



Meeting Summary

The project team members that attended the Neighborhood and Advisory Stakeholder Representative Group Meeting are as follows:

Greg Sandlund, City of Sacramento
Jim McDonald, City of Sacramento
Kate Gillespie, City of Sacramento
Marco Gonzalez, City of Sacramento
Harriet Ross, Environmental Science Associates
Brian Boxer, Environmental Science Associates
Aaron Nousaine, BAE Urban Economics
Amanda Wallace, BAE Urban Economics
Gladys Cornell, AIM Consulting
Ashley Baumgartner, AIM Consulting
Sal Ramirez, AIM Consulting

Representatives from the following organizations that attended the meeting included:

Alkali Flat Neighborhood Association
Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association
Environmental Council of Sacramento
Marshall School New Era Park
Midtown Neighborhood Association
Neighborhood Services Division
Preservation Sacramento
Regional Transit (RT)
Richmond Grove Neighborhood Association
Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
Sacramento City Unified School District
Sacramento Housing Alliance
Sacramento Steps Forward
Southside Park Neighborhood Association
Upper Land Park Neighborhood Association
WALK Sacramento
Washington Park Neighborhood Improvement Association



Twenty-two stakeholder representatives attended the first Neighborhood & Advocacy Stakeholder Representative Group meeting for the Downtown Specific Plan. Below is a discussion summary.

The meeting objectives included:

- Provide an overview of the Downtown Specific Plan and its goals and objectives.
- Review the project approach and schedule.
- Present recent work completed including a survey of opportunity sites within the project area, market analysis, and input from a Developer Advisory Group.
- Discuss the Sacramento housing market and product type.
- Outline the next steps for the Downtown Specific Plan.

Project Overview

The City of Sacramento is developing a Downtown Specific Plan to assist with implementing the Downtown Housing Initiative and identify necessary public improvements to support new development. In 2015, the Downtown Housing Initiative was launched to bring 10,000 new housing units in the next 10 years to Downtown Sacramento.

The goals for the Downtown Specific Plan include:

- Create a Specific Plan that paves the way for at least 10,000 places to live in the next 10 years
- Develop a varied housing stock that reflects the diversity of Sacramento
- Incentivize Transit-Oriented Development throughout downtown Sacramento including along the streetcar corridor
- Remove barriers to housing development by streamlining the development and environmental review process
- Maintain the quality of life central city residents experience and further neighborhood livability by including supporting amenities along with housing

Project boundaries for the Downtown Specific Plan are bound by the Sacramento River to the West, the American River to the North, Highway 80 to the East, and Highway 50 to the South.

Stakeholder Engagement Process

The Downtown Specific Plan's public engagement process includes facilitated discussions with key stakeholder representing members of Property and Business Improvement Districts, representatives from Neighborhood and Advocacy groups, and members of the Developer and Finance community.

Project Schedule and Approach

The project team presented the project schedule for the Downtown Specific Plan. Work for the Downtown Specific Plan began in late summer of 2016 and is anticipated to be completed in 2018.



An overview of the project’s deliverables includes:

- Downtown Specific Plan
 - Land Use and Amenities
 - Mobility (Grid 3.0) for Multimodal Transportation Users
 - Historic Resources
 - Public Services and Utilities
 - Infrastructure Financing Plan
- Environmental Impact Report
- Central City Design Guideline Amendments
- Updated Development Standards
- General Plan/Zoning Code Updates, as necessary

A list of opportunity sites will also be developed as an outcome of the completed project using the following criteria:

- Vacant and underutilized sites
- Location in established corridors and Central Business District as identified in 2035 General Plan for growth
- ¼ acre or greater in size
- Considered community context
- Considered State ownership of land

Market Analysis Findings

Participants were presented with a high-level housing market analysis for the Sacramento Downtown Specific Plan (DSP). This market analysis looked at existing and projected future demographic and economic trends, and real estate market conditions within the project area. The analysis also summarizes the results of case study research regarding the conditions and trends in five peer cities including Denver, Colorado; Long Beach, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Nashville, Tennessee; and Portland, Oregon. Key findings from the market analysis presented to the participants include:

Demographic Trends and Characteristics:

- Very little growth in Downtown since 2000
- Different household characteristics
 - Mostly smaller (1.6 persons average)
 - Non-family and single person
 - Majority of residents in 25-34 and 55-75 age groups
- Lower income individuals, with less equity
 - Younger than average
 - More single-earner households
- Positioned for long-term income growth
 - High educational attainment
 - Inflation adjusted income growth
 - Age driven household formation
- Difficult to gauge depth of demand
 - Low historic population growth
 - Lack of new housing supply
- Demand for low-cost rentals
 - Smaller household sizes
 - Lower incomes with less equity
- High end and for-sale units
 - Demand from 55-75 age group
 - Growing demand from 25-34 age group
 - Household formation and relocation?



Economic Trends:

- Downtown is the region's most important job center
- Two thirds of jobs are in Government, but employment is starting to diversify
 - Business Management; Education and Healthcare; Entertainment & Recreation
 - Management, Financial, Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts, and Media
- Imbalanced commute
 - 94% of workers commute in
 - 64% of residents commute out

Housing Supply and Affordability:

- Mostly older multifamily buildings
 - Duplex, triplex, and small apartments
 - Shift to higher densities since 2010
 - Less than 10% built since 2000



- Highest prices in the city/region
 - Rapid appreciation since 2008
 - Good design commands a premium
 - Rents up to twice market average
- Market rates affordable only at the higher income levels
- Market is targeting young professionals and empty nesters
 - Those who seek an “urban experience”
 - Those who would like to easily lock up and leave for the weekend
 - Those without families or children

Future Development:

- Projects in the pipeline exceed 2026 projections
 - Almost 13,500 new units
 - Mostly market rate and mixed-use
- Units in adjacent neighborhoods
 - Offer greater affordability

Challenges to Infill:

- More complex, time consuming, and expensive than greenfield
 - Higher prices needed to offset costs
- Prices dictated by local market; costs have regional influences
 - Competition with Bay Area for labor
 - Infrastructure can be a constraint
- Home prices don’t justify for-sale

Peer City Research:

- Peer cities include Denver, Long Beach, Minneapolis, Nashville and Portland
- Demand driven by job growth
 - Small studios and one-bedrooms
 - High-end rentals with amenities
- Gentrification and displacement
 - Loss of market rate affordability
 - High transportation costs
- Coordinate with regional planning
- Focus demand with growth controls
- Innovative regulatory frameworks
 - Height and density bonuses
 - Design oriented regulations

- Inclusionary housing requirements
- Amenities and cultural assets
- Invest in local and regional transit

Strategic Needs:

- Diverse housing types for all incomes
 - Draw demand from a broad base
- Develop amenities, including recreation and cultural venues
 - Add value for residents and businesses
- Mitigate infrastructure constraints
- Ensure permitting capacity
 - Provide certainty and efficiency



Summary of Comments/Questions

Neighborhood Impact

- *Question:* Does the Downtown Specific Plan affect other specific plans in the region?
 - *Response:* The Downtown Specific Plan will impact sites within the Downtown Sacramento area, which may impact neighboring areas such as Oak Park and West Sacramento.
- *Comment:* We have a County and surrounding City areas that keep sprawling, and unlike Portland, Sacramento does not have an urban growth boundary.
- *Comment:* One of the things we need to do is find an adequate way to get funding measures for road repairs and complete streets that don't promote sprawl.

Affordability

- *Question:* Did the housing research look at whether housing is becoming more expensive in the area? Will people need to live in smaller units to afford the rent?
 - *Response:* The research completed so far shows that over the past 10 to 15 years, the Downtown area has seen an increase in income – thus, people can afford higher rents. However, there is still a lower average annual income in Downtown in comparison to surrounding areas such as Rancho Cordova.
 - *Response:* Market rate is what has to be charged to recoup the cost of development, and because development costs are at similar levels to the bay area, but we don't have the same incomes to pay the similar rents. Microunits and affordability by design units are some ways to address part of the issue.
- *Comment:* The City does not have and maintain a good list of current affordable units.



Market Demand

- *Comment:* There is an increase in need for housing options for people with children and growing families.
- *Comment:* We shouldn't be solely targeting millennials. We need to consider the people in the 55-75 year-old age range because they have more disposable income in comparison to younger age groups.

Other Responses

- *Comment:* I see an insatiable demand to live in downtown in comparison to places such as Natomas. Natomas wasn't designed as a walkable community, but downtown is and should continue to be.
- *Comment:* We need to differentiate Sacramento from other cities. We should focus on highlighting our city's character.
- *Comment:* Transportation funding is needed for transit enhancements and complete streets, instead of new growth-inducing roads and structures.
- *Question:* What housing regulations have you looked at in other cities? The City needs to evaluate the current voluntary/minimal inclusionary housing requirements.
 - *Response:* Other cities and states have different regulations in regards to inclusionary housing requirements and residential fees. Sacramento has some of the highest residential fees in the region, with high demand.

Discussion of Urban Infill Housing

The project team provided an understanding of what urban infill housing is, including an explanation of Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and High Density Housing as they relate to the varying types of urban infill housing.

- *Floor Area Ratio (FAR):* A truly walkable community that creates healthy transit requires FAR to be at least 1.5 to 3.0.
- *Higher Density Housing:* For Downtown Sacramento, higher density can be anything between 18-36 to 150+ dwelling units per acre.

A discussion with stakeholders was facilitated about appropriate urban infill housing types within the project area:

- *Transit-Oriented Development:* Transit-oriented development, or TOD, is a type of housing development that is located within a half-mile of quality public transportation. Most often this embraces a mixture of housing with office, retail and/or other amenities integrated into a walkable neighborhood. Examples of TOD in Sacramento include The Cathedral Building, Pensione K, and Township 9.



- *Multi-story / Mixed Use:* Mixed-Use / Multi-Story housing blends residential, commercial, cultural, institutional, or industrial uses into multi-story projects. Examples of mixed-use and multi-story developments in Sacramento include the 800 J Lofts, 1801 L Lofts, and 16 Powerhouse.
- *Historic Adaptive Reuse:* Historic/Adaptive Reuse Housing reuses an old site or building for a purpose other than which it was built or designed for. Sacramento has actively readapted many historic buildings to better fit the needs of Downtown's residents. The Downtown Specific Plan will evaluate key opportunity sites that have 45+ year old properties for historic/adaptive reuse. Examples of historic adaptive reuse developments in Sacramento include the Lofts at Globe Mills, MAY Building, and Warehouse Artist Lofts.

Summary of Comments/Questions

Amenities

- We need to look at parks. Dallas, for example, is filled with many city blocks that have parks which attract people. These parks allow children to move around, and allow visitors access to food trucks and nearby art museums. These parks make the city feel activated. How can Sacramento draw people of all ages in to be connected to such facilities?
- We need housing, parks, and museums that are not specific to one age group. Parks can be a great way to attract and capture many of these demographics.
- We need drop-in programs for before and after school that are funded by developers.

Connectivity and Parking

- We need neighborhood connectivity and neighborhoods that serve commercial developments.
- We need a more radical approach than Grid 3.0 to increase pedestrian access and connectivity, one that gets young service-oriented professionals excited about the City's growth.
- A connected network of sidewalks is important in placemaking and encourages safety and health in its truest form. New York is a good example of this. They have been well known for the New York Active Design Guidelines, which can serve Sacramento if adopted as an example of best practices.
- Insufficient parking contributes to a healthy neighborhood.
- We need radial transit lines going out to all directions like what they have in the main station of Denver's Union Station so that we can speed up rail service.
- Public transportation needs to be connected within the Central City and outside of it.

Community Collaboration

- We need to encourage renters to feel invested whether or not they own property because people should feel connected to developments and have a voice; it is about the place you call home more than what you own.



- The City needs to build a more diverse workforce. Since we are close enough to the Bay Area, we need to look at why businesses from there are looking to other states instead of next door for future locations.
- There is a need to reach out to many people about the Downtown Specific Plan.
- The City needs to look at how best to engage renters. Often times, many project notices go to property owners and not renters, so there are a lot of holes in communication with renters.
- Land owners are not engaged very often. The City needs to work harder at engaging the property owners.
- To maintain neighborhood character and livability, we need renter input to enhance the neighborhood for people to live in.
- The challenge we face is NIMBYs (Not In My Backyarders); community engagement is a good start and the City needs to continue working with the community.
- Workers and employers should be in on this discussion.
- Community engagement is important because people should not feel detached from the process.
- If there is conflict in communication, it's possible it might be caused by speeding up the process of development and neglecting to get community input. When others do not prioritize outreach, it results in people upset with the types of development that are built.
- Look at Kaiser's recruitment; they provide more than \$100,000 for doctors for housing if they stay more than 10 years of employment.
- Sacramento could make this work, and we can set the stage to make our City an example for the world. We might want to consider Stanford University's design-thinking process. They bring in people from all over the world to fix some of the issues they are presented with and their input might be helpful for the Downtown Specific Plan.
- The project team should look at code violations, especially with absentee owner properties. These lead to the perception that the neighborhood is not safe.

Affordability

- When I bought my house, it was \$180,000. Today, I couldn't afford to buy my home even if I wanted to. There has been a spike in housing prices, and I see less retail and more white-collar employment in downtown. This affects the commute because more people are coming in and out of downtown.
- With changes in the new administration coming in, will there be changes in tax codes?
- Kaiser should help pay for housing for their employees, and large employers should contribute somehow. Could we get the State to incorporate residential housing into their properties?
- Many apartments built in the 1960s and 1970s are being rehabilitated and then being sold at a huge profit, which impacts affordability on the grid.
- The demand for smaller studios and one-bedroom units is increasing because of their affordability.



- We need to have more adaptive reuse housing because there is a need for more housing options in downtown.
- If households are paying more than 30% of their income in rent, then we need to provide a variety of housing types to appeal to a diverse group and meet the demand for different housing types.

Summary of Findings

The project team facilitated a discussion on what elements are critical to a healthy neighborhood. Throughout the presentation, participants were asked to respond to the focus question, “What contributes to a healthy neighborhood?” The following is a summary of their responses:

Amenities

- More tree canopies and streetscapes
- Hybrid places that provide joint use, like meeting places and other shared work spaces that encourage ground-level infill

Connectivity and Parking

- A dense network of connected and comfortable bikeways and pedestrian walkways
- Insufficient parking contributes to a healthy neighborhood
- More funding for bus services with extended hours; we need them to run long enough to get people to work
- Speeding up rail line services, such as the Capitol Corridor
- A vibrant public transit system to connect people to places outside of the Downtown area
- Drivers need to notice if someone is crossing the street from a one way to a one way. We need frequent and safe crossings
- Placemaking to encourage the pedestrian experience
- Housing with more transportation alternatives
- Alternative uses of parking garages
- Reducing auto use in downtown
- Parking lots that can be converted into housing in the future when there are fewer people driving
- Reduced parking
- Neighborhoods that are more walkable

Community Collaboration

- Looking at how we can engage the State to find out what their plans are for their space and if we could utilize their space
- A more diverse workforce
- Attracting smaller businesses and startups
- Regional job growth to drive demand and to deal with gentrification



- Infill developments that promote the uniqueness of different neighborhoods
- Getting employers involved in providing housing
- Focusing on how to make this work collaboratively
- Community engagement needs to be developed to engage renters and property owners

Affordability

- Kaiser and other large employers should contribute to affordable housing
- Socially equitable communities and a push for affordable housing
- Inclusive and equitable communities
- Utilizing redevelopment money from the transient occupancy tax



Other Responses

- Increasing public safety
- Analyzing what is around the identified opportunity sites to sufficiently mix the types of affordable and market-right housing in downtown, not center them – the City does not currently have a good list of affordable units that are being built or that have been completed.
- A variety of building ages, uses, and types
- Neighborhoods that service commercial development as well as residential
- Diversity in architecture, social income, ecological, and cultural aspects
- Looking at changing density per lot and making sure there is a balance
- Preventing code violations and illegal dumping
- Historic preservation
- The uniqueness of local neighborhoods
- Looking at what is surrounding the opportunity sites
- Avoiding concentrating housing growth in one area

Feedback Forms

In order to better understand the needs of the community and these organizations, the stakeholders were asked to fill out feedback forms. The feedback provided is as follows:

1. What are your thoughts, observations, or remaining questions regarding the Market Analysis?
 - The most important part was the discussion of affordable housing. This is becoming a huge problem in the Central City and, if gentrification takes over, we will lose the diversity that makes the Central City interesting. I'm also interested in household types. We need more housing for families with children. Also schools so that we attract them.



Downtown Specific Plan

Stakeholder Representative Group Meeting – Neighborhood and Advocacy

December 12, 2016

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

New City Hall, 915 I Street, Room 1119

- I was disappointed by the characterization that the target market for downtown residential was so focused on childless couples--either young Millennials or "empty nest" seniors--which is the same assumption we have heard about downtown migrants for the past decade. Experience of Central City residents shows a different reality--there are a growing number of kids in the Central City and the parents have little interest in moving to the suburbs--if they do so, it is only because they have been forced out by high housing prices.
 - The market study fails to account for changes in population growth since 2010.
 - Many people want to stay in downtown to not have to be in the suburbs, and most of these renters in downtown are millennials.
 - Is the job growth trend going to drive up transportation costs? If so, will this need to be offset by cheaper public transportation?
 - Was social security income included in the market analysis?
 - What is the average return on investment for developers? If it is something like 10 to 15 percent for the return on costs, then that does not seem very profitable other than high end building.
 - When people bring up growth control, many people get leery. How do we make growth inward instead of outward?
 - How did Bay Area Economics analyze costs in Sacramento and compare it to other cities? Portland produced a lot more development than Sacramento and I think it is because the fees are not that high in Portland for building developments.
 - We need all of this information is available online.
 - We need to look at job growth projections.
 - We need to look at projected jobs/housing balance in the Central City, citywide and the region.
 - The demand for housing is strong based upon the midtown resale market. Has that been considered?
2. What, if any, are some of the challenges to a successful effort?
- We need a Central City-wide updated historic properties survey to protect historic resources and encourage adaptive reuse.
 - Downtown business organizations still seem unconvinced that anyone wants to live downtown, even while people are paying premium prices and are eager to live downtown.
 - The business model is still based almost exclusively on attracting suburban visitors, not creating a sustainable neighborhood downtown.
 - We don't have to convince anyone to move downtown--we just have to provide the housing. But the local builder community (and the people financing them) seem too conservative to move forward.



Downtown Specific Plan

Stakeholder Representative Group Meeting – Neighborhood and Advocacy

December 12, 2016

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New City Hall, 915 I Street, Room 1119

- We need to figure out how to deal with the increased number of children that will be living into downtown.
 - A couple of repetitive voices-mostly homeowners too focused on preservation and the General Plan, and few people wanting to think future and forward. We need change. We need to make housing for all a reality.
 - We need more stakeholders that involve renters, land owners, and state government.
 - NIMBYs. There is a small, vocal group that does not reflect the views of the whole community but control or stop development conversations.
 - Finding ways to help fund more affordable housing.
 - Completing remaining historic district surveys (Richmond Grove, Eastern part of Southside Neighborhood, New Era parts of Marshall School Neighborhood).
 - Retaining and increasing our tree canopy.
 - Keeping small, independent shops in business as rents increase.
 - More neighborhood serving businesses, more bike lanes and pedestrian amenities.
3. What can the City do to address these issues?
- Utilize the existing General Plan, which provides for high-density, high-rise development in specific areas.
 - Work regionally to limit sprawl.
 - Help complete historic district surveys.
 - Look for ways to better fund affordable housing.
 - Honor the General Plan that many put 4 years into helping to develop – approving a building at 25th and J that was 100ft taller than allowed sends a message that public input doesn't matter and encourages land speculation.
 - Encourage adaptive reuse – old buildings are more affordable and reuse contributes to more sustainable neighborhoods.
 - Facilitate adaptive reuse of historic buildings.
 - We don't need more offices that close up at 5 PM.
 - Our current jobs: housing ratio is effectively 10:1!
 - Stewardship of change by the City is what is going to move things forward.
 - The City needs to take into consideration how a decrease in driving might occur with more autonomous driving.
 - Engage stakeholders-especially reach out to younger people, renters, the state government, land owners, etc.
 - More engagement of the entire community, not just property owners and homeowners.
4. What contributes to a healthy neighborhood?
- Granularity--buildings of a variety of ages and uses in close proximity.



- Neighborhood-serving retail in order to promote walkability instead of using an auto-centric design for a neighborhood.
- Neighborhood-serving public amenities: like parks, schools, etc.
- Less parking because it will create more room for people.
- Diversity, mixed-income, mixed housing type, safe and clean streets, and public engagement. Someone should be able to have all their needs met without leaving the area-regardless of who they are or their station in life.
- Inclusiveness, partnerships, multi-disciplinary planning, vibrant, livable spaces, and respect.
- A strong mix of businesses and residential neighborhoods.
- Including residents in the planning process.
- Mixing of household types and income levels.
- Promoting small, independent businesses.
- Retaining the character and sense of place of our community.
- Building with adaptive reuse.
- Doing infill on sites that don't contain historic resources or potential resources.
- We need more trees, schools, parks, and community gardens.
- A functional transit system.
- Increased bike lanes & pedestrian amenities.
- No more one way streets.

5. Other Comments?

- We need to preserve the historic fabric of Downtown Sacramento while still getting all the infill we need.
- We need to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).
- The affordability issue is huge. A lot of people move out because space is unavailable at the current price.
- There is an explosion of strollers.
- We need assurance we won't get priced out of the market.
- One half of downtown black is 1.25 acre.
- Development in downtown is mostly housing built before 2000, and the average rent is \$2 per square foot.
- We can't protect what's green unless we develop the city vertically.
- We need to encourage families. It is healthy to have all types of users.
- We need to consider all the people retiring and the millennial people moving into state service.
- My 23-year-old kid needs to get an apartment in downtown, but it's too expensive. He would live in a broom closet to be able to have his own place. Community leaders need to plan downtown so my son can afford to get his own place.



Downtown Specific Plan

Stakeholder Representative Group Meeting – Neighborhood and Advocacy

December 12, 2016

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

New City Hall, 915 I Street, Room 1119

- Despite higher rents in Los Angeles and San Francisco, we are less affordable than those places when you look at income.
- How closely has the project team worked with parks to develop space with amenities?
- Can the people who commute in afford to work here?

Next Steps

- The second Stakeholder Representative Group (SRG) meeting will be in spring 2017.
- The first Community Workshop will be in spring 2017 after the second SRG meeting.
- The second Community workshop will be in July 2017 and will highlight the draft EIR and draft Downtown Specific Plan.

Appendix

- Meeting Invite
- Meeting Agenda
- Feedback Form
- Developer Advisory Group Interviews Summary
- BAE Report – Sacramento DSP Housing Market Analysis

Appendix



You're invited to a Stakeholder Meeting for the Downtown Specific Plan

Monday, December 12, 2016

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

New City Hall, First Floor Conference Room 1119

915 I Street, Sacramento 95814

In an on-going effort to encourage and facilitate urban infill housing in the Central City area, for the next twenty years and beyond, the City of Sacramento is developing the Downtown Specific Plan.

The plan will focus primarily on:

- Identifying and evaluating a number of urban infill sites within the project area
- Removing barriers to housing development by streamlining the development and environmental review process
- Incentivizing Transit-Oriented Development throughout the Central City, including along the streetcar corridor
- Maintaining and improving the quality of life for Central City residents, and furthering neighborhood livability by including additional amenities and housing opportunities

As a key stakeholder representative, we are interested in hearing from you. The project team is hosting an initial focus group meeting to discuss the City's overall goals and approach for this plan. The project team will review the proposed opportunity sites and the findings of the market analysis. The project team will also facilitate a discussion on potential urban infill housing, community amenities, and other elements that may contribute to healthy neighborhoods.

Please RSVP by December 5th by RSVPing to Salvador Ramirez at sramirez@aimconsultingco.com or calling 916-442-1168. If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact Gladys Cornell at gcornell@aimconsultingco.com or at 916-442-1168.

For more information about the Downtown Specific Plan, please visit www.DowntownSpecificPlan.com



Stakeholder Representative Group Meeting Agenda

December 12, 2016 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

915 I Street, New City Hall, First Floor Conference Room 1119

- I. Welcome and Introduction**
- II. Project Background**
- III. Goals & Objectives**
- IV. Approach**
- V. Review of Findings of Market Analysis**
- VI. Discussion of Urban Infill Housing**
- VII. What contributes to a healthy neighborhood?**
- VIII. Wrap Up Discussion**
- IX. Next Steps**



Downtown Specific Plan
Neighborhood Advocacy Focus Group Meeting
December 12, 2016 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
New City Hall, First Floor Conference Room
Feedback Form

Please provide any thoughts, observations, or remaining questions regarding any of the following topics discussed today:

Market Analysis Findings

What, if any, are some of the challenges to a successful effort?

What can the City do to address these issues?

What contributes to a healthy neighborhood?

Name _____ Organization _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please submit your feedback to the project team today or send to Sal Ramirez by email at sramirez@aimconsultingco.com, by fax at 916-442-1186, or by mail to 2523 J Street, Suite 202 Sacramento, CA 95816.



We strive to make each meeting valuable and results driven. We look forward to any comments and/or ideas to improve the meeting experience for you. Please feel free to provide us with your thoughts.

1. Information shared at the meeting was useful? YES NO

2. Discussions were appropriately facilitated to engage all participants? YES NO

3. The participants involved in the process are appropriate? YES NO

4. Any other recommendations to improve the meetings?

Name _____ Email _____

Can we follow up with you? YES NO



Downtown Specific Plan

Developer Advisory Group Interviews Summary
August 2016



Project Overview

The goals of the Downtown Specific Plan include:

- Create a Specific Plan that paves the way for at least 10,000 housing units to be built
- Develop a varied housing stock that reflects the diversity of Sacramento
- Incentivize Transit-Oriented Development throughout downtown Sacramento including the Downtown Riverfront streetcar alignment
- Remove barriers to housing development by streamlining the development and environmental review process
- Maintain the quality of life central city residents experience and further neighborhood livability by including supporting amenities along with housing

On Wednesday, August 31, the project team facilitated a series of stakeholder focus group interviews with a Developer Advisory Group (D.A.G.) which included local private developers, affordable housing developers, architects, attorneys, and bankers. The D.A.G. provided feedback on the City's current development process and what challenges developers face when building in Sacramento.

The discussion topics for the interviews included:

- Challenges and barriers to residential development
- Opportunities to incentivize residential development
- Communities amenities needed
- Other recommendations

Project Team

Project team members involved in the interviews include:

Harriet Ross, *Environmental Science Associates*

Brian Boxer, *Environmental Science Associates*

Neal Payton, *Torti Gallas + Partners*

Matt Kowta, *Bae Urban Economics*

Gladys Cornell, *AIM Consulting*

Nicole Porter, *AIM Consulting*

Developer Advisory Group

Developer Advisory Group members interviewed include:

MARKET RATE DEVELOPERS

Nikky Mohanna, Mohanna Development

Mixed use residential project on 19th & J

Katherine Bardis, Bardis Homes

The Mill at Broadway

Sotiris Kolokotronis, SKK Development

L Street Lofts, Fremont Building, Q19

Bay Miry, D&S Development *

16 Powerhouse, 700 K Street, 15th & Q

Bill Heartman, Sares Regis *

Metro Square

Kirk Khasigian, Hines Property *

300 Capitol Mall & 400 Capitol Mall

ARCHITECTS

Steve Guest, RMW Architects

MAARS Building, Ice Blocks, 830 K Street renovation

Ron Metzker, LPAS

16 Powerhouse, Metro Crossing

Ron Vrilakis, Vrilakis Architects

Township 9, Oak Park Broadway Triangle, Elliot Building

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPERS

Stephan Daues, Mercy Housing

7th & H Street Apartments, Land Park Woods

Rachel Iskow, Mutual Housing

Keith Bloom, Mutual Housing

Lavendar Courtyard

Wendy Saunders, CADA

Warehouse Artist Lofts,

Eviva Apartments, Legado De Ravel, 16 Powerhouse

Ali Youssefi, CFY Development

700 K Street, Warehouse Artist Lofts, Ridgeway Studios, Globe Mills

ATTORNEYS

Tina Thomas, Thomas Law Group

Chris Butcher, Thomas Law Group

Jeff Dorso, Pioneer Law Group

BANKERS

Dennis Raymond, F&M Bank

* The project team held separate interviews with these DAG members.

Interview Feedback

Below is a summary of the stakeholder interviews.

What do you see as the barriers, if any, to development downtown?

AVAILABLE WORKFORCE CAPACITY

- The City has not increased their (staffing) capacity to meet the current demand.
- Since the recession, the (staffing) capacity has decreased for both public and private sectors. For example, some architects and builders went out of business during the recession. The City's planning and public works department also experienced severe attrition during the recession.
- Sacramento is competing with the Bay Area for construction workers. The Sacramento market is faced with Bay Area construction costs, but only getting Sacramento area rent prices.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

- There needs to be better outreach with Neighborhood groups. Neighborhood groups and other stakeholders are determining appropriate density and what growth should look like in their neighborhoods.
- We need to get all stakeholders on the same page. 50% of stakeholders want Sacramento to remain tree-lined neighborhoods with abundant parking and 50% want Sacramento to become a dense urban community.

PROCESS

- There is no comprehensive understanding of existing utility systems. It is often a developer's responsibility to figure out existing water, sewer, and storm water systems. The City could take control and/or help by developing a better understanding of where utilities are in the streets.
- The entitlement process is relatively painless. However, after the entitlement process and getting through the building permit is where things fall apart. A lot of people who want to come to the Sacramento market get tripped up over the building process. Economic Development folks are not connected to the people in the Building Department. No one has consistently held the role of Chief Building Officer since Ryan DeVore. City staff has become very cautious and demand that you follow the City's Development Code, but their interpretation of the building code varies.
- Building permit review process can be very challenging but it is getting easier. With 12 to 15 separate permits required for a project and then things change in the field; inspectors are hesitant to sign off which requires that the revision has to go through a formal approval process.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- Revenue drives the residential market. If the pricing and rents go up, then it can justify the construction costs. There are a substantial number of entitlements (both for sale and rental) being processed right now, however, it is highly unlikely many of these projects will move beyond entitlement until the market can bear higher prices and rents.
- There is still a lot of cheap land in the surrounding communities that can compete with living downtown.
- There are still many other viable less expensive housing options, e.g., North Natomas, which offer nice amenities and are relatively close to the Central City.
- Residential developers whose primary product type is 10 to 12-story mid- to high-rise projects would like to see rents around \$3.50 per square foot to make it pencil out.

TARGETED DEMOGRAPHICS

- I'm not sure how deep the market is for the current market rate housing being offered. While the recent increase in employment may help to drive market demand, we still don't have the employment structure like the Bay Area that will pay the millennials enough to afford the rent on market rate housing.
- A lot of those who work for the State (which is still a large percentage of our local economy) don't want to live in the Central City.

OTHER COMMENTS

- The grid has the capacity to get market rate housing built, but there is a lack of land that is easily accessible and a lack of assembled lots.
- Sacramento is still dependent on cars. There is not a robust enough public transportation system to get people to and around downtown. In addition, parking needs must be addressed, but this makes building infill developments more difficult.

What do you see as the barriers, if any, to affordable housing development?

CAP AND TRADE

- Because the goal of Cap and Trade is to reduce greenhouse gases, affordable housing sustainable communities need to be paired with transportation projects, which aren't happening in Sacramento. The City and Regional Transit won't co-apply with the affordable developer in order to indemnify as other cities (example Davis) do. The City's Public Works department said they were unwilling to cosponsor due to a potential liability regarding the City's local credit rating.
- Affordable housing projects are at a disadvantage in Sacramento because there is no transportation authority involved in the area. Regional Transit is not as involved as they could or should be. Meanwhile in Los Angeles, the MTA is coaching its developers on how to take advantage of programs by partnering with developers to obtain funding.

OTHER COMMENTS

- Small but active opposition from neighbors can be a barrier to affordable housing and market rate development. City councilmember support does help, and this support can be bolstered by other constituents that are supportive of the project.
- Small parcels need to be assembled for developers.
- The City should take action on buildings that should be condemned, so we can see them as opportunities for development.
- Affordable housing developers are required to pay an issuer monitoring fee throughout projects that are funded by tax exempt bonds. The City's fee can be more than \$20,000 per year, but there are other issuers that charge less than half of that. The City's large fee reduces the amount of money an affordable housing developer can use to complete their project.

If regulatory, what changes would you like to see?

BETTER PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY STAFF

- There should be sit-downs or symposiums for the departments and developers to discuss the vision and bigger picture.
- There is no communication between the vision for the 10,000 housing initiative and codes that should be flexible to meet this initiative.
- Developers create designs based on the City's central core design guidelines, but departments other than the planning department do not follow these guidelines.
- Developers feel that while the planning department may understand the big picture, individual departments such as public works, utilities, and fire do not.
- New City staff should be educated about urban development form so all departments know to look at codes differently and creatively to understand what needs to be accomplished with each project.
- The city's planning department is great at a planning level, but not a lot of them seem to be aware of the cost burdens associated with infill development.
- A developer should be able to lean on the City to guide them through the process.

BETTER PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY STAFF (CONTINUED)

- There should be a kick-off meeting for each new project that includes a representative from each department where the City and the developer can discuss all the issues at the beginning of the process.
- The City's design guidelines and zoning codes are good. The problem is that these policies are administered randomly.
- If the design guidelines are not administered in a rational and consistent way, public anger will build.
- There is core group of developers that are committed to building in the grid, and they will build no matter how difficult it is. But there are other developers who come to Sacramento for all the right reasons and trip over the development process. Because there is no one in the City that can help them navigate the system, they panic and leave.
- There needs to be better communication between City departments and housing agencies.
- Modifications to planning codes will need to be made for projects to fit within the context of some communities.
- The City should make provisions to allow applicants to pay for 3rd party plan reviews if the building department is too busy to handle the work load.

FEES

- The City has done a great job keeping the fees low. Especially in comparison to the suburban market.
- Impact fees should be due when a project is ready for close of sale, or when the final building permit is issued.
- There needs to be a fee concierge, or an informational sheet, that can help developers figure out what fees they owe to the City.
- Fees seem to be inconsistently determined.
- Park fees are too high.

URBAN DESIGN PLANS AND CONSISTENCY

- The City should develop an urban design plan and then consistently enforce it.
- There is no consistency in the development process. Every infill project goes through a variance from the product code, but the process for each project is different.
- Each urban high-density project should go through its own planning and review public process. Staff review of a project has not always been successful. It gives a lot of power to one person, and that power can be mistreated and/or used as leverage (i.e. otherwise you will have to go to the commission).
- If the City uses form based codes, it should be synced with the building codes.
- The City should develop a clear consensus of what buildings are historic and need to be preserved and what buildings could be changed and redeveloped.

REVIEW PROCESS

- Within each department there are several different reviewers, and they all seem to follow different rules.
- In a best case scenario, it takes 3-4 months from the time a developer submits their plans to the time they obtain a building permit. 6-8 months is the most consistent timeline. There is an expedited process, but it is very expensive and it only shortens the process by two weeks.
- Even when a planning code is not applicable, it is treated as the most important part of a project.
- There needs to be a way to streamline the permit process so a developer doesn't have to go back to the Planning Commission every time they want to change something. It is time consuming, expensive, and makes the developers much more open to litigation.

OTHER COMMENTS

- Avoid having to do a traffic study for every project, e.g., if a completed traffic study exists in the same area as a proposed development project, then the developer is still required to do an additional traffic study.
- Pending litigations from neighborhoods or about the environment tend to scare banks off. Banks, especially smaller ones, cannot get tied into any litigation.
- There needs to be better communication and partnerships with the community.
- Open space requirements are too high; debatable on whether private open space is needed in Downtown.

If market related, what incentives, might be appropriate?

- Detroit has a program where a developer receives \$2,000 when they sign a \$1,000 lease and again something similar when they renew. This type of program could provide an incentive to developers in Sacramento.
- The City needs to help with Sacramento's homeless issue. Developers will have problems with getting the rents they need, especially on the J, K, and L corridors because of this issue. A lot of people from the suburbs don't feel comfortable moving to downtown because of the homeless issue.
- Younger people in the private sector will drive demand. We need to diversify and improve our Central City economy with high paying, private sector jobs.

If infrastructure related, what is the best way of funding the infrastructure?

- Infrastructure is a continuing issue. The infrastructure downtown wasn't meant to support such a high demand of high-rise or mixed-use developments.
- Developers must upsize an entire infrastructure for one project with no cost-subsidy. Developers must pay upfront to break the barrier for the entire infrastructure, but may end up using 20%.
- Later developers benefit from the initial upsizing.

Infrastructure (continued)

- There should be a cost-share agreement between developers, the City, and SMUD to resolve this problem.
- The costs associated with updating many vacant buildings in Sacramento scare off developers who would otherwise be interested.

Generally, speaking what type of “product” types do you see as appropriate for central business district, midtown, or corridors like R Street/Broadway?

- Smaller developments are the key to revitalizing the grid.
- Smaller residential spaces.
- Need more units with 3-4 bedrooms for families.
- Commercial corridors. The City should plan for and provide a vision for distinct areas, such as R Street, so projects can be developed according to the vision.
- Commercial corridors with some level of form-based code to create a vision (i.e. J Street).

What types of amenities are necessary for downtown?

- A grocery store.
- An improved school system. If possible, developer fees should go directly to the schools in the project’s area.
- Improved light rail that people feel safe riding and want to use.
- Public transportation that takes people where they need to go.
- Streetcar. It would connect downtown to West Sacramento.
- Street infrastructure such as bike paths, sidewalks, and road diets.
- Walkable streets. Not every block has to have every amenity if we can keep the districts and neighborhoods connected.
- Parks and improving the public realm.

How significant is transit proximity to your development?

- Streetcar would positively impact the desirability of development for both tenants and buyers.
- Transit is not currently a factor in regards to bank loans, because the transit that exists now does not add a lot of value to projects we assess in the area. Streetcar could, but it is unknown.
- From the perspective of affordable housing, streetcar is not guaranteed to be helpful for cap and trade funding acquisition.

Are there parking code adjustments that should be addressed to entice development?

- If developers want to attract all demographics, parking is a necessary amenity. There is no bus line or light rail route that is feasible for someone who has to commute.

What is your assessment of the City's current parking requirements relative to affordable housing?

- Developers currently favor flexible parking. Improvements to public transportation, potential driverless cars, and other advances in transportation technology over the next 20 years make it difficult to anticipate future needs.
- Parking should have no requirements. Allow the market to determine what is needed.
- Affordable housing developers favor flexible parking, because they cannot charge for parking.

Is there a way for the City to bring down risk?

- Strong and clear policy associated with the General Plan that can reduce the chance for litigation.
- A Planning Commission that makes a case for a project, not against it.

What do you see as the most important drivers for housing demand?

- Availability of jobs is a big deal for the area. The Kaiser development, which would bring 3,000 jobs, is huge.
- Livability and walkability are the first things people look towards when considering moving to the grid.
- Preserving the feeling of a community in an urban environment. Restaurants, bars, public parks, market places, and other amenities can pull residents to the core and make them feel like they are not sacrificing anything from the suburbs.
- Walking paths, green strips, and general areas that encourage people to communicate with one another.
- The Golden 1 Center.

If you've been following the State Legislature's various affordable housing initiatives, which if any proposed measures do you think could impact your work? How?

- The legislation is only passing funding and subsidies for special needs housing only. This includes housing projects for people in extreme poverty, homeless with mental disabilities, and veterans. Funding for normal affordable housing projects is not being provided.
- The affordable housing sustainable communities cap and trade funding becomes more important.

Has the increased supervision and regulatory requirements imposed by the Federal Government impacted your underwriting of loans for infill development? If so, how?

- No. Most of these requirements do not relate to commercial lending.

Have demographic shifts and new investment in downtown Sacramento made investment easier to justify? What is the outlook for the next 10 years?

- Sacramento was recently ranked in the top five cities in the country with the highest rent escalation. This helps the brokerage community understand how downtown and midtown are performing.
- The Golden 1 Center has helped with the success of retail spaces and improving vacancy rates.
- Occupancy rates have reduced the perceived risk for investing in the Sacramento area.
- Increased activity and nightlife in Sacramento prove there is momentum in the area. Banks like to lend money where there is momentum.
- The City's investment in the grid further proves there is momentum in the area.
- The state putting funding into streetcar positively impacts projects

Do mixed-use projects pencil out in current regulatory environment and current market conditions?

- Yes. Sacramento has performed well in regards to retail spaces and vacancy rates. This makes banks more comfortable with lending to projects in the area.

From your perspective, what are some of the impediments to infill development that impact your underwriting?

- The time it takes a project to get from the entitlement process to construction. Banks like to see projects go vertical by 6 months. They want to have the assurance that something will start going up fairly quickly after a deal is closed.
- Developers need to have their planning approvals, or a lot of them, completed by the time they go to the bank.

Where development is near transit, how flexible are your underwriting standards when it comes to providing reduced parking?

- Bankers are approached on a case-by-case basis, and flexibility depends on who the bank is and what they are looking for.
- Most banks are market “lagers,” meaning they wait until something proves itself before lending.
- There is no federal regulation; every bank has its own set of policies. And within each bank, people have their own comfort levels for nuances of each project.

How have the current General Plan and urban design/development standards impacted your development plans?

- The goal that 40% of the 10,000 units should be affordable housing units has an impact on development plans. Market rate developers need to participate on the same scale as affordable housing developers so Sacramento does not end up with large, segregated communities. Affordable large single buildings can be included in neighborhoods with mixed-use buildings that are similar in form.
- At least half of the 40% of 10,000 housing is number sounds like it is being counted for temporary housing for the homeless and extremely low-income housing.
- Another good portion of the 40% of 10,000 units includes just preserving the existing affordable housing in downtown and enhancing it.
- The General Plan’s F.A.R. (Floor Area Ratio) regulations can be difficult to work with. F.A.R. applies to housing unless there is a “community benefit,” but there needs to be a definition of what that is exactly. Technically, housing should count as a community benefit.
- The 10,000 housing initiative can impact a bank’s willingness to lend. The timing of the 10,000 units will lead banks to assume the initiative will take about 10-20 years to figure out, so loans will tend to be for 5-7 years at a time.

SACRAMENTO DSP HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following summarizes the results of a comprehensive housing market analysis for the Sacramento Downtown Specific Plan (DSP). It begins with an overview of the existing and projected future demographic and economic trends, and real estate market conditions, within the DSP area. The analysis includes comparisons to the City of Sacramento as a whole and to the Sacramento-Roseville-Arden Arcade Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). It also summarizes the results of case study research regarding the conditions and trends in five peer cities, including Denver, Colorado; Long Beach, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Nashville, Tennessee; and Portland, Oregon. The analysis concludes with a review of housing demand projections. The projections include three alternative scenarios, representing the range of potential housing demand that may reasonably be captured within the DSP area, under different circumstances, over the next 10-20 years.

Demographic Characteristics

Key findings from the analysis of existing demographic trends and characteristics include:

- The DSP area lost ~170 residents between 2000 and 2010-2014.
- Area households are smaller than average, with 1.6 persons per household.
- Non-family households make up more than 75 percent of all households, while single people living alone represent about 60 percent of all households.
- Renters represent 88 percent of all DSP area households.
- The median age in the DSP area is lower than in the City and MSA as a whole, and trended downward between 2000 and 2010-2014.
- Only two age cohorts grew since 2000, including 25 to 34 year-olds and 55 to 75 year-olds.
 - The 25 to 34 age cohort represents about one-third of the DSP area total population, while children under the age of 18 represent less than ten percent.
- Inflation-adjusted household incomes in the DSP area are significantly lower than in the City and MSA as a whole.
 - The DSP area has a disproportionate share of low-income households (53 percent of households) compared to the City (46 percent).

San Francisco

2600 10th St., Suite 300
Berkeley, CA 94710
510.547.9380

Sacramento

803 2nd St., Suite A
Davis, CA 95616
530.750.2195

Los Angeles

706 South Hill St., Suite 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90014
213.471.2666

Washington DC

1400 I St. NW, Suite 350
Washington, DC 20005
202.588.8945

New York City

49 West 27th St., Suite 10W
New York, NY 10001
212.683.4486

- This is partially explained by the area's younger population and smaller household sizes.
- Younger single-person households often have lower incomes and have not had time to accumulate substantial wealth/equity to facilitate home purchases.
- Although lower than the regionwide median, the inflation-adjusted median household income in the DSP area increased between 2000 and 2010-2014.
- This means that the DSP area is capturing a disproportionate share of the growth in the number of the region's higher-income households.
- The DSP area is attracting more highly educated residents and at a faster rate than the rest of the City and MSA, positioning DSP area households for long-term income growth.
- The lack of a recent track record of population growth in the DSP area means that it is difficult to gauge the depth of demand to absorb increases in the DSP area housing supply.
 - Developers will need to provide housing in range of sizes, configurations, and price points to maximize the capture of demand for new housing from a broad base.
 - The prevalence of younger single-person households indicates that demand is likely to be strong for smaller, more affordable rental housing units.
 - Lower incomes in the DSP area mean that rental rates and sales prices would ideally be lower than elsewhere in the City and region.
 - Lower price points could be provided by construction of smaller housing units (i.e., studios and one-bedroom units), given the prevalence of single-person households.
 - Household formation, income growth, and educational attainment may translate to the ability for current DSP area renters to transition to homeownership as their incomes increase.
 - It is not clear whether the Millennials will seek homeownership at the same rates as prior generations, or whether they will seek ownership options outside of the DSP area.

Economic Characteristics

Key findings from the analysis of economic trends include:

- DSP area job growth was much more robust than the MSA in the 2005 to 2010 period, and performed much worse than the MSA between 2010 and 2015.

- The DSP area is the region’s most important job center, accounting for 13 percent of regional employment in 2015.
- Government employment continues to represent an exceedingly large portion of the DSP area employment, accounting for almost two out of every three DSP area jobs.
- There are signs that the DSP area employment base is diversifying to some extent.
 - Job gains in sectors such as Construction; Wholesale Trade; Management of Companies and Enterprises; Educational Services; Health Care and Social Assistance; Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; Accommodation and Food Services; and Professional and Technical Services.
 - The Retail sector contracted by about 25 percent since 2005, implying a reduction in the availability of lower-skill, lower-wage employment opportunities
 - The contraction in retail employment also indicates a possible contraction in the availability of retail shopping opportunities for residents and visitors.
 - Convenient shopping for everyday goods is typically an important consideration for renters and homebuyers who are looking for a residence location.
- DSP area resident occupations, regardless of their workplace location, tend to be concentrated in various professional and “white collar” categories, such as:
 - Management, Business, and Financial occupations, and Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts, and Media occupations.
 - Resident occupations that tend to be associated with lower education and skill levels and lower wages have tended to decrease over time.
 - This general shift in occupations correlates with an increase in household incomes between 2000 and 2010-2014, which was counter to citywide and regional trends.
- An estimated 94 percent of DSP area workers commute in from outside the DSP area, while only 36 percent of employed residents work in the DSP area.
 - Residential properties are currently capturing housing demand from only a very small portion of the local workforce, and the residential sector has the potential to absorb considerable additional housing demand from the local workforce at its current level.

Housing Market Conditions

Key findings from the housing market existing conditions assessment include:

- The DSP area housing market is predominantly characterized by attached single-family housing units (i.e., duplex, triplex, townhome, etc.), as well as smaller apartment buildings.
- New housing in the DSP area is predominantly oriented toward higher-density multifamily and attached single-family housing types, including larger (>50 units) apartment buildings.
- The DSP area's extremely low-, very low-, and low-income households (53 percent of total) are at risk of displacement, due to high prevalence of excessive or severe housing cost burdens.
 - Housing displacement risk among moderate-income and above moderate-income households is less of a concern, due to their higher incomes.
 - Overcrowding does not appear to be a significant problem in the DSP area.
- Home prices in the DSP area tend to be at the high end, compared to the city as a whole, both on a total price basis (\$476,250 median sale price) and on a price per square foot basis (\$354 per square foot).
 - DSP area sales prices are only below those of East Sacramento (\$498,500 median sale price /\$372 per square foot), and generally exceed the values in other neighborhoods.
 - DSP area values are considerably above average, indicating that homebuyers attribute considerable value to a downtown Sacramento location.
 - These high home values exist in the context of a housing market that has seen rapid price appreciation since the start of the recovery, around the turn of the decade.
- Among different residential product types, per square foot values were highest among condominiums and townhomes.
 - This indicates that buyers are accepting of higher density living options and, in the case of condominiums, are willing to pay a premium for the right type of high density product.
 - This pricing bolsters development feasibility for higher density infill and redevelopment projects, where higher sales prices per square foot are necessary to offset costs.
- Interviews indicate that the buyers of units in new DSP area residential projects are primarily single individuals, couples, young professionals, empty-nesters, and retirees.
 - Families with children are noticeably absent from the DSP area buyer profile.

- Homebuyers are seeking the “urban experience” and the “lock and leave” convenience.
- Maximum affordable home purchase prices for households in the moderate-income category (up to 120 percent of AMI) are just below \$400,000, for a five-person household.
 - Maximum home purchase prices for smaller moderate-income households are lower. For example, a moderate-income one-person household could a home costing ~\$258,000.
 - Affordable home purchase prices for lower-income households are below these limits.
 - Based on a comparison between these affordable purchase prices and the sales prices of recently constructed for-sale housing units in the DSP area, the marketplace is only providing new housing units affordable at the above moderate-income level.
 - Households that cannot afford to purchase market rate housing, either new or resales, turn to the rental housing market in order to secure affordable housing.
- Housing rental rates in the DSP area, as well as in the City and the MSA have increased on a strong upward trend since the Great Recession.
 - The average apartment rental rate for the DSP area has increased 32 percent since 2008, to \$1,737 per month, while vacancy rates have dropped to 3.2 percent.
 - Current average monthly rents range from \$1,313 for a studio apartment, to \$2,117 for a three-bedroom townhouse, for an overall average of \$2.16 per square foot.
 - Among recently completed projects, rental rates tend to be considerably higher than the DSP area market averages, ranging up to as high as \$4.11 per square foot.
- The tenant profile for newly constructed residential units tends to include higher-income young professionals in their mid-20s to mid-30s, acknowledging that younger workers in lower-paid occupations likely cannot afford the rents.
- While older renters, who are more likely to have children than the younger renters, typically prefer more suburban locations, empty-nesters are showing interest in the DSP area.
 - Many are testing out urban living and choose to rent for a period of time in the DSP area, before committing to purchasing a home or condominium in the DSP area.

- Real estate professionals indicated that demand was strong for all available rental unit types, with primary demand coming from people who work in or near the DSP area.
- However, some complexes noted that they have a portion of tenants who live in the DSP area for the urban environment, and reverse commute to suburban jobs outside the DSP area.
- For rental projects (and for-sale projects) neighborhood walkability and proximity to restaurants, shopping, parks, cultural amenities, and jobs are key amenities for residents.
- Comparing affordable housing costs by income level with the market rate average rents in the DSP area indicates that moderate-income households of various sizes can generally afford the average rental rates for housing that would be suitable for their household size.
 - Low-income households at various sizes could not afford market average rents.
 - Some may still find affordable rental units in the lower end of the DSP area market rental rate ranges, for appropriately sized units.
 - Very low- and extremely low-income households will likely face great difficulty in finding affordable market rate rental housing in the DSP area.

Non-Residential Market Conditions

Important findings from the assessment of non-residential real estate market conditions include:

- Based on existing commute patterns and tenant profiles shared by managers at recently completed rental and for-sale residential projects, there is an important link between DSP area jobs and housing demand.
- Current real estate market information indicates that the DSP area remains a key job center within Sacramento and the larger MSA, accounting for approximately 57.4 percent of citywide office inventory, as well as a portion of the region's industrial and retail space.
- With relatively low vacancy rates, the DSP area's non-residential real estate sector will not be able to accommodate substantial new employment growth without new development.

Planned and Proposed Residential Projects

Key findings from the planned and proposed projects inventory include:

- The City of Sacramento currently has a substantial pipeline of approved, planned, and proposed residential projects, totaling almost 13,500 new housing units.
- Most of the projects are planned as market rate mixed-use developments.
- The split between market rate and below-market rate units in large projects such as the Railyards and the remaining units in Township 9, is yet to be determined.
- There are also a number of higher density residential projects proposed and under construction just outside of the DSP area boundary.
 - While these projects represent competition, many are targeted somewhat down market from the DSP area projects, offering more affordable housing options and many complementary housing types (e.g., townhomes versus luxury apartments).
 - Also, with considerably fewer units, these projects are much less likely to set the market for housing in urban Sacramento, compared to projects like the Railyards.
- New rental and new for-sale housing developments tend to be priced significantly above the current market averages.
 - Mismatch between the construction cost and rental rates/sales prices.
 - Limited affordability for households with incomes less than the above moderate level in the for-sale market and the lower-income income levels for prospective renters.
 - To the extent that any of the existing lower income households are at risk of displacement, there are few new below-market rate relocation options.
 - Mixed income housing strategies are currently under development for the Railyards and Township 9 developments, in compliance with the City's mixed income housing ordinance.
 - Given the large number of units associated with these projects, robust mixed income housing strategies could help to mitigate some of the displacement pressure.

Baseline Growth Projections

The following are key findings derived from a review of the available growth projections and a comparison with the current pipeline of planned and proposed projects:

- SACOG has relatively robust expectations for residential growth in the DSP area between 2012 and 2036, projecting an average growth rate of 3.7 percent per year.
 - This is substantially higher than the rate that SACOG projects for the City as a whole (1.7 percent per year) and for the MSA overall (1.4 percent per year).

- SACOG’s growth projections translate to 3,877 new housing units in the DSP area between 2012 and 2020, and an additional 15,836 units between 2020 and 2036.
- The currently identified residential projects can more than address SACOG’s anticipated increase in DSP area housing units through 2020.
 - If all the currently approved, planned, and proposed projects were completed by 2036, this would address about 70 percent of SACOG’s projected DSP area housing unit growth.
- Additional planning will be necessary to ensure that the DSP area continues to include a wide variety of housing types offering housing opportunities for all household types and incomes.
 - Further analysis will be necessary to determine whether the specific residential product types being proposed in the DSP area are optimized to meet the anticipated demand, including an appropriate distribution of affordability levels, and unit types and sizes, based on expected DSP area household characteristics.

Peer City Case Studies

To better understand the conditions and trends that contribute to increasing demand for central city housing, BAE conducted five peer city case studies, including Denver, Colorado; Long Beach, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Nashville, Tennessee; and Portland, Oregon. Some of the common themes that surfaced through the case studies include:

- The peer city downtown housing markets emphasize development of smaller studio and one-bedroom multifamily rental units, sized at around 1,000 square feet or less.
- This includes the development of “micro-units” in all five peer cities, which can offer as little as 350 square feet per unit.
- The central city rental offerings in all five peer cities are generally oriented toward the higher-end of the market, providing a stunning array of amenities ranging from fitness centers, to rooftop decks, and pet grooming services.
- The for-sale market is somewhat dormant in most downtowns, due in part to concerns over liability exposure for construction defects, according to real estate brokers.
- Developers in all five peer cities leverage a robust assortment of cultural, recreational, and entertainment offerings, which contribute to the desirability of central city housing.
- While all five peer cities are working to improve access to public transit, Nashville remains largely auto dependent. Denver, by comparison, has developed the eighth largest light rail network in the country, which is helping to drive downtown growth.

- The primary driver of central city housing demand is the capture of a share of overall regional demand growth, which is most closely tied to regional employment growth. Changing consumer preferences and the provision of a more vibrant assortment of downtown amenities mainly help to increase the central city capture rate; though a reputation for urban vibrancy can also induce additional demand, as seen in Portland and Nashville.
- Demand for central city housing primarily originates from among households headed by members of the Millennial and Baby Boom generations.
- All five peer cities utilized public investments in infrastructure, site remediation and preparation, and project subsidies to catalyze development early on. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) remains an important funding mechanism in most cities.
- All five peer cities have central city plans in place that direct downtown development and coordinate the regulatory framework with broader citywide and regional efforts.
- Portland and Nashville offer two of the more innovative approaches to incentivizing central city housing development, including the use of height and density bonuses and design oriented regulations which de-emphasize, or eliminate, use restrictions.
- Denver offers an example of robust regional cooperation, anchored in the Mile High Compact, which commits jurisdictions throughout the region to cooperate on matters of economic development and infrastructure. Minneapolis offers another example with a regional tax sharing agreement designed to even out infrastructure spending.
- Two of the peer cities, Portland and Denver, also feature urban growth boundaries, which help to concentrate development pressure within existing urban areas.

Housing Demand Projections

The following summarizes the key characteristics of BAE's three housing demand growth scenarios, along with key considerations for interpretation of the scenarios:

- The demand projections developed by BAE for the Sacramento DSP area are based on population, household, and housing unit projections published by SACOG.
- To put the SACOG projections into perspective, BAE compared the Sacramento DSP area household capture rate (i.e., the proportion of new regional household growth that is being allocated to the central city) to the capture rates identified in the five peer city case studies.
- BAE then developed three alternative scenarios to illustrate the range of potential housing demand that may be captured, under different circumstances, over the next ten to 20 years.

- The low-end scenario assumes that the DSP area will capture the same proportion of regional housing growth as reported in the 2000 Census and the 2010-2014 ACS.
- The mid-range scenario assumes that the DSP area will capture a significantly higher proportion of regional housing growth, which is consistent with SACOG's projections.
- The high-end scenario assumes that the DSP area will capture housing demand sufficient to absorb the current pipeline of planned housing projects.
 - This is based on the assumption that the volume of planned and proposed housing development reflects a positive developer outlook, including certain expectations about anticipated future demand for housing in the central city.
 - It also assumes that by providing a substantial increase in the number of housing projects that are available in different locations and configurations, compared to historic offerings, the expanded supply of new housing will induce a higher level of demand for central city housing, in large part from existing area workers.

Table ES-1: Projected DSP Area Housing Demand Growth, 2016-2026-2036

	2016	2026	2036
Metro Area Households	807,841	916,896	1,050,579
<i>New Households</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>109,055</i>	<i>133,683</i>
Historic Trend Scenario (a)			
Household Capture Rate (b)	n.a.	0.3%	0.3%
Central City Households	18,938	19,292	19,727
<i>New Households</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>354</i>	<i>435</i>
Central City Housing Units (c)	21,358	21,679	22,463
<i>New Housing Units</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>321</i>	<i>784</i>
SACOG Scenario (d)			
Household Capture Rate (b)	n.a.	6.4%	8.2%
Central City Households	18,938	25,900	36,811
<i>New Households</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>6,963</i>	<i>10,911</i>
Central City Housing Units (c)	21,358	29,104	41,917
<i>New Housing Units</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>7,746</i>	<i>12,812</i>
Supply Driven Scenario (e)			
Household Capture Rate (b)	n.a.	8.7%	8.7%
Central City Households	18,938	28,423	40,051
<i>New Households</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>9,486</i>	<i>11,628</i>
Central City Housing Units (c)	21,358	32,017	45,257
<i>New Housing Units</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>10,659</i>	<i>13,240</i>

Notes:

- (a) Based on the historic household capture rate exhibited in the Sacramento Downtown Specific Plan Area between the 2000 Census and the 2010-2014 American Community Survey (ACS).
- (b) Represents the proportion of regional household growth captured within the Sacramento Downtown Specific (DSP) area.
- (c) Assumes an average housing vacancy factor of 11-12 percent, as projected by SACOG.
- (d) Based on the implied household capture rate reported in the 2012-2020-2036 regional projections published by SACOG.
- (e) Based on the current list of planned and proposed housing projects slated for completion during the next 10-20 years. This scenario assumes that such development activity functions as one possible indicator of potential new housing demand.

Sources: SACOG, Draft Modeling Projections for 2012, 2020, and 2036, 2016; U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey, 2016; City of Sacramento, 2016; SHRA, 2016; Sacramento Business Journal, 2016; Downtown Sacramento Partnership, 2016; BAE, 2016.

- While the low-end scenario is based on documented historic trends, the moderate- and high-end scenarios represent significant departures from historic trends.
- While there is substantial evidence indicating that the DSP area is likely to satisfy a significantly higher proportion of regional housing demand than was achieved over the prior decade, there are a number of key conditions that will need to be met, including:
 - The economic fundamentals driving housing demand, both within the DSP area and the broader Sacramento region, must remain sound.
 - Another recession could result in lower regional growth and a lack of feasibility and/or interest in building new housing, particularly high density infill.
 - While the peer city case studies identified a significant shift in demographics and housing preferences as a primary driver of central city housing demand, the depth of the higher density urban infill market has yet to be fully demonstrated.

- To appeal to a broad spectrum of households and maximize demand capture, developers provide a broad range of household types and income levels.
 - This would broaden the appeal beyond the higher-end renter segment that is the primary focus of recent DSP area housing development.
 - This will likely need to include additional rental housing options for lower-income households, including both market rate and subsidized options, as well as additional home ownership opportunities.
- Residential developments will need to closely coordinate with the City and other central city stakeholders to leverage major public investments, such as the Golden 1 Center, K Street revitalization, R Street redevelopment, Railyards redevelopment, riverfront reinvestment, and other related public and private investments, to further catalyze interest in central city living and the “downtown lifestyle.”
- The planning and building approval and permitting capacity of the City of Sacramento will need to be able to accommodate a substantial increase in volume of infill projects.
- The City will also need to respond effectively to the substantial changes in service demand resulting from a significant increase in the DSP resident population.

Housing Demand by Unit Size and Tenure

In addition to estimating the total number of housing units which may be absorbed within the DSP area under each housing demand capture scenario, BAE developed breakdowns of housing units by unit size, tenure, and household income level.

- BAE anticipates that just under 60 percent of the future housing demand will be for studio and one-bedroom units, with just under 30 percent allocated toward two-bedroom units, and just over 11 percent allocated to housing units with three or more bedrooms.
- Just over 44 percent of the projected housing demand will come from lower-income households (i.e., those earning 80 percent or less of AMI).
 - Just over 18 percent will come from moderate-income households (i.e., those earning 81 to 120 percent of AMI), and the remaining 38 percent coming from above moderate-income households (i.e., those earning more than 120 percent of AMI).
- Approximately 59 percent of the housing demand will be in the rental market, with the remainder oriented toward the for-sale housing market.

Housing Demand by Density Type

While the housing demand projections do not specify housing preferences in terms of housing density, some inferences are possible based on household income and tenure:

- To promote affordability at the lower income levels, most of the projected rental housing is likely to take the form of higher density multifamily apartments.
 - For example, rental units targeted toward lower income households account for approximately 44 percent of the total projected new housing demand through 2026.
- Rental housing for households in the moderate- and above moderate-income categories, which accounts for 15 percent of projected demand, will likely be high-density multifamily.
 - Some of this demand may be met through provision of moderate density townhomes and live/work units in locations where lower-density development is preferable.
- For higher income households seeking home ownership opportunities, which account for roughly 41 percent of the total projected new housing demand, preferences may range from:
 - High density condominiums through moderate density townhomes; and
 - Moderate density small lot single-family housing options, particularly in Midtown.