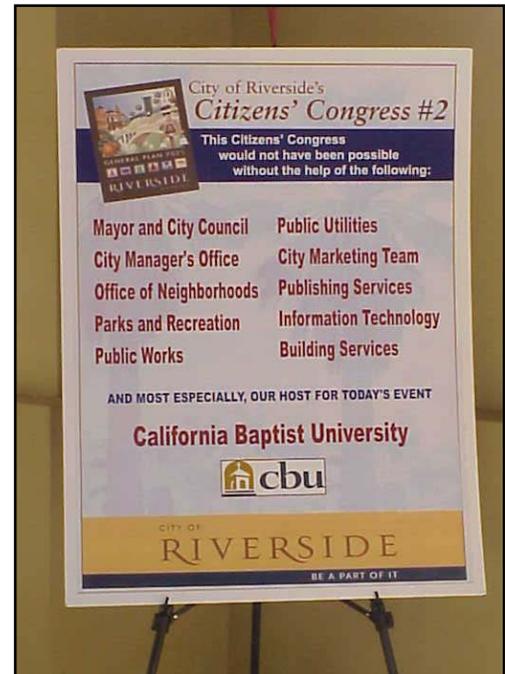


CITIZENS' CONGRESS SUMMARY

RIVERSIDE GENERAL PLAN PROGRAM

DATE OF EVENT: JUNE 12, 2004

On June 12, 2004, over 200 Riverside residents attended the second Citizens' Congress General Plan festival held on the beautiful California Baptist University campus. Riversiders came to learn of the Bold Moves proposed in the update General Plan, proposals that reflect residents' hopes for their City's future, as they have expressed over the past year as part of the General Plan program. Participants viewed a presentation by Mayor Ron Loveridge, Planning Director Ken Gutierrez, and the General Plan consultant team that illustrated how Riverside plans to grow smarter, balancing its desire to preserve the resources that distinguish Riverside with the need to accommodate new residents over the next 20 years. The key themes presented illustrated Riverside's vision:



- ❖ *The City will grow, but will grow smarter. City will shape growth rather than let growth shape the City.*
- ❖ *Growth will respect and enhance Riverside's natural and historic resources.*
- ❖ *Traffic will increase, even with no growth in the City of Riverside – but will be managed more effectively.*
- ❖ *Riverside grows as a major regional employment center.*
- ❖ *Riverside remains a preeminent regional education center.*
- ❖ *Riverside's stature as the region's cultural center is enhanced.*
- ❖ *Riverside continues to move toward cleaner air.*



Attendees learned of Riverside's vision for mixed-use districts at key locations along Magnolia Avenue and University Avenue, and at strategic locations in other neighborhoods, where residential living and commercial services work together to create vibrant centers. The concept of *Riverside Park* showed the City's goal to complete and enhance the ring of open space surrounding Riverside, and to connect the open spaces with landscaped travelways. The presenters identified the City's desire to strengthen partnerships with its educational and arts institutions to encourage joint use of facilities and programs toward the ends of offering Riversiders a broader

array of choices facilities and attracting visitors. The program also highlighted the City's plan to attract new businesses that offer quality employment, thus reducing the need for Riversiders to commute.

City staff emphasized that this General Plan and the Bold Moves contained in it will be implemented; this is not a POTS – Put on the Shelf – plan. The City is adopting new land use and design regulations that will put into action the goals set forth in the General Plan.

Following the presentation, in an interactive session with City staff participants offered their thoughts and ideas about Riverside's Bold Moves, illustrated on the graphic on the following page. Participants also had the opportunity to share opinions at the passive Crossroads station outside of the theater. At the Crossroads, people posted notes commenting on the Bold Moves and the three cornerstones of the General Plan: the Land Use Policy Map, the Master Circulation Plan, and Riverside Park. In this summary, comments from the Crossroads are presented, grouped under common themes.

LAND USE

The Senior Center on old library land (never built) at 12th and Enterprise and Chicago should serve all of Police Area 2.

Make sure that hills and arroyos and greenbelt are protected in light of growth control measures R and C, including density limits on steep slopes and how density is clustered.

I appreciate the mixed use in the Sycamore Canyon area; however, upkeep of the landscapes in the area are not well kept.



The old General Plan should have been followed to preserve open space/trails system, such as the connection of Sycamore Canyon Park to the Alessandro Arroyo. Trails were lost to housing. It should have been in the conditions with the development.

The University neighborhood has more density than any other part of town. Implement a moratorium on new housing until City services catches up with growth.

What is going to go in the adjoining lot of the Casa Blanca Family Learning Center? Please notify the residents in the near vicinity.

Can the City purchase County land around Orange Crest so we don't have to annex County land that has already been planned? Then the City can plan it themselves.

Restore a grocery store and decent shops at Blaine Street Shopping Center.

We need further retail and community development centers in the Mission Grove and Orange Crest areas.

ARTS AND CULTURE, RECREATION AND PARKS

Make Riverside into the "City of the Arts".

I would like to see a performing arts center in Riverside.

Streets are important, but there is nothing to do for the youth!

We need more parks and libraries.

In this, where can we integrate Arts and Culture?

Have a cultural center that local art groups can afford to perform in.





GENERAL PLAN 2025
RIVERSIDE
CITIZENS CONGRESS #2
JUNE 12, 2004

COMMENTS

- ▶ MIXE-USE GOOD DIRECTION
- ▶ CURRENT PLAN NOT BEING FOLLOWED
- ▶ PLEASED & ENCOURAGED BY BOD MOVES
- ▶ HOW IS PLAN IMPLEMENTED? INTEGRATE W/ STRATEGIC PLAN
- ▶ RE-ROUTE TRUCKS TO LOWER EMISSIONS POLLUTION
- ▶ HIGH DENSITY CAUTION
- ▶ HOMELESS ISSUES !!!
- ▶ VAN BUREN PLAN ADDRESSES SOME ISSUES
- ▶ PARKING @ MT. RUBIDAV
- ▶ "PIBER" OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE TELE-COMMUTING
- ▶ "FLEX-TIME" WILL RELIEVE CONGESTION TRAFFIC SITUATION ON VICTORIA SIGNS
- ▶ ACCESS FOR THOSE W/OUT HIGH SPEED MODEM
- ▶ CAUTION W/ COMMON SPACE USE
- ▶ RESCEN DECISION MAJOR ARTERIAL ALONG MIDDLE SCHOOL
- ▶ UNIVERSITY/MAIN ST. RE-CONSIDER HIGH STORY - PRESERVE DWNTN
- ▶ SYNCHRONIZATION OF LIGHTS DWNTN

- ▶ VICTORIA WE UNDERPASS SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS TO MEET NEW CODES
- ▶ MAGNOLIA & RIVERSIDE - DEDICATED BUS LANES
- ▶ "GO RIVERSIDE" - COMMITTEE ENGAGE IN G.P. IMPL PROCESS
- ▶ MAGNOLIA CENTRAL ACCESS
- ▶ IDEAS FROM CG #1 INTEGRATED INTO PLAN
- ▶ DOES NOT ADDRESS SENIOR ISSUES, PDS
- ▶ -MOTORISTS
- ▶ -HOUSING
- ▶ -TRANSPORTATION
- ▶ ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE & DEQUITE MEDICAL CARE!
- ▶ PROTECT ARROYOS
- ▶ WATERSHED STA. ANNA RESTORATION

WHAT'S MISSING?

- ▶ AFFORDABLE/ WORKFORCE, SENIOR HOUSING, STUDENT
- ▶ UNIVERSAL DESIGN ACCESS !! -HEARING IMPAIRED
- ▶ MIXED USE W/ SERVICES ON SITE: CHILD CARE
- ▶ ADDRESS TRANS PLAN BEFORE 10 YRS
- ▶ TRANSPORTATION FOR TRANSIT DEPENDANT COMMUNITY SERVE LATER
- ▶ LACKING DRAW AS DESTINATION
- ▶ BRANDING - CHANGING IMAGE
- ▶ SAFE WALKING TRAILS - FARMONT PARK
- ▶ PROTECT ARROYOS
- ▶ WATERSHED STA. ANNA RESTORATION
- ▶ UNIVERSAL DESIGN ACCESS !! -HEARING IMPAIRED
- ▶ SPORTS COMPLEX !! ARENA
- ▶ PROTECT AREA AROUND VICTORIA
- ▶ SAFEGUARDS THAT NEW PLAN WILL BE IMPLEMENTED
- ▶ -CREATE OVERSIGHT COMMUNITY GRP. -VOTE ON PLAN
- ▶ OVERLOOK "FAST TRACK"
- ▶ PLAN SHOULD INTERFACE W/COUNTY TO ADDRESS REGIONAL ISSUES - PARTERSHIPS

PROCESS

- ▶ HOW WILL RESIDENTS GET INFORMATION BEFORE PUBLIC HEARINGS?
- ▶ STAFF ASSIGNED TO EACH PLAN ELEMENT
- ▶ EDUCATION ON MIXED USE
- ▶ ANNUAL G.P. WKSHP
- ▶ INVITE MAYOR & COMMISSION
- ▶ JULY
- ▶ PRINT & E. COPY OF DRAFT DOCUMENT
- ▶ DIANE dijenkins@riversideca.gov

909 826-5625

Promote and protect State Historic Citrus Park.

Fairmount Park is the mirror of the City (look at the lake). Is this the face we want to show?

How about a nice neighborhood park on the southside (Whitegate area)?

The University Neighborhood badly needs a community center. We get no parks and recreation or other City services.

Need to clean up Fairmount Park!



We need a community accessible Cultural Center.

Use the old downtown packing house area for expansion of cultural facilities (museum – historical?).

Buy back land sold at Mt. Vernon Park, and develop Mount Vernon Park as an accessible park for the disabled.

We need to see more recreational programs in Orange Crest.

Horse trails need to be incorporated into Riverside's "Emerald Necklace." We could also use a state-of-the art equine facility.

Promote better activities at Raincross Square to bring in visitors.

Restore bookmobile services for areas without branch libraries. Build a branch library in University Neighborhood to serve Police Area 2.

Bring a sports team to Riverside sports/arts go together for tourist money.

We need restrooms at Lincoln Park – Sanitation and safety concern – portable toilets would help.

We need more parks in the Greenbelt area before it's all built up.

Our City needs a performing Arts Center like Palm Springs or Cerritos.

We are missing a tremendous recreation identity and redevelopment opportunity by not emulating San Antonio's Riverwalk.

Create activities for teens like off-road trails and skateboard parks that they do not have to pay to get in.

AIR QUALITY

We have the dirtiest air in America – clean it up!

TRAFFIC/TRANSPORTATION

Madison should not be used as a thoroughfare for the “Overlook Parkway” as mentioned, it is a residential community. How would people be able to go to church?

When are you planning to widen Washington Street? I have 800 feet of frontage on the side of Washington where it will be widened. Please contact me before finalizing your plans so that we can work together on doing it right.

I don't see an integrated transportation plan – just streets.

Fix Van Buren and Magnolia Area.

Put shade over bus stops; people are getting skin cancer.

Reduce speeds on City streets to allow business districts visible to passerby and safer for vehicles and pedestrians (30 mph in blks. 75-100 comm. – 35 mph 80-80ft. collect and arterial – 40 mph 100-110 ft arterial – 45-50 mph 120-140 ft arterials).



Need lights at 3rd and Vine underpass.

The City streets are full of pot holes and deep cracks and chunks. We need competent street work.

Overlook shouldn't go through Madison/Casa Blanca.

Measure A designation of Central Avenue in front of Sierra Middle School as a major arterial needs to be changed at the RCTC.

Now that the proposed utilities customer services center is coming into the Casa Blanca area and there is only one entrance, is there going to be speed bumps installed on Emerald Street?

The City is developing these plans around the primary idea of our visible beauty and history/heritage (see our City logo). Reduce speed limits within the City to improve street/pedestrian safety and allow people to enjoy the visible beauty of all of our City.

A multi-modal transportation hub (i.e. trains, buses, etc.) is needed, perhaps located at the Metrolink Station, perhaps using the old movie theater.

We need to plan out the car: more bikes/walking.

We need to keep our bus station open for safety of inner-City and/or inner-state travelers. It's unsafe for people traveling through to stand on street.

Putting Overlook through from Canyon Crest Drive to Madison will not increase traffic on Victoria Avenue; it will reduce traffic. I live on Washington and work at UCR – currently I must use Victoria to get to work. If you put Overlook through I will not have to travel on Victoria.

Transit needs to run later, especially in Eastside.

Railroad crossing signs (old ones) on Magnolia and Merrill: they need painting and repair. We don't want them removed.

Traffic speed is too high on residential streets. (All streets with 25% residential use between intersecting streets or city blocks max speed 30 mph – All streets >26% residential along City blocks max speed 25mph – All streets >75% residential maximum use, stop signs and speed bumps.)



Review safety of allowing large semi-trailers to go westbound on Alessandro. If one of those trucks lost its brake, the potential to take out a large part of a neighborhood exists.

Metrolink routes need to run later out of Los Angeles.

Save Victoria Avenue: no through traffic.

Overlook needs to go through now! We are wasting gas and making smog and clogging Victoria.

The Magnolia underpass needs to be #1 on priority, or partner with railroad to go under all the streets.

Enhance traffic enforcement on Central Avenue.

No heavy traffic through the Greenbelt; Adams Street needs to be saved.

Will the Century Avenue Parkway cross below the Alessandro Dam? How? A bridge is necessary.

When is Overlook going through? It was approved years ago. We need it now. It will take traffic off of Victoria and Alessandro.

A 110' arterial through Casa Blanca? Unrealistic. Adams should be accessed through Greenbelt to connect with Overlook Parkway.

Connection of Collett to Buchanan should get a very high implementation priority. Tell Riverside County RCTC we no longer want Central Avenue between Brockton and Van Buren as a major arterial – redo Measure A – yes, it can be done.

Depress the railroad through Magnolia Center.

Berkshire Hills Neighborhood Association wants Overlook to go through as soon as possible.



Put in four-way stops at Dufferin and Grace and Victoria and Grace.

We need to build new roads before houses and other buildings are built. Expanding existing roads is not possible with all the development around them.



HOUSING

Current apartment complexes are not well managed and are becoming unsafe.

The city needs to put high-density housing in shopping centers so people can walk.

Put condos and apartments on top of stores and shops like in Europe.

I love mixed use but new complexes on north Mabel are not being well maintained. Also, beautiful old homes immediately around downtown could be enhanced with federal funding.

We need senior developments in Riverside. What usually comes to mind are Sun City, Banning, and now Palm Desert.

We need an enforceable housing code.

MISCELLANEOUS

We need to address problem of the informal “employment office” on Madison and Indiana.

What can the City do to support the school districts? They are suffering from the state’s budget problems.

Include in the plan that residential trash pickup will not occur before 7:00 a.m. Make it part of the trash collector’s contract.

Spend money on what we have – Fox Theater, Fairmount Park etc., not on bunch of high paid planning consultants!

I appreciate our police department; they maintain order and peace. But when a matter is resolved or attended by police and the helicopter continues to circle the area is unreasonable, especially when it is done. Continuously – we should have a City ordinance on helicopters circling residential areas after 10:00 p.m. at night!



We have lived in the Arlington area since 1972 and have been promised for 32 years that the area would be rehabilitated. We have not seen this yet. It’s getting worse. I’m talking about Magnolia and Van Buren intersection.

Remove all dumpsters from the parking lot behind Goodwill, restaurant, market, etc. They create odors and dumping disease! Why hasn’t this environmental issue received attention? Tax Payer!

Some older Wood street homes cannot accommodate large City trash cans. Supplying smaller trash cans may solve ugly trash can problem!

The recommendations of the different Community Advisory groups should be heavily weighted and the council should listen and stop having their own personal agenda.

11:20 a.m. – I’m leaving, having heard nothing constructive or informative or the promise of anything positive. The General Plan was not presented – an outline was, we cannot discuss an outline; you must have local meeting to discuss these items.

Equal water rates for all!

There should be designated places to operate off-road vehicles on. There is a lot of public land around the City yet we are not allowed to use it even though we pay to register these vehicles and buy green stickers; this should also be provided without charge.

Please have a strong Historic Preservation Element. Keep title 20 intact!

Protect Casa Blanca as a community!

Save the Santa Ana River watershed.

Save the Greenbelt - promote agriculture.

My wife and I telecommute using SBC DSC which provides 6 mbps band. DSC is not a shared media like cable. We don't have to have fiber to houses; copper is fine if you can get SDC to extend their DSCAMS from their CDs.

If the City council is in favor of the general plan, why didn't all the council attend the Citizen Congress?



We live in the area of Lochman and Fair Isle - parkways are a disaster!

What about the trucks coming to Riverside from Mexico - Health (smog) and safety.

Not only do we need to make the world outside of Riverside aware of Riverside, we need to reach our own citizens. They also do not know what is here.

What is the City's desire to annex the Woodcrest area?

We need a coherent, city-wide public art policy that will utilize arts professionals in the decision-making process.

Public Art Policy must be integrated into new development and must be part of city-wide design - not just downtown but in every neighborhood - to celebrate our diversity and create a sense of place.

A greater effort should be made to get participation of younger people. It's their future we're planning.

Where's the part of selling the City to the people that live in Riverside?

We are glad Riverside is looking towards the future with a plan. Great job!

With the State budget being as bad as it is, how are we going to afford this?

Take care if infrastructure before further expansion.

Please clean the front of your houses. Send notification that they are fouling our City. It is easy to have a front yard without garbage cans, put away garbage cans on the same afternoon of garbage pickup. I walk through my neighborhood and pick up papers and trash such as McDonalds wrappers or plastic cups. Do something so our neighborhoods are filthy. Thank you.

I like the way the Citizens Congress was set up last year! It presented a better opportunity to talk to City staffers!!!

(The following pre-prepared comment letter was posted at the Crossroads):

We, the citizens of Riverside, request that the following be made a part of the new general plan:

- Citizens of Riverside request that the plan include safeguards for property owners against takeovers by the power of eminent domain.
- That eminent domain seizures be properly compensated and that all eminent domain seizures be approved in writing by 80% of the property owners of the area.
- That the plan insures in clear language that the City Council and Planning Department cannot recommend nor approve projects nor grant variances that are not in conformity with the City Code without approval of 80% of the property owners of the area.
- That the plan not take effect until all present councilmembers, Mayor and Planning Commission are no longer in power in City hall.
- That the new general plan be voted on by the citizens of Riverside and approved by 80% of the voters.
- That the plan be analyzed by an outside source selected by the citizens of Riverside and paid by the City to insure the rights of all citizens.
- That the Council be divested of any power to serve as the head of the Redevelopment Agency.
- That environment impact reports be required on any project beyond the size of a property owner building or modifying a home on his own property.
- That the Council hereafter cannot have but one member from the building industry serving as a councilmember.
- That no high density housing projects be recommended nor approved without the written consent of 80% of the property owners of the area.
- That the tone of the entire general plan have democratic principles as its core not as lip service. The tone should not be on how the City can respond to change in the next 20 years, but on how the citizens of Riverside want the Council to respond. The present general plan has been constantly violated irresponsibly by the Council who now possesses a tremendous menacing power to abuse citizens and destroy their quality of life without regard to democratic principles. Their motives are suspect. Power. Greed. Whatever drives it, one thing is evident: they are in the pocket of the sweet talking developer. Money talks. They can be and have been had. Whose gain? Our loss!