

NORTH 40 SPECIFIC PLAN
Community Workshop #1 Summary
April 2, 2011

The Town of Los Gatos held its first North 40 Specific Plan community workshop on April 2nd, 2011 at the Calvary Church in Los Gatos. This workshop was held on a Saturday morning to encourage those who may not be able to participate on a weeknight evening. Approximately 60 people attended the workshop with many of those in attendance indicating that they were long-term residents. The purpose of this kickoff was to inform the community of the Specific Plan process and to gather feedback regarding overall town essence, land use, circulation, public spaces, and architectural character. The public was asked to participate in a brainstorming exercise to voice their issues, ideas, and concerns regarding these topics. Their comments were recorded on large posters. Upon completion of the brainstorming exercise, each participant was given twelve green sticker dots and three red sticker dots. They were then asked to use their dots as a voting mechanism and place them on high priority items that they were in agreement with or in disagreement with. A summary of the input that received the highest support, least support and mixed results is provided below and a complete dot exercise tally is attached.

Essence of Los Gatos

Highest Support

- Los Gatos has many trees and has a rural feeling
- Views of the mountains are an important component of the community and should be preserved
- Los Gatos is an environmentally-friendly community
- Los Gatos is a walkable community with pedestrian linkages and bike routes
- Los Gatos has many trails and bikeways
- Los Gatos does not have any big shopping centers
- Los Gatos is a historic community
- Los Gatos is a people-friendly town
- Los Gatos is a small charming town

Least Support

Only positive and mixed results were received in the Essence of Los Gatos category.

Mixed Results

- "Not urban - low density, not tall, orchards" received mixed results with 4 green and 3 red
- There was twice as much opposition to tall buildings as there was support

Land Use

Highest Support

- Develop an integrated vision for the North 40 site, Los Gatos Boulevard and the town
- Active recreation area
- Senior housing/assisted living (rental)
- Underground parking

- Other open spaces developed before North 40
- Small businesses
- Local family restaurants
- Environmental consideration (fewer mitigation measures)
- Long-term vision

Least Support

Only positive and mixed results were received in this category.

Top Mixed Results

- The concept of a new school was strongly supported with 8 green dots, but also somewhat opposed with 5 red dots.
- Medium or small box stores received equal amounts of support and opposition, with a total of 4 dots (2 red, 2 green).

Architectural Character

Highest Support

- 360° architecture
- Architecture that complements the existing town character
- Pedestrian-friendly design
- Diversity/eclectic architectural design

Least Support

Buildings with blended color (no standouts) received no support and 4 red dots in opposition.

Mixed Results

- Parking behind buildings received slightly more opposition than support (3 red dots, 2 green dots).
- Victorian style design was mostly disliked (3 red dots), with 1 green dot in support.

Public Spaces

Highest Support

- Performing arts venue
- Event/festival area
- Connection to Vasona Trail
- A venue similar to Pruch Park - farm, park, classes
- Water play area
- Orchard
- Park
- Small gathering spaces (public)
- Farmer's market
- Flower gardens (colorful)

Least Support

Only positive and mixed results were received in the Public Spaces category.

Top Mixed Results

- The dog park was a very contentious issue with 12 green dots in support and 13 red dots in opposition.
- A fountain or other water feature was supported more than 2-to-1 over opposition to the concept (7 green dots, 3 red dots).
- A linear park, similar to Riverside Park in New York or those found in Portland, was mostly supported with 7 green dots, but there was some opposition to the concept with 2 red dots.

Circulation

Highest Support

- Community members are very concerned about the traffic impact on Los Gatos Boulevard (18 green dots) and somewhat concerned about the traffic impact on Lark Avenue (8 green dots).
- Community members would like the project to incorporate a pedestrian-friendly design.
- Community members would like to see bike lanes incorporated into the project.

Least Support

There were no items in the Circulation category that received a strong lack of support.

Mixed Results

There were no noteworthy items of contention in this category.

Miscellaneous Ideas and Issues

Highest Support

Saving the orchard received an overwhelming amount of support, with 13 green dots. It was observed that most of these came from a single community member.

Least Support

Stepped back buildings were opposed with 3 red dots.

Mixed Results

A movie theater was mostly opposed (3 red dots), with 1 green dot in support.



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1
 DOT EXERCISE RESULTS
 Saturday, April 2, 2014

NORTH 40 SPECIFIC PLAN
 TOWN OF LOS GATOS

CATEGORY	GREEN DOTS	RED DOTS
Essence of Los Gatos		
Trees and rural setting	10	0
Preserve views of mountains	9	0
Environmentally friendly	9	0
Walkability - pedestrian linkages, bikes	7	0
Trails and bikeways outdoors	7	0
No big shopping centers	6	1
Historic	6	0
People-friendly	6	0
Small charming town	5	0
Los Gatos is not urban - low density, not tall, orchards	4	3
No tall buildings	4	2
Links surrounding communities	3	0
Desirable destination	3	0
Highly regarded schools	2	0
Community, excellence - school, vision	1	0
Diversity, eclectic - architecture, people	1	0
Town vs. city	1	0
Varied topography	1	0
Gateway to mountains	0	0
	TOTAL:	85
		6



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1

DOT EXERCISE RESULTS

Saturday, April 2, 2011

NORTH 40 SPECIFIC PLAN
TOWN OF LOS GATOS

CATEGORY	GREEN DOTS	RED DOTS
Land Use		
Integrated vision (Los Gatos Boulevard, whole town, North 40)	15	0
New school (elementary, no pre-fab)	8	5
Rec area (active)	7	0
Senior housing/assisted living (rental)	7	0
Underground parking	6	0
Other open spaces developed before North 40	6	0
Small businesses	5	1
Local family restaurants	5	0
Environmental consideration (lower mitigation measures)	5	0
Long-term vision	5	0
Farm land	4	0
No big box center (Home Depot, Costco, BBB, Nordstrom)	4	0
Variety of uses (retail)	4	0
Mixed income residential	3	1
Small parking lots/no large surface lots	3	0
Develop infill areas first	3	0
No medium or small box	2	2
Density in the right places	2	1
Coordinate with Netflix development	2	0
Parking structures (well designed, sound buffer)	2	0
Well articulated large pad	1	2
Low impact on schools	1	0
No Costco	1	0
Needed uses in appropriate building forms	0	0
TOTAL:	101	12



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1

DOT EXERCISE RESULTS

Saturday, April 2, 2011

NORTH 40 SPECIFIC PLAN
TOWN OF LOS GATOS

CATEGORY	GREEN DOTS	RED DOTS
Architectural Character		
360° architecture	12	0
Complement existing town character	11	0
Pedestrian-friendly designs	8	0
Diversity/eclectic	7	0
Blended and integrated architecture	4	0
Not strip mall	4	0
Buildings set back from Los Gatos Boulevard	3	0
Tuscan-Mediterranean	3	0
High quality	3	0
Balance high buildings with open space and low buildings	3	0
Parking behind buildings	2	3
Craftsman	2	1
Historic preservation	2	1
No Mission	2	1
Not modernist	2	1
Designate where high buildings go	2	0
Victorian	1	3
4 story max	1	2
Evolved over time	1	0
Small scale	1	0
No prefab	1	0
Authentic second story	1	0
Maximize views inward and outward	1	0
Incorporate historic elements	1	0
Blended color (no standout buildings)	0	4
TOTAL:	78	16



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1

DOT EXERCISE RESULTS

Saturday, April 2, 2011

NORTH 40 SPECIFIC PLAN
TOWN OF LOS GATOS

CATEGORY	GREEN DOTS	RED DOTS
Public Spaces		
Dog park	12	13
Performance venue	11	0
Event/festival area	10	0
Connect Vasona Trail	9	0
Pruch Park - farm, park, classes	9	0
Water play area	8	0
Fountains - water feature	7	3
Linear park (see Portland, Riverside Park-NY)	7	2
Orchard	6	0
Park	5	0
Small gathering spaces (public)	5	0
Farmer's market	5	0
Flower gardens → color	5	0
Pocket parks	3	0
Community garden	3	0
Publicly accessible	2	1
TOTAL:	107	19
Circulation		
Traffic impact on Los Gatos Boulevard	18	1
Pedestrian-friendly design	11	0
Traffic on Lark	8	0
Bike lanes	6	0
Meandering walkways	3	0
Minimal driveways	3	0
Blend Los Gatos Boulevard design	2	0
Divert around historical trees	2	0
Parking in back	2	0
Alleys	1	2
Revisit southbound ramp at Hwy 85	1	1
TOTAL:	57	4



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1
DOT EXERCISE RESULTS
Saturday, April 2, 2011

NORTH 40 SPECIFIC PLAN
TOWN OF LOS GATOS

CATEGORY	GREEN DOTS	RED DOTS
Miscellaneous Ideas and Issues		
Save the orchard	13	0
Art/landscaping to depict/preserve ag history	3	0
Arts and crafts	3	0
Linked walkways between buildings (e.g. Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo)	2	0
Outdoor dining	2	0
Movie theater	1	3
No mistakes like the new Safeway (height)	1	0
Tennis courts	1	0
Community arts center	1	0
Stepped back buildings	0	3
Need storm drains and sewers	0	1
Los Gatos Boulevard gateway treatment	0	0
Appreciate local context! SR85/SR17 - this is not downtown	0	0
TOTAL:	27	7