how many times per week?
 - f. Other
- 2. What is the purpose of your visit to Downtown?**
 - a. Work
 - b. Shop
 - c. Eat
 - d. Government Services (Courthouse, County, City, etc)
 - e. Sightseeing / tourism
 - f. Other
- 3. How long will you park in Downtown?**
 - a. Less than 30 minutes
 - b. 30-60 minutes
 - c. 1-2 hours
 - d. 2-4 hours
 - e. more than 4 hours
- 4. Was it easy to find parking?**
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 5. Would you pay for parking if it was closer and easy to find?**
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 6. What do you like most about Downtown Sonora?**
 - a. History
 - b. Shops
 - c. Restaurants
 - d. Small town feel / quaintness
 - e. Personal customer service
 - f. Other
- 7. What do you not like about Downtown:**
 - a. Parking availability
 - b. Noise
 - c. Traffic congestion
 - d. Sidewalk condition
 - e. Other
- 8. Are you staying overnight?**
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 9. Would you visit again?**
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 10. Do you want to add anything else?**

Survey Results

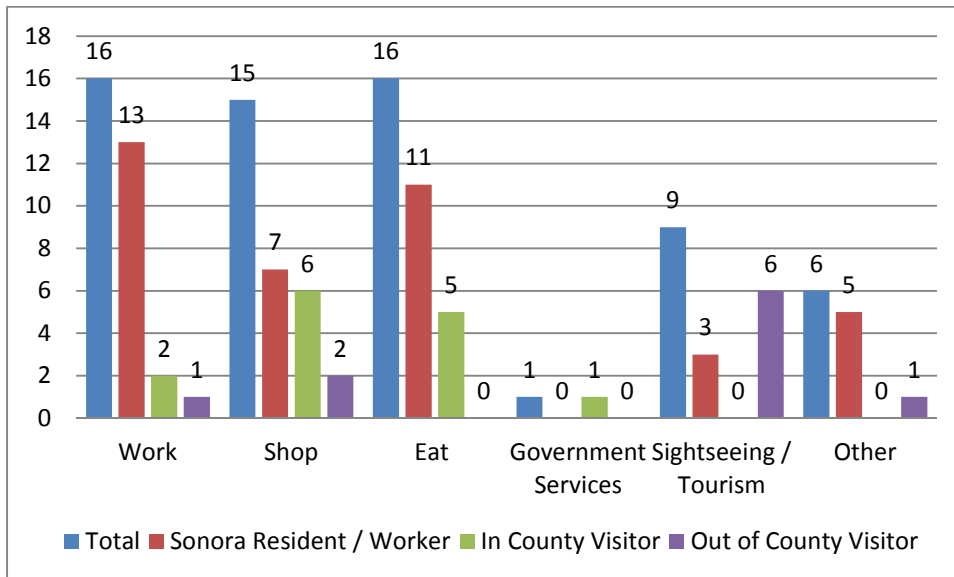
Figure 14 through **Figure 22** show the results of the survey.

Figure 14: Question 1 - Are you a:



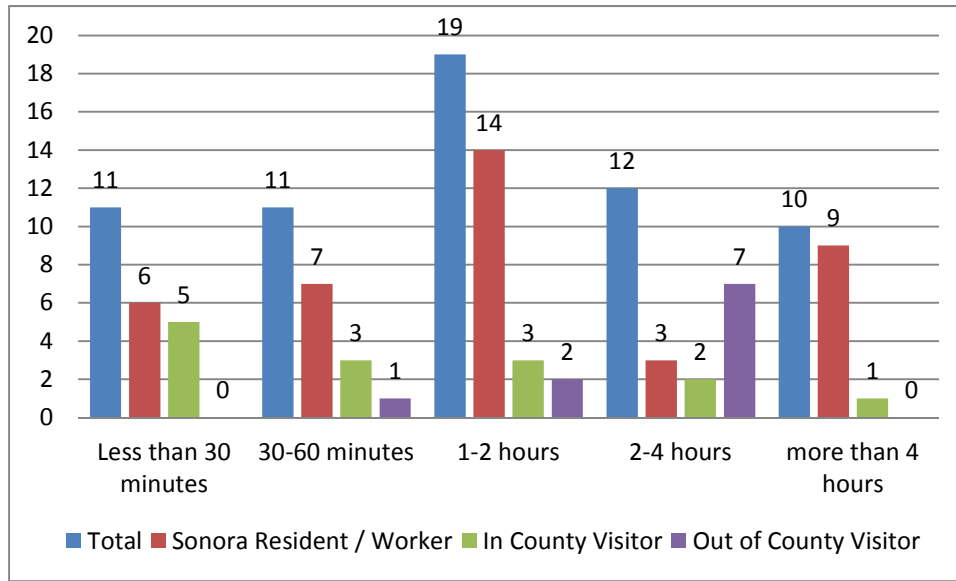
Most people surveyed were local, approximately 84%, living or working in Sonora or Tuolumne County. Only 16% surveyed were from outside of Tuolumne County.

Figure 15: Question 2 - What is the purpose of your visit to Downtown?



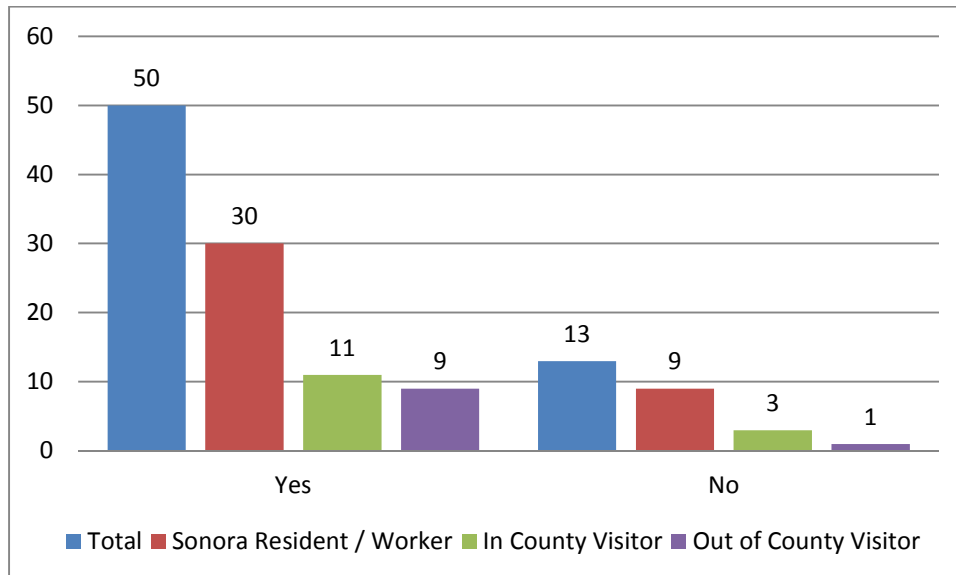
People go to Downtown Sonora for a variety of activities, working and eating being the most common activities for a Sonora resident and sightseeing being the most common activity for an out of County visitor.

Figure 16: Question 3 - How long will you park Downtown?



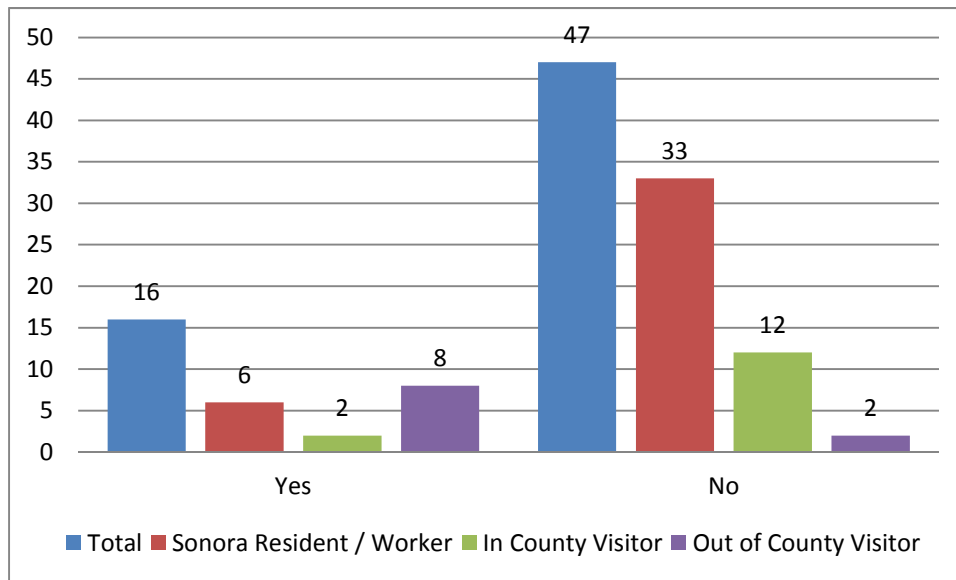
People surveyed park for a variable amount of time; the majority of Sonora residents parked for 1 to 2 hours and out of County visitors for 2 to 4 hours.

Figure 17: Question 4 - Was it easy to find parking?



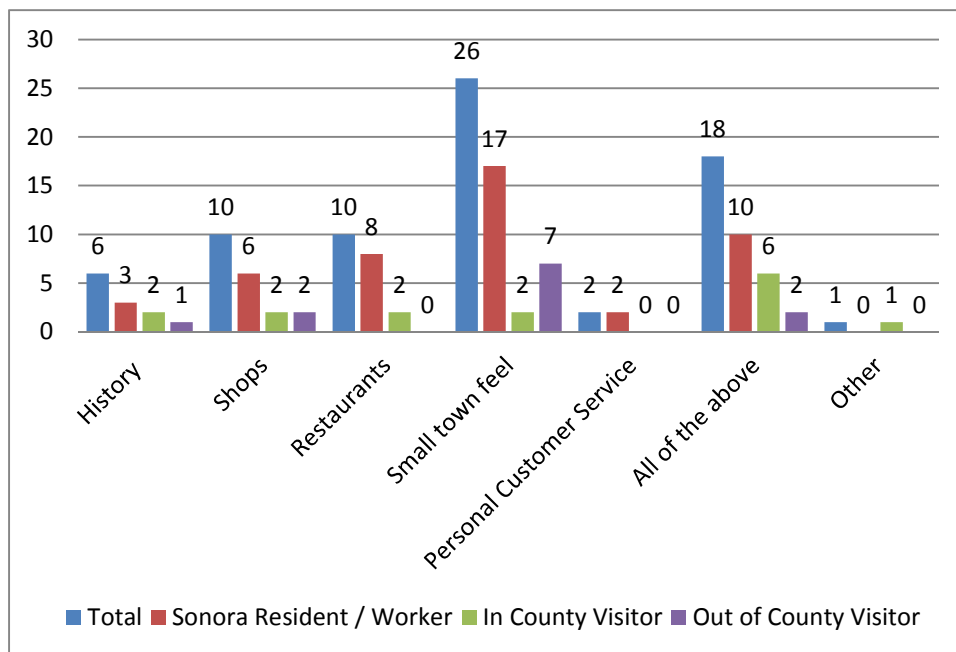
Both Sonora residents and out of County visitors found parking easy to find when surveyed, 77% and 90%, respectively; however people noted that during the summer months, the tourist season, it is hard to find parking.

Figure 18: Question 5 - Would you pay for parking if it was close and easy to find?



Out of County visitors are more willing to pay for parking if it is close and easy to find. Eighty percent said that yes, as opposed to 15% of Sonora residents, they would be willing to pay for parking.

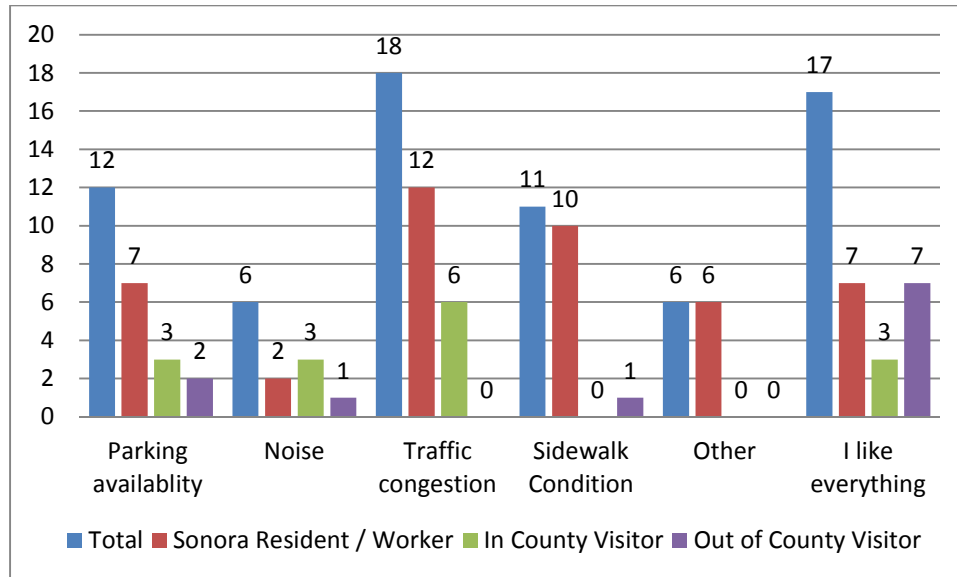
Figure 19: Question 6 - What do you like most about Downtown Sonora?



**Survey takers selected all that applied.*

When asked what they liked most about Downtown Sonora, 41% said the small town feel and 29% said all of the above.

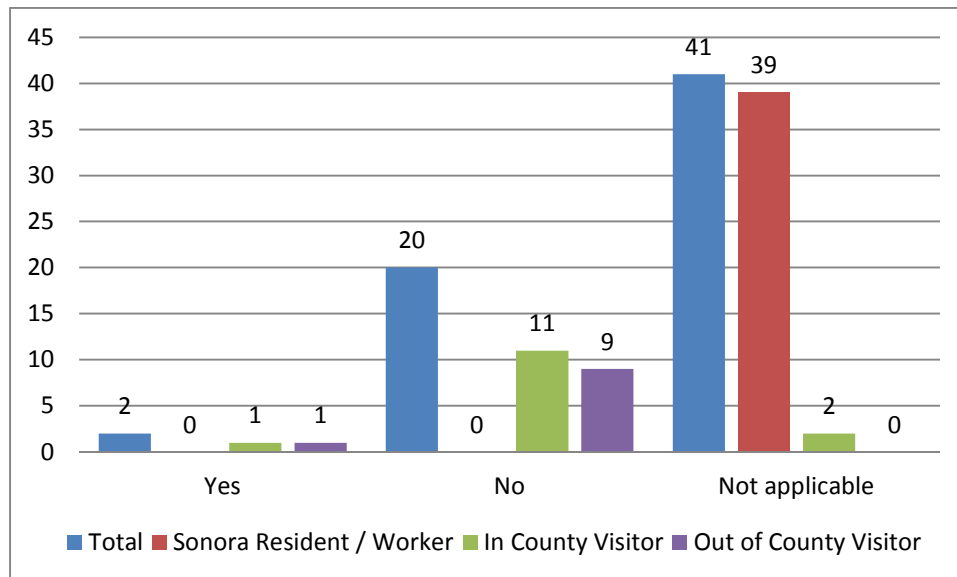
Figure 20: Question 7 – What do you not like about Downtown?



**Survey takers selected all that applied.*

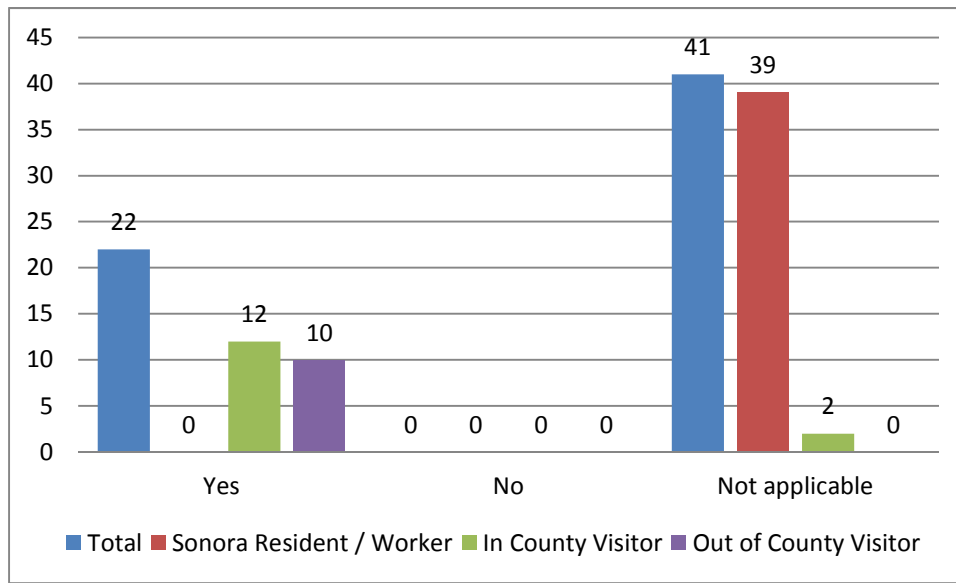
Twenty-nine percent of people surveyed stated traffic congestion was what they did not like about Downtown Sonora, followed by 19% saying parking availability. Twenty-seven percent said they liked everything about Sonora.

Figure 21: Question 8 – Are you staying overnight?



Forty-one of the people surveyed answered that it was not applicable if they were staying overnight, due to being a Sonora resident or worker or an in County visitor that lived nearby. Of the remaining 22 surveyed, 10% stated they planned on staying overnight.

Figure 22: Question 9 – Would you visit again?



Forty-one of the people surveyed answered that it was not applicable if they would visit again, due to being a Sonora resident or worker or an in County visitor that lived nearby. Of the remaining 22 surveyed, 100% stated they would visit Sonora again.

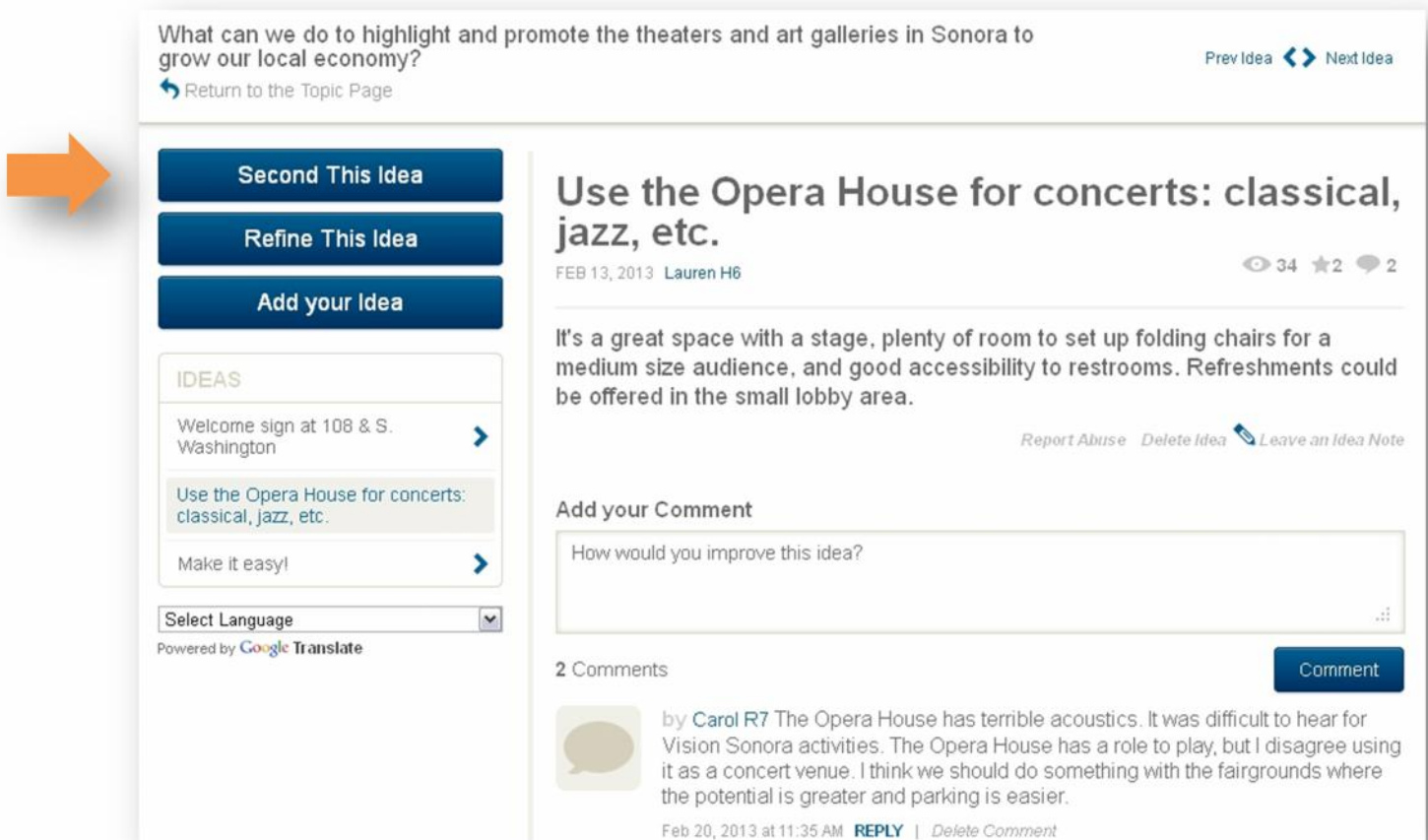
Website Top Ideas

November 2012 – April 2013

Overview

The Vision Sonora website at www.visionsonora.info, powered by MindMixer participation technology, was launched in November 2012 and will be closed at the end of April 2013. It is an interactive discussion forum where community members are able to participate in polls, post ideas in response to facilitator questions, and make comments on other people's ideas. As of April 10, 2013, there had been over 200 active participants who contributed 160 ideas and made over 400 comments.

Similar to “liking” an idea on Facebook, website participants can show their support for ideas by “seconding” them. This allows the most popular ideas to rise to the top. In the example below, someone viewing this idea about the Opera Hall could “second” the idea, leave a comment, or add a new idea in response to the question at the top.



On the next two pages, the ideas that received the most support through “seconds” are presented. A full report of ideas and comments from the website follows this brief summary.

Visioning Sonora's Future

Most popular ideas (posted by participants):

- Renovate lower Save Mart shopping center (21 “seconds”)
Renovate the lower Save Mart shopping center's appearance and restructure the parking lot to make it more friendly for larger vehicles and a better gateway entrance to the downtown area. This would enable the parking lot to be more easily used by tour buses, dial-a-ride users, and even could be made a bus stop for Tuolumne County Transit bus riders. This bus stop would be convenient for users.
- Make Sonora enjoyable to walk in (16 “seconds”)
Re-route highway 49! The logging trucks, mining trucks, motorcycle clubs driving through the town make so much noise and traffic that it isn't any fun to walk downtown. When we go to Murphy's or even Jamestown we notice how much quieter it is than Sonora. Another point: We live downtown, near the highway. The truck use their jake brakes coming down from Columbia even at 6AM! We need an ordinance against that right away!
- One way traffic (15 “seconds”)
Make main street and Stewart street one way streets to eliminate the traffic issues. This would also allow for more vegetation (flowers/trees) to be planted on main street and make it more pedestrian friendly.
- Fix the Sonora Inn exterior! (15 “seconds”)
If we can't get the colonnade outside the Sonora Inn fixed, much of the others ideas we are discussing won't matter. This corner is the keystone entry point to Sonora. It is our book's cover; our website's home page; our community's front door.
- Other ideas with at least 10 “seconds”:
 - Restrooms.. Clean restrooms
 - murals and visual art
 - Laser tag/Arcade in old Sonora Family Bowl building
 - 49 @ Shaws Flatt & High School Rd roundabout
 - Make Coffil Park More Sunny and Inviting (from kid 1)
 - More evenings like "Magic of the Night"
 - Think Bicycles!
 - Zipline at Dragoon Gulch
 - Better Accessibility for Mobility Impaired People
 - Pedestrian Safety
 - Year Round Farmers Market
 - Bike paths connecting Jamestown to Sonora
 - Bicycle path from Sonora/ Jamestown to the Table Mountain Trail

Poll: Revitalizing Sonora

Most popular ideas (posted by facilitators):

- Less traffic congestion (25 “seconds”)
- More bike access (10 “seconds”)
- Other [something other than the following options: less traffic congestion, more bike access, improved parking, expanded public spaces, better signage, more trees and flowerbeds, more retail, more restaurants, and wider sidewalks] (14 “seconds”)

Improving Sonora Transportation

Most popular ideas (posted by participants):

- Designated bicycle routes and bike paths (18 “seconds”)
- Traffic flow changes [making Washington and Stewart Streets one way] (9 “seconds”)
- Walking/Biking trail along Woods Creek. (9 “seconds”)
- Build a park in one of the vacant lots in the downtown area (8 “seconds”)

Your Priorities: Tourism in Sonora

Most popular ideas (posted by facilitators):

- Mother lode fairgrounds (14 “seconds”)
- Historic buildings (14 “seconds”)
- Art galleries (10 “seconds”)

Bicycling in Sonora

Most popular ideas (posted by participants):

- Bike arteries (11 “seconds”)

Columbia to Sonora, Jamestown to Sonora, and from downtown out along Mono Way to Standard would be first priorities. Greenley/Lyons might be a second priority.

Poll: Enhancing Stewart Street

Most popular ideas (posted by facilitators):

- Outdoor dining (11 “seconds”)
- Trash/recycling cans (11 “seconds”)
- Bike lanes/sharrows (10 “seconds”)
- Street trees (10 “seconds”)
- Bike racks (10 “seconds”)
- Creating a pedestrian connection by closing a side street (such as Theall St. or Linoberg St.) (10 “seconds”)

Preserving Our Heritage

Most popular ideas (posted by participants):

- Create an “App” (10 “seconds”)

Create a downloadable “app” for phones that provides a walking tour with history of buildings. Could also be used to advertise shops and restaurants as you walk.



Topic Name (Instant Poll): Poll: Revitalizing Sonora

Idea Title: Less traffic congestion

Number of Seconds 25

Idea Title: Other

Number of Seconds 14

Idea Title: More bike access

Number of Seconds 10

Idea Title: Improved parking

Number of Seconds 8

Idea Title: Expanded public spaces

Number of Seconds 7

Idea Title: Better signage

Number of Seconds 6

Idea Title: More trees and flowerbeds

Number of Seconds 6

Idea Title: More retail

Number of Seconds 4

Idea Title: More restaurants

Number of Seconds 3

Idea Title: Wider sidewalks



Number of Seconds 3

Comments

Number of Comments 23

Comment 1: I've noticed a lot of ideas about improving traffic congestion and parking downtown- improving bike and pedestrian access and safety would help to alleviate these issues. | By Julie B

Comment 2: I heard a comment on the radio that said the grant money was already "spent". Is this true or false or only partially true or false? | By Daniel P

Comment 3: A big PLEASE for more public restrooms and garbage cans along Washington Street. As a merchant, I am frequently asked to throw people's garbage away because they can't find a garbage can. Restrooms are a huge need, most people don't want to travel to the restroom by the police station, mostly because it frequently is disgusting inside. | By Dianne P

Comment 4: Agreed. Recycle bins, too. (I know the arguments against this. I still vote for recycling!) | By Holly B

Comment 5: We need more street lights. Have you ever walked downtown at night? Not only is it hard to see where you are going, it's also kind of scary.

I also think we could use some more police officers to help control traffic violators. I see people speeding all the time, others talking on their cell phones, and people blatantly disregarding stop signs, turn signals and traffic lights. If we had more of a police presence in Sonora, alot of this would be eradicated.

There is nothing you can do about the traffic downtown unless you divert it to the side streets. That means that the side streets would be converted. Any bypasses would involve directing traffic away from downtown completely, and you don't want to do that. As far as parking, I don't know where you would put additional parking spaces. Downtown is pretty built up. | By Bonnie M

Comment 6: "Beat Cops" maybe? Walking the streets with the People? Maybe multi-floored parking garages could be built where parking lots are now? | By Daniel P

Comment 7: I like the signs on the sidewalk. I would miss the sweater outside By Hand Yarn and the Funky Junk chalkboard. | By Carol R



Comment 8: The current boxes for flower beds are used as ashtrays and syringe disposals. Eliminate sidewalk boxes and use hanging features from light posts. That would also clear the sidewalks. No signs on sidewalks should be allowed. Utilize hand watering appliances if the city can't water. They are used in Modesto by the Modesto Garden Club in the downtown area. Also, the y entrance from Hwy 108 could be landscaped for a more welcome entrance with some historic signage. This is the first entrance from the West and it's bare and not welcoming.
| By Joyce R

Comment 9: Love this idea. The "flower" boxes are not helping beautify the streets. Plus they take up coveted sidewalk space along our parade route :) | By Holly B

Comment 10: Planter pots hung from the light posts is a good idea, I think. Are the syringes from diabetics? | By Daniel P

Comment 11: Put in more ashtrays I suppose. Not much trouble to maintain them, unless someone dumps the sand out of them. | By Daniel P

Comment 12: Parking for events is non-existent. We have been here 10 years and attend few big events because of parking problems. In addition public restrooms downtown are not convenient for tourists. The businesses should not shoulder so much of this burden. | By Roger H

Comment 13: Could we please have trash cans and recycle bins that we can use? Murphys and Angels Camp have these readily available and attractive to look at. Also please no nasty comments from city employee Rachelle Kellogg about those who use them. | By Carol R

Comment 14: What about the children?! No one in this town gives a toot about the kids. It's hard to listen to. Our town looks terrible because the people are broke. How can you justify spending money on cosmetic repair when there is social and structural damage that is overwhelming. Use fund raising for that stuff, like "adopt a sidewalk", but put the city's money where it will benefit people who would like to live here. How about expanding our farmers market to the fair grounds so people can actually park and walk around. It could turn into a much larger event with live music and craft booths and such. Farmers market/ Flea market/ Craft fair/ Weekend concerts/ Wine tasting. People could spend local and have a good time. Schools could have booth space for free when they want to fund raise. | By Dustin P

Comment 15: We should look at light manufacturing as well as tourism. But light manufacturing would probably not involve use of downtown space. | By Daniel P

Comment 16: Wish we could make Main Street pedestrian only. With fountains and flowers like you see in Europe. The park, although historical, is not designed for groups to gather. It is



awkward and dark. We also could use some public art. Murals and 3 dimensional artwork. We have so many artists in our community. We should highlight their talents.

| By Laurie L

Comment 17: I agree that the park is awkward and dark. Why is that? That space could use some re-thinking. | By Holly B

Comment 18: "Other" is the only option in this "Revitalizing Sonora" list that doesn't involve "reshaping" existing down town structure. The only improvement in parking, as far as I can see right now, is to add a floor to the parking garage across the street from the Fire Museum. But some of the buildings could receive retro-decoration and fresh paint. Grant money should go toward job wages of workers hired to spruce Our Town up. | By Daniel P

Comment 19: I agree. When money goes into hiring workers or bringing outsourced jobs back to town more people win.

Better Signage = local designers/printers.

More trees/flowers = local growers/landscapers. | By Zac C

Comment 20: I'm in agreement with BZ's comment, but I'd make the Sonora Inn exterior the priority, as it is in a keystone location. | By Robert G

Comment 21: Downtown Sonora could use a beautification project with building and property condition requirements - clean up downtown: Hold building owner's accountable for their facades, building condition, front walkway condition. Also, relocate the homeless and loiterers. To attract shoppers they should feel safe and free of solicitors. | By Tracy M

Comment 22: This is a great idea! Too often existing buildings fall into disrepair or have been severely damaged. We need to remember that all of those scarred buildings leave a negative impression on visitors. Are there ways to streamline the process of getting them cleaned up? Best example are the burnt out buildings on S. Washington St & S. Stewart St. Tracy M11 brings up lots of very good points. Thanks for moving this forward, Tracy! | By BZ S

Comment 23: About "the Homeless and Loiterers". Use some of the grant money to build modest shelter on the edge of town somewhere and provide transportation to the heart of town for these Individuals...so that they can earn wages, (also from the grant), by doing the sprucing and maintenance work on Our Town. | By Daniel P



Topic Name: Visioning Sonora's Future

Idea Title: Renovate lower Save Mart shopping center

Idea Detail: Renovate the lower Save Mart shopping center's appearance and restructure the parking lot to make it more friendly for larger vehicles and a better gateway entrance to the downtown area. This would enable the parking lot to be more easily used by tour buses, dial-a-ride users, and even could be made a bus stop for Tuolumne County Transit bus riders. This bus stop would be convenient for users.

Idea Author: Justine G

Number of Seconds 21

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: I agree with all of these ideas! It would also be nice if Save Mart would renovate the building on the inside. Its so old and outdated. Please do something about this area of town to make it more welcoming. | By Carol K

Comment 2: Tie this area to the fairgrounds via a walking path along the creek. There is a lot of potential to tie this entire corridor together with a pathway from S. Washington, via Coffill Park, along the creek (somehow tie in that little corner park by the drugstore), and then down into the open space where the sewer treatment plant is. Could also tie into the Woods Creek Park, and Dragoon Gulch trail. Not only would this make the area more attractive, it could provide safe walking access to shopping and schools from the Stockton Rd. area. | By Kimberly B

Comment 3: Kimberly B4....That is a really good suggestion! What a good way to pull the town and Dragoon Gulch together. I'm always stopping downtown to draw maps for tourist on how to get to Dragoon Gulch. How about some signs that direct visitors there? | By BZ S

Comment 4: I would like to see a creek side trail from Greenley Road to Downtown Sonora and then south west to the Fair grounds and rotary park and the Dragoon Gulch Trail. Lyons street is so dangerous to walk along, a trail from Greenley Rd to Downtown would be much safer. I also like the idea of a bus stop at the the lower Save Mart, this would help with all of the abandoned shopping carts left in court house park | By Rick H

Comment 5: This is a good idea! Recently I was thinking that this shopping center could make



a nice little service point for visitors and locals alike. Clean it up and encourage some popular services to take occupancy. Personally I'd love to see the lower Save Mart Grocery Store provide more organic and gourmet food items. Yes, it needs to also have the "regular fare" for the older downtown shoppers. It'd be nice if it provided a nice array of good quality food items with a nice section of locally produced items. This market often attracts tourists! Lots of folks visiting the fairgrounds end up at this market. And in the summer months you can hear many different languages in the lower S.M. Tailor the center into a nice spot for visitors that locals would also enjoy. I love the idea of a bus stop here and using the lot for tour buses! Thanks, Justine! | By BZ S

Idea Title: Make Sonora Enjoyable to Walk In

Idea Detail: Re-route highway 49! The logging trucks, mining trucks, motorcycle clubs driving through the town make so much noise and traffic that it isn't any fun to walk downtown. When we go to Murphy's or even Jamestown we notice how much quieter it is than Sonora. Another point: We live downtown, near the highway. The truck use their jake brakes coming down from Columbia even at 6AM! We need an ordinance against that right away!

Idea Author: Rick B

Number of Seconds 16

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I agree that addressing Hwy 49's route would be an improvement for the ambience of our downtown. If we can promote Sonora as an "easy walking town," I think it's just one more draw to our community. Noise ordinance about the jake brakes? I'd have to know more about that idea. But helping to alleviate downtown traffic will make Sonora more pleasant for everyone. It will help alleviate summer heat, noise, the dust & grime that kicks up from car & truck exhaust, etc. | By BZ S

Idea Title: One way traffic

Idea Detail: Make main street and Stewart street one way streets to eliminate the traffic issues. This would also allow for more vegetation (flowers/trees) to be planted on main street and make it more pedestrian friendly.

Idea Author: L M

Number of Seconds 15



Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: I like this idea, one way traffic would make room for more outdoor space, flowerbeds, foot and bicycle traffic. Also, I agree with Tami, it would likely improve business on Stewart st.- There are places I am still learning about on Stewart st merely because I rarely use the street. | By Ashley G

Comment 2: Great idea! Santa Cruz did this, and widened their sidewalks to add space for outside eating & "sidewalk sales." You still have room for traffic to meander through, and folks to stop and park when they see something interesting. | By Diana C

Comment 3: Love this idea! I think it would really help businesses on Stewart Street in particular!
| By Tami H

Comment 4: I like this idea, but I would make it 2 lanes up and 2 lanes down. (unfortunately, no more room for flowers and trees) | By Clint C

Idea Title: Fix the Sonora Inn Exterior!

Idea Detail: If we can't get the colonnade outside the Sonora Inn fixed, much of the others ideas we are discussing won't matter. This corner is the keystone entry point to Sonora. It is our book's cover; our website's home page; our community's front door.

Whether you realize it or not, the damaged condition of those columns leaves an indelible impression on visitors and residents alike. It makes visitor's wonder if we care about this place. It makes us ashamed to bring people here.

So what can be done? Is the problem a financial one? I'd be happy to start a collection to help fund the needed repairs. Anyone else on board? Let's get this done.

Idea Author: Robert G

Number of Seconds 15

Number of Comments 15

Comment 1: To Carol: The amount of concern expressed here about the Inn shows how important that property is to the image our town presents. They did a wonderful job on the interior, and they are wonderful people. I raised this concern because I think their problem is to some extent, all of our problem. I know nothing about the suit, but it needs to be resolved



soon. | By Robert G

Comment 2: To Daniel: Regarding "Trompe l'oeil," I'm not able to think of an example locally, but you can see an example of the before/after effect of a simple use of the technique here: <http://bgamedia.com/images/TheatreSaint-Georges.png> . Our local mural artist, Judy Grossman can handle this kind of project with flair. | By Robert G

Comment 3: To Daniel: Regarding "Trompe l'oeil," I'm not able to think of an example locally, but you can see an example of the before/after effect of a simple use of the technique here: <http://bgamedia.com/images/TheatreSaint-Georges.png>. Our local mural artist, Judy Grossman can handle this kind of project with flair. | By Robert G

Comment 4: To Daniel: Regarding "Trompe l'oeil," I'm not able to think of an example locally, but you can see an example of the before/after effect of a simple use of the technique here: <http://BGamedia.com/images/TheatreSaint-Georges.png>. Our local mural artist, Judy Grossman can handle this kind of project with flair. | By Robert G

Comment 5: There seem to be alot of negative comments about the Sonora Inn all over this website. I felt rather bad for them and went to see for myself. They have remodeled the interior so I recommend a visit. The exterior is apparently complicated by a lawsuit. | By Carol R

Comment 6: Hi Robert G12. Are there any examples of "to fool the eye" mural style in town? I don't think I have ever seen this style. | By Daniel P

Comment 7: All good ideas. My preference would be the style of mural known as trompe l'oeil ("to fool the eye"). The wall facing Stockton street is perfect for it, and we have a master muralist right here in Sonora who can do it. But we're getting ahead of ourselves. The masonry needs to be fixed and then a great paint job. I happen to know it has been over 20 years since the current paint job was done. | By Robert G

Comment 8: All good ideas. My preference would be the style of mural known as trompe l'oeil ("to fool the eye"). The wall facing Stockton street is perfect for it, and we have a master muralist right here in Sonora who can do it. But we're getting head of ourselves. The masonry needs to be fixed and then a great paint job. I happen to know it has been over 20 years since the current paint job was done. | By Robert G

Comment 9: Hmmm...I wonder if I could get that photo of the inn and puff it up big enough to place upon it the paint job I envision for it? And for others to do this as well? | By Daniel P

Comment 10: I agree with Carol about the "vibrant paint" for this particular building. A combination of mural and "art nuvo"...with rainbow bright gradients of color behind it all. , (sorry



for the phonetic spelling of this lovely art style, I couldn't find the correct spelling in my dictionary.)

There looks to be lots of spots for flower planters too. Wisteria, Jasmine, Morning Glory and Honeysuckle cascading down from the tower anyone? Maybe the boxes could be located just under the Spanish Tile roof there? | By Daniel P

Comment 11: This was an eyesore before the column wipeout. Please some artistic vision is needed. Paint the place some interesting vibrant colors, paint murals, decorate with some plants, trees in pots, anything but that ugly beige behemoth. At least the Polka Dots store once added a little whimsy. That dark brown real estate building and the sorry looking parking lot across the street could use a little work too. | By Carol R

Comment 12: This is probably the most seen corner of Sonora. Replace the present columns with good strong stainless steel over concrete ones. Or protect them with a strong barrier. | By Daniel P

Comment 13: Getting the big rigs and large trucks off of main street would prevent further damage as well. | By Clint C

Comment 14: What's the hold up? Every time you drive by its like what the %&# is going on? Don't they have insurance coverage? | By Lance M

Comment 15: It's been almost a year since that column was damaged. | By Rick B

Idea Title: Restrooms.. Clean restrooms

Idea Detail: In all of Downtown Sonora there is just one public restroom and it is very hard for visitors to find and when they do find it we hear how awful that restroom is. With all of the city and county owned building downtown, these building's restrooms could and should be open to the public.

Idea Author: Rick H

Number of Seconds 14

Number of Comments 6

Comment 1: The comments I have heard from visitors who use the public restrooms near Coffill Park should make all Sonorans embarrassed. While I know public funds are slim and maintainance is costly, we are doing damage to Sonora's reputation by not addressing this



problem. Of course as locals we don't use these restrooms much or not at all, but tourists use them. And what they face there would give any visitor reasons to not come back to Sonora. Ask any store owner along Washington street and you will get descriptions they have heard from these visitors. And while you are at it let these store owners tell you visitor's stories of walking through Coffill park to get to these restrooms. | By John W

Comment 2: Daniel P4, I do think that the reference is to the public restroom that is by the Sonora Police Station, which is near Coffill Park. What about the former Seniors' Drop-In Center that is on Stewart St underneath the elevated parking lot than runs between Stewart & Shepherd near Theall St? Is that structure owned by the City of Sonora? If so, could it be adapted into another public restroom? It'd be nice to have a public facility on the east side of Washington St. | By BZ S

Comment 3: I second the gratitude to Days Inn and Subway for the use of their clean restroom facilities. By the way. Is the inadequate public restrooms down in the wee hole park, about the middle of town? | By Daniel P

Comment 4: Even in the noonday sun, those puny public restrooms look gross and uninviting. I would put on a pair of Depends before I would even consider using them. Thank you to the Days Inn and the Subway restaurant that have clean and open restrooms (even if they don't advertise them). | By Carol R

Comment 5: I, for one, see this project as being of the utmost importance...IF...We really care about having happy tourists in Sonora. And it is well within the parameters of the grant study area too. Good idea "Rick H9". Well supported "BZ S". | By Daniel P

Comment 6: Thanks for mentioning this! Clean & convenient bathroom accommodations are essential in a tourist town that is worth its salt! Working for Strawberry Music Festival has taught me that HEALTH & SAFETY have to come first! Otherwise people do not feel comfortable, and then they go home unhappy. Good events planners know that this has to be the first thing on the list! We need a well-orchestrated plan so that CLEAN & SAFE public restrooms are available for our downtown visitors. This logic is based on "Maslow's Hierarchy of Need" from Psychology 101: #1--Biological & Physiological Needs (Water, Food, Shelter, Physical Relief) come before EVERYTHING ELSE!, then #2--Feeling Safe & Protected. Everything else falls behind those two. | By BZ S

Idea Title: murals and visual art

Idea Detail: I would like to see murals and other artistic visuals decorating downtown. If you have ever been to Cambria, Ca they have a scarecrow festival that is a month long and every business and group makes a scarecrow that represents them and the charm and life it brings to the town is amazing. It would be cool to have similar but Sonora inspired art events and



perhaps some murals beautifying the town. Another example is the mistletoe that is put up during Christmas time, a light decorating, or a wreath contest could bring more charm to downtown seasonally.

Idea Author: Ashley G

Number of Seconds 13

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: I like your idea of "Sonora Shoes" Carol R7. Our very own new icon it seems. How would these Sonora Shoes be presented? Would they merely mark the trail as a Sonora Trail or would they depict more information? (direction, distance, average time, etc.)? | By Daniel P

Comment 2: Maybe we need more than just murals. We have a very talented and active art community. Angels Camp has their frogs. They market those frogs everywhere. Chicago did their "art cows" several years ago. They marketed those cows all over the country. I loved the art shoe auction a couple of years ago. If we move to walking/biking trails and improve pedestrian pathways, could we mark them with "Sonora Shoes"? | By Carol R

Comment 3: I would like to put up a mural on Diamondback's cinder brick wall that faces E. Linoberg Street. | By Zac C

Comment 4: Zac, there are two active groups on Facebook promoting murals in downtown: Mural Painting in Sonora is one and Mural in a Day Sonora is the other. The original goal of the first page was to get a mural onto the Diamondback wall. You might want to read through the posts on both pages to get a feel for how much is happening around the idea! | By Linda E

Comment 5: But of course, the murals should be compatible with the history of Sonora and not overpower the overall look of the structure of Our Community. But a lot could be achieved regarding this Good Ashley idea. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Laser tag/Arcade in old Sonora Family Bowl building

Idea Detail: With the current vacancy of the old Sonora Family Bowl area the city could renovate the space and put in a kid/teen Arcade and Laser tag. This would enable parents to enjoy fine dining in the downtown area.

Idea Author: Justine G



Number of Seconds 13

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: I think a family activity center would be great. The surrounding "landscape" is dark and dreary. If we put children there, we need to clean it up and improve the lighting. Drivers go speeding through those intersections at that end of town too. | By Carol R

Comment 2: Another great idea from Justine! A family arcade would be a wonderful theme for Sonora Family Bowl! We live near downtown Sonora, but we just had a family birthday party at another popular family venue that is located near Tuolumne. We had about 16 kids and at least 8 adults. A downtown Sonora option of this type would have been a nice alternative. And more activity venues in the downtown would be very popular with locals and visitors. Let's make Sonora a whole lot more Family Friendly, which means fun things for kids to do! | By BZ S

Idea Title: 49 @ Shaws Flatt & High School Rd roundabout

Idea Detail: This congested intersection could use a roundabout. This would be beneficial because it will slow traffic coming onto Washington St., improve safety for pedestrians, and motorists attempting to cross. In the center of the roundabout you can utilize the space for a historical landmark that represents the beautiful town of Sonora.

Idea Author: Justine G

Number of Seconds 13

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: Please do a traffic study and change that entire area from the Arco station to past the Highschool. There is too much traffic and too hard to get around. | By Carol K

Comment 2: I like this idea but I would extend traffic congestion solutions up to the Arco gas station from the 3 street intersection by the Red Church. That whole area is difficult to navigate onto Hwy 49. Tracy just took out traffic lights and replaced them with a beautiful round-about on 11th Street near Interstate 5. | By Carol R

Comment 3: I'd love for us to explore the idea of a round-about. They've put several of them in Modesto, and they work really well! It might really help with the Sonora High congestion. Locals know to avoid that part of town from 3-4pm. I own a house at that end of town. The high



school traffic is a huge issue! Homecoming, graduation? Good luck going onto Hwy 49 north or south! | By BZ S

Comment 4: Optionally put in a stop light. They added one for the elementary school to make it safer. Though I do like the roundabout idea with landmark within. | By Michael P

Comment 5: As a former student of Sonora High School, I think this roundabout would be very useful. Turning right from School St towards down town is fairly difficult with how heavy the traffic is. So by adding the roundabout it would make it an easier transition towards downtown. | By Kendra R

Idea Title: Make Coffill Park More Sunny and Inviting (from kid 1)

Idea Detail: Open the park to the creek like in San Luis Obispo. The creek should be an asset instead of being walled off.

Idea Author: Carl B

Number of Seconds 12

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: As a business owner along Washington street I heard very, very often from visitors they find Coffill Park very creepy, unsettling, dangerous, scary...I run out of their adjectives. It saddens me to the core as a Sonoran to hear this from visitors. I think this screams to our planning that this be addressed. We damage our reputation with visitors without acknowledging this. As I said I have heard these comments so many times from visitors. | By John W

Comment 2: I'm also reminded of Utica Park in Ashland, OR. It's inviting and is a central part of the town with the creek running through it. Lovely.
| By BZ S

Comment 3: Just got back from a visit to SLO. Even on a rainy weekday in December, the creekside was a busy place with families strolling and rock-hopping, and restaurant seating alongside. Additional suggestion for Coffill Park would be to bring in an architect to re-design access from S. Washington. The trellis work and fencing looks nice from above, but helps to isolate the park from the street, contributing to the "seedy" dark feeling. The right architect could open the site up and design something more inviting and integrate it with the streetscape, as well as the creek. Also, since the park kind of continues on the other side of Green Street, that could all be further integrated, including maybe even a pathway to the



Savemart Shopping center. So much potential in that one little area! And. . . its not just about aesthetics-- places like this are what bring people back to the city center again and again, and help create a vibrant and healthy downtown. | By Kimberly B

Comment 4: And, don't forget the downtown wifi! | By Kimberly B

Comment 5: This is really worthwhile observation. A lot of people refer to Coffill Park as the "creepy park." Recently the City of Sonora had Coffill lit up for the holidays. It made a huge difference. I agree that the park is much to cut off from the rest of town life, making it a beacon for undesirable activities. Likewise, I've noticed more than once that some folks like to sit in the bus stop at Sonora Courthouse Park and drink alcohol or do other more pernicious activities. | By BZ S

Idea Title: More evenings like "Magic of the Night"

Idea Detail: Magic of the night was so much fun. It would be fun to have a monthly or every other month version of "Magic of the Night"-- it could be themed differently each time. We have art walk, it would be good to make it coincide with art walk, like an art walk with more music and more outdoor activities as well as spaces for people to stop and sit and eat outdoors on that night in particular.

Idea Author: Ashley G

Number of Seconds 12

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: I attended my first "Magic of the Night" a couple of years ago. "Chains Required" was in Courthouse Park (which was packed) and every store was full of customers. Downtown was so full of people you could hardly move (it was fabulous!). The first "Spring Fling" I attended was crowded (lots of locals with tables on the sidewalks/plenty to see/do/eat/drink). Matt Hawkins probably won his City Council seat at the Spring Fling with his lemonade/cookies. The Amgen Party was fun (but no one went inside local stores). 2012 Magic of the Night was boring. 2012 Spring Fling was sparse and just a Sonora sidewalk jewelry sale. I discovered the summer Concerts in the Park only by being nosy when I saw sound equipment being unloaded one afternoon. The first year, those concerts weren't well publicized, weren't well-attended, but delightful (yet only Heart Rock was open downtown). Much improvement is needed as we seem to be erratic in putting on these events. | By Carol R

Comment 2: BZ: I rather see a monthly "Magic of the Night" program NOT on 2nd Sat. weekend. Then you would have at least two weekends with special events and could build toward having downtown destination events every weekend. | By Jim G



Comment 3: Yeah, you have a good point about having downtown destination events every weekend. I suggested it being on the second saturday because of Art Walk, thinking it could make Art Walk even more special and worthwhile to visit. |

By Ashley G

Comment 4: Hi, Ashley...I'm the chairperson for the monthly ART NIGHT, so I'm very pleased to see you making reference to that event. This is exactly what we're trying to do: To create an on-going monthly event that is a small version of "Magic of the Night." Currently "Magic of the Night" is always held on a Friday night in August. I'd love to see if the City would entertain the idea of moving it to the 2nd Sat, but it does have a long history (about 18 years) while our monthly event is relatively new (2.5 years). Keep these ideas flowing! You're great! P.S. Feel free to contact me via Facebook. I'd love to hear more of your ideas. | By BZ S

Idea Title: Think Bicycles!

Idea Detail: Bicycling is not the cheap alternative to transportation anymore - visit a high-end bike shop and you'll see what I mean! Most cyclists have disposal income and spend it on multiple bikes, vacations, healthy food and good coffee. Cyclists look for locations that have diversity - bike friendly roads, challenging mountain trails and family friendly rides, as well as beautiful vistas, hiking options and boating opportunities.

With a few changes and some creative marketing, Sonora could become a cycling destination. Construct family friendly bike paths as mentioned in other posts (like Sonora to Jamestown), develop a few mountain biking trails and add bike racks to the shuttle buses.

Consider packaged marketing: "Hike, Ride and Shop Sonora" weekends.

Idea Author: Linda E

Number of Seconds 12

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: As someone who prefers to use a bike for transportation, Sonora currently is very scary on a bike! Although the potential for both transportation for locals and a fun biking destination exists, improvements to bike safety and infrastructure need to be addressed before jumping to market Sonora as a bike destination. I realize the geography and older infrastructure downtown leave little room for things like bike lanes and sidewalks, but perhaps as a starting point a designated bike route (and dedicated street space!) through town, on Stewart and Mono, or Lyons and Greenly, for example, could increase driver awareness and



provide safer main routes while a long-term plan for the whole town is formulated.

Also bike lanes are essential on the main throughfares (incl. 49 and 108) outside the business district- the higher speed limits on windy roads with no shoulder are actually much scarier than biking through downtown where traffic congestion is greater but speed limits are much lower. |
By Julie B

Comment 2: We need to do something about the bikes and people walking. So many people have been injured or killed lately because Tuolumne County does not have bike/walking areas on the roads. | By Carol K

Comment 3: And don't forget-- bicycles as transportation for community residents. Create a bike-friendly community by developing bike routes (lanes and shared roads, not just trails), bike parking and bike culture. | By Kimberly B

Comment 4: Great perspective here! And as Carol R7 mentions, a huge effort and investment went into Amgen last Spring. So, let's make it continue to work for us! As Linda E5 states, "Sonora could become a cycling destination." It's just marketing, reframing and some slight changes. Nevada City has done this since their entry into Amgen. We would be wasting all of that 2012 energy if we failed to pick up on this idea. | By BZ S

Comment 5: There was certainly a huge investment to recruit the Amgen tour here. We ought to offer the same energy and planning to our own neighbors. I miss Chris Bateman's columns on his bike rides. Maybe our "Mother Lode's leading information source" and local bike shops could also step up to the plate here on local riding areas. | By Carol R

Idea Title: Zipline at Dragoon Gulch

Idea Detail: Allow private business person to construct and operate a zipline at Dragoon Gulch and their revenue from this business could be used to maintain and expand Dragoon Gulch. This would drive more tourists to the Sonora area, and help stimulate Sonora's economy.

Idea Author: Justine G

Number of Seconds 11

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: Love it!! :) | By Michele M

Comment 2: Great idea! | By Carol K



Comment 3: Wow! Even I would try that! I've done a zipline once at Columbia College. It was a blast! Great idea! | By BZ S

Comment 4: I walk this trail pretty regularly, and I think it would be a great place to add a zip line! It would encourage younger generations to get active. And while parents walk the trails, the kids could zip line. The would attract a lot of tourists during the summer, and add more things to do in the summer in addition to hiking, boating, and bicycling. | By Kendra R

Comment 5: Having a zip line in the heart of Sonora would be a nice addition to the town. Instead of having the divert all the business to mourning caverns in Calaveras. Also having a zip line would make Dragoon Gulch much more used and help getting the community members active. | By Chizholm W

Idea Title: Better Accessibility for Mobility Impaired People

Idea Detail: I am a person who uses a wheelchair for mobility and I rarely visit downtown Sonora even though I have lived in this county for over 30 years and really like being downtown. The problems? Start with accessible parking spaces. It is very difficult to find a permitted parking spot that isn't on a steep back street or being used. That alone keeps me away from all the fun events that I used to go to before I became mobility impaired. Sidewalks are narrow and there really isn't enough room for wheelchairs and ambulatory folks and some curbs have not been lowered at the corners. The last thing I want to say for now is that a good portion of stores on Washington street, simply cannot have access for "wheeled patrons" and hey we spend money just the same as those with working feet! That said I do understand the historical protection laws, I also know Columbia State Park has done wonderful work on this front. I yearn for the day when I don't have to wait out on the sidewalk while the people I'm with go in shopping. Thanks for reading.

Idea Author: Sharon J

Number of Seconds 10

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: I agree. My husband must utilize a wheelchair at times and it is very difficult to find parking. It would be great to have more walking, bike paths connecting Dragoon Gulch to downtown. More paved walkways in Dragoon would allow him to walk our dog there. | By Adele A

Comment 2: Have you seen the proposal map of Dragoon Gulch? Their



accessible trail proposal pretty much goes nowhere, (it's in pink) Their next planning meeting is Feb 13 I believe, though if you went and you should , it would be good to double check that date. I would go but it just isn't possible for me. Please do go and speak up for us! | By Sharon J

Idea Title: Pedestrian Safety

Idea Detail: There are a lot of pedestrians who use our roads with little to no shoulder or sidewalks. This needs improvement. Just this year I lost a friend who was struck by a vehicle and died while jogging, a tragic accident that could have been avoided with safer roadways. Widen the shoulders and add sidewalks please! Downtown Sonora is another major concern; there are many crosswalks with parked traffic on both sides which makes it impossible to see pedestrians attempting to safely cross the road. The idea to make one-way traffic with Washington and Stewart Streets could help alleviate this problem. Please make the roads safer before any more of our beloved friends and family are taken from us.

Idea Author: Tiffany M

Number of Seconds 10

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Phil Jones of Twain Harte runs a local walking group that has laid out some trails around the communities. Perhaps he and his group could help. | By Carol R

Comment 2: Downtown sidewalks are an unsafe mess and have been for many years. This is tacky! Only the corners of Stockton Rd/Washington St/Restano have pedestrian crossing and even those are badly timed. You can grow old standing there waiting for the walk sign to come on. Trying to cross at some of the other intersections takes forever and is life-threatening (Washington Street by the Red Church comes to mind). Escalon uses crosswalks that light up when a pedestrian crosses that are amazing. We need a community education program on foot traffic in the dark. I have nearly hit so many on Highway 108 between Jamestown and Sonora especially when it is dark and rainy. Too many wear only dark clothing. | By Carol R

Comment 3: Although Sonora, Jamestown and Columbia are separate towns they should be connected through well maintained, safe, walking paths. You could promote it as an adventure starting out in Sonora walking to Jamestown and meeting there for lunch, maybe earning small recognition for doing so (small discount at another business or restaurant). A sponsored walk could be held every week, people may come here wanting to get involved and get out in the sunshine. | By Lance M

Idea Title: Year Round Farmers Market



Idea Detail: I would like to have access in town year round to Locally grown fruits and veggies and plus I think that farmers markets add a charm to town and get people out walking the streets and shopping. Plus it puts profits directly into the hands of local farmers and cuts out middle men such as stores. The farmers market in downtown is great but the season is so short and there are plenty of crops that can be grown in the Fall and Winter.

Idea Author: Ashley G

Number of Seconds 10

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Good ideas Ashley and Michael. But I am wondering just what items of produce can be harvested in the coldest months here? | By Daniel P

Comment 2: Pomegranates go all the way into January as do some varieties of grapes, nuts such as almonds, walnuts etc. and some farmers even cover there nuts with chocolate during the holidays- which would make great gifts. Greens such as lettuces, kale, cabbage, spinach, broccoli etc can be grown all winter. Meat and eggs would be available all winter. Sugar snap peas, cilantro, beets, parsley and snap peas are winter crops. Fresh apple cider from our many apple vineyards, and I can just imagine some fresh seasonal soup (made in the community kitchen that very morning =]) just some examples of things that may be available int he winter season. | By Ashley G

Comment 3: Possibly the fair grounds building could be used during the poor weather of fall through early spring. | By Michael P

Idea Title: Bike paths connecting Jamestown to Sonora

Idea Detail: I would like to see a bicycle and walking path that connects Jamestown to sonora by way of Jamestown road, then cuts through all that open area behind Golf Links rd and and then meets up with the dragoon gulch trail and lets you off at woods creek park, then takes you down Washington st and into Sonora. I think a path like this would help the city be more bike friendly, boost bicycle use and keep bicyclists safe. If there was a trail like this I would do all my shopping by bicycle and I would travel to town more often.

Idea Author: Ashley G

Number of Seconds 10



Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: Same for Columbia to Sonora. | By Julie B

Comment 2: At least some of this idea might be in the grant study area. The way Ashley describes this project, makes this trail idea really seem like a lovely one. If it is built, I hope its users will practice common sense about their personal safety on it. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Bicycle path from Sonora/ Jamestown to the Table Mountain Trail

Idea Detail: I think it would increase tourism to have a trail that is walkable and bikeable that leads from the city of Sonora to the New Melones Lake and the table mountain hiking trail. When I went to Tahoe, the bike trails that led to the Lake and nature trails were always full of people and after a nice ride stopping to eat in down town is very likely.

Idea Author: Ashley G

Number of Seconds 10

Number of Comments 9

Comment 1: I like that when I "seconded" there's an exclamation mark. Sonora is sorely in need of connectivity. Bike paths, sidewalks, and trails, are vital to the growth and development (not to mention the happiness,) of a community. People paths are not just about leisure recreation but, also about getting to work, getting to stores, and getting healthy. I certainly hope Sonora's long term vision includes a system of pathways throughout the city and connections to outlying areas. | By Holly B

Comment 2: LOVE this idea and the other that follow in this post! Building trails with destinations would be great for the tourists and the locals! | By Linda E

Comment 3: I just found out that this idea exceeds the scope of the grant study area. Gloom! Hmmm....maybe another grant study sometime? Probably would have to be a county one. | By Daniel P

Comment 4: While it may be out of the scope of the grant, it's still worthy of consideration. Like you say, it allows our community to explore a FUTURE grant from another source. | By BZ S

Comment 5: Are there grants that could potentially make a trail like this happen? I



apologize for writing the idea before I had checked out the area that the grant covered. I was so excited to get ideas out that I just started typing. | By Ashley G

Comment 6: Hi "Ashley G4". I don't know if there are any grants that would enable this, but this idea is just about my favorite. Until we learn of a grant, there is important groundwork that needs to be done regarding routing and such. Would the "Draoon Gulch Trail" be a good place to start? | By Daniel P

Comment 7: In addition, Sonora Creek should be cleaned up and trails added from Greenley Road to Rotary park and the trailed head to Draoon. | By Rick H

Comment 8: This is another great idea that really would appeal to an active, health conscious demographic. And Dan's spin expands this even more to look at how entrepreneurs could get involved. These ideas would really allow for another opportunity to brand Sonora as a great vacation spot with read access to physical activity in beautiful surroundings with the City of Sonora as the base of operations. I wonder if anyone has ever plotted access via public lands from Sonora to Lake Melones? Great thinking, Ashley & Dan!
| By BZ S

Comment 9: I love trails. They are adventure. They afford opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. There could be guides. There could be "Retrievers" that pick up the hiker at the end of the trails and haul their tired "heinees" back to lodging and food in Sonora. There could be refreshment stands at spots along the trail...perhaps constructed in an ancient people style...that adds to the adventure and atmosphere of adventure of the traversal through this beautiful countryside. There are opportunities for security staffing too. One last thing. Make this trail available for Horse Travel too. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Street trees and outdoor eating areas along Washington.

Idea Detail: Historic pictures of downtown Sonora show Washington lined with trees. Trees would help recreate the historic look and feel of the downtown area.

Idea Author: Gary S

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Merge this with the one-way traffic idea. Create a Sonoma-like walking atmosphere. | By LaDeane H



Idea Title: Downtown Traffic

Idea Detail: Is there any alternative route for semi trucks and logging trucks to use other than going straight through downtown? I cringe every time I see one of them coming down the street. People are always stepping out into crosswalks without looking and I fear one day there will be a nasty accident not to mention if one of those trucks lost their brakes coming down the hill.

Idea Author: Eva E

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: I rather like the ambiance of logging trucks. It isn't every day and it is a reminder of what this area has to offer. Greenley Road needs better timing of their traffic lights. The cars and trucks back up at "rush hour" for blocks/miles. | By Carol R

Comment 2: Unfortunately, no. The best outcome would be the approval of the proposed plan to connect the Pedro Y (at the signal heading to Columbia) to Highway 108 via Greenley Road. Meanwhile, the trucks are beginning to use Rawhide Road as an alternative and Rawhide is way too narrow for them. Residents of the Rawhide Valley are beginning a petition to limit the size & weight of trucks allowed to travel on that road. | By Linda E

Idea Title: Promote the arts

Idea Detail: Sonora has an active art community thanks to CSAC, Stage 3, the Repertory Theater and 3 galleries downtown. There were 4 until the George Post left. Maybe it will return someday. There are annual events like the MLAA art show and InFocus photography show. Steel Dog Iron Works is on Stockton at Solinski, and other artists are tucked away in the neighborhood. The artists are local and unique and represent a range of ages and interests.

If I weren't lucky enough to live here, I would make a point to visit this area because of it's active art community. I could see a play, visit galleries and buy affordable art. No need to buy mementos made in another country to remember Sonora.

Second Saturdays bring locals and surprised tourists downtown in the evening to celebrate the arts and listen to music by local musicians.

It's all here my friends, let's highlight and celebrate it. My apologies to those I omitted. Please feel free to add to the list



Alexis Halstead

Idea Author: Alexis H

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 7

Comment 1: I think combining Stage 3 and SRT into a more modern / larger performing arts space would be a great idea. | By Carol K

Comment 2: Interesting idea, but where would they park?? I like supporting Columbia College, the Fallon Theater, Ironstone, and Black Oak for music and parking is so much better at these venues. I would support updating something at the fairgrounds so it could be used more frequently. | By Carol R

Comment 3: Yes update the fairgrounds so it can be used most of the time instead of sitting vacant a lot. | By Carol K

Comment 4: What about larger, modern, downtown performing arts space? (and/or working to modernize and unify the ones we have?) Currently downtown there are the fairgrounds, the opera hall, stage 3 and the high school. A larger capacity performing arts space could be the keystone to permit a major festival to be presented, or just permit bigger name acts to draw visitors to the community. | By Kimberly B

Comment 5: Yeah, Alexis! You've covered a lot of ground! And now we DO have 4 galleries again with The Greater Good. But how about a few more? There are a couple of nice spots that would make nice galleries. The Greater Good and Aloft Art Gallery both provide good models for how to do collective galleries in an affordable way (as did The George Post...Missed it very much!) And downtown Sonora has the potential for other tucked-in art studio spots, as you mention: Steel Dogs, Living Iron, JG Designs are a few. I'll bet that there are more, or certainly the potential for more! | By BZ S

Comment 6: Cheers to our art community! They are our leading example of what to do and how to do it right. They deserve our celebration and gratitude! Please bring back the artist's shoe auction (I loved that event! I won Sherrie Drake's shoes and look at them daily.) I would also send out kudos to Sonora Joe's for their poetry night and Black Oak and Columbia College for our music enrichment. We also have a lot of crafty people in the area and they faithfully attend the Farmer's Markets, Home and Garden Shows, Columbia Art Shows, local craft fairs, quilt shows. My only criticism is: what happened to the handmade "fish" from WATCH? | By Carol R



Comment 7: HI, Carol R7...I know for a fact that you can buy the WATCH Fish at "Good Stuff." Plus, there are a couple of other spots that still sell them. They are wonderful and they support a very worthy cause through the arts! | By BZ S

Idea Title: Stockton Rd Parking

Idea Detail: If you condense Stockton Rd, to a 2 lane instead of the existing 4 lane you add diagonal parking, landscaping, and improved walk ways to make the area more inviting to tourists.

Idea Author: Justine G

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: Many drivers seem to have difficulty navigating the 2 lanes, turn lanes and 4 lanes which are not well marked. The speed limits vary along the road and drivers seem get confused there too. There was a speed limit test a few months ago that seemed to go nowhere. From the side streets, access to Stockton Road is visually dicey. It is pretty dark and it is difficult to see foot traffic, especially in bad weather. I agree that improvement is needed. We need pedestrian access to the fairgrounds that is well lit and controlled (walk/don't walk lights, a lighted crosswalk like in Escalon and Oakdale). | By Carol R

Comment 2: Worth exploring. Since the By-Pass went in some years ago, Stockton Road has not had the heavy traffic that used to dominate that route when it was Hwy 49 AND Hwy 108. Maybe it is time to re-think its use. | By BZ S

Idea Title: Widen sidewalks and provide outdoor eateries

Idea Detail: I think it would be a good idea to widen the sidewalks downtown and have vehicles park in a designated (or better yet, newly built) garage in order that restuarants can place tables outside during the spring/summer months. It would also be nice to close side streets to provide local musical talent while tourists are enjoying thier meals outside.

Idea Author: Denise B

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 1



Comment 1: I like the idea of local entertainment on side streets and eating outside. I thought it was great when Heart Rock put up a movie screen during Amgen. That was fun for kids. Who isn't willing to go down into "creepy" Coffill Park when the Blues Box Bayou Band makes it the "hottest" place in downtown? | By Carol R

Idea Title: Sonora Creek

Idea Detail: What opportunities are there to feature Sonora Creek and Woods Creek as positives for downtown and Stockton Road? Sonora Creek especially has historically been treated as an annoyance and hidden to the greatest extent possible. Clearly there are flood control and private and historic property issues, but what could we do to "free" the creek and create desirable green spaces?

Idea Author: Carl B

Number of Seconds 8

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Hear! Hear! I've already commented on Coffill Park, and the creek by the fairgrounds. There is a big movement, nationwide, to "Daylight" urban creeks. The engineering and technology exist to be able to safely incorporate these natural features into our communities. Did you know that there is a creek that runs diagonally through the Farmer's Market parking lot? By opening this up, engineering and landscaping it, we could have an amazing downtown meeting space, performing space and attraction. (Yes, it would require other parking solutions-- but isn't that what this planning exercise is supposed to be about?) This is being done in other communities. It is not that far-fetched as part of a downtown revitalization. | By Kimberly B

Comment 2: A good point about this creek development idea is that We could start small and see how it works out. If successful, We build upon that success. Whatever We construct and alter, to enhance the artistry and utilization of the spot on the creek, We must do so, keeping in mind the maintenance requirements in an area that might occasionally receive too much water. If Our design is simple then the maintenance will be simpler to achieve. Concrete could be used to good advantage here, I think. In a rustic setting it could be not too hard to repair. | By Daniel P

Comment 3: I suppose there are some places along these creeks that property owners will not want to be access to the people. But there might be at least a few places where the property owners might be agreeable to develop little trails and even "creek pocket mini-businesses". People would love little hidden nooks and crannies to discover, when they visit...especially the



kids. However, if We do this, We must provide security in these secret and semi-secret places. Responsible and caring Citizens, trained and utilizing good communication with vested authority should volunteer to help provide this security for "Our Guests From AFar.". Also, there might be spots along these creeks that flower gardens would enhance, without taking away from the natural beauty of the place. Its like there is Nature and then places where Humanity and Nature harmonize. The interplay between the two phenomena could be a beautiful and wondrous expression. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Re-enactment Day

Idea Detail: It would be fun to have a 1800s re-enactment day when people are encouraged to meet in the park dressed in period clothing and then walk the streets of downtown.

Idea Author: Ashley G

Number of Seconds 8

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: I don't know...I understand there were virtually no women back in our mining days :) It'd be fun nonetheless! | By Holly B

Comment 2: By the late 1860's I think that there were lots of women, and the Argonauts were still pulling in a lot of gold. I do love the idea of making history come ALIVE!!! | By BZ S

Comment 3: Yet, another great idea. The City of Sonora does a great history day in cooperation with the Tuolumne County Historical Society (I believe). It's held on a weekday in the Spring for school groups. Perhaps that idea could be expanded into a weekend event for the general public. These kind of events draw people to our area! | By BZ S

Comment 4: Maybe some of Us could be part of "Re-enactment Day" by being the reincarnation of famous old miners and other characters from the 1800's, that have reincarnated for this special day. Their historical stories have been studied and they tell this as they wander Sonora's streets in awe of the 21st century. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: New Marketing

Idea Detail: If our town need revitalization then, to me, it seems that the old way of doing things is failing. I believe that putting some money into re-market our county, in a more modern fashion would be beneficial. That doesn't mean leaving out the historical stuff, but rather



repackaging it to attract the newer generations. Maximize our web presence, update printed materials, target untapped markets. We are more than a place where things had once happened and we need to let the world know.

Idea Author: Zac C

Number of Seconds 8

Number of Comments 6

Comment 1: Free Wifi hotspot, throughout downtown. (google downtown wifi and see what you get). Why do this? Its relatively cheap (and sometimes grants are available). Many folks are using smart phones and tablets these days to shop or find businesses. And (really big one) when they have access to wifi they post on facebook, email, and do other social media telling friends where they are and what they are doing. This is huge. Free grassroots publicity. When the city provides it (as many do), they control the portal, and the 'landing page' which can contain information about the town, services, businesses, etc. | By Kimberly B

Comment 2: I think Zac is right on appealing more to younger generations, but I do think the county and city do a good job of promotion in California, the US and the world. The thing I think we lack is service to the tourist. No designated rest areas on Hwy 108. Not enough public restrooms in the city and none up the hill. Come on if we are a first class tourist destination lets serve the public better. | By Roger H

Comment 3: I would improve this idea by... | By Roger H

Comment 4: Market Sonora as a multi-activity destination. Hiking, biking, boating. Create a "package deal" 2 nights, guided hike, healthy food options.
| By Linda E

Comment 5: I think that Zac is right on with this idea! Example: The City of Sonora's website REALLY needs to be redone!!! It is heavy on text & low on photos. That should be a no-brainer. Revamp that site so that people can SEE Sonora!

As for untapped markets, Younger day trippers from the central Valley and Bay Area Weekenders would definitely visit Sonora if we offer things that appeal to their interests. Just as Zac says, we need to include new generations in our offerings and our "call to Sonora." If we don't, then we'll "gray out" our community, which is not sustainable for the future. Those born between 1965-1990 are in their prime, and they would love to visit Sonora! Many of them are college graduates, working professionals, and they would love to discover our town, provided that we are offering activities, events that speak to them. Check out the December Sunset Magazine! It is clearly targeting that younger audiences. | By BZ S



Comment 6: This is an interesting idea. I wonder what "untapped markets", to "target", Zac is thinking about? Basically, I think it would be healthy to do what he suggests, because some growth is a good counter Balance to the maintenance of what We already have. Probably most of what he has suggested can be done outside of downtown. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Remove eyesore

Idea Detail: The burned out Indian restaurant has stood for over 2 years now and is an eyesore. It should be torn down.

Idea Author: Marcia V

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: What the heck is being done about this? City of Sonora - SHAME on you for letting it stand this long. While we are at it what about the burned out home on Stewart street? If nothing can be rebuilt on either site then please, PLEASE at least let people tear them down! | By Carol K

Comment 2: Also homeless people are now camping out in the door ways and benches on that block. Please do something to renew and make that block something to be proud of again. | By Carol K

Comment 3: How old is this building? Is it a "ruin" in the making? | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Directional signs for visitors to our town.

Idea Detail: A Directory and uniform information displayed to help way finding.

Idea Author: Judy G

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: Love the kiosk idea. Murphys has an area in their downtown with a table full of maps/materials/walking tour guides/local points of interest/winery guides and a friendly, happy volunteer to assist anyone walking down the street. | By Carol R



Comment 2: I love this idea. I'd add to it by stating that the signs should be designed so that there is a cohesive image that is tied into the "branding of Sonora." Is there an image that could be used that exemplifies our historic character that is included on the signs?

And how about some KIOSKS? A few well-placed and beautifully designed kiosks could help with signage: One near the downtown fountain at Church & Washington; one near the Firehouse Museum & Red Church; one at the mini-park at the west end of town (Bradford & Stockton Rd); one near the site of the Sonora Farmers' Market. Just a thought! | By BZ S

Idea Title: Parking...Parking...Parking

Idea Detail: People don't stop because there isn't parking. I remember Jim Sells back in the 80's talking about trying to get the city to purchase the empty lot across the street from the Old Town Sonora to build a parking garage. I still think it's a viable idea. If you build it they will come.

Idea Author: Tina E

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I agree. We have run out of room for all the parked cars downtown. Going downtown becomes an ordeal not worth the effort. That seems unfair to local business owners. The campaign to encourage people to use Tuolumne Transit doesn't seem to be gaining in popularity; it isn't even given much thought in every day conversation. I would oppose more parking or parking structures on Washington Street; the traffic congestion would just increase. Old town Sacramento seems to have created a nice historical area with minimal traffic congestion and safe parking. Perhaps we could learn from them. The best thing about going to Columbia is the ease of parking. There is that ugly parking lot off Stockton Street behind Bank of America. Could that support a parking garage with minimal impact on Washington and the older side streets of downtown? Or could we do something with those dilapidated areas just off Highway 108 at the start of Washington Street below the Post Office? | By Carol R

Idea Title: Stockton Road

Idea Detail: Improve the appearance of the western entrance to the City. A tree-lined Stockton Road with sidewalks.

Idea Author: Amy A



Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: I commented elsewhere about this-- but there are a lot of features (parks, creek, fairgrounds) along Stockton Rd which could be highlighted by an attractive and well-designed walking path and would also make the gateway to town look better. | By Kimberly B

Comment 2: How right you are about first impressions. Stockton Road is sad and pitiful. Excluding the beauty of the autumn leaves for a couple of weeks, there isn't one single attractive site along that road into town. Only the Gold Lodge has a welcoming sign with "Pets OK." (JS West advertises the Long Barn Ice Rink on their lighted sign.) That weather-beaten and sorry-looking "Sonora the city of history and progress" sign is in need of replacement. The visitors center could use a make-over. It doesn't stand out and looks closed or deserted most of the time. Please either relocate the "open" sign or the tree that has grown so large it hides the sign. The Mono Way exit off Highway 108 is no beautiful welcome mat either. Weeds, weeds, and more weeds. We need our own "Lady Bird Johnson" to beautify our roadways. | By Carol R

Comment 3: Despite what we may think, that first impression by visitors is always remembered and passed along to other potential visitors encouraging them to, "go see it." | By Lance M

Idea Title: Clean up Washington St.

Idea Detail: I would like to see the buildings on Washington street cleaned and freshly painted. It looks as if we don't care.
It would also be nice to see some trees & flowers.
We have a beautiful town just a little clean-up would really help.

Idea Author: Beth L

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: I agree with the clean up community day. Riverbank and Modesto do "Love" days where volunteers clean up their city. I thought Mr. Ayala had a "LoveSonora" day but there was so little publicity that I don't even know that it actually happened. I think Sierra Bible has had a couple of days where they skipped church services and helped out in the community. There were alot of people who volunteered to clean up the Oddfellows Cemetery after it was



damaged. This should be easy to do. | By Carol R

Comment 2: Murphys and Angels Camp have a plethora of attractive garbage receptacles and recycling bins in their communities. What do we have? Ugly brown containers with little tiny openings on top that look too filthy to touch and too far apart to be useful. Nary a recycling bin in sight. | By Carol R

Comment 3: I agree that we should add trees and some flowers. It would make such a difference to the overall view of the street. I also think there is a need for more garbage receptacles to keep the sidewalks clean. | By Eva E

Comment 4: Set up an informal monthly "Downtown Cleaning Day." On the same day everyone is out front sweeping, polishing, sprucing up our little town. Do we still have a Downtown Beautification group? | By BZ S

Comment 5: Hear! Hear! This is a very important idea. Too many times I've walked down Washington St & thought to myself that everything looked just a bit dingy. Downtown gets grimy & dusty. And no one seems to notice. Many of our downtown buildings need to be freshened up! Would there be a way to involve landlords in this discussion? How often does the City of Sonora sweep the streets? | By BZ S

Idea Title: Improve Courthouse Park

Idea Detail: I feel some analysis and feedback is necessary for the Courthouse Park and should be included in the work of the firm hired for the downtown study. It would be helpful to get feedback from residents, downtown merchants and the consultant group regarding the park layout, overgrown condition and ability to utilize the park area. The courthouse park is in a great location but because of the layout and the growth of the many trees and shrubs the use of the park is very restricted and provides a terrible gathering space. There are many good examples of comparable "pocket park" spaces around the Country that function much better. At a minimum the Courthouse Park would function much better if the hedges and small trip curbs adjacent to the walkways were removed and some trees removed and others thinned. This would allow grass to grow and allow the space to be a better gathering spot and downtown focal point rather than just an area you walk through. I also understand that there is an effort underway to have the park included on a historic register which would probably preclude any future modifications and improvements. Do we want to lock in stone a fairly basic design that is now totally overgrown and does not function very well?

The City study is a great opportunity to get feedback on how we all think the park should function and then look at ways to have the space better achieve that.

Ron Kopf



Idea Author: Ron K

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Even a historic landmark could use a good raking and sweeping. The sidewalks are broken and unsafe. The grass is gone. Dead leaves and weeds proliferate. The trash cans are smelly. I certainly hope changing the appearance (while not the basic structure) will happen! | By Carol R

Comment 2: I agree the park does not function well and is not a good place for large meetings/community gatherings. Please help the layout of this park so it can function better as a meeting place. | By Carol K

Comment 3: I'd agree with your idea of improving the courthouse park's appearance, however this park was marked as a historical landmark... So changing the appearance probably will not happen. | By Justine G

Idea Title: Economic Development

Idea Detail: Ab

Think South of Market San Francisco. This area was once a dangerous, place filled with poverty. The landlords started giving away one and sometimes two years free rent to start up tech companies. Sonora could build relationships with Angel and Venture capitalists on Sand Hill Road Palo Alto. Offer up free rent to start up companies that have received Angel or First Round funding. They do their own Tenant improvements, get a large chunk of free rent with a 3 to 4 year term. extra bonus for companies with 40% executives who live here. There must be money to subsidize landlords somewhere in government. Build relationships with MIT, Stanford, UC. Santa Clara University..become known as a start up friendly community. A section of Stockton Road could become known as Incubator Row. Whats in it for the city? Bright energetic entrepreneurs bringing great new concepts and vitality with them.

Set aside another area near by Inc Row for specialty foods and locally grown food. Organic locally grown consumable foods. easy parking. Make it easy for the farmer who is operating on low profit margins to have a small space to sell products they are passionate about. Olive Oil, wine, organic foods. Coffee, teas, spices, breads ...Think Gourmet Ghetto....More and more pe

We have amazing performing arts here. Expand, Expand.....there used to be a downtown



movie theater bring a small independent film theater downtown.

We have creeks that could be developed into really attractive areas. Think River Park in Reno.

Public Art.. Public sitting /strolling areas. On your logo for this project you show folks riding bikes and walking. Carve out places for that we all know it is important.

The park in front of the Court house is ridiculously unattractive and yet it is still used by many. The hedges that look like they are on their last breath could be removed and the area could be opened up to even more usage.

Idea Author: Patricia C

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 7

Comment 1: GREAT idea!!!! Love the concept. New small business blood with visions to grow their families here. | By Judy G

Comment 2: This is a great vision for our little town! So vividly outlined here. | By BZ S

Comment 3: Downtown Sonora is actually quite unique in not having a single corporate retail store. We should be celebrating this fact, we should be marketing this. Many small retail districts in this state, especially in historic areas have few corporate stores, that frankly ruin such a shopping district and usually signal it's coming down fall. Whether a Starbucks, a Coach store or a Rocky Mountain Fudge shop, find a corporate store mixed among unique and independent stores signals an end to that shopping district vitality. Downtown Carmel, Monterey, Palo Alto, Old Town Sacramento, Fig Garden in Fresno all began to slide as corporate stores come in. Sonora has none and should be happy it doesn't. | By John W

Comment 4: yes, while "corporate" stores seem like a good idea on the surface, what they do is funnel their profits right out of town and out of state. what we get are some property taxes, some sales taxes and minimum wage jobs. locally owned, operated stores keep money here, keep money / energy moving.....much better to buy your coffee from Sonora Joe's or Schnoogs.... | By Patricia C

Comment 5: I agree with Carl downtown Sonora should not be focusing on bringing big companies to Stockton St. however they should be absolutely focusing on bringing companies up to the large areas of land outside of town and maybe hit up the organic factories to come up here too! And I agree with Patricia our creeks are beautiful and your right there is nothing to



attract people to them do walking/biking trails along them. A Farmer's Market all year round would be great!! Court House Park needs some major pruning and could use a face lift but all of this will have to come with a plan to keep the homeless from taking over these areas once they do get some beautification done to them, otherwise they will lose their appeal. Downtown Sonora needs to keep it's focus on "Small Town" that's it's appeal and charm! ;) | By Michele M

Comment 6: This is an interesting idea but Incubator Row would probably be more suitable for somewhere outside the downtown Sonora area unless they want to take over the old Bowling Alley and the old Hospital. Public Art has been discussed and should be on the table for discussion. I agree Courthouse Park is a mess. | By Carol R

Comment 7: There are plenty of spaces and i quite like the bowling alley idea. Stockton Street has lots of empty spaces...could become a graphic / techie / foodie mecca.....South of Washington could become SOWA.....young entrepreneurs could be just what we need.. The thing is, does Sand Hill Road in Palo Alto even know we exist? at one time venture capitalists threw money at young folks doing dot.com kinds of start ups, now they want to know the start ups won't waste the money. super low-cost rent (relative to other areas) or no-cost first year rent could be quite an attractive selling point. Do we have infra-structure to support this? wi-fi, cell phone, fibre optics? | By Patricia C

Idea Title: Trails for hiking, biking, jogging, walking

Idea Detail: It would be great to expand our trail system. Dragoon Gulch is a great trail but it is relatively short. It would be great to have trails that connect Jamestown with Sonora and Sonora with Columbia.

Idea Author: Tracy W

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: An off-the-highway bike and walking path from downtown to Columbia College would be a boon to students and provide a lovely close-in outing for families, as well. | By Vonna B

Comment 2: I have read a few times on this site of the idea of a walk/bike path from Coffill park to the fairgrounds. I now see this is a great idea. It would connect with the Dragoon gulch trail via rotary park. It would connect downtown Sonora with Fairground events. It would highlight the beauty and history of Sonora creek. It might spur the owners of the Foster Brothers center



to upgrade that deteriorating shopping center. It could give tourists an additional activity when in Sonora. It would clean up one entrance to Sonora, the Stockton road entrance. We might include some mining equipment in small parks along such a trail, certainly a few plaques to tell our town history. We could include both a cleanup and restructure of Coffill park and the creekside south of Green street. We of course with this path highlight a natural and pretty part of our town, Sonora creek. | By John W

Idea Title: Color with Flowers

Idea Detail: The grant wasn't for that much so to be realistic i would think that lining the streets with flower boxes and or flower baskets on poles. Also we could use the pole to display signs for better direction and or facts about the history of our town. I believe that would be a good start to make our downtown look more inviting and bright. If there was any money left over just CLEAN. Get the sidewalks clean. Photos are attached to the link below.

Idea Author: Addictions T

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: The flower boxes are probably a nuisance to maintain, but Murphys seems to be able to keep their gardens alive along their Main Street. Sonora needs trash/recycling containers conveniently located downtown so people can easily dispose of unwanted items. Do we need a needle disposal box downtown too? | By Carol R

Comment 2: The blunt truth about flower boxes from some of the store owners downtown is that they are routinely vandalized. Plants ripped out regularly, used as ashtrays, pissed in. | By John W

Comment 3: I agree with a previous comment about getting rid of the flower boxes for they are frequently used for garbage, cigarette butts, and other unsightly items. | By Dianne P

Comment 4: I would love to see a colorful seasonal look downtown. | By Carol R

Idea Title: A Tuolumne County Map Mural on the side of Stage 3 Theatre

Idea Detail: Stage 3 Theatre has a huge blank wall that faces out to Stockton Rd and faces into the BofA parking lot. Apparently there used to be a map of Hwy 108 mural on that wall. Let's get our best local mural artists to design a new version. The mural would be a beautiful "welcome" for everyone, and a helpful bit of information, too! Perhaps the new Mural-In-A-



Day: Sonora committee could help.

I'm posting an example of what how one city has turned to murals as an important part of its revitalization...

Idea Author: BZ S

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: It would be so much more wonderful to see murals then peeling paint and dead foliage on the buildings! | By Carol K

Comment 2: Consider using local artists for the murals. | By Amy A

Comment 3: Definitely, Amy A8! We have so many very talented artists, and several of them have experience with murals. | By BZ S

Comment 4: Why stop there? Many suitable areas for murals in town. Side of Sonora Inn? I think there is something in progress with the farmer's market. Probably lots of other good spots. Develop a unifying theme for murals throughout town. | By Kimberly B

Comment 5: Kimberly B4 That idea is very much in the air these days! I hope that you're both aware of the new Mural In A Day Sonora project that is taking form. This project's first proposal is to create a mural at the Sonora Farmers' Market location to honor our beloved Ed, The Flower Guy, who died in September. IMAGINE EVEN MORE! There are lots of spots that would help tell the story of Sonora & Tuolumne County. Please join the Mural In A Day Sonora page at Facebook! | By BZ S

Idea Title: HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

Idea Detail: PLEASE DIRECT THE HOMELESS FROM DOWNTOWN SONORA AND ALL SHOPPING AREAS TO ANOTHER LOCATION AWAY FROM OUR TOURIST AREA. I AM SORRY TO SAY THIS DOES NOT MAKE SONORA LOOK INVITING. DON'T GET ME WRONG I DO HELP THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

Idea Author: Denise H

Number of Seconds 6



Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: By relocating the homeless shelter, it will enable downtown Sonora to establish a new image. With the homeless loitering around it scares away possible customers and business. You could possibly relocate the homeless shelter in industrial areas. | By Justine G

Comment 2: I am proud to live in a community where compassionate people volunteer their time and effort to feed those in need. If they can reach those less fortunate in Courthouse Park, at the Heart Rock Cafe, at St Patrick's church, then I am all for it. As a community, we seem to want to remove the homeless, the mentally ill, and the disenfranchised out of sight. Where are they supposed to go? | By Carol R

Comment 3: I do understand the thought and feelings that led to this idea. Some of the "Homeless" are somewhat intimidating...especially if their behavior is less than courteous. I think We could do Better, to some degree, than "directing" the Homeless to another area. Some of them could be afforded gainful employment, as contributing Citizens, by being guides and helping to maintain the creek trails and "Horse Patrols". These could be teamed up with "Homed Citizens", to help insure the integrity of this effort for them. Of course, there will be some Homeless that are an impediment to Sonora Community Harmony. We should, at least, keep an eye on them. Some "Homeless" can be helped...some can't. | By Daniel P

Comment 4: Washington Street is not the location to be feeding the homeless if we are trying to entice tourists to the area. It's ugly but it's the truth. There are many that are in need out there and we as a community need to find a safe and warm place for people to receive shelter and meals that is not hinderance to our towns only attraction. | By Tina E

Comment 5: I'm thinking that a few Homeless look like they emerged right out of the mining era. Maybe these could be Sonora Guides and help some tourists to better enjoy what Sonora has to offer. Instead of handouts, they could receive tips and maybe even a modest stipend from the city. Can We shelter some of them at the fairgrounds? | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Parking

Idea Detail: When I lived in England they had parking car parks and people parked in them and then walked to the villages(they were close) and no cars were in the village or town. It was good exercise and kept the town nice and quaint.

The car parks were really kept nice also.

Idea Author: Beth L



Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: Hear! Hear! Just try to go to morning mass at St. Patrick's on a Tuesday with a Board of Supervisors meeting. The worst is trying to report for jury duty on a rainy day. There is not enough room for parked cars in downtown Sonora. | By Carol R

Comment 2: Although we hate they idea of building more parking garages the time has come if we ever hope to make downtown more attractive, being able to park and walk should be at the top of the agenda for the future, go "Green". With big events we've utilized the existing parking at Wal-Mart or across the street from J.S. West and shuttled visitors to downtown, maybe adding parking to those areas would prevent further addition of permanent parking garages? | By Lance M

Idea Title: The Courthouse

Idea Detail: Picture Sonora 10 to 20 years from now.

Is the Greenley Road extension built? Maybe.

Is a highway 49 western bypass in the works? Probably not.

Have the court system, Sheriffs Department, and all of the private legal offices left downtown. Probably.

This is a big hit on the business district, and the cannon is already aimed and loaded. It's also an opportunity. The courthouse will have all the same accessibility issues after relinquishment by the State, but it will also be an asset to the community. Filling it with County offices and filing cabinets full of dog license records would be a horrible waste.

What use do you envision for the courthouse that could generate enough interest and daily traffic to help compensate for the loss of downtown business due to the Law and Justice Center?

How can reuse of the courthouse enhance the atmosphere on Washington Street and in Courthouse Park?

Idea Author: Carl B

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Retail space would be interesting. Santa Cruz had the Cooper House (until the Earthquake). It would be great to get a large company to establish downtown-- it seems that



improving Sonora's image as a 'livable' community (bike and pedestrian paths, active arts culture, family-friendly open space downtown, etc) are all things within the scope of this visioning which might make Sonora more appealing for that type of business to re-locate. | By Kimberly B

Comment 2: I had no idea that all those offices are going to leave downtown! Why do they have to leave? How about turn the courthouse into a brewery? I really have no idea what to use with a space like that, but I agree it will be a waste to use it as storage. | By Ashley G

Comment 3: We should solicit for a headquarters/office of a national or world recognized company that uses the internet as commerce. Envision the package: wonderful community to raise families, low crime rate, ample places to eat and lodge, fun places to visit, and nearby airport for shipping and receiving. | By Lance M

Idea Title: Seedy Bars

Idea Detail: I believe that cleaning up the seedy bars in Downtown would be a good step in the right direction. It's quite off putting to be walking down main street with your kids, and catch the odor of urine and vomit while passing The Office, and the stench of 1000 cigarettes while walking by the Iron Horse.

I'm not saying that we should run them out, they should simply be held to the same standard as the Restaurants that surround them.

Thank you.

Idea Author: Clint C

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 6

Comment 1: Keep the bars but give them a face lift please! The outside of several of the downtown shops look so worn down and ugly. With all the vacant store fronts it would be nice to show case some local art or something other then ugly, dark and vacant businesses. | By Carol K

Comment 2: Good idea. I've offered to go into Servente's and organize a cleaning party! | By BZ S

Comment 3: I have to admit that I get offended by a couple of those seedy bars, too. I know that their owners are within their rights. Personally it just makes me feel pretty sad that a sizable segment of our county's population spends a whole lot of time at the watering hole.



Maybe this is one of those instances where individuals need to find ways to engage in dialogue. | By BZ S

Comment 4: Back when Sonora was the shopping hub of Tuolumne County, before all of the shopping centers arrived, there was at least a dozen bars on Washington street, the night life is part of the charm of Historic Downtown Sonora. | By Rick H

Comment 5: I feel pretty much the same way about "bars" and the alcohol and recreational drug industries in general. But, all of this does have historical precedent. Old Sonora, I do imagine, was a rough place. But then again, We The People do well to leave behind, or discard the elements of Life that bring harm to Citizens of the "Decent Side Of Life"...which includes a wide spectrum of lifestyle.

I don't know, but think, that a lot of the tourist trade flows through these bars. Before I say anymore about this I should learn more about this specific social environment.

I do think it fair to require bar owner/operators to maintain a certain hygiene outside their establishments. If places along main street smells like urine or vomit, that is an indication that such substances are present. They should not be.

When walking by the "smokey spots" maybe We could hold our breath. | By Daniel P

Comment 6: Agreed! Sonora needs to keep some "charm" of days gone by - no need to smell it! | By Linda E

Idea Title: The Kids

Idea Detail: Outreach for this project should include not only Sonora High administration and PTA, but should also focus on the students. Does anyone have a greater stake in visioning Sonora's future or safe and efficient access to the school? Student government, the leadership and government classes, clubs, and community groups like high-4h, FFA, etc should all be invited and encouraged. Don't forget the home schools.

They may be hard to reach, but consider the message sent by leaving them out. What can we as a community do to get our kids more involved? Why does this website only allow citizens older than 18 submit comments? Submit a comment for a kid today.

Idea Author: Carl B

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 6



Comment 1: Never heard of Heaven for Kids Park. Didn't even know we had one. It seems the local playground for kids and teens is Walmart by day and evening. | By Carol R

Comment 2: So far the clear consensus is to pull the youth in our community into this discussion. The cost of leaving them out is too great. | By BZ S

Comment 3: children are the future and they should have a hand in creating it! I totally agree. I am sure the world would be a much better place if we allowed kids to participate in it with more responsibility. | By Ashley G

Comment 4: When the Heaven for Kids Park was built in 2002, the playground architects visited at least 5 of our local schools to do "visioning" work with the kids about what kind of park they wanted for their town. I was teaching at Sonora Ele during the time, and observed a dynamic process that really brought the kids in. As a result, the Park truly does reflect the ideas that the kids gave. Perhaps the Visioning Sonora's Future committee should develop a method of interviewing large groups of students to bring in their perspective, their voice. For one thing, asking and truly listening to our kids gives them "buy-in." That results in more respect for the outcome. Translation: Less vandalism, tagging, etc. | By BZ S

Comment 5: They should learn a lesson from the Sonora Elementary School PTA or SSS: Support Sonora School, well funded entirely on fundraising from the community. | By Lance M

Comment 6: Another resounding, "Hear! Hear!" Carl has brought in a key demographic! If we want our town to HAVE a future, we'd better start listening to our youth. You could expand these inquiries to include youth organizations, as Carl suggests. Not only would this be a benefit to our own residents, but to the many families who visit our area each month. Thanks for Big Thinking, Carl! | By BZ S

Idea Title: SONORA PLAZA

Idea Detail: Provide ample parking and/or shuttle bus service from parking area's either end of downtown, which would allow for a bypass around the downtown area. Pave the downtown area and create a European style plaza with open air cafe's around existing shopping businesses. This would allow weekend open air markets, entertainment etc.

Green st. & S. Stewart st. could become part of a one way system to allow businesses/suppliers access.

Idea Author: Steve S



Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: I love this idea, the cars can use other streets, or even just turn downtown into a one lane one way road and use the rest of the space to make a plaza like space | By Ashley G

Comment 2: Ugh! Sorry, I disagree. Sounds nice but isn't Washington Street part of State Highway 49? The side streets are already beat up and a bumpy roller coaster ride to travel now. The state built a bypass around Angels Camp and now their downtown area resembles a deserted ghost town that fell off the fiscal cliff. | By Carol R

Comment 3: Although this would be expensive, it is the kind of thing that I look for when I'm out of town. | By Clint C

Comment 4: Although this would be expensive, it is the kind of thing that I look for when I'm out of town. | By Clint C

Idea Title: Additional Parking

Idea Detail: Parking seems to be the key to downtown problems. If the city and county could buy the bowling alley and the furniture store and make it a parking lot and change one or two alley streets to pedestrians only it might help. We all want to go to Washington Street more but it is just not worth the effort.

Idea Author: Roger H

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 11

Comment 1: We have such a great setting in Downtown Sonora, but the parking is atrocious. I would also hope that if we add more parking we make sure it is easily accessible to the Elderly and Disabled. Close to shops and with quality ramps. A great plus would be if we could have a Major transit stop/hub next to the parking so that visitors could readily go from their vehicles to our transit system. This would prove especially useful for fair ground activities. | By Michael P

Comment 2: A lot of new discussion has been added to this thread. I am one of those folks who is willing to listen and reflect on good design that incorporates lots of variables. I hear this starting to happen here. | By BZ S



Comment 3: An advantage at this location is that by incorporating the existing parking lot with the two buildings lots you could get a garage with a large footprint and store cars at a higher density. Small footprint garages waste a disproportionately large amount of space on lanes and ramps. A shortcoming of using the street in back as a ramp to the top floor is that such an access is harder to find. If the top floor were for employee and permit parking, that wouldn't be a problem. As kimberly B4 says, the furniture store could be accommodated in a new retail space on the ground floor. | By Carl B

Comment 4: The old-school vision of a parking garage is the raw, cement, ugly behemoth. Most urban parking garages these days are designed with retail facades, and some even incorporate existing buildings. If it is determined that this is the largest chunk of real-estate downtown suited for a parking structure. . . it should be incorporated into long-range planning before its too late to consider these type of parking solutions. Michael's comment is dead-on that the hillside would likely provide for efficient design. | By Kimberly B

Comment 5: Good example of the 3-tiered lot is in downtown Placerville. There is a good-sized multi-level right smack dab in the middle of downtown. On the top line the edges with a vertical garden! | By BZ S

Comment 6: Completely agree with BZ! Why tear down viable businesses for more parking? Double deck the adjoining lot. What about a three story parking garage behind B of A? There are ways to solve the parking problem without tearing out more of downtown. | By Jim G

Comment 7: The advantage of building where the bowling alley and furniture store are is that the road behind is angled and access to the upper levels can be added on the hill allowing the multi level garage to be built without wasting internal space on ramps between levels, just like the Garage that is built on Washinton now. | By Michael P

Comment 8: Tearing down the Stewart St buildings is not a good idea! The furniture store is a viable business in an interesting older building. The bowling alley has potential for becoming a unique venue, if the right visionary comes along with cash & energy. Don't tear down perfectly good buildings! Repurpose them. Converting the adjacent parking lot to a multi-level, done in a style similar to the one near City Hall, might be a more suitable approach. A more cost-effective approach is to let visitors use existing public employee parking lots during off-hours. Think about it: There are probably at least 50 parking spaces that are empty on the weekends and in the evenings. Why not promote that they are available after 5pm for general use? The only cost would be a bit of promotion.

I shop & work downtown all the time. I've never had trouble finding a parking space in nearly 40 years. It only requires patience & sometimes I have to walk a block. Mindset change: WALK SONORA! | By BZ S





Comment 9: The real issue is that when we have the great functions that we do, Sonora has insufficient parking for visitors and our city is only just starting to be disabled friendly, walking is not an advantage that all visitors share. | By Michael P

Comment 10: I would be really curious to see how other communities have successfully re-purposed bowling alleys for other uses. In my google search, I could only find examples with the same challenges we have. They are difficult buildings to re-utilize. It would be great if it could be done, but seems more likely that building may need to be a tear-down. So, citizens might want to consider what other types of uses would be appropriate there. Just a thought. . . | By Kimberly B

Comment 11: A parking lot there would work especially well if they also changed over to one way traffic on main and one way on Stewart up to Elkin St. where it could connect back into old 108/North Washington. | By Michael P

Idea Title: Electronic Welcome to Sonora Sign

Idea Detail: With an LED sign that welcomes visitors to Sonora it will make both visitors and community members knowledgeable to what upcoming events are about to be hosted.

Idea Author: Justine G

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Im not sure about this idea. I am not sure it fits with our historic town image. | By Carol K

Comment 2: This would be a good idea at the visitors center. | By Carol R

Comment 3: I agree, but it would have to be a really beautifully designed sign. Justine, could you post some images for folks to get an idea of your vision? | By BZ S

Idea Title: Lighting for Washington St

Idea Detail: Lighting is a huge deterrent for individuals to browse shops after dark. We notice a big decline in sales once it becomes dark and to be honest with the transient and homeless population that we have roaming the Downtown area I am a bit leary to walk around myself.



Idea Author: John O

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Right on and so true. Some of the block from Linoberg to Bradford is extremely dark. This is real problem that deters tourists and locals. Yet is not dealt with. And secondly in the evening downtown takes on a much different feel with an increasing number of transients and more concerning what has the number of loitering people who give the appearance of drug use or likely criminal activity. Again this is a real problem that is not addressed enough and again is a real problem that deters tourists and locals. | By John W

Idea Title: Pedestrian bridge to Fairgrounds

Idea Detail: How about a pedestrian bridge that connects the NW side of Stockton St. to a sidewalk into the fairgrounds? This would give safe access to people who park offsite as well as pedestrians coming from the downtown area. If feasible, it could cross the beautiful creek at the fairgrounds. The side of the raised walkway could serve as another place to "Welcome" people to Sonora and promote community events.

Idea Author: Holly B

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Sounds pretty, Daniel, but plant upkeep in a city can be pricey and if the plants are neglected, good intentions become an eyesore. One thought I had was to keep with the train theme. It would, afterall, be near Sonora's stately steam engine. | By Holly B

Comment 2: Maybe it could be festooned with planter boxes and have a Wisteria cover? Its columns could be totem poles or some such. Paths leading to it lined with shade trees? Lotsa sittin benches too? | By Daniel P

Comment 3: Wow! That is a wonderful idea that could have such a positive and powerful visual image for those just arriving into town. Great thinking, Holly! | By BZ S

Idea Title: Dog Park

Idea Detail: It would be nice to have a dog park in downtown Sonora. Perhaps, in the empty



lot off of Lyon's.

Idea Author: Tracy W

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Make downtown Sonora a walking area only

Idea Detail: I think we should make downtown Sonora a walking area only, with brick/cobble streets. Blockade at Stockton Rd. and the Red Church.

Widen and improve Jamestown-Shaws Flat Rd and Stewart Street to re-route traffic.

Build a parking structure two stories high and three stories deep along Stewart Street.

Expensive? Heck, yeah. Great for tourism, though. Much more aesthetically pleasing. And SAFER for pedestrians!

Idea Author: Corrie A

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: As a precursor to this idea, I think that for the interim, Washington St. should be made 1 way from Stockton Street to the fork at the Red Church towards Columbia (Northbound) and that both Green Street and Stewart Streets should be made one-way Southbound through the same stretch. Parking is clearly a problem, but if Washington St. was one-way through downtown, the parking could be eliminated on one side of the street and angled parking could be provided on the other side. This would open up the more constrained side (i.e. the west side) and would reduce the downtown traffic flow by half. | By Kate M

Comment 2: Great idea, Kate! | By Corrie A

Idea Title: Homeless and Headshops and Logging Trucks - oh my!

Idea Detail: Issues for Sonora to deal with:

- 1) ADDRESS THE HOMELESS problem that seems to be multiplying daily - we seem to be encouraging it, or at least not deterring it.
- 2) DON'T RENT STOREFRONTS to "tobacco paraphanelia" stores
- 3) BRACE FOR county employee and attorney offices relocations - these folks generate a significant amount of income for local shops and restaurants. This will make an impact that



our local merchants will feel.

4) KEEP TRANSIENTS from congregating in our parks - who wants to sit down to enjoy lunch while watching homeless people urinate in Courthouse Park? Or explain why someone is being arrested while taking their kids to visit Santa? (true stories) Discouraging for locals and tourists alike.

5) ENCOURAGE SMALL BUSINESS. Let's remember that the majority of our shops now are geared toward tourists because of WalMart. Sonora had the oldest hardware store (Mundorf's) and oldest clothing store (Baer's) in the state of California before they came into town. So don't complain about Sonora being nothing but antique shops...we need to have and bring in more of these shops (eateries, specialty stores, etc...) that won't have to compete against WalMart to survive.

6) TRAFFIC FLOW - Downtown seems vital to me with the current traffic flow. Local shopkeepers need customers driving by so they can catch customer's eyes with a sharp window display. And logging trucks are part of Tuolumne County's lifeblood. I'm not fond of traffic, but I do know how to get around it and would hate to see downtown turn into a ghost town. Is it possible to "ease" the problem without eliminating traffic entirely?

And now KUDOS to Sonora.....

1) Keep the W.A.T.C.H. program patrolling our streets and picking up garbage. I don't know if many people realize what a HUGE difference they make in keeping our sidewalks clean every week!

2) Hurray for the Farmer's Market and Concerts in the Park!

3) Both Round Up AND Christmas Parades.....how lucky are we?

Idea Author: Emily S

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Decorative Lighting Around Shops on 24 hrs

Idea Detail: Look at Murphys, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo downtowns. They have decorative lighting, or white Christmas lights, around the shops and buildings turned on during the day, at night and even when the shops are closed. This makes the downtown look & feel special, makes window shopping more inviting, and adds extra light for safety.

Idea Author: Diana C

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 1



Comment 1: Downtown Sonora recently looked very pretty with all holiday lights. Even the Masonic Lodge had a lovely display in their window. But PG&E is raising their rates..again. |
By Carol R

Idea Title: Public Restrooms

Idea Detail: One of the most asked question from customers in our store is where they can find a public restrooms. If it can be made cute and well lit, I believe a public restroom in the park would help everyone.

Idea Author: John O

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: The only public restrooms I'm aware of are near the police station on green street. I work on washington street and regularly get asked the question of where restrooms are. I tell them of these city sponsored restrooms. I have to say I get a good percentage come back to the store just to tell me how bad these restrooms are. I mean it is embarrassing the stories I'm told. I know it's hard to find money to maintain, but if you could hear the stories I hear. A shocking lack of cleanliness, very frequent closure or encounters with unfriendly loitering people there. It must be questioned how much the growing number of transients dirty or damage this public resource. Very often visitors will add their very unpleasant experience just walking through Coffill park. | By John W

Comment 2: We definitely need more! And yes, they must be clean and well lit. | By BZ S

Idea Title: indoor farmer's market

Idea Detail: Using unused building space for an Indoor Farmer's Market that could be open all year round, maybe on another day from the outdoor market. This would give folks access to fresher foods ore often than once a week.

Idea Author: Lauren H

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 4



Comment 1: How about using the empty former carpet/flooring store in the Orchard shopping center- it's centrally located, has plenty of parking ,and would make excellent use of space that has been empty for quite some time. | By Lauren H

Comment 2: How about using the empty former carpet store in the Orchard shopping center- there's plenty of parking there, it's easily accessible and centrally located | By Lauren H

Comment 3: how about using the empty former carpet store on Mono Way (in the Orchard shopping center_- there's plenty of parking there, easy access | By Lauren H

Comment 4: The old bowling alley would be a perfect place! | By Judy G

Idea Title: LIGHTS

Idea Detail: To make our downtown look more alive and safer in the evening, we need brighter lights on the street and in the stores.

Newly painted buildings would be nice too.

Idea Author: Chantal P

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Lighting is terrible at night. All of the parks look like safe harbors for criminals and drug sellers. The side streets are particularly dark. The parking lots are dark. Even going to the police or sheriff stations for help looks too scary. If I was a homeless person, I wouldn't hang out downtown. (I'd go to the Junction which is very well lit and looks like a safer haven.) The walkways in many places are dimly lit which combined with the disrepair of sidewalks and curbs is unsafe. The courthouse sometimes can look pretty at night. The shoe store is cheery and bright. The bail bonds office always has lights on. Driving up Washington Street at night makes Sonora look less-than-inviting but where we can be mowed down on the sidewalk in front of a hotel and if we survive, buy new shoes to get out of jail. | By Carol R

Idea Title: Create NEW First Impressions for Historic Downtown Sonora

Idea Detail: A huge debt of gratitude goes out to Judy Grossman for her efforts to brighten up our official City of Sonora sign during last year's AmGen event. What a beautiful sign it is now!

But we have more to do to get ready for company! While I hate to discourage any business, I must comment that two of the first signs that greet visitors to Sonora are the bail bonds sign



and the Maynard's Recovery Ranch sign. I know that these people have full rights to have their signage displays and that they've paid for those rights. But, does this have to be the FIRST thing that visitors see? Really? I can neglect my dirty laundry, but when company comes, I do my best to either get it done in a hurry or tuck it away for immediate attention after guests depart.

As a community, we have to acknowledge that substance abuse is a real problem, but I would love to ask Maynard's to let THAT become a "Welcome to Historic Sonora" sign. Then perhaps the City could help them relocate THEIR sign to Hwy 108. That sign has been there since before the By-Pass went in. It's time for a change!

As part of a downtown revitalization project, let's help the Bail Bondsman relocate to a less "in your face" location. Nothing says, "What a nice, clean, friendly town" like a bailbonds shop! Don't mean to offend, but I'm sure others would agree.

Idea Author: BZ S

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Country animal Charm

Idea Detail: I think it would be nice to see horses and buggys going around downtown as well as it be legal for the residents in downtown to keep chickens and other small working animals. I think the country charm is enhanced by the sounds and vibe that having animals around brings.

Idea Author: Ashley G

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Sorry, I disagree with this one. This is a lovely idea for Columbia or maybe on a very special day (Re-enactment Day, perhaps?). But Washington Street is too congested and I would worry about the safety of the animals from inattentive drivers. Plus, who is going to clean up after them? We already have too many people in our town that don't clean up after their dogs. | By Carol R

Comment 2: I don't mean on Washington street so much as just with-in the city



limits. I would like to see horse and buggy rides on Washington street and maybe some goats or donkeys pulling carriages but just allowing regular citizens to have chickens in their backyards will be noticed by tourists and will bring a sense of being in the country to people exploring our downtown. | By Ashley G

Comment 3: I agree with this idea, IF, steps can be taken to insure that the small animal thing downtown is kept within certain standards of health, hygiene and noise considerations. Will probably need more inspectors for this, or "Citizen Volunteer Inspector Helpers"? | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Community Kitchen

Idea Detail: I think it would be nice to have a certified community kitchen in downtown Sonora that would be available to rent at low prices to make baked goods and other value added foods. People can then serve the foods at the farmers markets or sell them to one another or sell them in a shop also in the same building as the kitchen, thus creating ways for individuals in Sonora to make some extra income and showing off the innovation in our community to people, including tourists who might buy the unique, one of a kind Sonora-made food. If the city were to purchase a building they could make revenue from people renting the kitchen and also make a portion of the income from selling the foods people make (if they choose to sell them that is)

Idea Author: Ashley G

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: California recently adopted Cottage Food Operations legislation to allow individuals to prepare certain foods in their own kitchens (and sell them). Check with the Tuolumne County Community Resources Agency Division of Environmental Health and your local planning agency. See also.
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/fdbCottageFood.aspx> for more information. | By Amy A

Comment 2: This is one of those ideas that could be really simple, just needs a facilitator and leadership. Right off the bat I thought of the odd-fellows building on S. Washington. . . | By Kimberly B

Comment 3: This is an interesting and noble idea, but probably beyond the scope of this grant. This is fraught with politics, food safety regulations, health and safety ordinances. I think food service businesses in Sonora have a long way to go in terms of welcoming hospitality and customer service. This would definitely be a threat to local eateries. I wouldn't mind seeing



community gardens instead of neglected weedy areas along some of our roadways. | By Carol R

Idea Title: How to make Sonora more user friendly

Idea Detail: You have made this website more difficult than it needs to be. However, I do have ideas about Sonora and here they are: Many times on hot summer days I have wanted to shop or browse in Sonora and cannot find parking or the big, big trucks and congestion have discouraged me so that I just go home. I want to 'shop local' but the shops are aimed at tourists and people who want junk/antiques. This is the county seat and it has no drug store, no grocery store, no toy store on the main street downtown. The local people only go to Walmart and the county knew this would happen but let that horrible store come to our county. People only want 'bargains' and they have not been educated about how buying quality local goods benefits us all. That is because the powers that be are bargain hunters, also. Stores that have flower boxes should care for them; otherwise, get rid of them. Many people who live in places like Cedar Ridge or Tuolumne don't ever come downtown. Why should they? One Christmas I was very sick and the only place to find a decent meal was the National Hotel in Jamestown, where we ordered food to go which my husband picked up and we had a wonderful Christmas dinner. The area next to O'Reilly's on Washington Street should be no parking. The speed limit coming from the bypass into Sonora is 25 miles an hour. That is ridiculous. It should be higher. Also, the traffic on Washington Street might ease if there were one way streets or some other idea; but, for heavens sake, do something about it! The rent of the shops on Washington Street is much too high. Another example of greedy landlords. A shopkeeper told me what her rent was and I was astonished. I have heard sad tales of the difficulty in getting permits from the County and how shopkeepers are thwarted at every turn.

Idea Author: Marie V

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Interesting to hear comments about what businesses are missing along Washington street. In a time before stripmalls and nationwide corporate stores Washington street had 4 pharmacies, at least 2 hardware stores, appliance stores, autoparts stores, even car dealerships. Those days are long gone. We as customers voted with our feet. Can you imagine this financial risk it would take to open a grocery store or pharmacy on Washington street. With so little local customers coming to downtown Sonora it would be a very poor financial decision. But the stores we do have downtown are varied and do carry merchandise that should interest locals, and I must say is not all antiques or junk. So local Tuolumne county citizens go downtown. There are shoe stores, some great clothing stores. for women young and older, there are stores that sell furniture, local art, cookware, bicycles. | By John W



Comment 2: We need attractive containers for trash and recyclables in the downtown area similar to Murphys and Angels Camp readily available for everyone to use. (No nasty comments from city employee Rachelle Kellogg about citizens who use them is preferable.) It is a disgrace that you can't dispose of items during our Spring Flings, parades, and celebrations. I second the comment about the sad looking flower boxes. How hard is it to go to Lowe's and buy some seasonal flowers? | By Carol R

Comment 3: I seconded this "Idea of Many Ideas", because i agree with a lot of it, though not all of it.

I don't think We can, or should, do anything about the trucks coming through town. They are part of "the scene" in my view. They are part of the supporting industry of Our Community.

Though there is a grocery store that is close to "downtown", on Highway 49 and a drugstore there too, I think, I agree that these businesses should be on Washington Street. Of course they would have the historic look and "feel" of the rest of the community.

I agree with the "flower box" responsibilities...especially on Washington Street. Maybe the local garden clubs could help with this?

I agree that the "landlord greed issue" needs to be corrected. That probably is part of why the prices are so high downtown. It seems like profit margins are designed to support the private business sector, (especially the property owners), instead of the level of income of We The People. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Not bringing corporate conglomerates to Sonora

Idea Detail: The main attraction of Sonora is its old-time charm, with a real Main Street (Washington), tall, old-growth trees, streets scaled to pedestrian traffic and small unique businesses. The absence of featureless modern buildings is a plus, and every effort should be made not to build them, for they would destroy the character of the town.

Idea Author: Rayna C

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: I believe "responsible" is a key term. There is a place for corporate funding and that is outside of the old town. However if a responsible corporation wishes to locate here we should require that they remain outside old town and contribute not detract from the history



and unique character of the town of Sonora. | By Stefani R

Comment 2: I so agree....with Rayna C. Public art such as: sculpture and murals...enhancing what we have not taking away from it, but rather something to photograph, something special to encourage strolling..... in the Spring and Fall outdoor seating for restaurants and more restaurants not less....How about Sculpture honoring the Chinese who were so mistreated? or sculptures of the Argonauts? or the Original people who were displaced? Plaques telling stories of which historical society has many....Murals and yes Murals do belong on our buildings....more shady awnings for the hot summer time....Even just fresh coats of paint, but trees; plants, art everywhere.....how can we open things up? widen streets? cut down on traffic? disguising propane tanks that are so.....unattractive..... | By Patricia C

Idea Title: Restore Downtown Fountain

Idea Detail: Let's get the fountain refreshed and the water flowing again! It's such a focal point downtown and would be a lovely testimony that we are alive and well!! How refreshing!!

Idea Author: Adele A

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Didn't they just spend money to turn it into a lightpost? TUD would find a way to raise our rates if we put water back in it. ;) | By Carol R

Idea Title: Infrastructure

Idea Detail: Whether trying to attract local or out of town visitors the intense and unhealthy traffic must be dealt with. Tourists like to stroll and meander, locals need to shop. A dedicated commitment to relieving Stockton and Washington of its traffic burden is essential to successfully improving these areas. The noise and pollution are off putting.

Idea Author: Patricia C

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: safer downtown



Idea Detail: Fences on the corners of all the streets perpendicular to Washington street would prevent cars from driving on the sidewalks and hitting pedestrians!
Bollards might be easier and cheaper.

Idea Author: Chantal P

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: I just have to say. . . one of the things I love about living here is how eager drivers are to stop for pedestrians, and even to let other cars enter traffic along S. Washtington street. We travel a lot, and I've been heard to say (many a time) "we aren't in Sonora anymore. . ." when I'm cut off or have to wait forever to cross a street. | By Kimberly B

Comment 2: Safety and appeal go hand in hand. The City of Sonora on Washington and Stewart streets are two big problems. Parking by crosswalks needs to be remove so motorist can see pedestrians. The Escalon light idea would be great for Stewart street to eliminate at least one of the stop signs. Santa Clara uses colored banners at some crosswalks which would be an inexpensive way to notify drivers of the dangerous crosswalks. Without a bypass, Washington St. is a real problem for pedestrians and tourists. The trucks and cars are really trying to be careful, but if you cannot see the pedestrian until he or she is a quarter of the way across the street it is too dangerous. Take the difficult action and remove parking by the crosswalks and find more parking off of Washington Street. | By Roger H

Comment 3: Coffill Park is a dungeon with poor lighting. Green Street is also poorly lit at night. Courthouse Park looks a little scary at night too. | By Carol R

Comment 4: Escalon has crosswalks at intersections that light up on the road as pedestrians cross. You can't miss them in all kinds of weather. Repairing all the broken curbs and sidewalks would be helpful. | By Carol R

Idea Title: Preservation

Idea Detail: Once gone, a historical structure is gone forever. Sonora's uniqueness is in its historical structure. As time progresses this past and present uniqueness of Sonora will become more and more valuable...in ways that involve more than money. Maybe even a "Mecca" that reveals the ambiance of what once was...what much of Our Nation is moving away from and "losing".



Please. Don't "reshape". Preserve and find ways to bring the "old" into the living now.

Idea Author: Daniel P

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Hi Carol R7. I didn't suggest "turning the old fire station into a parking monstrosity." But I do think there is just enough room to add another floor to the parking garage that is located across the street from the old fire station. And this would be accessible by the same route that the second floor uses. | By Daniel P

Comment 2: Ugh. Turning the old fire station into a parking monstrosity? I don't think the surrounding streets could support that much traffic. We'd be in that structure for days trying to get out. There isn't enough parking in the downtown area to support the traffic we have now. Many of the buildings look in advanced stages of disrepair. This would need a vision to fix this. Just what does that Historic Chamber of Commerce do? The Red Church richly deserves to look so much better. How long do we have to continue looking at the Days Inn eyesore? Murphys is a beautiful looking historic city. Perhaps we could get tips from them. | By Carol R

Comment 3: I would improve this idea with one specific suggestion. Add one floor to the parking garage that is located across the street from the Fire Museum. Make sure the addition matches the present structure. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Use a cart, return it!

Idea Detail: My pet peeve living in this town is the lackadaisical attitude/laziness of shoppers who use shopping carts and then park them in every flower bed across an entire parking lot or abandon their carts anywhere they ##@@\$% well please. I have seen able-bodied youngsters dump a cart less than 20 feet away from a cart corral. It is done day and night. I see this in every parking lot from Savemart to Grocery Outlet to the Junction. We look like a tacky town of discourteous people who didn't learn how to pick up after themselves as toddlers. Flower beds are for plants. Parking lots are for cars and pedestrians. Cart corrals are for your unused carts. This doesn't even take a penny of any grant money. This is a public awareness lesson in common courtesy. Perhaps some senior at Sonora High could take this on as a senior project or Steve or Maryann could use this on their radio program. Please return your cart to the cart corrals when you finish with it. If you can push it around a store, you can push it back to where it belongs.

Idea Author: Carol R



Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I will devote some time to helping with this problem, by patrolling a parking aisle at Savemart and move the carts that couldn't quite make it to the nearest cart corral. But, of course, this doesn't do anything for the laziness, or haste, that leaves these carts where they don't belong. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Downtown Plaza and Small Town Feel for Sonora

Idea Detail: Keeping with the Mother Lode historic theme, I would like to see a more plaza feel to downtown, much like they have done in Santa Barbara with their spanish theme. Wider sidewalks, planters, historic lamp posts, etc. would create a welcoming "let's hang out" atmosphere. I would suggest from the Red Church area around City Hall and the Museum down to the Sonora Inn area. It could create opportunities for outdoor dining also, which would be especially nice if a bypass to downtown was created for trucks and other through traffic. Certainly parking would then become an issue because it would have to be removed or greatly reduced. With the construction of two or three parking structures off Stewart Street, similar to the three story one on North Washington Street, I believe the parking needs could be met. I can think of two possible locations off the top of my head. What I have noticed in Santa Barbara is that cars travel more slowly in the "plaza" area of State Street and visibility for pedestrians crossing the street is greatly improved (all parking was moved the back streets), thereby creating a safer environment. I believe they charge for parking, at least they used to, but if you shop in one of the stores they will validate your parking ticket and you get it for free for a specified time period. I was born and raised in Santa Barbara and saw the before and after effects of the change. People really do slow down and spend more time in their downtown area than they did before.

I would also like to see a more "small town" feel return to the Washington Street area in relation to the types of businesses. There used to be a grocery store or market, a deli, hardware store, drug store, movie theater, etc. where you could walk downtown and have some practical needs met. Right now, there are too many antique and specialty stores that might be good for the tourist population, but not as much of a draw to residents.

Idea Author: Diane B

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 0



Idea Title: Why does someone visit downtown Sonora?

Idea Detail: I have lived in this town over 50 years, and I have wondered for years what does someone see the first time they visit Sonora. I see it with familiar eyes, plus I see it with memories of when downtown was the only shopping district. I think it is extremely important to try to see downtown in the eyes of someone who sees it for the first time. That leads to the question what is it that draws someone downtown? We need to know this!

Idea Author: John W

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 10

Comment 1: What do we know about business in downtown Sonora? It's often said that businesses are often closed. I'd liked to think business owners choose their hours by when they have customers. I may be wrong about that. Yet are there people downtown after 5pm, after 6pm. Do locals come downtown in the evening? I like to envision downtown Sonora in the evening as where locals go, for diner, for a walk along the sidewalks. We might ask why does someone start a business on Washington street. Do they expect most of their sales from locals, or from tourists. Many of these stores are owner operated. They are probably working 9, 10, 11, 12 hour days. And in a town where Tuolumne county residents quite readily say, 'oh I haven't been downtown in years'. Without local support I doubt many can afford employees. We've given these storeowners massive corporate competitors out on the edges of town. Yet today we have a varied and full main street, support these stores when they're open now. | By John W

Comment 2: Downtown Sonora is suppose to be small shops but the people who have businesses downtown run their shops on office hours 9-5! I am sick of hearing them complain because of lack of sales and business when they are only open when they want to be! Coming from a retail management background and business knowledge, I can tell you "You can't be closed when people get off of work if you want to make money!" And for the retail shops who run those hours and are closed on ANY day of the week especially a Saturday or Sunday you're in the wrong business! Why do you think there's a saying called "retail hours...sigh?!" because we hate them it takes away your play time you need to be OPEN 7 days a week except a major holiday and at least be open till 8:00PM for your consumers to shop after work. It should be a requirement written in the leases downtown if you're a retail shop you have to be open on the weekends and at least till 7:00PM every night just like a Home Owners Association has rules! | By Michele M

Comment 3: I would also like to add that a cold, hard look in the mirror is in order for some of



our local businesses. I have been astounded on a number of occasions at what passes for hospitality and customer service in Tuolumne County. Who doesn't enjoy the warm, welcoming, pleasant, helpful friendliness of Bertelli Pharmacy, Joan's Boutique, Grocery Outlet, Petsmart, and Perko's? Why would I patronize a business that is inattentive, discourteous, and/or disrespectful of those who walk through the door? | By Carol R

Comment 4: John, you may have the answer on how to use the grant effectively. We need to look at what we offer. When I have vendors in town, I don't send them to stay and enjoy downtown. If you come to Sonora and stay downtown, where do you go for breakfast? Can you comfortably walk the streets, find a place for dinner, and sightsee in the evening? We had tourists walking on Washington Street on January 1. What did we have for them? Only El Jardin and the Lighthouse Deli were open for eating. The Antique Den and Joan's Boutique were the only shops I saw that were open. In contrast, the Walmart-Safeway shopping center was booming with activity. After the Christmas parade, could our visitors go anywhere but El Jardin? | By Carol R

Comment 5: Many people, seeing Sonora for the first time, passed through toward points north like Angels Camp. I think Sonora is usually a pleasant surprise for these travelers. If they are "in to" earlier American Culture. | By Daniel P

Comment 6: Cross reference to the wireless walking tour comment under the tourism>historic buildings category. Better marketing is needed to get tourists to explore town beyond Washington Street--St Patricks, the history museum, the graveyards, whatever the jail and courthouse can become. Look at the streets uphill from Stewart Street and the roller coaster hill on Barretta. They may be a PITA to some, but the tourists don't have them back home. Most people who come to town never climb a hill to see how the town layers onto the hills, and they don't see that postcard image.

They get clean and convenient at home; we need to be clean enough but showcase our funky side. The town needs to be careful in balancing the old/unique with the new/convenient. John sees an important visitor perception of Sonora. Another is of "That Walmart before you get to Dodge Ridge." Sonora should be more than Walmart or the town with that snake hamburger place. A healthy, diverse community keeps business alive. | By Carl B

Comment 7: So I ask the Visioning organizers and our concerned citizens, Do we know what the business owners in downtown Sonora need? Do we know what gains them business, keeps them financially healthy? Do we know what keeps business away? Look to other towns along Highway 49 that start to lose businesses along their main streets. Do people want to stop and stroll along the sidewalks? Have you stopped and done this in Jackson, Mokelumne Hill, San Andreas, in Coulterville or Mariposa. What make Sonora attractive now is a full street of varied businesses. What do we need to keep these businesses? Have we polled them? Do we know their collective needs? | By John W



Comment 8: Now comes another revelation, if downtown Sonora is the main attraction in Sonora, is it just the buildings themselves. I say, no, it is more than that. It is the stores, the shops, restaurants that are the attraction. Would visitors come to downtown Sonora if there were no businesses? Without businesses we would just be Bodie. Better yet think of so many other goldrush towns along Highway 49 with downtowns with little or no businesses. Do they attract visitors? I don't know if we always see this or want to admit it in the tourism industry, but more and more Americans vacation by shopping. We want to travel but we want to find some shopping once we get there. This is why business along Washington street is vital to why people come to Sonora. | By John W

Comment 9: Knowing that out-of-towners are so vital to the financial health of downtown business, ask the question again, why do people visit downtown Sonora? What is it that draws them? What are they looking for? As I said growing up here, I was asked, or I asked myself what is Sonora famous for? The answer always seemed to be, because it was near something else, Yosemite, Columbia, Pinecrest, etc. But what is Sonora famous for? The Red Church? I thought over the years it must be something more than that. It dawned on me a few years ago, after 50 years, what Sonora is famous for. We are famous for our downtown! That's what visitors tell friends when they go back home. They talk about our downtown, our main street, the goldrush buildings along Washington street. That is our real attraction. Once we see this and acknowledge this, then we can see how vital it is to maintain downtown. | By John W

Comment 10: Secondly I think we need a better idea of who is visiting downtown Sonora. I can speak to this as a business owner on Washington street. And it is this, over 60% of my sales are to people from outside Tuolumne county. In fact I feel if you surveyed all the businesses along Washington street you would find nearly all of them get at least 50% of their sales from people from out of the county! This fact should at least make you aware how first impressions of downtown are so very important. | By John W

Idea Title: Small business in downtown Sonora

Idea Detail: I have asked before, just what does it take to open a business on Washington street. It is very much a leap of faith, and a financial risk on the shop owner's part. We should be proud of our main street now. It has a very varied mix of shops and this is getting noticed by people from the valley and east bay who are coming here to spend the day. But think what does it take to open a business. You have to find a space, dream up a business plan, that includes a product or service that the people who do come downtown will buy. If you do some research and watch shoppers downtown you will come to the conclusion that the locals don't come downtown. What you sell better be what visitors will buy. You will have to deal with absentee landlords and the fact that most buildings are over 100 years old. You will soon realize that there is zero parking enforcement on Washington street. I see one green Dodge truck that will park on Washington street for over 8 to 20 hours at a time. You will also realize that there is not enough police presence in Sonora to deter drug use and petty crime near your



store. You will realize that well-meaning charity organizations are helping congregate homeless people near your business 4 or 5 times a week. You will find bad or no lighting after dark. You will sweep away most Saturday or Sunday mornings cigarettes butts, beer cups or vomit. If you choose to stay open evenings as you're told you should you get to compare the sales to a few handful of people to your expenses. Locals be proud of your town, go for walk downtown, spend some money downtown, get to know the shops downtown.

Idea Author: John W

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I would improve this idea by going to town more. At least for lunch or dinner. Maybe other things too. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Vote with your feet

Idea Detail: This Visioning process has opened our eyes to what so many people want of downtown Sonora. We've heard people want outdoor dining, stores open later, more restaurant variety, etc. I believe none of these things just happen. I believe they can't happen if only tourists are expected to use them. We NEED to vote with our own feet by supporting the very things we want. If you want outdoor dining support and eat outside in the 2 outdoor dining spots we have, El Jardin or Mi Pleubla. If you want stores open later get downtown at night and support the stores that are open. Other restaurant owners and other store owners will see and hear about this. Stores don't stay open unless there are sales. If we want this, vote with your feet and get downtown. In fact I firmly believe the more tourists we do get in town the more that will come downtown if they see more people downtown, especially locals. If you want more walking trails, walk downtown or dragoon gulch, eventually the need will be seen and filled. If you want bike stands, then bike downtown. If a need isn't seen it won't be filled.

Idea Author: John W

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Parking and Traffic

Idea Detail: Several tourists that visit our store downtown tell us that Parking is hard to find especially on Weekdays. Plus we run into locals that tell us, "We've been meaning to stop in



and see your store but finding parking is so difficult."

I believe we need to create designated parking for the working class in areas that allow patrons easier access to shops and restaurants. A lot of people don't like to parallel park either.

An idea that has been thrown around for years is one way roads for Washington and Stewart St. I believe this would allow for Diagonal parking which would create at least 30-40% more parking and easier access. This would allow for better wide spread parking as opposed to parking structures that create longer walking distances and have less capital expense than a parking structures (Especially in a Historic District).

Idea Author: John O

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Singage

Idea Detail: Tourist need help navigating the area. If we could create 2 or 3 small marquees along the sidewalk, with a map of the corridor and list all the common interest points and the general hours of operation. I also think every motel or hotel along the corridor should also have this marquee in there lobby. I believe it would retain them for longer periods of time in the area because then the tourist can create a plan of travel to those points.

Such as Public Restrooms, Restaurants, Museums, Hotel, and Retail Shops or Service.

Idea Author: John O

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Community Center

Idea Detail: I think Sonora needs a community center with an inexpensive gym, public pool (indoor with a roof that opens), basketball court, and extra classrooms for public education use. South Lake Tahoe has all this plus an indoor hockey rink. It's really nice, the public, year round swim is in constant use and they have mommy and me classes for preschoolers, basketball and other sports on the court.

Idea Author: Angie W



Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1:

We have the fairgrounds that could be used for so much more. | By Carol R

Idea Title: Cultural Arts Center in the "Dome"

Idea Detail: Turn the Dome building into a multifaceted Cultural Arts Center with classes for adults and children, a venue for plays, concerts and other events that could bring in revenue. It would also be a magnificent setting to display a permanent historical overview of the town with writings and photos about Sonora's history.

Idea Author: Lauren H

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Fabulous idea. I see the Dome in the distance but I've never been there and so far, it doesn't matter to me. Another bit of history poorly touted. | By Carol R

Idea Title: "Green" fences to hide water tretament plant on 108

Idea Detail: Add wooden fences, planted with colorful vines covering them, to mask unsightly water treatment plant on 108 corridor into town.

Idea Author: Lauren H

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Or better yet, how about a row of drought-tolerant trees that would create a visual barrier? REALLY green and welcoming. Trees would be a nice way to say, "Hello! Welcome to the mountains!" | By BZ S

Idea Title: Safety and Access to Sonora

Idea Detail: The traffic problems caused by Sonora High School's poor circulation of necessary



traffic impact not only those who frequent the high school but also those who use downtown and surrounding businesses and even those who are just passing through. It is also a safety hazard to drivers and pedestrians. The city and high school need to work together to improve the flow of traffic to and from the high school and the traffic going in and out of Sonora. I suggest that we add one or more roundabouts (landscaped with a welcome to Sonora sign,) a drop-off area, and a pedestrian underground walkway to improve safety and traffic flow.

Idea Author: JulieAnn P

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Great idea, JulieAnn! A lot of these ideas for a better Sonora can start with one idea, and then improving upon it. The traffic plan for SHS has to be revisited - the congestion and the accidents and injuries that have stemmed from those accidents have to stop. The roundabouts are a great idea - it would force drivers to slow down in that area.

What about adding the new lighted crosswalks down Washington's intersections (the ones where to cross, you hit the button and the whole crosswalk flashes alerting drivers to stop (I know I've almost been hit on Washington when drivers don't stop and I've been in the crosswalk)? And brighter lights so people can see at night down Washington? | By Kristen L

Idea Title: Improve profits from Special Events

Idea Detail: I think a conversation with Cal Trans is in order...when we have our Special Events and limit the amount of time the road can be closed off it defeats the purpose of our downtown merchants keeping their doors open. If we are able to keep Washington St. closed for a longer period of time and create a safe walking environment for people to linger downtown our merchants would increase sales. A recent visit to another small town's Christmas Parade and downtown event was so enjoyable! Main Street was blocked for the NIGHT with fire pits for warming hands, live music in the street for enjoyment and the merchants were BUSY!!! Bringing in REVENUE! If Cal Trans' limitation on Hwy closure is not the only obstacle...what is? Lets overcome it and make the downtown events safer,lengthier and more profitable!

Just sayin.....

Idea Author: Roni L

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 2



Comment 1: The town of San Luis Obispo has street fairs every week with vendors staying open, vendors on the street, and food served everywhere. Well remembered. | By Lance M

Comment 2: We have the problem that OUR "main street" is also a state highway. Was that the case with the other town? The idea of the firepits for handwarming is wonderful. I know that a couple of 2nd Sat ART NIGHT folks have suggested that idea. Roni L, I hope you've had a chance to come out & join some of our ART NIGHTS. Currently we're averaging at least 10 live music acts all over the Historic Downtown every month. As for the highway closure: If we can work with Cal-Trans to have a viable detour, as was done for Amgen, then I think that this is a good idea. I also think that exploring the one way routing would alleviate downtown traffic congestion. In the Summer those traffic jams cause quite an increase in heat! | By BZ S

Idea Title: Permanent Sign or Banner as you enter Downtown Sonora

Idea Detail: How about a sign that says something like:

Welcome to the Mother Lode, Beautiful Sonora, CA

or:

You are now in Downtown Sonora, CA

Heart of the Mother Lode

Idea Author: Eva E

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Well, please don't duplicate that crummy sad-looking sign on Stockton Road already in existence. I'd rather see welcoming signs off Highway 108 that give better directions to travellers to locate various parts of Sonora. I'd rather see a cleaned up Washington Street that looks pretty, fresh and inviting than a banner over the street. | By Carol R

Idea Title: Downtown/Railtown Connection

Idea Detail: Wouldn't it be a great tourist draw if we could run a steam train between South Washington St and Railtown. The tracks are in place, they just need to be upgraded. Imagine catching the train in front of the old TGH and riding it to Jamestown for an evening BBQ on the lawn at Railtown and then riding back later that evening.

Just the sound of the steam whistle will set downtown Sonora apart from the other Motherlode



Communities. The Sierra railroad is a unique asset in our community. We should capitalize on it.

Idea Author: Craig K

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Renovate Casina High

Idea Detail: The Casina High gym has missing cardboard tiles in the roof, no heater and the bathroom is scary. It is really nice to have a place kids can go for basketball practice, as well as adult education, but it really needs a renovation and is really under utilized. Maybe putting jars on business counters for donations and more community activities could be a few ideas.

Idea Author: Angie W

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I feel we need to support the students that attend Dario Cassina High School (and alternative education). The conditions are less than favorable for the students and staff. What options are there, to better utilize the facilities, as well as provide better conditions?

Alternative education is a growing trend in California. One idea is CART (The Center for Advanced Research and Technology - <http://www.cart.org>). CART is the most comprehensive, state-of-the-art education reform effort at the secondary level to date. The CART combines rigorous academics with technical, design, process, entrepreneurial, and critical thinking skills. If we could take the concept and bring it down to a smaller scale for Tuolumne County, perhaps we can provide more choices to our students (similar to Connections Visual and Performing Arts Academy - sharing a campus).

Thank you.

| By Lorajoy B

Idea Title: What Sonora can be.

Idea Detail: So let's envision what Sonora can be. And through the eyes of first time visitors. I have previously explained why visitors are so vital to our financial health. So what could a new



visitor see and experience if we really did it right. Say we have an older couple from the valley, Modesto maybe, with their adult daughter, not an unlikely group of visitors. They leave Modesto in the morning, heading through the dozen stoplights in Oakdale, then drive the 30 miles through rolling foothills. In the spring these hills can be extraordinary, in summer you could describe them as 'golden'. Either way the trip here is full of expectation. Expectation that they will find a quaint town nestled in the mountains. The drive here does that. There's a fair bit of openness, and lack of human imprint on the drive to Sonora. This drive, uphill, really sets the mood. They are in for a day in the country in a small country town.

Idea Author: John W

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 11

Comment 1: Here's a fun one, say once a month this charming gold rush town decides to celebrate art, all kinds of local art. It picks this one evening a month and opens it's doors, a town-wide open house. It collects 10 to 12 local musicians and gets them to play in art galleries, coffee shops or right in the stores themselves. Our valley friends, and many from the eastbay could literally walk up Washington street and hear bluegrass in one place, then walk a few doors up and hear classical guitar, then a few doors up some jazz. And in all the art galleries, they could find special shows, some with appetizers and wine tasting. Some stores and restaurants would have art showings as well. They might even find a book signing or two. They could choose to have dinner at one of the restaurants along Washington street, watch a play at the Stage 3 theater after strolling among all this music and art. They might tell their friends back in Modesto to come the next month. This is Sonora that can be, that is. | By John W

Comment 2: While walking along Washington street, going from shop to shop, our valley friends keep admiring the gold rush era buildings and decide they want to learn some of Sonora's history, they come upon Washington street, a museum. Right among the stores, one building dedicated to our local history. Easy to find, open when tourists are downtown. Inside displays of mining history, ranching history, logging history. History of our local schools. Maybe dad will stay and look longer at these displays as then women go next door and shop. This is more of what Sonora can be. | By John W

Comment 3: Our valley friends chose a local restaurant for a late breakfast. They were greeting as they came in. The server found a table for them, gave them menus and most needed where given glasses of water right away. They found the menu full of locally produced food and had many healthy choices. Greeting warmly again, and quickly they placed their order with the young server, who by the way seemed glad to be working and working in downtown Sonora. Our valley friends felt welcomed and had expectations for the rest of the



afternoon and their day trip to Sonora | By John W

Comment 4: Perfect anecdote! | By BZ S

Comment 5: They would begin to notice the small touches in downtown Sonora. Trashcans evenly spaced, more street signs, all in the distinctive color that says they're still in downtown Sonora, a few bike racks with the city logo on them. They would find more displays telling of Sonora's history, they would notice a mural or two more. They would come upon a few side streets that were pedestrian only. In the open and inviting courthouse park they would find a few more art displays. Two that especially caught the father's attention, one was the large granite model of Half Dome, another was a stone monument that had the outline of the Sierra Nevada crest and marking out the peaks in Tuolumne county. This created the idea they would have to come back to Sonora and use it as a base to visit Yosemite. It was in their backyard and all and they rarely visit. Also he thought they should drive over Sonora pass on another visit. | By John W

Comment 6: Walking along Washington street our friends from Modesto would notice lot's of small boutiques and locally owned stores. There mix is varied, something for all of them, women's clothing stores, shoe stores, backpacking equipment, art galleries, bookstores, a bicycle shop, and only a few antique stores. It's clear to our friends from Modesto that here are shops with items you don't find at the Vintage Faire mall. The two women are full of expectations of finding something they wouldn't find in Modesto. They know it will be a day of adventure going from shop to shop. They can see that there is a full choice of restaurants and they don't have to worry about finding breakfast or lunch. | By John W

Comment 7: Of course they would see several cafes serving breakfast with what is clearly locals eating downtown. They might expect to find some kind of local known menu item or some kind of gold rush era food. They might choose to walk a bit before choosing a cafe for breakfast. They would come across a foodcart or two. Serving some food that evokes the gold rush, say fresh cornbread. Still they hear the music of the street musicians and just the conversations of locals downtown in the morning. They would stop overlooking Sonora creek and see the start of the walking trail they saw earlier. They would see our downtown Coffill park open to the creek with nearby displays of mining history and of Sonora history. Of course at the creeks edge is a statue, a statue that's famously there along Sonora creek, one that tourist all look for, and take pictures off. It's a statue of a miner bent over and panning for gold. | By John W

Comment 8: Turning a corner and finding themselves on Washington, they would find all their expectations of Sonora met. A old fashioned main street, with gold rush era buildings, but most importantly a sense that's it's alive. Other people walking the sidewalks, maybe some sitting at outdoor seating areas of local restaurants. Clearly seen is that stores are open. They would here the sound of music. They would see at least one street musician near them. Possibly they



see traffic one way on Washington street. Enough traffic to make downtown seem active, but not so much that they can talk to each other and that the diners in outdoor seating are comfortable. They would notice trees in planted areas along Washington street. They would feel like they're in a small country town and would feel welcomed to walk along the sidewalks of this small country town. They would be full of expectations of finding unique local shops and of finding locally run cafes and restaurants. | By John W

Comment 9: Now directed to city parking, one block off the main street. They park and start walking. They don't get far, because they find in the parking lot and large map and display of the whole of downtown Sonora. They find the, you are here dot and get an idea of the shape of things in downtown Sonora. They might notice an attractive mural on a wall adjoining the parking lot. Again they're full of expectations, this is an interesting town full of attentions to detail and as they say, a feast for the eyes. They might see a fully restored Sugg house and with posted hours to visit. Our visitors may think, there's something we can do on our way back to the car. They then head toward Washington, with late breakfast on their minds. | By John W

Comment 10: If visitors first see downtown Sonora from Stockton road, they would see our fairgrounds and if on a weekend an event with lot's people, on a weekday they would see it advertised on the lighted sign. They would also notice across the street, a small hotel it's trees nicely trimmed, it's parking lot clean and it's roof cleaned of leaves. Next they you see our train engine, telling everyone that Sonora has history. Still reading our nice roadsigns they would know downtown is close. They might begin looking for signs directing them to parking. They would then notice an inviting paved walking/biking trail along Sonora creek. They would see some benches along this walkway and a few very small turnouts, or small parks. They think maybe a walk along the creek later today would be nice. They have even more expectations of a great day trip in Sonora. They would also see a small shopping center across from this walking trail and see a local bank, a restaurant or two. They would remark how clean. | By John W

Comment 11: Our friends from the valley get outside of Jamestown and see a billboard with lot's of images of downtown Sonora and the sign is welcoming them to visit downtown Sonora. They are feeling good about their daytrip to Sonora. At the exit from highway 108 a colorful and well-landscaped sign telling them they are in Sonora. They drive toward downtown Sonora on Stockton road, or on South Washington they would see the outskirts of town clean and roadsigns directing them to downtown Sonora. Have any of you been through Merced and noticed their roadsigns. They are all a different color from the Caltrans green and white. They are distinctive and you know you are in downtown Merced. Our visitors from Modesto should see this, colorful and distinctive roadsigns, maybe gold for the gold country, announcing to them all kinds of sights in Sonora. Again a sense of expectation. | By John W



Topic Name: Improving Sonora Transportation

Idea Title: Designated Bicycle Routes & Bike Paths

Idea Detail: I'd love to see Sonora adopt a "Bicycle Friendly" attitude. We worked diligently to do just for Sonora AmGen Day. If we did this as part of an on-going identity for bicycling visitors AND locals, we would see multi-layered benefits. Currently Sonora & Tuolumne County are really bike-friendly, nor bike-safe. But if we made a concerted effort to create designated routes and paths, then our locals could really enjoy the fitness boon of bicycling AND we'd see a lot more bicycle touring groups rolling into town. We did this AmGen, now let's do it for ourselves! Plus, that approach will make our community more appealing to various bicycle racing groups, including AmGen. Nevada City has hosted AmGen a couple of times. And now they have fully identified bicycle routes, identified lodging & camping who cater to bicyclers. They have also published a very nice brochure about bicycling in their county that is levelled from novice to advance. We've already cut the cloth on this! Now let's just use what we already know how to do!

Idea Author: BZ S

Number of Seconds 18

Number of Comments 13

Comment 1: Improving bike and pedestrian access for both transportation and recreation are key to this idea. There needs to be a safe way for pedestrians to get from Sonora to Columbia and the college, Sonora to Jamestown, and across Sonora. Biking through downtown is actually relatively safe because of the low speed limits and because drivers expect to see more pedestrians there, although there is definitely room for improvement. The winding highways with no shoulders and high speed limits are very dangerous for pedestrians, as attested by the recent deaths and close calls. Making designated bike routes on existing roads, with signs and adequate shoulders, is inexpensive, requires little planning and infrastructure improvement, and is a good start to addressing the transportation needs. Planning for bike and walking paths OFF the highway will cover recreation needs and make transportation safer in the long term. | By Julie B

Comment 2: Where are we going to put these bike lanes? Traffic is dangerous enough for bikers around here. | By Bonnie M

Comment 3: Bonnie M6...That's part of the task of this transportation study: To take a look at how streets and roads could be mitigated to make them safer for bicycles. There are potential bicycle routes that could be defined. For example:



Campo Seco Rd was used for AmGen. Could there be a bike lane added there that could run from Sonora to Jamestown? There is a lot of discussion about re-routing traffic in downtown Sonora. Then there might be room for designated bike paths. | By BZ S

Comment 4: I support bike racks! | By Carol R

Comment 5: Bikes racks? Yeah! I've seen some beautifully sculptural bike racks in other cities. | By BZ S

Comment 6: I agree with the other comments, but would like to add that, in order to be a truly "bike-friendly" town it would be necessary to consider the bike lanes and access to be not just for recreation. Designing safe through-routes for bikes so we could feel ok about our kids riding to school, in addition to the adults, would be great. Lots of communities with more congestion than Sonora are doing this, utilizing existing streets (see: sharrows in places like Santa Cruz, Berkeley, San Luis Obispo). Its about creating a livable community so that our kids want to return here after college, and businesses want to come. It helps people who are car-drivers, too, when more people ride bikes. A couple of minor, (cheap) and easy remedies: Bike racks!!!! and Valet bike parking at the farmer's market. Right now, its just all too much of a struggle. Our community leaders should be thinking about creating a bike culture, even if they aren't using them. | By Kimberly B

Comment 7: i would love to see a more bike friendly town! To be able to ride down from Meyer Hill, then maybe to the Gulch trails, and then on to Jamestown and back would be wonderful. The only problem for me is that i would have to walk back up Hope Lane, but thats my problem. | By Jo M

Comment 8: Part of our problem in TuolCo is that everyone is always trying to re-invent the wheel, and too often coming up with already out-dated designs. Taking a look at other communities and thinking with the future in mind would help solve that problem. Ashley, thanks for the lead to the Tahoe Biking Community information. I've added a link so that others can access the information! | By BZ S

Comment 9: When I first moved here, I went to a local bike shop and bought a mountain bike. I excitedly envisioned myself walking and biking all over the local area. In 2 months, I was done. The roads were treacherous. I felt unsafe tripping over the broken sidewalks and navigating the margins of pavement where no sidewalks existed. I went to Mass every day, carried a rosary, and felt I was lucky to make it home alive each time. Perhaps the owners of the local bike shops and SNAC could take on a leadership role in this area. The Tahoe plan sounds heavenly. I would add routes from Jamestown to Sonora to Columbia. | By Carol R

Comment 10: A good example of a mountain town with great bicycle access is Tahoe. The



whole city is connected by bike paths that can take you nearly anywhere in the city plus there are tourist type paths that take you out to hiking trails and lakes. Can you imagine how awesome a bike path out to hike table mountain and go swim in the lake would be? | By Ashley G

Comment 11: My husband and I would use our bicycles to get to town on a regular basis, we are only about 2-3 miles from shopping and downtown but because of the danger of riding across the highway and then on the highway for a short while, not to mention then riding on some roads with little to no shoulder space, we don't ride nearly as often as we would ideally be able to. I think that Jamestown and Sonora need to be connected by a designated bicycle route and then there needs to be designated routes to get around in the city. | By Ashley G

Comment 12: It's my belief that if Nevada City can do this, we can do this. Many of their roads are much more narrow and windy than Tuolumne County/Sonora. They have managed to create a very bicycle friendly atmosphere. | By BZ S

Comment 13: I would improve this idea by RE-READING it before I post it!!! I have some grammatical & syntactical errors. So sorry! Currently we are NOT bicycle friendly. Let's get that way. If we can do it for AmGen, why not do it for ourselves? | By BZ S

Idea Title: Traffic flow changes

Idea Detail: To improve traffic flow and increase ease of parking downtown, I suggest making Washington street and Stewart streets both one way streets that run counter to each other. Ashland, Oregon has this configuration, and it works very well.

Idea Author: Cori M

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 12

Comment 1: I've seen a lot of comments about parking and traffic congestion downtown- just a thought that improving access and safety for bikes and pedestrians would help to alleviate those problems. | By Julie B

Comment 2: Large traffic on Washington is a deterrent to business, health and prosperity. Major changes In the short term would be difficult and expensive, although it would be a great job creator project.....in the long term it would revitalize....

| By Patricia C



Comment 3: Jim G is correct about the geometric problem with Stewart/Elkin Streets. SR 49 north would probably need to use Church, Stewart, and Elkin--the State would need to take over those streets. The cross streets between Washington and Stewart would have more traffic and the stop signs on Stewart would probably be removed or replaced with signals.

The big benefit of a SR 49 Sonora bypass is that the City would control their own destiny on Washington Street. The one-way circulation idea may have merit after the Greenley Road extension and a western bypass are built and the State relinquishes Stockton Road and Washington Street. If that happens the traffic volumes will be lower, the big through trucks could be diverted, and the City would have the control to make the changes. That's a lot of ifs!
| By Carl B

Comment 4: The Angels bypass was a reroute of 4; 49 still goes through downtown. There's a big difference between 49 in Sonora and 4 in Angels. 4 carries more tourist traffic in Angels from the Valley to Murphys, Arnold, Big Trees and beyond.

There is not a huge amount of through traffic on 49 between Sonora and Angels. A bigger consideration would be traffic going out Parrotts Ferry to Columbia and 4. A Jamestown Road bypass would have a big effect only if the majority of the traffic from Jamestown to Columbia and 4 were not already using Jamestown Road. A Rawhide Road bypass would have even less effect on downtown.

The game changer for traffic volume downtown is the Greenley Road extension, because there is not already an alternate north/south route on the east side of Sonora.
| By Carl B

Comment 5: Angels Camp was a ghost town before they rerouted Hwy 4; lots of businesses were already out. They just eliminated a lot of pass-through traffic so it seems slower there.

The idea of a bypass is to get rid of the pass-through traffic that isn't going to stop at downtown businesses anyway, and create a better downtown atmosphere by making it a safer, more relaxed destination for locals and tourists.

Large amounts of traffic do not guarantee strong, successful businesses. If it did, then why did the local business community work so hard to get the City Council to approve this Vision Sonora process in the first place? They know that the heavy traffic is keeping people away from their businesses. | By Jim G

Comment 6: If anything the SR49 traffic that now flows on to Washington St. discourages business. With the heavy flow, it's very difficult to find easy parking. Those visitors haven't a clue where to find parking, a signage issue. As a steady



stream they're less likely to stop and get out for a while. Locals will say they don't want to come downtown because of that traffic, especially in warmer months when the traffic compounds the heat on Washington St. Something needs to happen on this topic to either re-route, commit to a by-pass, or...? | By BZ S

Comment 7: I think Angels Camp would disagree with "successful re-routing". Their Main Street looks like a ghost town and their local businesses have been adversely affected by the re-route. What local businesses and restaurants would tourists frequent if they bypass Sonora via Jamestown Road? | By Carol R

Comment 8: The problem with one-way streets is the increased speed through downtown endangering pedestrians. If the idea of Vision Sonora is to bring more people downtown, higher vehicle speeds will not work.

Also, how do you hook in 49 northbound to Stewart St. from Stockton St. without tearing down buildings. And how do you tie 49 northbound back into Washington St. at Elkin St. without more demolition. Trucks can't make that corner.

Best option for North-South traffic is the Greenly Road extension and/or Jamestown Road.
| By Jim G

Comment 9: I agree with Jim G16 - rerouting HWY49 through Jamestown Road and/or Jamestown Road is the best option. Angels Camp has successfully re-routed HWY49 away from their downtown area. Historic Downtown Sonora should be kept clear of heavy traffic and should be zoned for outdoor eateries (like Paris :). Downtown Sonora needs to be more "user friendly". People cannot leisurely stroll and window shop and carry on a conversation without the ear-shattering traffic noise and car exhaust. Quaint and charming downtown shopping/eating areas are essential for tourism-based business. We also need to bring in an Amtrak bus from Modesto or Stockton train stations. | By Lauri D

Comment 10: I do not think this would change traffic speeds, but rather reduce stop and go traffic. I will have to leave much of the logistics to the experts, but I think this is possible. I envision the one-way section going from Church street to Elkin. Adjacent to Elkin is the fire museum parking lot, a small portion of that could be used to improve that turn.

Ultimately, traffic is the life-blood of downtown, I think it is a bad idea to divert all traffic from it.

Also, this would help businesses on Stewart street as well, maybe even in courage some new business to move into the old bowling alley. | By Cori M

Comment 11: Jim G...Your insight is very valuable. It's clear that you've really



analyzed this situation. While I do agree that reducing traffic downtown is very important, I have ambivalent feelings about routing that same traffic out of Sonora completely. I know that this is some "old school" thinking, but I guess I'd really like to see more data on how this would impact downtown businesses. | By BZ S

Comment 12: It is time to seriously consider some alternative. The Ashland streets are much wider, but this is a good idea to explore. | By BZ S

Idea Title: Walking/Biking trail along Woods Creek.

Idea Detail: Make a walking/biking trail along Woods and Sonora Creeks, from downtown headed towards Jamestown. Take it to the city limit and then the county trails council can pick it up from there and take it the rest of the way to Jamestown. I often see folks walking along 49 between Jamestown and Sonora - its only a matter of time before somebody is hit by a car. Creeks provide a very sensible place for a trail.

Idea Author: Patrick K

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Build a park in one of the vacant lots in the downtown area

Idea Detail: Courthouse Square, with its hedges, makes it an awkward community gathering place. Build a nice park in one of the vacant lots in the downtown area. Lots of lawn, shade trees, and a playground area and/or fountain would create an excellent park. The farmers market could be there, outdoor concerts in the summer, and other events (like in Tuolumne City) would be a great addition. Plus a nice, safe playground downtown would be welcomed by all the families in the downtown area.

Idea Author: Patrick K

Number of Seconds 8

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Maybe we should look at improving the existing Courthouse Park. The location is great but it does not serve as a gathering place. It should be redesigned. | By Liz P

Comment 2: I agree about Courthouse Square! But, I'm not sure which lots you're proposing. I



like the idea! | By Holly B

Comment 3: I'd vote for making the fairgrounds more accessible for community events. | By Carol R

Idea Title: Signs that direct walkers to Dragoon Gulch Trail

Idea Detail: How about some nice and simple signs (the brown heritage signs?) that show people how to find Dragoon Gulch from downtown Sonora? This would make it easier for visitors and locals to find their way to the walking and hiking path from downtown.

Idea Author: BZ S

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Please improve the signs for the hiking trails. They are not very clear. | By Carol K

Idea Title: Washington Street a single lane one way

Idea Detail: I second the idea of making Washington street one way, but I also feel that it should be one lane of traffic. This would leave space that could be developed into a walking mall with trees and even sidewalk vendor space. It would decrease the traffic on Washington and slow down the pace of the area. Having a pedestrian mall would be a huge incentive for people to visit our downtown area because it is unique and charming in this day and age. We could have Jamestown Rawhide road be a truck bypass to keep large commercial trucks from going through downtown. This would create better air quality and reduce noise pollution

Idea Author: Amy R

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Great vision! Amy R10 takes in a lot of issues in this suggestion and gives ideas that are easy to see (and smell!). | By BZ S

Idea Title: Make Washington plus Stewart and/or Green One Way

Idea Detail: Washington is way too busy, congested, and loud. Reroute trucks on Jamestown



Rd then make Washington One Way and make either Stewart and/or Green One Way in the other direction. Remove a lane of parking to enable the sidewalks to be wider, plus plant trees. Make room for more pedestrians and possibly outdoor seating. Trees will provide shade and make it much more pleasant, especially in the summer. Murphys is a good example.

Idea Author: Patrick K

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: This idea has been brought up on occasion over many decades. Years ago I thought it was a bad idea. I thought not having all traffic drive down Washington street would hurt local business. Of course now we have so much more traffic than say 20 years ago. Both way traffic on Washington street today may be hurting downtown business. Traffic noise is considerably louder, this seems to take away from the strolling and shopping experience. Crossing main street is much harder for pedestrians now, there is so much more flow of traffic. Having both way traffic has limited beautification ideas, for example sidewalk expansions into Washington street, with trees, or landscaping, benches, streetlights, historic displays, or statues. I have come to believe also that one way traffic of Highway 49 traffic would increase exposure on Stewart street and lead to an increase of business on that street, thus expanding our downtown shopping district. | By John W

Idea Title: Take out the hedges at Courthouse Square.

Idea Detail: Courthouse Square is a logical community gathering place, and yet the hedges make it more difficult for people to gather. Remove them and just have lawn and the sidewalks.

Idea Author: Patrick K

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: Yes! Make it a place for people to gather. It could be such a great asset to our community if it was designed properly. | By Liz P

Comment 2: All that new lawn/landscaping they put in for Amgen looks dead. Leaves are piled up all over. Lighting is poor. Sidewalks are broken. It looks dark, dreary, and sad.



Courthouse Park needs a makeover (and some recycling bins). I'd vote for more than just hedge work. | By Carol R

Idea Title: Build the Greenley Extension-Lyons Street to Hwy 49

Idea Detail: If you ever want to revitalize downtown Sonora, you need to reduce the traffic volume on Washington Street as the first step.

The Greenley Road Extension, planned and designed in the 1980's, should have been built. It is a very necessary project today to reduce the overall, as well as peak afternoon, volume of traffic on Washington Street, Shaws Flat Road to Stockton Street.

Washington Street from north, to Stockton Street is a State Highway (Hwy 49) and there is very little the City of Sonora can do to improve or restrict traffic on it. A bypass of Hwy 49, or alternate route is needed, and the only feasible route that I would see in my lifetime, is the Greenley Road Extension. A westerly bypass from below Jamestown is 30 to 50 years off, and still would not resolve the east to north, back and forth traffic volume in the downtown corridor.

So with this revitalization study, let us resolve the issue of traffic in the downtown area. Let's build the Greenley Extension. A short 1.2 mile road construction could have amazing reduced peak hour effects on Washington Street, as well as on Mono Way to Greenley Road, Lyons and Stewart Streets.

I guess I sound like an engineer. I've been a resident of Sonora since 1970, when traffic was an occasional thing with only one signal light in the entire county, at Stockton and Washington Streets. As a transplant from New York City, I thought that Sonora was just heaven. I still think that, but we could use a little less traffic volume in the downtown area.

Idea Author: Gerard F

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: This would be a great solution if they would add on and off ramps to 108 at the overpass that goes over the 108 bypass to the site where the Justice center is intended to be built. Then not only would access to the justice center be reasonable, there would be an outlet for the 49 traffic so that Mono way/old 108 does not become the new problem spot. | By Michael P

Comment 2: Howdy Gerard F. Could you, by any chance, bring a map of the route you are



talking about in here for a look? | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Open "Trolley" transportation up and down Washington/Stewart

Idea Detail: Make it easier (and more fun) for elderly, people with small children and those with lots of purchases from the local stores to travel from one end of Washington Street to another and back and forth to parking. Of course identifying "stops" for people to get on and get off could be a challenge!

Idea Author: Amy A

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: If we where to use one way on Main and the other way on Stewart. Then if we also do the angled parking suggestion. Spots could be left blank every so often for transit to stop and elderly, children, disabled and others could unload nearer as suggested here. | By Michael P

Comment 2: If we where to use one way on Main and the other way on Stewart. Then if we also do the angled parking suggestion. Spots could be left blank every so often for transit to stop and elderly, children, disabled and others could unload nearer as suggested here. | By Michael P

Comment 3: If there where to use one way on Main and other on Stewart. Then also do the angled parking suggestion. Spots could be left blank every so often for transit to stop and elderly, children, disabled and others could unload nearer as suggested here. | By Michael P

Idea Title: Horses and Buggies and Carriages

Idea Detail: Since the fairgrounds are so close to downtown, Horses and buggies might be helpful to make tourists happy. "Poop Patrols" to earn a living with constant sweeps of the route(s). Herein being more jobs for the Homeless, the Young and the Workers without jobs.

Idea Author: Daniel P

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 4



Comment 1: If this were a seasonal idea, I think it would be charming. Perhaps around Christmas. Maybe a hayride for Halloween. Maybe for weddings, parades, or special occasions. However, I do not think that it would be feasible to consider doing this yearround. Summer is too hot and too busy. In spring and fall, we do not have the tourist traffic to support such an idea. Plus, who will be doing the clean up? Horses are lovely, but messy. | By Bonnie M

Comment 2: Hey, Dan...Just maybe we could get those carriages rolling. Peppermint Carriage Company was the group that did it extensively before. I'd love to see them out there again, at least for part of the year. Have to take into account the summer heat with those horses, combined with the super hot streets.

How about a few bike cabs, while we're at it!!! I've ridden them in various places: Portland, San Diego, NYC...just plain fun! And what incredibly FIT bikers those folks are! Way cheaper than the horses, too, and no "pee," as you mention. | By BZ S

Comment 3: I remember Sonora's regular carriage rides in the downtown, which usually ran from late Spring into early Fall. It was delightful. Some people did complain about the carriages slowing down traffic. But maybe something that forces us to slow down would be a good thing, right? There was a certain charm about those big horses pulling wagons and carriages downtown. But there is a problem in making it affordable for the carriage company to offer the service. Apparently the cost of loading up the wagons and the horses, then bringing them downtown is quite prohibitive. So, unless there are plenty of paying customers, the carriage company "eats it." Is there another way to alleviate this? Could some larger businesses or clubs subsidize the service for a few months out of the year, perchance? Maybe there could be a "Friends of Horse-Drawn Transportation" group, who would help with funding, and help with that less enjoyable task. You know what I'm talking about! ;-)| By BZ S

Comment 4: Hi again "BZ". it seemed to me, if the carriage company could set up a "station" at the fairgrounds, then they could just "mosey" downtown under their own steam and back again.

Much of the day, traffic downtown is pretty slow anyway...at least from Jackson Street to the Fire Museum. I have never had a problem with the slow traffic downtown. It always seemed appropriate to the ambiance to me. But I do realize that the loaded logging trucks and other business interests would like to get through there faster. Its a shame we couldn't provide a tunnel under the town for them. But that would go way beyond the scope of this \$250,000.00 grant.

I, for one, would be happy to help with the "less than enjoyable task". And the garden clubs might be interested in the that product too. Hmm...but what do we do about the "wee wee", slosh it with fresh water?

Yes. There are probably some businesses or clubs that would chip in to help fund this enterprise. A few Citizens might too. | By Daniel P



Idea Title: Logging trucks

Idea Detail: Please don't get rid of the logging trucks. They are a colorful sight for tourists to see where their wood comes from. Our area!

Idea Author: Joyce R

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: You know it's funny the things that tourists don't see as problems in downtown Sonora. Working on Washington street I very rarely hear tourists complain about parking. I like to speculate it's because they want to come here and are willing to search a little bit for parking, plus they're all savvy valley and city folk who know how to search out parking. The other thing I rarely hear is not liking the log trucks. Tourists seem to love it. It's a novelty to them, it solidifies their notion they're in the mountains, yes some are in awe of the bigness of our trees. Some I think like the noise, it's exciting. I know the europeans and asians don't get to see such big and real American trucks. I've seen them take photos as they drive by. | By John W

Comment 2: Could we maybe just limit the hours or how many go down Washington street? They really tie up the entire street and belch out horrible smoke! | By Carol K

Comment 3: I love to see the logging trucks! The first time I saw one on Washington Street, I was amazed. Remember how many people lined Washington and Stockton Streets last fall to see just one tree travel down the road to the fairgrounds? There was a whole festival to celebrate just one tree which then traveled across the country. One tree from our forest was celebrated nation-wide. That logging truck had a big banner/signage on it. Maybe the local logging trees/trucks should wear banners too! Celebrate our heritage and contributions. | By Carol R

Idea Title: Handicaped parking along Washington St.

Idea Detail: There should be some dedicated handicapped parking spaces along Washington St. Probably they should be spots near the intersections where the parking spaces are easy to get in and out of and where there are wheelchair ramps already cut into the curbs.

Idea Author: Steven T



Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Fix the bus schedule

Idea Detail: The bus system is a huge problem. The buses are few and far between, making it impossible for most people to use. This does not encourage the working or school attending population to ride. Basing the schedule after another city, such as Sacramento or South Lake Tahoe, would be beneficial; as well as adding additional buses would help. More riders equals fewer cars, and less pollution downtown.

Idea Author: Angie W

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Promoting a public survey to ask people when the most effective service times would be. Students and seniors should be prioritized. I also would like to see some sort of service from midnight to 2am, to encourage intoxicated people from getting in their cars. The service to Dodge in the winter is great, and to Yosemite. Maybe something to Pinecrest in the summer? | By Stefani R

Idea Title: Ride the Bus Day

Idea Detail: What if there was a day that would really promote using the bus in a big way? I think that locals just don't think about using our public transportation. And yet, it could be such a boon to our traffic & air pollution if we all used the bus every now and then.

Idea Author: BZ S

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Wouldn't this be nice? I see them, but I don't use them. Didn't Sonora get a lot of money to put the program in place? It seems we have rather "dropped the ball" at making them user-friendly. All I have heard about them is their usefulness for Columbia College students. If I could have an unlimited use pass for \$10 a month and had easy access to a "bus stop", I would probably use it. If I have to walk 5 miles to find one and always carry



pocketfuls of change, then probably not. What is that Tuolumne Transportation Council doing for us?? There seem to be alot of complaints about transportation failures on this website. I hope they are on the list of "who's listening". | By Carol R

Idea Title: How to get out of town

Idea Detail: Locals need a reasonable form of transportation to get out of Sonora. I am unaware of any besides an expensive cab ride to Modesto.

Idea Author: Teena M

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: We need to reach out and partner with public transportation (other counties) that goes to Modesto. I work for a community entity and constantly get bombarded with calls asking is there a bus from Sonora to Modesto or people wanting to know if there is a way to get up here from Modesto or the Bay Area. Bus or train they need to do something besides getting here on the gambling buses to the Casino and it would also benefit locals who are working or going to school in Modesto as well. Lord knows there are a lot of people working and looking for work outside the area due to the lack of jobs. | By Michele M

Comment 2: The state of California has Commuter Connection for organized car pools. I was at a community forum and a disabled person spoke of the difficulty of getting to Modesto for medical care. The cab ride was over \$200. I commute out of town for work and there are lots of us on the road every morning. I think a "ride share" help a neighbor program is probably outside the scope of this grant but worth looking into for the future. A commuter bus was organized to take us to Yosemite. Was that widely used? I didn't read much about its use in the "Mother Lode's leading information source". | By Carol R

Idea Title: History is a moving target

Idea Detail: Here's a picture of a newly made courthouse park. This was after they tore down several old and historic buildings. Looking at this photo again after finding a few years ago, the more open park looks pretty darn good, makes the courthouse really stand out.

Idea Author: John W

Number of Seconds 1



Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Designated wider disabled parking spaces on level side streets

Idea Detail: Perhaps we could have a few designated spaces that are on side streets so this would not affect the flow of traffic on Washington Street. I often avoid parking on Washington Street because I have to swing my back driver's side door out in order to get my walker out of my car.

Idea Author: Lauren H

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Crosswalk Safety at School Street and Washington

Idea Detail: I am concerned about the intersection of Washington and School Street. There was a pedestrian hit at the crosswalk and seriously injured this autumn. I would like to see safety improved.

Idea Author: Kathy A

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: All crosswalks down Washington/School/Stewart need to have adequate lighting and the new blinking intersections installed. This is not a costly fix. Drivers are not paying attention to pedestrians and tourists forget that pedestrians have the right of way when in a crosswalk. | By Kristen L



Topic Name: Your Priorities: Tourism in Sonora

Idea Title: Mother lode fairgrounds

Idea Detail: Mother lode fairgrounds

Idea Author: Michael L

Number of Seconds 14

Number of Comments 7

Comment 1: The main entrance/exit needs work at Stockton Road. Rotary park, Baptist Church, Forest Road, pedestrian circulation, Sonora Creek, and Woods Creek all converge here. Redesign could solve many of these problems and make this site more attractive as a conference and event center. An improved pedestrian link with downtown is needed. An overpass across Stockton Rd. to Forest Road parking and development (Old hospital, Forest Service, and CDF sites) could expand parking and provide for future development. | By Brian K

Comment 2: Great Comments!

One thought I would like to share. There is a local grumbling, that some of the yearly events are "Pricey" and out of reach for some local families to attend, due to the current economy. Perhaps we could have discounts for Tuolumne County residents? | By Lorajoy B

Comment 3: The fairground has great appeal if they would just do some upgrades and beautification. First of all they need signage off Highway 108 that says "FAIRGROUNDS" then they need to expand the parking and also I think they should expand the camping for weekend events that take place especially open a camping area to the public so people who can't afford lodging can camp for the 3 day events such as the Annual Celtic Fair which brings in more than 10,000 people. If we had camping we could probably have a successful Beer Festival like Boonville (small town) HUGE crowd from all over the U.S.! ;) | By Michele M

Comment 4: That Kimberly B4 sounds pretty smart. The fairgrounds are vital to our community and we should be thankful for the hard work that goes into keeping the events coming, but the fairgrounds could be more attractive to tourists. On the "big picture" side, if the access road were rerouted internally through the site, the foreground image could be more naturalistic and less about fencing, pavement, and straightened creek. | By Carl B

Comment 5: The fairgrounds actually has 60+ events a year, but I agree that the area needs a facelift. This is another spot where the creek is under-utilized as an asset. Currently there is a chain link fence blocking all access. What about opening it up and having a well-designed



series of terraces down to the creek (designed to withstand winter levels, obviously). Maybe a stage area, seating, something that looks inviting as you drive by? Facelifts on some of the buildings good also be an improvement, as well as, perhaps, moving the access road to the back side of the fairgrounds, leaving the area along the creek for pedestrian, landscaped area would be a big plus. But. . . isn't this all state land? That might complicate things. | By Kimberly B

Comment 6: I would love to see an annual car show at the fairgrounds. There are many car enthusiasts up here in the Motherlode that could help make this happen. I would bet Black Oak Casino would be willing to be a major sponsor of the event. | By Darin G

Comment 7: Well, it certainly sits there looking tired, outdated, and unused, except for a few times a year. It is a waste of money to just sit there waiting for a rodeo, a fair, and Cajun Fest. But, the last thing I want, in light of recent events, is more gun shows. Publicize the activities that do take place at the fairgrounds so the town can enjoy them. You had a huge square dancing festival there a couple of years ago that had zero publicity; that would have been fun to watch and experience. You need a board in charge that shows up and does more than bicker. With better management and a little updating, the fairgrounds should be in use more often than not. | By Carol R

Idea Title: Historic buildings

Idea Detail: Historic buildings

Idea Author: Don B

Number of Seconds 14

Number of Comments 8

Comment 1: Quick and dirty: Work with the historical society, hire a contractor to develop a walking tour app for smart phones, including historical photos. (google "Historic Downtown Walking Tour App, and you'll get thousands of examples). This one isn't hard, or expensive, just needs a facilitator. The historic photos which are already in many of the buildings are nice, but this also gives an online presence and helps promote tourism as well. (Plus, there is a large demographic who lives via their smart phones).

Also: Make use of the many federal and state redevelopment programs and funding. See Jamestown's facade improvement project and street upgrades, for examples. | By Kimberly B

Comment 2: Great input, Kimberly B4. I've been wondering about the App idea. I know someone who would love to narrate such a project ;-). | By BZ S



Comment 3: What do you mean by a "walking tour"? The usual walking tour has an audio track and the user walks along and taps on a map when they get to a particular stop and listens to a few minutes of audio. If you have an iPhone, you can see an example of this I developed for Railtown (go to App Store, search for "railtown 1897"). (This is version 1; a version 2 is in the works, narrated by a more exciting narrator than myself). I actually have a prototype audio history tour for Sonora, but I decided against pursuing it because of two problems related to the heavy truck traffic on Washington Street. (1) People may get distracted by the audio tour and walk in the wrong place and get hit; and (2) the noise level is very high and its hard to hear an audio tour next to the street.

These problems may not be insurmountable but they are big ones.

Craig Will | By Craig W

Comment 4: we have beautiful building downtown, but the city of Sonora does not seem to appreciate that fact. I agree with Carol, they are not taken care of, so many are vacant and know one seems to care. Down by the beautiful Gunn House, what do you see when you look out a room in the front? The burnt out shell of a building that has been there for over 2 years!! Come on Sonora, celebrate what you have a take care of it. | By Jo M

Comment 5: I think Sonora has done a pretty crummy job of celebrating their historic buildings. I love to see old buildings and appreciate their heritage. Placerville, Sutter Creek, Old Sacramento, Columbia: all lovely places to visit. Peeling paint, dead plants in the flower boxes, faded historic pictures in storefront windows, broken pavement, very few (and ugly) trash cans in front of them, and that tacky column support by the Days Inn, who wants to drive to Sonora and see this? If a building does look pretty nice or fixed up, then it is locked up and unavailable. Why would a tourist looking for historic buildings want to come to Sonora? Send them to Murphys or Angels Camp. | By Carol R

Comment 6: Move the Tuolumne County Tourist visitors center into a historic building on Washington Street where it could be more accessible for tourist on foot. Angels Camp tourist information center is more accessible and really has restrooms too. | By Roger H

Comment 7: I love seeing the old buildings, it just brings a charm to this town that only having a long and vibrant past can create. Maybe there can be an incentive to build new buildings using sustainable but old looking materials or some kind of cap on the number of big box stores we will let in our town. I mean, Walmart is nice sometimes but it's the mom and pop stores that give our town its charm-- there would be little separating Sonora from a big city if we lot the old buildings, slow pace of life and individuality in the businesses and people. I think tourists just love that coming here feels like the country and feels like an escape from the big city life. Events in and around the historic buildings are so much fun, such as when there is contra dancing in Columbia. | By Ashley G



Comment 8: I clicked on "read more" regarding "Historic Buildings" and no more additional information about this idea came up. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Art galleries

Idea Detail: Art galleries

Idea Author: Don B

Number of Seconds 10

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: Now if only we could encourage MORE galleries. I'd love to see a photography gallery. If someone can hook me up with a Cloning Machine, I'll even open it. | By BZ S

Comment 2: I too love Second Saturday. I also love the fact that we are getting new and very different galleries involved.

| By Jo M

Comment 3: The arts community here has really stepped up to the plate and put alot of effort into Saturday night art walks, music of the night, artists studio tours, etc. They publicize themselves well. If I am looking for artistic creativity in Sonora, I know where to start. Many, many kudos to them! Other groups should take a lesson here. | By Carol R

Comment 4: Thanks, Carol! I'm the "chief cook & bottle-washer" for the 2nd Sat



ART NIGHT. So, this really lifts my spirits! It is a great endeavor with lots of folks willingly volunteering their time & talent. The diverse arts & cultural events really do help put a positive face on our community, one that we can proudly share! | By BZ S

Comment 5: Unfortunately, the category that is up for "vote" is very limited. It isn't just "Art Galleries." It's the complete presence of building an Arts & Culture Destination! That concept is much more inclusive. Arts & Culture encompasses not only the art galleries, but also the shops, the museums, the Opera Hall. This is an important message that I hope our civic leaders can both grasp, and then convey to the community. It's not about having more "art galleries" (even though that would be great). That type of thinking pits one retail segment against another: A recipe for discord & failure. We need to create an atmosphere that strongly projects Sonora as a lively Arts & Culture Destination spot for residents & visitors. This means live music, theatre, street performers, murals, sculptures, festivals, street faires, street dances, arts events...All pointing to Historic Downtown Sonora! Then visitors will participate in everything else that our community offers. Take the ARTS HAT & wear it! | By BZ S

Idea Title: Dragoon Gulch Trail

Idea Detail: Dragoon Gulch Trail

Idea Author: Don B

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: We need a better map of the project study area. Lose the gray coloring and clarify the street names. It does look like the Dragoon Gulch Trail is several paths; (if the dotted lines indicate paths?) some going West toward Jamestown and some going North to unknown destinations. I wonder who uses this trail system? Who of We The People of Sonora, could give a guided tour of this system? | By Daniel P

Comment 2: So. Is there a trail through "Dragoon Gulch"? And does it reach Jamestown? If it is in existence, what private property issues are along it? Where is its beginning ("head")? Where does it come out in Jamestown? Are there maps available to help "newbies" use this trail? Where can I and others who might want to use this trail get one? | By Daniel P

Comment 3: Ashley G4...This is a great idea. I love the idea of a safe designated walking & biking trail that connects Sonora to Jamestown. The more we can do on this idea helps to build a healthier more fit population in our community. | By BZ S



Comment 4: i totally agree with this idea. I would love to see bike trails that connect all these places. | By Jo M

Comment 5: I would love to see the trail become larger and support local "practical" traffic (Such as people who bicycle or walk to do their shopping) as well as people looking for a nature walk/ exercise. I would like to see the trail connect to downtown Sonora and potentially connect to Jamestown somehow. | By Ashley G

Idea Title: Specialty and antique shops

Idea Detail: Specialty and antique shops

Idea Author: Don B

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 6

Comment 1: Yes downtown Sonora has a wine tasting room (check out Bella Vie on upper Washington) and downtown has had other winetasting rooms. How soon we forget Muir Hanna vineyards. They were right on the corner of Washington and Bradford. As with all businesses along Washington street they are privately-run businesses. And privately-run businesses can only operate if they have a profit. Muir Hanna had to move because of low sales. Sonora Secrets Cookware had wine tasting for Mt Brow winery, I believe they stopped doing that. Do we know why? Has anyone here asked? The reality is there are only 4 wineries in Tuolumne county, Gianellis, Mt Brow, Bella Vie and Sonora PortWorks. Yes Sonora and Tuolumne county could get more tourism if we had more wine industry. Murphys has obviously gained tourism dollars by the growth of wineries in Calaveras county. In fact isn't that where Muir Hanna ended up. Lessons learned maybe. Why do businesses in downtown Sonora leave? | By John W

Comment 2: There is a wine tasting room in downtown Sonora and they have a beautiful storefront. But apparently, they aren't doing enough to attract attention. | By Carol R

Comment 3: I agree, expand this idea. Another idea would be a small LOCAL wine tasting room. Jamestown has Gianelli's, what about a good one for Sonora. We have a lot to be proud of in that department. | By Jo M

Comment 4: I agree whole-heartedly! A Wine tasting room would be such a nice touch. In fact, I'd love to see Servente's cleaned up, spiffed up and turned into a



nice local fare shop that serves our best regional wines (TuolCo AND CalaCo) and hand-crafted beets. | By BZ S

Comment 5: While I agree with this idea, I would caution against too many more consignment shops downtown. I sure wish we could get a local winery to open a small wine tasting room downtown, and by local I do mean Tuolumne County local. Jamestown has Gianelli, I am positive there are more out there.

| By Jo M

Comment 6: This is a great idea, but I think it could be expanded into doing targeted marketing to those very people who would be interested in what KIND of specialty shops. For example, we now have several very nice consignment shops in downtown Sonora. Why not encourage these shop owners to do some co-operative advertising that would draw shoppers directly to Sonora just for that! Each of these consignment shops seems to have created its own niche. So, let's play that up! Vintage? Professional Upscale, Funky Chic, etc. Visiting shoppers would probably love to be informed about these distinctions. No one in the downtown is competing with another. Everyone needs to think of the downtown's economic vitality as a cooperative project. So, efforts like cooperative advertising will carry that concept farther. | By BZ S

Idea Title: Historical museums

Idea Detail: Historical museums

Idea Author: Don B

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Well, they aren't very visitor friendly or easily accessible or well known. And I live here. I wouldn't promote this if they aren't interested in selling themselves. | By Carol R

Comment 2: Someone at this site should identify what the existing downtown Sonora museums are now.

I think that the Sugg House should be made into a really unique museum. That spot has so much potential for bringing in tourists. It is a treasure! Perhaps there is some kind of redevelopment funding that could be used to help the owners make it viable as a museum. The story of the Sugg House is fascinating! | By BZ S

Comment 3: Here is a link to that story:



<http://www.sonoraca.com/visitsonora/History/people-thesuggfamily.htm> | By BZ S

Idea Title: Sonora Opera Hall

Idea Detail: Sonora Opera Hall

Idea Author: Don B

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: One of the biggest problems with the Opera Hall are the acoustics. There are cost effective ways to improve them with things like baffling systems or creating a kind of portable band shell effect. But the truth is the Opera Hall is not really a very good venue for quality music performances. I've helped produce various events there since Year #1, and this has come up among the musicians and other performers on numerous occasions. Once again the potential is there, but it's not like Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, for sure. | By BZ S

Comment 2: It would be good to see music promoted at the Opera Hall. The Casino brings in musicians that I'd love to go see, but I can't stand the smoke smell. The Opera Hall is a larger venue--there's more risk in promoting shows but also more opportunity for filling hotel rooms and bringing people to town for the weekend. The Opera Hall is 100 times more interesting than Ironstone. | By Carl B

Comment 3: It was submitted by Sonora Administration so perhaps that explains the lack of information. :) This is another available space that should be in use more often than not. I love the community activities that take place there: Amgen kickoff, community forums by Kristin Olsen, Sheriff Mele. If it isn't being used by a paying customer (weddings, funerals, etc.) then I would like to see more community outreach: sheriff and police department community forums, city councilpersons and county supervisors meet and greets, maybe the historical chambers/groups and transportation groups should have a community forum to discuss much of what has been submitted. | By Carol R

Comment 4: Again, I have run into the problem of no information regarding this idea, when I click on the "read more" button. What about the "Sonora Opera Hall"? | By Daniel P



Topic Name: Bicycling in Sonora

Idea Title: bike arteries

Idea Detail: Columbia to Sonora, Jamestown to Sonora, and from downtown out along Mono Way to Standard would be first priorities. Greenley/Lyons might be a second priority.

These are all important routes for travel to work, school, shopping. Start with the main arteries and then expand bike routes from there.

Idea Author: Julie B

Number of Seconds 12

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: I love the idea of incorporating woods creek. | By Lorajoy B

Comment 2: I would like to see the bike arteries access the trail areas (that I can't seem to find) in Twain Harte and Tuolumne City. Bicycling to Murphys and Chinese Camp has potential. Running errands on a bike is an interest, but so is leisurely sightseeing our local area. | By Carol R

Comment 3: In addition to bikes paths, a divided path for bikes and walker/runners would be ideal. | By Roger H

Comment 4: I moved down from Redding two years ago. It was one of the best things I have done in a long time. The thing I miss the most about Redding are the trails. Redding over the years has built a very extensive system of multi use trails. If I wanted I could ride from the Sundial bridge to Shasta dam and back on both paved and dirt trails a 45 mile round trip. Another aspect of this was that my wife could ride these same trails and feel totally safe. One of the smart things Redding did was not jump in and try to do it all at once but hey did it over a number of years and they refined the system along the way. | By Dennis C

Comment 5: There is quite a bit of interest in this proposed biking route. There are many people in the Jamestown and Columbia areas who would bike to and from Sonora for work and shopping, etc. (myself included) if there were safer routes to travel. Increasing the routes that are safe for biking not only would improve the community fitness level, but also the air quality, and decrease our dependence on gas/oil. Hard to see a downside to this idea. | By Cathy S



Idea Title: Safety first

Idea Detail: I think we need a serious public safety awareness program for bicycling, walking, etc. We have had too many injuries/deaths because people run/walk/bike with too little reflective clothing/safety lights and too many drivers aren't paying attention. Let's have a community "get out of your car" day with a wealth of public safety/alternative transportation information and sample bike routes/community fun rides.

Idea Author: Carol R

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Shaws Flat Road

Idea Detail: Shaws Flat via Springfield Road is currently the best route from Columbia. Even if the top priority Sonora-Columbia route from the 2004 Bike Plan is built, Shaws Flat will remain an important connection to the Shaws Flat area. Sharrows, signs, or lanes would be helpful in raising visibility.

Idea Author: Carl B

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Southgate Drive

Idea Detail: Jamestown-Sonora, potentially along Woods Creek, is in the Bike Plan. Southgate Drive extending south to the sewer plant could be improved as an interim solution to reduce the length of trail needed. Connecting Southgate Drive to Crooked Lane would make a longer and hillier interim route to Jamestown via Campo Seco. There are undoubtedly private property issues with making this connection.

Connecting Shaws Flat to Snell/Bonanza/Forest Road to this new connection would make a north/south route through the City without using downtown streets. How much new trail would this require? We can get so much more done if we use and improve our existing streets.

Idea Author: Carl B



Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0



Topic Name (Instant Poll): Poll: Enhancing Stewart Street

Idea Title: Outdoor dining

Number of Seconds 11

Idea Title: Trash/recycling cans

Number of Seconds 11

Idea Title: Bike lanes/sharrows

Number of Seconds 10

Idea Title: Street trees

Number of Seconds 10

Idea Title: Bike racks

Number of Seconds 10

Idea Title: Creating a pedestrian connection by closing a side street (such as Theall St. or Linoberg St.)

Number of Seconds 10

Idea Title: Benches

Number of Seconds 9

Idea Title: Plaza/gatherin space

Number of Seconds 9

Idea Title: Connections to the creek

Number of Seconds 8

Idea Title: Direct access to shops



Number of Seconds 8

Idea Title: Parklets (small parks or outdoor seating spaces that replace parking spaces)

Number of Seconds 7

Idea Title: Parking structure

Number of Seconds 7

Idea Title: Wider sidewalks

Number of Seconds 7

Idea Title: Transit stop/station

Number of Seconds 3

Idea Title: On-street angled parking

Number of Seconds 3

Idea Title: On-street parallel parking

Number of Seconds 2

Idea Title: Other (please specify in comments)

Number of Seconds 1

Comments

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: We need public restrooms somewhere | By Carol R



Topic Name: Preserving Our Heritage

Idea Title: Create an "App"

Idea Detail: Create a downloadable "app" for phones that provides a walking tour with history of buildings. Could also be used to advertise shops and restaurants as you walk.

Idea Author: Amy A

Number of Seconds 10

Number of Comments 7

Comment 1: Shut down car traffic on Washington on Sundays from 8am to noon. | By Stefani R

Comment 2: As I commented elsewhere re historic buildings, I think the truck traffic on Washington St makes the idea of an audio tour app (if that is what is suggested here) problematical because of noise and safety concerns.
Craig Will | By Craig W

Comment 3: How to make it happen? Create a list of potential developers and marketing consultants (I'd hopefully be one), get competitive bids, get funds allocated, and build the app. Meanwhile, working through a variety of channels, make the app available on all possible distribution platforms. While I do this kind of work, I did not suggest this to give myself work. I'll help if needed with getting it going. | By Robert G

Comment 4: It's a relatively simple software development project to create the app. Equally important is how the app is marketed, which needs to be a part of the planning from the start. Both Chambers, Visitors Bureau, Council, and all of us are stakeholders. | By Robert G

Comment 5: What a great idea! How do people do this? It'd be great to have such a hands-on accessible tour of our fair city! | By BZ S

Comment 6: I had a similar idea that would match info from the downtown Cultural Resources Inventory and photos from the Historical Society and create a short video about each building. Each video would end with a short description of the current business and an invitation to go inside. This could be worked into an app as well! | By Jim G

Comment 7: Love all this synergy! Now how do we take all of this and make it happen? | By BZ S



Idea Title: Work with what we already have.

Idea Detail: There are plenty of beautiful, historic sites and buildings already in our area. Why not work on rehabilitating those so that the tourists will want to come see them? And why not publicize the rehabilitation efforts? That will create a buzz about what is being done, and people will want to come and see the changes that are being made for themselves. I know that restoring historic buildings and locations cost money, but if you ask for volunteers, donations, and hold benefits, that will cover a lot of the costs.

Idea Author: Bonnie M

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Request more historic site designations

Idea Detail: Our town is a heritage spot for California! But how many of us can identify and describe our key historical landmarks? We all know about the Red Church, but do we know its story, really? What about the Cady Home and the Jewish Cemetery? What about the tunnels that run under Sonora? You can see evidence of them in Legends on Theall & Washington. What about the Sonora Dome and the Sugg House? All of these places are very accessible and have great stories! Let's see about finding ways to share those tales far & wide so that we locals increase our pride in Sonora and are able to tell the tales of our own town!

Idea Author: BZ S

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Carol, you're right REAL access is an issue. I guess I meant that they were CLOSE BY, but you're right that they are almost always LOCKED UP. For example, why isn't the County Museum open on the weekends? I'd love to see some cooperative work being done between the County Museum, the Historical Society, the Film Commission and some of our local actors, etc. How about a grant to research and enhance our story & tell it in various media? Here's one: <http://www.calhum.org/grants/community-stories-grant> | By BZ S

Comment 2: Close the County Museum on Tuesday-Thursday. Let visitors and locals enjoy it on the weekends and on Monday Holidays! | By BZ S



Comment 3: Lovely idea. I disagree with "accessible". I would love to see the Sugg House but it is always locked up. I've walked up to the Jewish cemetery but it is always locked up. The historical museum isn't very accessible. Many of the local churches are quite historic but they don't relay their own history very well. They don't seem very visitor-friendly either. I wish we could use the "Spring Fling" to publicize our city and our activities instead of jewelry sales. Murphys and Columbia have regularly scheduled historic walking tours. Why don't we? | By Carol R

Idea Title: Enhancing Ruins.

Idea Detail: I think there are a couple of spots in the downtown area that are just remnants of old buildings. These usually have a historical marker on them. I wonder if, in addition to the markers, we could make these spots useful as parking lots? I envision little parking lots with Wisteria canopies. A wonderful opportunity for the Garden Clubs of Sonora. Thinking Citizen Involvement here.

Idea Author: Daniel P

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: Cemetery tours. Sacramento has some great ones involving the historical societies. | By Stefani R

Comment 2: Even the existing buildings that have historical markers don't stand out well. Some have old photos in the windows, but they are looking pretty sad. This could use updating. We could use walking historical tours with guides (people or printed). Murphys does a really good job at this for their community. Where is Sonora on this? I think they had one recently but it was in the middle of a weekday, so how many attendees were there? The Friends and Neighbors magazine has taught me some of what downtown Sonora used to look like. We should honor our buildings and our sites. As an example, Pasadena printed beautiful drawings of the old historical buildings in their city and sold them as postcards. They were worth framing. This could be a fund-raising project for our arts groups or high school seniors. Wasn't the Chinese community by the downtown Post Office by Stewart/Shepherd? | By Carol R

Comment 3: I'll have to go downtown and search around a bit. One of the spots I remember had a history plaque celebrating the Chinese presence in Sonora. I apologize. I should have obtained specific information before posting this idea. I'll be back. | By Daniel P



Comment 4: What spots are you talking about? | By Jim G

Comment 5: Yes, Daniel P4, please specific. That might help folks envision your idea better. | By BZ S

Idea Title: Better Access to Variety of Cuisines

Idea Detail: With a lot of families still struggling with financial situations, tourists look for the best bang for their buck as do the locals. The newest and fastest growing craze is Gourmet Food Trucks. With a cap of only three (3) permits allotted within the city limits, this prevents those who need to dine on a budget access to quality cuisines in the area. We need to increase the permit limit while regulating the types of cuisines of the Gourmet Food Trucks so we do not get an influx of one type of food.

Idea Author: Mark B

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: Sonora seems so behind the curve on a food revolution happening all over California. Yes there seems so much more dining choices in Calaveras and Amador county. Restaurants, food trucks, growers all across California are trying new ideas, fusions, local sourcing. Farmers markets, growers, small food producers are starting up all over this state. San Luis Obispo, Petaluma, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Dixon, Placerville, you name it, you find cheese makers, bakeries, cafes, food carts, food trucks. What can we say about Sonora? | By John W

Comment 2: Sals Taco Truck is by Grocery Outlet, Lupitas Healthy Choice (mexican) is by blockbuster (not Southern Comfort Express) and the last one is owned by Schwann's Frozen Food Service. | By Mark B

Comment 3: So, who has the 3 allotted permits? I've seen Sal's truck at the Grocery Outlet and Southern Comfort by Blockbuster. I was so happy when the Thai Restaurant opened and the sushi place returned from the ashes. I would really like to see restaurant reviews in the "Mother Lode's leading information source." The Sierra Lodestar highlights a local eatery every week. I am aware of more eateries in Calaveras and Amador counties than I am in our own. If I didn't walk down Washington Street, I would have no idea that we have new eateries in town! I am looking forward to the restaurant week in January. | By Carol R



Comment 4: While I want to support our local restaurants, I would really like to see this idea explored. The Gourmet Food Cart Phenom is growing, and the result is a variety good quality food that is well-priced. And the carts create a playful atmosphere for a community. I like how this contributor has suggested that there is a cap on the number of cart vendors. This new trend is a testament to our creative entrepreneurial spirit! | By BZ S

Idea Title: mission statement - signage

Idea Detail: I believe that it would behoove the project - to install at entrance corridors - a banner that reflects a long term purpose, objective , goal , vision and mission - all combined in one compendious phrasing ! This would be - on a banner crossing the entrance roads into Sonora , which would read as such: ... Sonora

Preserving History

Protecting Nature and/or Heritage

Respecting Future Generations

any one concept is dependent or reliant upon the other two and it has a triadic cadence also - Preserve, Protect and Respect ! (like a Strauss Waltz) , ... Sincerely and Respectfully , Dennis Day , (a recent resident to Sonora) 209 768 4589 , 250 Greenley Road, F-2 , 95370

Idea Author: Dennis D

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Hire professional artists to paint historic murals

Idea Detail: We have so much wonderful history, there is only one museum off the beaten path of most tourists. If historic murals are painted depicting events, people, buildings, etc. of our community with plaques telling their story and utilizing an "app" in conjunction with historic walking tours tourists could be guided through our downtown with it's magnificent history... just like a giant picture book. It is a proven fact that communities that have beautiful murals attract more tourism and visitors, enhance business growth, show pride of place, and encourage longer stays for the visitors that come. There is naturally more to do and look at, which in turn benefits the whole economy.

Idea Author: Judy G

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 3



Comment 1: <http://www.exeterpd.com/default.asp?lnk=murals&src=vis> | By BZ S

Comment 2: Above is a link to the City of Exeter's website, examples of its murals and a nice map that shows how to find them. You can easily see how the town's story unfolds in these pieces of public art. | By BZ S

Comment 3: For many years people have talked about this idea. Its time has come! There are plenty of nice wall spaces in the downtown area that could be used for "canvasses." One of my favorite examples of this kind of "teaching history" took place in Exeter, CA, many years ago. A sleepy, backwater Valley town now has busloads of tourists and visitors who come to enjoy their mural-stories and to visit their little town. | By BZ S

Idea Title: Mining our own history

Idea Detail: I have thought we as a town don't do a good job of mining our own history. We all know we're a goldrush town. But how would you show that to someone visiting. Where would you go? What would you show them? I've had people ask me when I work downtown about our history. I stop a moment and struggle for an answer. What do we have? You could say the Tuolumne county historical museum. Tourists usually tell me it's not open everyday or that's it's a long walk for them (not every tourist who comes to Sonora can walk comfortably). We really should have a museum right on Washington street. What else can you tell them? Oh they panned for gold on Sonora creek once, and found gold in the creek (might have been why they placed the town here in the first place) but Sonora creek is overgrown and there's no history to be seen. You can tell them to go to the basement of Legends. Maybe tell them to go look at the window at Foothill business cards or Thomas Marovich law offices. But then what. Yes there's a plaque in the parking lot where the china town once stood, there's a mining cart in front of the parking garage near the city hall, there's an old logging train engine down near the fairgrounds.

Idea Author: John W

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: What about street names - who was Steward and why does s/he get a street named after her/him? Consider alternative names like Gold Rush Road, 49er Street. May entice travelers to swing off from their trip up 108 to have a look | By Linda E

Idea Title: Create an Historic Homes Directory



Idea Detail: How many times have you seen one of Sonora's beautiful historic homes & wondered what its story was? Let's capture those stories while we still can! Many of the early pioneer families still have descendants who carry these tales. Let's interview some of these folks to learn more about our city's architectural history.

Idea Author: BZ S

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: clean up the garbage & dead vehicles. Ticket them

Idea Detail: Start tagging business's and residential area's that leave trash and dead cars everywhere. The county does nothing to get the owners of these vehicles ticketed, so there's little hope for cleaning the streets up. Have more police walking the beat on main street which looks like a biker haven as you enter right at the light by Washington Street, probably due to the bar flies that hang around.

Idea Author: Randi G

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0



Topic Name: Public Spaces in Downtown

Idea Title: Public handicap accessible restrooms downtown.

Idea Detail: THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR PUBLIC RESTROOMS DOWNTOWN AS NO MERCHANTS ALLOW YOU TO USE THEIR RESTROOMS. THIS IS A PARTICULAR PROBLEM FOR THE DISABLED AND ELDERLY WHO CANNOT GO UP OR DOWN STAIRS TO USE TOILET FACILITIES. IF YOU WANT PEOPLE TO SHOP DOWNTOWN, THIS IS ESSENTIAL.

Idea Author: Lauren H

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: A viable idea might be to "build up" (via concrete SUPPORT POSTS) a second story ABOVE COFFILL PARK and create a Restroom at Washington Street level. Women two stalls: 1 standard/1 wheelchair friendly. Men 1 stall. Access to the restroom should be level with no ramps. Keep it simple and small! Have contractors submit ideas for this. | By Carol G

Comment 2: This comment is right on. If we are the tourist capital of the Southern Sierras, we should provide the number one item all tourists need---more bathroom, clean bathrooms, and convenient bathrooms. | By Roger H

Comment 3: We need community service groups to do a day of LOVE for the area you want to concentrate on. Always remember, planters/garden areas need watering and with tight budgets, this is difficult to do. However, the use of banners like they have in Jamestown would add character. A facelift for the Washington St. shops would be a good start. Taking away the hodge - podge look and going back to the more combined look of gold rush days would add character. And please don't get rid of the lumber trucks down Washington. As a kid from the city, it was fun to see the big logs and trucks and the visitors from other countries love that also. Take away parking on Washington and put the parking elsewhere and have more public trolleys for those shopping downtown. | By Joyce R

Idea Title: Tie in the downtown area with the Mother Lode Fairgrounds

Idea Detail: It would be great to create a nice walking path from downtown to the fairgrounds. Perhaps even give the lower Save Mart shopping center a face lift, with more of an old town theme.



Idea Author: Lorajoy B

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Repairs

Idea Detail: Fix the broken sidewalks. Fix the Sonora Inn column. Fix the broken wooden banister in Coffill Park.

Idea Author: Carol R

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: I want to see the fountain on S. Washington restored & running again. water signifies life!

| By Adele A

Comment 2: As good a place to start as any, I reckon. | By Daniel P

Idea Title: CleanUpSonora

Idea Detail: Let's have a volunteer clean up day. We could clean up the piles of leaves and filth in Coffill Park and Courthouse Park. We could assist with trash removal of all kinds of crapola that is now littering the side roads along Stockton Street. We could wash and maybe paint those disgusting trash cans all along Washington St. Maybe we could clean and paint the bus/trolley stop shelter in Courthouse Park. We could freshen up the planters. We could do something about the always overflowing trash cans in the lower SaveMart parking lot. We could nicely ask SCC or the County jail to loan "residents" to "volunteer" and weed along Stockton Street. Perhaps the local garden clubs or FoCus would help us plant community garden areas along Stockton Street. We could help clean up the backsides of businesses along Stewart Street. We could make the outside of the Sugg House look better and encourage the drug dealers to go elsewhere for sales and distribution.

Idea Author: Carol R

Number of Seconds 5



Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: There was a Love Sonora day last year...and it did happen...but we do need a more permanent solution for this problem, and for the problem of the eyesores that keep popping up on Washington and Stewart (the trash, the fliers, the empty businesses, etc). Taking it a step further, we need dedicated clean-up days, a true historical society that can help business obtain the proper permits so you don't see the Days Inn go a year trying to obtain the proper permits to fix the front of their business... | By Kristen L

Comment 2: Supposedly there was a "love sonora" day last year that was started by Mr. Ayala. Did it ever happen? Who knows. In the meantime, thank you to Mother Nature. Courthouse Park and downtown Sonora looked lovely all covered in white. | By Carol R

Comment 3: Have you considered a "Love Sonora" day? They are done up/down valley and you can get more info. at: lovemodesto.com | By Frank P

Idea Title: Use the former Goodwill space to house an indoor Farmer's Market

Idea Detail: The former Goodwill store/drop off just outside downtown would make an excellent space for an indoor Farmer's Market which could be used in colder weather and/or alternate days from the outdoor market on Stewart Street, held in the warmer months..

Idea Author: Lauren H

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Nice Idea, but I have heard that \$7000/month is the rental for the old Salvation Army building. I'm sure they would not consider any temporary weekly rentals! Is this the "Goodwill building" referred to or the old Salvation Army building? | By Carol G

Comment 2: When I lived in Los Angeles a long time ago, we always went to indoor Farmers' Markets. One was and is quite famous: The Fairfax District Farmers' Market that is a popular tourist draw, but is still enjoyed by the locals. Another was out in Upland. That one was made up of small truck farmers, who brought in fresh, unusual produce every day. It was a treat to go and try out new things at each of these markets. I think this idea is worth exploring. Who owns the building now? | By BZ S

Comment 3: Another spot might be the big empty space at Sonora Plaza, built around 1975. Most recently it had a furniture and flooring store in it. It's been



sitting empty for a long time now. | By BZ S

Idea Title: Homeless Shelter

Idea Detail: Tuolumne county needs a homeless shelter - beds, showers, bathrooms - and it may take our community to pull together to get this accomplished. Cathy Peacock/Interfaith, Darren Grossy/Transportation, Kim/City gov't, Sherri/Bd. of Supervisors, and Sonora Area Foundation all seem to possible partners as well as churches and individuals. Has it ever been tried? Is there a suitable building - maybe at the Fairground.

Thank you,
Dixie Turzai
277A E. Jackson St.
Sonora, CA 95370

Idea Author: Violet B

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: Maybe a kitchen too. But, I would require that only those who will work with the departments can earn a place in this shelter. No something for nothing. | By Daniel P

Comment 2: Excellent. Of course they will all need to eat, maintain there building and such. I completely agree that self sufficiency is as much an important step as being able to be part of the community they are being helped by via helping it. | By Michael P

Comment 3: Great idea. I think an ability for people that are being helped to help the community at large would be good as well. Allow them to work with different departments to learn or use skills they need/have to help the different departments as may be needed. This would allow them to give back to the community who is assisting them, as well as get out and meet others who work/live in the community to help them repairing whatever they need to bring them to a better place for everyone involved.

As for location what about renovating old Tuolumne general hospital. A building that has over the years enabled many who have required help when they are in need. | By Michael P

Comment 4: Tuolumne General Hospital was closed due to it not being Earthquake proofed. I believe the County would have to tear it down and start over to accomplish this. If anyone in the County reads this perhaps they will reply as well. | By Lynn L



Idea Title: Sonora Family Bowl Conversion to Host Live Theater and Film Events

Idea Detail: This quirky building has appealing 'retro' feel of the early sixties 'space age' ambitions of a theme park. However I can easily envision it as a remarkable 'Downtown' multi-use theatrical facility, housing the existing bar and cafe, lobby and incorporating a theater, rehearsal space, as well as room for set-construction and storage. Some construction in the wide-open architectural design would allow for a flexible theater space in the Heart of Sonora, close to shopping and dining. Think about it.

T

Idea Author: Paul B

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 1

Address: , , 95370

Comment 1: Sounds good, but I wonder what about the bowling alley? Isn't it still being used for that? | By Daniel P

Idea Title: Give our Visitor Center on SStockton an interior facelift.

Idea Detail: The interior is quite sad and very dated. Perhaps some local contractors/painters/interior designers would donate their time and expertise to freshen up the center which would make a better impression for Visitors. It's currently caught in a time warp.

Idea Author: Marcia V

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I'd suggest that we take a look at Calaveras County's Visitors' Center. It is perfectly wonderful! Not only is it able to provide all of the information that travelers need, it also has a gift shop of high quality local items, including food products and art. Plus it has really nice public restrooms that travelers can use!!!! Is there a spot that could be revamped to provide this kind of multi-purpose service? | By BZ S



Idea Title: Multi-level Parking Garage on combined B of A & City lots near Washington & Stockton

Idea Detail: I will be happy to meet with Tim Miller and/or Council members as well as sit on a "negotiating" team with B of A reps. B of A "buy-in" is obviously critical!

Carleton Penwell

532-858

Idea Author: Carleton P

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 0

Address: , , 95370

Idea Title: Sidewalk on Lyons from Greenley to Baretta

Idea Detail: I frequently see folks of all ages dangerously walking down Lyons Street from Greenley... if there were a sidewalk we would have a safe, walkable route encircling the entire downtown area, linking the beautiful sidewalks on Mono/Restano way, Greenley and back to downtown...

Idea Author: Brie F

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 0

Address: , , 95370

Idea Title: City of Sonora should take leadership in cleaning up Woods Creek

Idea Detail: Woods Creek cleaned out of debris and grass could be a lovely site with cafes along it. Even tho water flow is low in summer, it could become a lovely stop, as the creek in San Luis Obispo is. Instead of the police station and the backs of buildings (Sonora Inn motel, Ben Fig, etc.), cafes and bars could be situated to overlook the creek and its beautiful slate walls. Tourism is vital to Sonora and the local economy and this would make the area more attractive. There are only 3 restaurants with outdoor seating (Hard Rock café, Mi Pueblo and El Jardin). We should take advantage of our mild weather to have more outdoor seating. As a corollary, I believe trucks should be diverted from Washington St. It is up to the City Council to



form task forces to find ways to fund this endeavor. Citizens cleaning up the town is one thing, but the leadership for lasting change must come from the City.

Idea Author: Pat C

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 0



Topic Name: Culture and Arts in Sonora

Idea Title: Welcome sign at 108 & S. Washington

Idea Detail: Build a welcome sign with the design emphasizing our heritage. Placing an ore cart, prospector, and /or train etc....It would be nice to have an electronic device advertising local events.

Idea Author: Lorajoy B

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Make it easy!

Idea Detail: Better advertising to surrounding local areas. There needs to be info at the Oakdale Visitor Center and the Oakdale Senior Center, for example. Plan tourist packages. Present theater/music plus dinner at a local restaurant packages. Have local discount nights for local residents. Have a meet and greet evening where local groups have tables and advertise themselves (I guess the Opera Hall won't be available for awhile). Use the Spring Fling to publicize locals. I saw crowds of people having a good time at Music of the Nights and Amgen.

Idea Author: Carol R

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: More evening events when the weather is warm. | By Stefani R

Idea Title: Use the Opera House for concerts: classical, jazz, etc.

Idea Detail: It's a great space with a stage, plenty of room to set up folding chairs for a medium size audience, and good accessibility to restrooms. Refreshments could be offered in the small lobby area.

Idea Author: Lauren H

Number of Seconds 2



Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: The Opera House has terrible acoustics. It was difficult to hear for Vision Sonora activities. The Opera House has a role to play, but I disagree using it as a concert venue. I think we should do something with the fairgrounds where the potential is greater and parking is easier. | By Carol R

Comment 2: The opera house is nice for smaller events, but a real concert venue would be a great draw to bring visitors to the county. Something similar to shoreline amphitheater or Cal Expo. Both are great outdoor venues and Tuolumne would do well to bring concert goers to the area so that they could enjoy all of our activities and businesses. | By Michael P



Topic Name: Beautiful Sonora

Idea Title: Opera Hall

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Sonora Inn

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 6

Comment 1: Anyone interested in seeing this situation improved, please second or comment on the idea that we need to fix the exterior of this building as a priority. Here's where: <http://www.visionsonora.info/visioning-sonora-s-future/fix-the-sonora-inn-exterior> | By Robert G

Comment 2: I'm amazed that this is still not fixed! And what an insult to the young family who just took over the corner shop. Who would even knows that there is a little boutique on that corner? Please, Sonora Inn..you've got to get that corner fixed! | By BZ S

Comment 3: I just wondered out loud today when that corner was going to get fixed. | By Holly B

Comment 4: Please fix it! | By Clint C

Comment 5: Thanks for posting this. The options above the photo read, "This photo makes you feel...Inspired, Happy, Proud, amazed, Impressed, Welcome." Ha! They need to add these options: Unhappy, depressed, ashamed, frustrated, disgusted. The reason is that the ugly smashed corner post has not been fixed in a dozen years, and the wooden support that was added just before Amgen is an eyesore. This is our keystone corner. If we can't make this look right, we can't make Sonora beautiful. Period. | By Robert G

Comment 6: Let's get that corner fixed once and for all! The renovation of the hotel's interior is great. Now we need the outside spruced up. The Sonora Inn is one of our "stand out" buildings, so let's make sure that it is looking fine! Nice new shop on the corner, too: "Lady Couture" will be a nice addition for locals & visitors. | By BZ S

Idea Title: This photo is by Laurie Lehmann and I love the moment of the Golden Regiment doin' their thing in the Round Up Parade.



Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: The Golden Regiment Band has brought such joy to all of us for many years! Keep strutting, kiddos! And what a thrill they give us during our two big parades: The ML Round-Up & our annual nighttime Christmas Parade. | By BZ S

Idea Title: "Ed, The Flower Guy". A really sweet man, taken before his time, but remains a wonderful symbol of our Sonora Farmers' Market.

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: So many Sonorans & TuolCo folks were heart-broken at the loss of our Ed. He will be missed for years to come. | By BZ S

Idea Title: A photo by Jim Hildreth of our Sonora Certified Farmers' Market. Great Saturday mornings in Sonora in the summer.

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: The Europa back with great food.

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Welcoming visitors.

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: At one of Sonora's 2nd Sat ART NIGHTs, Columbia College Math instructor Lahna Von Epps whirls with Raks Arabika, a local bellydancing troupe



Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Our 2nd Sat ART NIGHTs highlight the incredible creative talents of Tuolumne County residents. We love sharing this joy with locals & visitors in Historic Downtown Sonora every month! | By BZ S

Idea Title: The Lava Cats, one of our hot local dance bands, playing up a storm at Stage 3 Theatre!

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Great band! | By Robert G

Idea Title: Sonora's Hebrew Cemetery on Yaney St. A proud community landmark that is barely known or recognized.

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: One reason why I moved to Sonora was for the changing seasons. Where else in California can you enjoy all 4 in their full glory?

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: Beautiful shot, BZ! I remember taking in this sight and wishing I had my camera! hb | By Holly B

Comment 2: Love Sonora in the snow! During my first Christmas here there was about 8" of snow in the downtown. | By BZ S

Idea Title: City of Sonora

Number of Seconds 0



Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: The City of Sonora "Official" tree The Chinese Pistache

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Sonora Sunset

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Downtown Shoes

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Love this store! What a great transformation! | By BZ S

Idea Title: Office front

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: The Historic Red Church. One of Sonora's most popular landmarks.

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Mother Lode Rodeo Parade, Sonora High Marching Band in downtown Sonora. One of Sonora's most favorite parades.

Number of Seconds 0



Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Vietnam Veterans Parade 2010

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Tourism/winter activities - Skiing

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Blue Oak Farms Booth, Sonora Farmers Market 2012 Season

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Sonora Farmers Market Shopping Bag handmade by 'Marygold'. 2012 Season

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Tea to remember our beloved 'Flower Guy'. Sonora Farmers Market season 2012.

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Eat Local! Sonora Farmers Market 2012 Season.

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0



Idea Title: High Country backyard

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Lakes & rivers for family fun!

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Amgen Tour 2012

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Photo shows one of our favorite landmarks and a bit of history.

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Snowy days once in a while are fun!

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Sonora Christmas Parade

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Visit the Tuolumne County Museum at 158 W. Bradford Street. Enjoy the history of the area.

Number of Seconds 0



Number of Comments 0



Topic Name: Photos of Sonora's Past

Idea Title: Old Photo of Washington Street

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Old Photo of Downtown

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Old Photo of the Theatre

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Sonora Family Bowl flickriver.com

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Excited about the potential | By Liz P



Topic Name: Visions for Sonora's Future

Idea Title: a pedestrianised area for downtown could offer weekend events such as craft fairs, beer fests, markets etc. that could increase traffic

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: Relaxing and welcoming. | By BZ S

Comment 2: LOVE it! | By Corrie A

Idea Title: a chance to enjoy the atmosphere without getting run over

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: If we can't close down 49, maybe back on Stewart ? | By Stefani R

Comment 2: Welcoming! | By BZ S

Comment 3: enjoy | By Steve S

Idea Title: My hope would be that eventually our historic courthouse can be converted to space for museums, art leagues, etc. as was done in Lahaina, HI

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Inspired, Happy, Welcome | By Stefani R