

## DRAFT El Camino Real/Downtown Vision Plan Goals

These draft goals will be presented to the community and the Planning Commission at the Planning Commission workshop on May 19, 2008. They are based on a variety of sources of public input, including the three Community Workshops that have been held. The first eight goals represent topics on which there is a relatively clear community compromise; the last four goals will be the subject of further discussion at the Planning Commission workshop.

### MAINTAIN A VILLAGE CHARACTER UNIQUE TO MENLO PARK

- ◆ Enhance the distinct character of Menlo Park; a “European village”.
- ◆ Comfortable, walkable scale; accessible to pedestrians.
- ◆ Well-designed buildings, plazas and streets.
- ◆ Inclusion of vertical mixed-use, but not highly intensive development.
- ◆ Expanded business hours and more vitality in Downtown.

### ENSURE THAT EL CAMINO REAL DEVELOPMENT IS SENSITIVE TO ADJACENT NEIGHBORHOODS

- ◆ Accommodate higher intensity development, east of El Camino Real, south of Ravenswood.
- ◆ Variations in use and character (heights, setbacks, landscaping).
- ◆ Step down buildings on the west side of El Camino Real next to existing residential neighborhoods.
- ◆ Up to 4 stories in height on east side of El Camino Real, south of Ravenswood.
- ◆ 2 to 3 stories on east side of El Camino Real, north of Oak Grove.

### REVITALIZE UNDERUTILIZED BUILDINGS AND PARCELS

- ◆ Incorporate hotel and conference facilities on the south end of El Camino Real.
- ◆ Utilize the Park Theater site as a cultural amenity complementary to Downtown.
- ◆ Provide wider sidewalks on El Camino Real.
- ◆ Leverage vacant sites to improve the character of El Camino Real.
- ◆ Infill development is sensitive to adjacent neighborhoods.

### ACTIVATE THE TRAIN STATION AREA

- ◆ Expand housing opportunities, specifically for seniors.
- ◆ Create cultural institutions or similar facilities to contribute to the liveliness of the area.
- ◆ Encourage new parking facilities to be located underground.
- ◆ Introduce a new public plaza as Santa Cruz Avenue reaches the train station area.
- ◆ Create a livelier waiting area for train passengers.

### EXPAND SHOPPING, DINING AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES TO ENSURE A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN

- ◆ Expand housing opportunities to draw more active users of downtown businesses.
- ◆ Restaurants and stores open in the evenings and on weekends.
- ◆ New development is 2 to 3 stories, with the third story stepped back from the street.
- ◆ Improve anchor destinations at both ends of Downtown.
- ◆ Create more active and pedestrian friendly parking areas.
- ◆ Pursue a shuttle bus in Menlo Park with Downtown as its hub.

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### PROVIDE RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE VISION PLAN AREA

- ◆ Develop different types of housing with respect for neighborhood context.
- ◆ Create more affordable housing as well as housing for people who work in Menlo Park.
- ◆ Attract people to downtown housing to bring more life to the area.
- ◆ Consider impacts of additional residential development on Menlo Park schools and other community facilities and services.

### PROVIDE PARK AND PLAZA SPACES

- ◆ Implement new park spaces, particularly in conjunction with residential development.
- ◆ Provide plazas as passive and active recreational spaces activated by storefront activity.
- ◆ Introduce a larger park or plaza space on the southern portion of El Camino Real.

### PROVIDE AN INTEGRATED, SAFE AND WELL-DESIGNED PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE NETWORK

- ◆ Encourage north-south bicycle and pedestrian connections to provide alternatives to walking and biking on El Camino Real.
- ◆ Create a bicycle path that runs along the train tracks.
- ◆ Connect pedestrian and bicycle traffic to the pedestrian bridge to Palo Alto on the south end of the city.
- ◆ Enhance pedestrian and bicycle connection to Burgess Park.

### PROVIDE GREATER EAST-WEST, TOWN-WIDE CONNECTIVITY

#### Discussion Topics Include:

- East-west connections across the railroad tracks.
- Grade separations for all streets currently crossing the railroad tracks.
- A pedestrian/bicycle underpass of the railroad tracks and public park or plaza.
- Improved crosswalk and pedestrian connections across El Camino Real.

### IMPROVE CIRCULATION AND STREETScape CONDITIONS ON EL CAMINO REAL

#### Discussion Topics Include:

- Provide opportunities for wider sidewalks.
- Alleviate congestion.
- Increase the opportunities for safe connectivity.
- Configuration of El Camino Real, including number and width of lanes, lane widths, and availability of parking lanes.

### PROTECT AND ENHANCE PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES ON SANTA CRUZ AVENUE

#### Discussion Topics Include:

- Pedestrian character of Santa Cruz Avenue.
- Wider sidewalks, less on-street parking, possibly a small pedestrian-only mall.
- Mid-block connections between the street and the parking plazas.
- Intermittent plazas that would form a network between Fremont Park and the plaza at Café Borrone.

### DEVELOP PARKING STRATEGIES AND FACILITIES THAT MEET THE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

#### Discussion Topics Include:

- Develop a "Park Once" strategy.
- Parking strategies and pricing and timing mechanisms.
- Parking structures – or not; above grade or below.
- Below-grade parking as an opportunity to create park/public plaza at grade.
- Coordination with Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.