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To: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>; Julia Klein <jklein@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: Comments for Tonight's General Plan Study Session

Hi Patrice and Julia,

My name is Panah Stauffer and I live in San Mateo. I'd like to submit comments for the General Plan Study Session tonight. Also, I'd like to share that it's not clear to me what documents will be presented tonight other than the schedule of past workshops which is on the Legistar page. I'm basing my comments off of the Briefing Book and other documents I see on the General Plan website.

1. I agree that housing and traffic are the biggest challenges for San Mateo. We must have a focus on Transit-Oriented Development going forward. To me, this means more development, including buildings which may go above the height limit, around the transit corridor. It also means more, improved transit options and more, improved bicycle infrastructure.
2. Bicycling is not currently treated as a primary mode of transportation in the General Plan Briefing Book or in the Bicycle Master Plan Update. It is already a primary means of commuting for many people in our city who cannot afford cars, but in the Briefing Book and the Bicycle Master Plan Update it is treated more as a pastime or a sustainability choice. We really need a stronger focus on safe bike routes that traverse the city, both north-south and east-west. These routes would both support existing commuters and encourage more bicycle commuters, especially in combination with a competitive bike share and scooter program. Safe bicycle infrastructure should be a primary focus of the General Plan and of City funds. It should not be treated as an optional use of excess funds or as something that can only be funded with external grants.
3. East-west transit has to be improved, including from San Mateo to Foster City. More shuttle bus services like the one serving the Hillsdale Caltrain would eliminate many single-driver commutes in our area. They should be timed with the Caltrain to ensure that commuters won't be waiting for nearly an hour for their trains. Similarly, a shuttle to Millbrae (at least until the Caltrain is electrified) would eliminate many car trips and would augment the ECR service, which is currently infrequent and slow.
4. Parking structures are currently a huge expense and are part of nearly every development project.

Along with the TDM program, the City should encourage automated parking structures to make more efficient use of space. Understanding that car ownership is set to drop off dramatically in the future, the City should also encourage developers to build more housing units and fewer parking units.

5. More housing stock is a must if we are going to retain the diversity that makes San Mateo special. The City must encourage the development of more multi-family housing. New developments should include traditional affordable housing and new types of workforce housing, but fundamentally should provide enough housing stock so that anyone making under the median income of \$115,000 can live in San Mateo and be part of a healthy middle class. I support raising the height limit or waiving it consistently around the transit corridor in order to make San Mateo livable. I am a "young professional" and it is important to me to see San Mateo provide housing options for young couples and young families trying to build their future here.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.
Panah Stauffer