

**From:** Patti L Fry <[pattilfry@gmail.com](mailto:pattilfry@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2016 9:50 AM

**To:** \_CCIN

**Subject:** need for outreach about General Plan Update

Dear Council -

Out of all the many public meetings about ConnectMenlo (the city's General Plan update), not a single one has included explicit discussions about the IMPACTS of 50% growth in population and 70% growth in employment by 2040. Our entire community will be affected. There should be extensive public outreach throughout Menlo Park. None is planned. Well, apparently a one-hour presentation and Q&A at 6pm 7/11 is newly scheduled, but that hardly counts as outreach and discussion, especially when the public only gets 3 minutes each and there is no 2-way conversation.

The only public meetings are the required minimum regarding approval of the Environmental Impact Report and Zoning Ordinance changes.

Because the only zoning changes that were contemplated are in a part of the Bayfront area, most people I know outside of Belle Haven and the General Plan Advisory Committee think that ConnectMenlo is akin to a specific plan for M-2. In other words, they think the Update is only about some zoning changes that will affect a small area of Menlo Park "way over there".

Well, nothing is further from the truth. Those zoning changes represent only 1/4 of the growth projected from now through 2040. There is land available in the rest of the city that is zoned to allow more than three times that amount of additional growth. Some of that already is proposed projects that have been looked at in isolation. The new General Plan codifies at least 50% more housing and 70% more non-residential growth throughout Menlo Park.

Residents are not aware that there could be 16,000 more commuters coming our way - and even more than that if the projected housing doesn't get built or if companies pack in their workers like Facebook does? Residents are not aware that each of the local school districts say they are concerned with population growth of 50%.

Residents are not aware that the Facebook expansion project alone - despite being way over by the bay - will cause significant traffic impacts throughout Menlo Park as far as Alpine, Alameda de las Pulgas, Sand Hill Road, Cambridge, Middlefield, the Willows and all over Belle Haven. The rest of the growth outside of the small area being rezoned will cause even more congestion citywide. Who knows all this?

The General Plan is a critically important guide for our community's future. After all this time since it was last comprehensively updated in 1994, and with the update about 12 years overdue, the integrity of the process requires the deliberate inclusion of the entire community in discussions about impacts, adequacy of our infrastructure to support massive growth, and ways to address them. Our quality of life and the safety of our families are concerns that are too important to move forward without these conversations. We have a very innovative community that might have good ideas, but they need the opportunity to learn more about the impacts before they can engage in addressing them creatively.

Extending the public comment period for the Facebook Expansion and General Plan Update DEIRs is THE LEAST that should be done. Reading the documents alone is a herculean task (well over 9,000 pages, combined). Add to that the need to put into words (ideally into writing) comments and ideas in a thoughtful and constructive way. This takes time.

There should be outreach discussions, both about the impacts and about what our community and the City could do to minimize them. For example, putting plans to modify our circulation system in a major way, or figuring out a way to better support our schools' ability to handle growth.

Instead, the schedule is to have the bare minimum period for public involvement, over the summer. We, as a city, can do better than this.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Fry

Menlo Park resident and former Planning Commissioner