

SUMMARY OF INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY **BOYLE HEIGHTS NEW COMMUNITY PLAN**

This is a summary of input gathered from a broad range of stakeholders who attended focus groups that were held at various sites in Boyle Heights from *November 2006* through *February 2007*. If you have any questions, would like to be placed on the mailing list, or have comments you would like to share, please contact **Boyle Heights Planner Rogelio Flores** at **213-978-1478** or **rogelio.flores@lacity.org**

MOBILITY

TRAFFIC

- Traffic congestion is bad all over Boyle Heights.
- Congestion is especially felt on Soto St, 1st St, Cesar Chavez Blvd, Whittier Blvd, Olympic Blvd, and Lorena St.
- Cut-through traffic is especially noticeable around Freeway ramps that are directly accessed from residential streets.

TRUCK TRAFFIC

- Truck traffic uses local residential streets, causing noise, air pollution, road damage and endangering pedestrians.
- Freeways encourage trucks to cut through local streets to reach industrial areas.

PARKING

- Parking supply is insufficient to meet existing demand throughout Boyle Heights.
- Areas with parking problems: Wyvernwood, Soto, 1st, Cesar Chavez; and streets with high proportions of residences that lack on-site parking.

PEDESTRIANS

- People feel unsafe walking around Hollenbeck Park; Boyle Ave from 1st St to 6th St; areas north of Cesar Chavez Blvd from Soto St to Indiana Ave; areas south of 6th St from Soto St to Indiana Ave (especially Estrada Courts and Wyvernwood).
- Lorena St is dangerous for pedestrians due to high vehicular travel speeds, poor signalization and lack of crosswalks.

FREEWAYS

- Freeways in immediate adjacency to residential areas, parks and schools result in unwanted noise, congestion and pollution.

IMPROVEMENTS

- Sidewalks need repairs and better lighting along Boyle Avenue from 1st Street to 6th Street.
- Boyle Heights suffers from a lack of street trees.
- Alleys need to be paved, lit and otherwise improved to enhance mobility, safety and aesthetics.
- Highway underpasses need to be improved to enhance pedestrian mobility and sense of safety as well as aesthetics.
- Freeway guard rails, fences, retaining walls and guard walls need repair and upgrade (e.g. entrance ramp from State St onto I-10 Eastbound).

PUBLIC TRANSIT

- Most bus stops have no bus shelter and are perceived as unsafe.
- Bus service is hampered by high levels of local traffic congestion and is unreliable.
- Need more alternatives for transportation, such as bicycle lanes.
- The Gold Line will connect Boyle Heights to other job centers in the city and will encourage area residents to make lesser use of their cars.
- Boyle Heights residents will not use the Gold Line and will continue to own and use cars.
- The Gold Line will provide increased options for access to jobs, shopping and entertainment opportunities for area residents.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Number of local job opportunities is not enough to serve local employment needs.
- Variety of local job types is not broad enough to serve local employment needs.
- Street vending is a vital economic activity and should be preserved and enhanced.
- Street Vending poses environmental and health concerns and displaces local businesses (i.e. competes with local restaurants).
- Private development does not contribute positively to the quality of life needs of the community.
- Industrial employment opportunities in Boyle Heights do not pay living wages.
- Need more jobs for the local community that pay living wages.
- Need more high-quality, high-paying jobs for the local community.

COMMERCIAL

- Need greater range and variety of shopping, cultural and entertainment opportunities throughout Boyle Heights.
- Neighborhood-serving corner markets provide needed services and should be preserved and enhanced, but liquor sales should not be allowed.
- The 1st St & Cesar Chavez Blvd commercial corridors are a vital part of Boyle Heights and should be preserved and enhanced.
- New development should complement and enhance the character of important corridors in Boyle Heights.
- Boyle Heights suffers from an overconcentration of establishments that sell alcohol and of those that provide check-cashing services.
- Sit-down restaurants that offer the sale of alcohol for on-site consumption are desirable.
- Commercial signage is ugly and should be prohibited.

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES (Preservation, Cultural/Ethnic Centers, etc.)

- Buildings along Boyle, 2nd, and 3rd Streets and surrounding Hollenbeck Park should be assessed for historic significance.
- There is a lack of cultural opportunities (would like to see a Latino Heritage Museum).
- Street vending is a cultural feature of Boyle Heights.
- 1st St and Cesar Chavez Blvd commercial corridors are cultural features of Boyle Heights.
- Places and structures that should be preserved: Mariachi Plaza; Mariachi Hotel; Breed St Shul (formerly Congregation Talmud Torah); Evergreen Cemetery; Odd Fellows Cemetery; Sears Building; International Institute; Roosevelt High School; Hollenbeck Elementary School; White Memorial Medical Center; Our Lady of Talpa Church; Plaza del Sol; Keiro Senior Health Care Center (formerly, Jewish Home for the Aging); Konko Church; Tenrikyo Church; Hollenbeck Youth Center; Fairmont Street Shul; King Taco; Wabash Shul (formerly Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order); Salesian Boys & Girls Club (formerly Menorah Center); Hollenbeck Middle School (formerly Hollenbeck

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HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES (Cont'd)

High School); Casa México; El Mercadito; Hollenbeck Park; Variety Boys & Girls Club (formerly Cincinnati Street Shul); Buena Vista Lofts (formerly Linda Vista Hospital, and before that, Santa Fe Railroad Hospital); Public Libraries: Benjamin Franklin; Malabar, Stevenson; Costello Recreation Center; Estrada Courts Murals; El Tepeyac; St. Mary's Church.

- Institutions of cultural significance that should be preserved: Homegirl Industries, Homeboy Industries, Otomi Restaurant, La Serenata de Garibaldi, Liliana's Tamales, Proyecto Pastoral; Self-Help Graphics.
- Murals are a very important cultural feature throughout Boyle Heights; existing murals should be preserved and new ones encouraged.

OPEN SPACE & PARKS (Recreational Facilities, etc.)

- Need more parks and park spaces devoted to active uses, such as outdoor athletic recreation activities.
- Safety is a big issue at all existing parks, especially after sunset, due to lack of lighting and short operating hours.
- Types, size and number of parks are insufficient to meet existing needs.
- Existing parks do not offer operating hours that are long enough.
- Industrial areas south of Olympic Blvd should be transformed into parks.
- Frontage along the Los Angeles River should be transformed into parks and mixed-uses.

PUBLIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Safety is a concern throughout Boyle Heights, especially for pedestrians and especially after sunset.
- Boyle Heights needs an increased LAPD presence both in terms of officers and frequency of policing throughout the neighborhoods and commercial corridors.
- Hospital wait times are too long - on the order of 20 hours.
- Schools and public libraries are very overcrowded.
- Sidewalk conditions are poor - seniors who use them trip and fall, especially in vicinity of senior living facilities Hollenbeck Palms and Keiro.
- Utility lines and poles blight the landscape (a major example is Cesar Chavez east of Mission).
- Community programs and services desired: childcare, vocational training programs, housing rehabilitation loans, cultural spaces and activities, libraries, schools, police, community centers, playgrounds, parks.
- City's efforts are inadequate for enforcing illegal parking and dumping regulations, and for conducting inspections for illegal housing conditions and units.
- New projects are grey and ugly - they do not offer any landscaping or greenery, and do not contribute to the character of Boyle Heights.
- Street trees are not properly maintained throughout Boyle Heights.
- Most major corridors suffer from a lack of street trees.
- All freeway underpasses should be improved to enhance pedestrian safety.

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RESIDENTIAL

- Number of rental and ownership housing opportunities in Boyle Heights is inadequate.
- Need greater range of rental and homeownership opportunities throughout Boyle Heights: affordable, market rate, workforce and mixed-income.
- Boyle Heights cannot take more growth - overcrowding already exists everywhere in Boyle Heights.
- Increased density will create new housing opportunities that offer an enhanced quality of life.
- Existing housing stock is not in good condition, encourages blight and is not energy efficient.
- Any new growth should be directed toward streets that are well-served by mass transit and have walking access to neighborhood-serving retail.
- Soto, Whittier & 1st St corridors do not currently contain the highest and best uses.
- Opportunity sites for new housing include Linda Vista Hospital, Sears, Wyvernwood, and areas surrounding County USC/Medical Center.
- Affordable housing is needed.
- Mixed-income housing projects are preferred over 100% affordable housing projects.
- Conserve existing affordable housing to prevent displacement.
- Housing for all income levels is needed.

URBAN DESIGN

- Highway underpasses need to be improved with safety-enhancing and beautifying features.
- Streets need to be improved to create greater sense safety along major corridors and residential streets, especially after sunset.
- Wyvernwood suffers from physical disconnection, isolation, aging buildings, parking & safety problems; realignment of streets to create greater number of through-streets would help to address problems and encourage broader community access to underused green spaces.
- Streetscapes are drab due to utility poles and cables, billboards and illegal signage, and lack of trees and crosswalks.
- Ensure new facades fit into the historical character of the area along commercial corridors.
- Predominant building heights along 1st St should be no taller than Mariachi Hotel.
- Streetscape improvements needed along major corridors, especially to enhance the sense of pedestrian safety.
- Need more street trees.
- Need to underground utilities along Cesar Chavez Blvd.
- Need murals to reinforce pedestrian scale and beautify environment with local identity.
- Paths between schools and parks need to be improved in terms of safety (e.g. lighting, trees, sidewalks, crosswalks and traffic calming).
- Sears site should be redeveloped as previously planned to provide greater range of housing and shopping opportunities and improve the visual environment.
- LA River frontage should be redeveloped into parks and mixed uses to provide shopping and housing opportunities as well as green spaces.
- New development should complement and enhance the character of important corridors in Boyle Heights.

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INDUSTRIAL

- Heavy industry creates unwanted impacts - especially cut-through truck traffic, noise, pollution and traffic congestion.
- Railroads create unwanted impacts - noise, pollution and congestion due to grade crossings and diesel idling.
- Industrial site near Olympic & 25th Street is blighted and has hazardous waste.
- South side of Olympic should be used for industrial and north side for mixed uses.
- Develop Alameda Corridor to reduce industrial-related traffic along Lorena, Soto and Indiana.
- Industrial areas of Boyle Heights are currently underused, do not contribute to local economy, and create unwanted impacts, crime and pollution.
- Hazardous waste facilities should be prohibited everywhere in Boyle Heights.
- Industrial areas south of Olympic should be redeveloped into mixed-uses that provide parks, and shopping and housing opportunities.
- Industrial areas provide vital economic activity to Boyle Heights.

OTHER

- Adult entertainment and establishments that sell liquor (including stores, bars and clubs) induce unwanted effects, such as crime and addiction.