



City of Palmdale General Plan Update Joint General Plan Advisory Committee #15 and Public Workshop: Land Use, Housing and Mobility Policy Frameworks Part 2

July 28, 2021 | 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom livestreamed to YouTube

Meeting Minutes (Adopted August 5, 2021)

Meeting Objectives

- Review existing setting related to land use and mobility topics
- Review and refine preliminary land use and mobility goal and policy recommendations for the General Plan Update

Attendees

GPAC Members

Present:

Tony Avila, Colby Estes, Lourdes T. Everett, Laura Gordon, Theresa Hambro, Matthew Harris, Aurora Hernandez, Deborah Rutkowski-Hines, Pat Hunt, and Jason Zink

Absent: Juan Blanco, Sheri Kaneshiro, and Teresa Lamping

City Staff

Carlene Saxton, Director of Economic and Community Development; Drew Pletcher, Deputy City Attorney; Megan Taggart, Planning Manager; Ben Fiss, Senior Planner; Jay Nelson, Traffic Engineer; and Ruben Hovanesian, Senior Civil Engineer

Consultant Team

Raimi + Associates: Simran Malhotra and Melissa Stark

Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates: Meghan Weir and Zachary Zabel

Public

Nine members of the community joined the Zoom meeting, though no public sign-in is available.

Simultaneous Spanish translation was provided at this meeting, as requested by a member of the community more than 72-hours prior to the meeting.

Meeting Summary

1. Introduction

The virtual meeting began with a review of the joint meeting agenda, roll call of GPAC Members, introductions of City staff and the consultant team, and recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lourdes Everett made a motion to approve GPAC #14 meeting minutes (July 15, 2021) and Pat Hunt seconded the motion. None opposed so the motion passed.

2. Presentation & Feedback

Simran Malhotra provided an overview of the General Plan, which included the project schedule, summary of engagement to date, and an introduction to the policy frameworks.

The presentation was led by Simran who reviewed the background land use information and proposed draft policies. Meghan Weir and Zachary Zabel provided an overview of mobility background including existing plans, programs, feedback from the community, and proposed draft policies.

During the presentation, the group stopped for questions and to answer interactive polls. All poll questions—with the exception of the meeting minute approval poll—were available to members of the public and GPAC, but please note that not all participants responded to all polls.

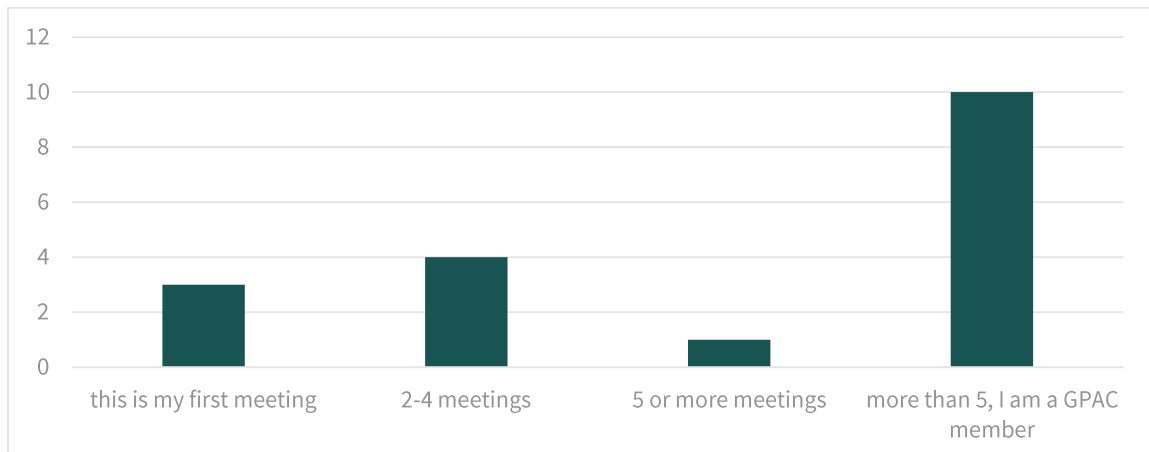
In advance of the meeting, the project website was updated with background materials including the mobility policy framework and transportation and mobility background report. In addition, GPAC members were emailed these materials to review as context for the meeting.

Below are descriptions of each presentation section and summaries of responses to each poll question. Poll responses are combined for GPAC members and members of the public.

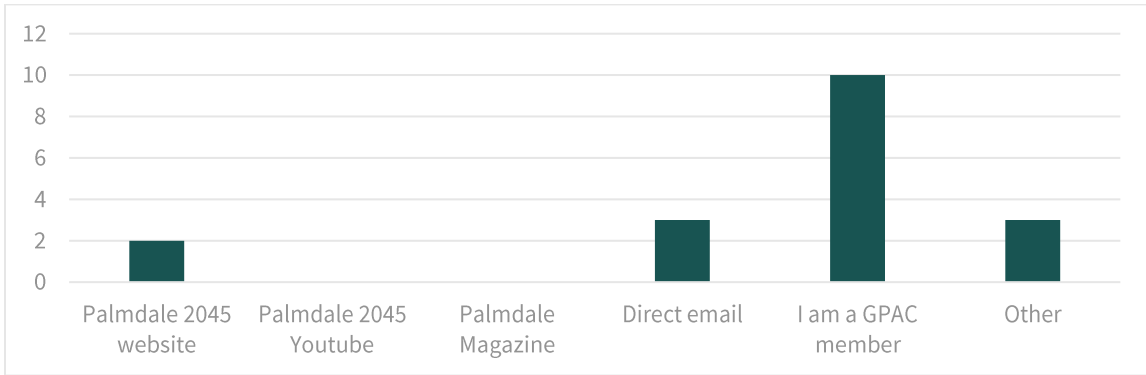
General Plan Overview

The background component of the presentation began with an overview of the General Plan process, how it is defined, the Palmdale 2045 schedule, summary of community engagement activities to date, major General Plan vision themes, and an introduction to the policy frameworks.

How many General Plan related meetings have you attended?



How did you hear about this meeting? (Select all that apply)



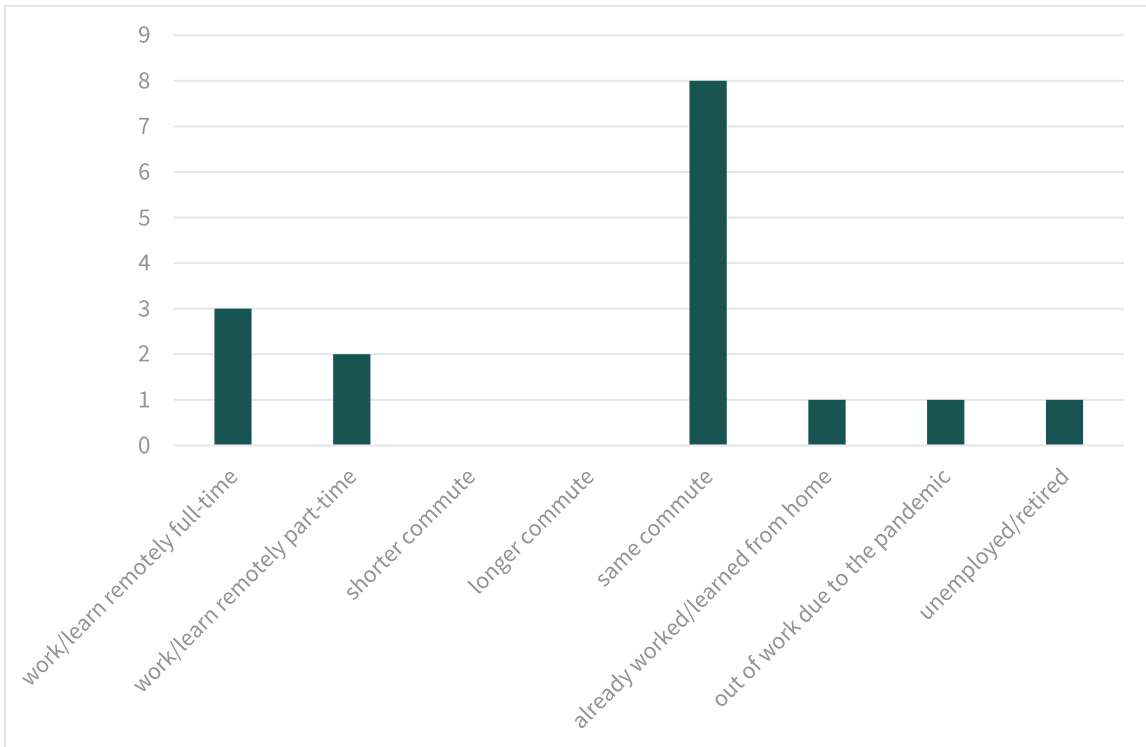
Existing Setting

As a precursor to the draft goals and policies, Simran, Meghan, and Zachary provided background on land use and mobility conditions in Palmdale, including defining both general plan elements and key requirements.

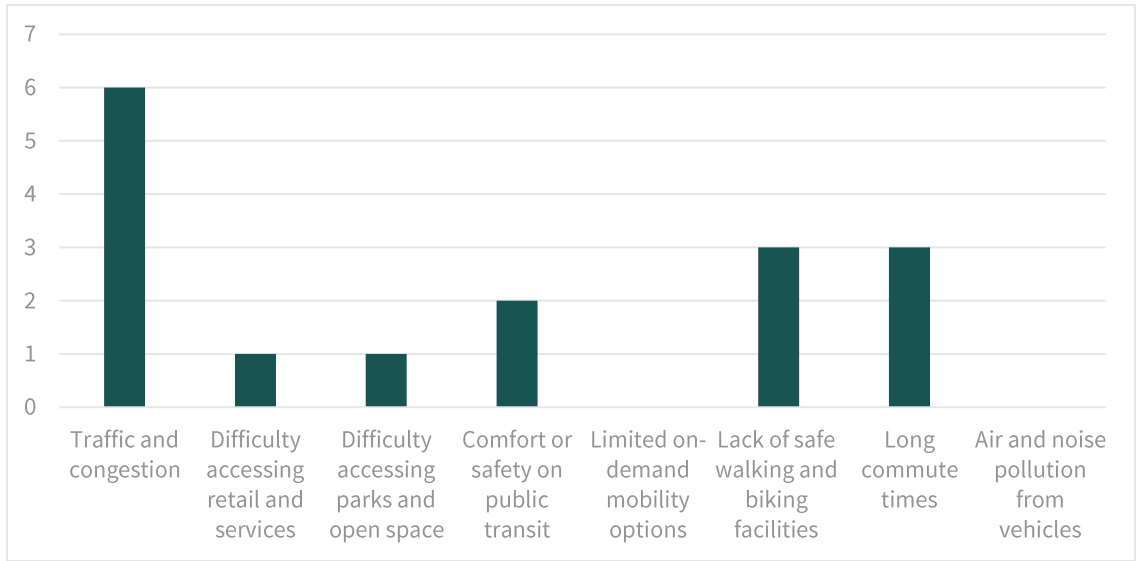
Existing Plans/Policies and Feedback from Community Engagement

Simran and Zachary reviewed existing land use and mobility plans and programs in Palmdale and highlighted community feedback related to both topics

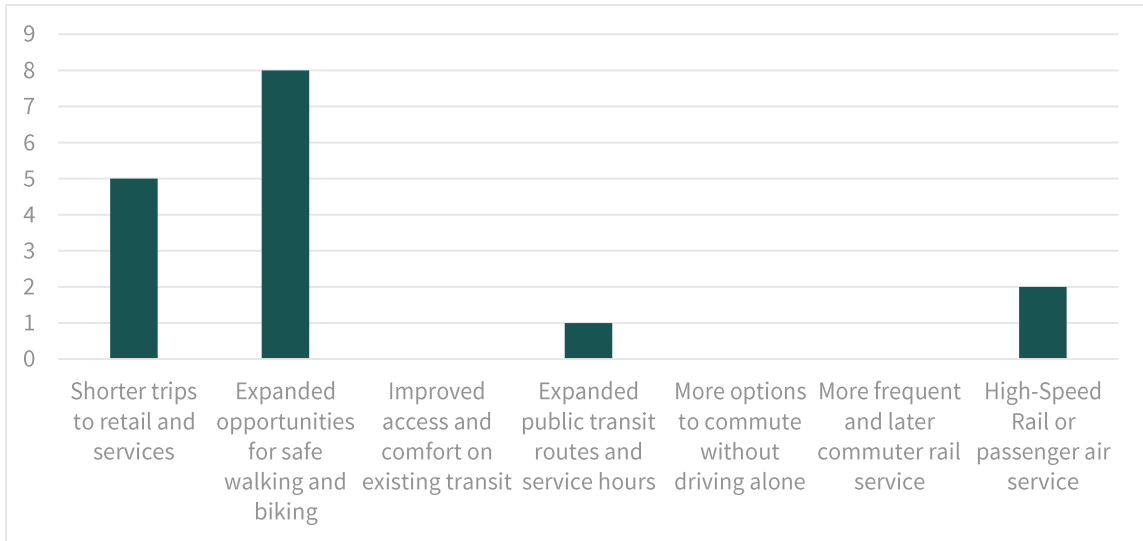
How has COVID-19 changed your commute patterns?



Which concerns impact you the most?



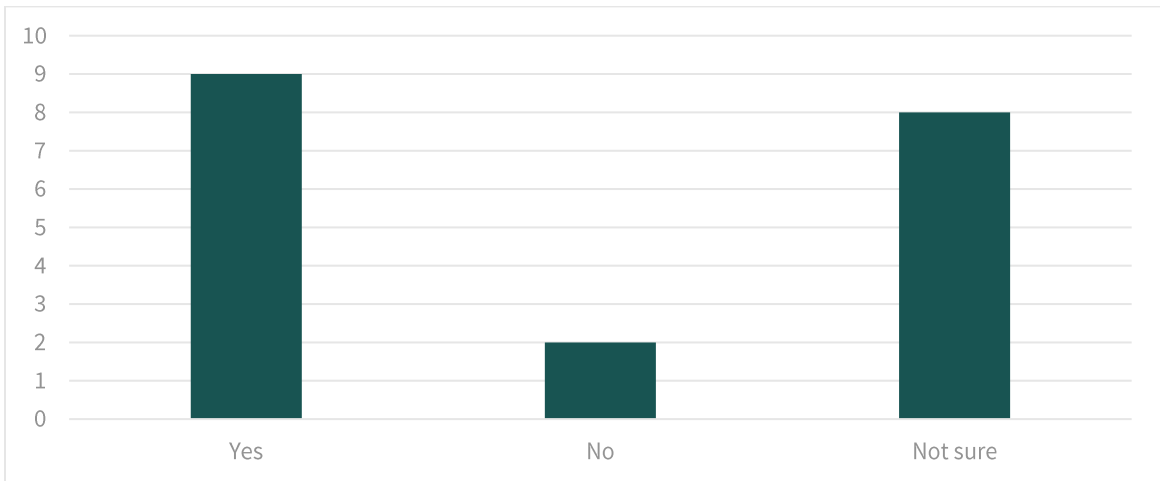
Which opportunities are the most important to you?



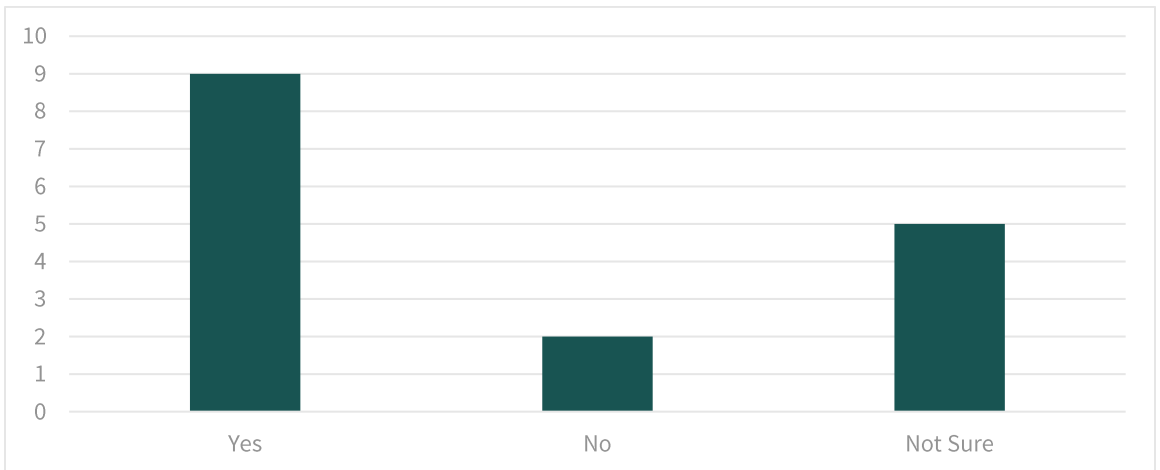
Policy Framework

Proposed goals and policies were introduced in this section of the presentation. Simran and Zachary provided an overview of the framework structure, followed by review of desired outcomes, performance metrics, and draft goals and policies for land use and mobility. Meghan introduced the roadway classification system, including a typical functional system and the proposed modal priority system.

Do these goals address the land use outcomes identified for the General Plan Update?



Do these goals address the mobility outcomes identified for the General Plan Update?



Other Questions and Comments

Throughout the presentation, GPAC members asked questions and provided various comments, which are summarized below. General Plan Team responses are shown in italics.

- What are we doing to address the free flow of traffic via light synchronization?
 - *Synchronization of lights is a specific tool to address local operational needs of a specific mode of travel. This would be addressed in a more detailed section of the General Plan, as opposed to the high-level policies that we are discussion now.*
- Are we addressing single family housing in the Housing Element?
 - *During GPAC #14 we discussed the Housing Element requirements, which include production of affordable housing. It doesn't look holistically at all types of housing. The General Plan maintains existing single family residential designations, and new areas for higher density housing as well.*
- Concerned with height limits being proposed and required through State mandates. They don't necessarily reflect the character of Palmdale.
- Not in favor of the multimodal concept.
- Will parking be considered in the future? Concerned there will not be adequate parking provided for new multifamily residential units.
 - *Multifamily developments will be required to provide on-site parking for their residents and guests.*
- Concern over better traffic flow on existing Palmdale roads.
- Interested in ability to walk safely in Palmdale, including street lighting, but less concerned with ability to bike.

3. Small Group Discussions and Report Out

Following the presentation, the GPAC and members of the public separated into two small groups for further discussion. Once completed, a member of each group shared highlights to all attendees of the meeting. More detailed notes from each small group discussion are attached to these minutes.

Public Group Report Out

- Focus on youth and encourage facilities that support youth
- Support and encourage new local small businesses in Palmdale
- Evaluate speeds on roads as they pertain to safety
- Consider parking needs for new development, concern over inadequate parking
- CicLAvia type street closure for outdoor public events, consider on Avenue Q
- Improve lighting on streets
- Consider emergency response times and routes
- Build bicycle facilities that are comfortable for users and are therefore utilized
- Do not detract from vehicular circulation when accommodating bicycles on roadways

GPAC Group Report Out

- Address street lighting on Palmdale Boulevard to improve safety
- Ensure that bus lanes and bike lanes work without impacting operations
- Add sidewalks in areas that currently lack them
- Explore truck routes citywide, specifically consider routing them off Palmdale Boulevard
- Consider time limits for trucks serving the quarries

- Consider creating quiet zones for railway intersections
- Explore the future network on Palmdale Boulevard and how to accommodate different users while maintaining traffic flow for vehicles

4. Public Comment

Members of the public who joined the meeting were invited to share public comments, though none provided public comment.

5. Policy Framework Comments

Melissa shared how to comment and review the policy framework document, by visiting the Palmdale2045.org website and clicking on “Policy.” All policy framework documents will be uploaded to the website and will remain open for review and comment through August 2021.

6. Next Steps and Wrap Up

Simran shared upcoming meetings and next steps at the close of the meeting. The next policy framework meeting will take place on Thursday, August 5th at 6:30 pm and will cover economic development and military compatibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Attached: Facilitator notes from the small group discussions.

A recording of this meeting is available on the [Palmdale 2045 YouTube Channel](#)

Facilitator Worksheet

Meeting: Joint GPAC and Public Workshop
Policy Framework Series: Land Use + Mobility | July 28, 2021
GPAC Small Group Discussion Notes

Questions, Notes, and Report Out:

1. Are there any outcomes we should consider?

Notes

- N/A

2. Are there any policy ideas that we should consider?

Notes

- Lighting on Palmdale Boulevard – it is hard to see pedestrians at night
- Trucks carrying rocks and gravel should be prohibited during commuting hours on local roads
- Increase train access for commuters to the LA basin
- Consider electric bus lines and bicycle lanes along rail tracks from the train station to Four Points area
- Train tracks on Sierra Hwy should be trenched under surface streets
- Quiet zones for railroad intersections
- Add a bikeway on Avenue R-8 and roundabouts
- Consider bridges over train tracks to maintain connectivity across town

3. Of the policy ideas, which resonate the most?

Notes

- Expanded sidewalks

4. Is there anything else you'd like to share about these topics?

Notes

- Rewrite policy related to access to schools – don't want school fields counted as public parks. Schools are not always accessible for adults, and it makes it difficult to build parks
- How do bike lane and bus lanes interact on the same roadway? Specifically, Palmdale Boulevard
- Which modes are used most? Buses or bicycles?
- How do we direct traffic so it doesn't impede local roads?

Facilitator Worksheet

Meeting: Joint GPAC and Public Workshop
Policy Framework Series: Land Use + Mobility | July 28, 2021
Public Breakout Group Notes

Questions, Notes, and Report Out:

1. Are there any outcomes we should consider?

Notes

- Need to give residents the ability to have access to small/local businesses
- Reduce the speed of traffic, for safety
- Ensure compatibility of new development with the surroundings, including traffic and parking implications
- Do we have plans for youth or children driven locations?
 - The City is currently working on plans for facilities to increase youth facilities
 - The Recreation Element of the GPU will also consider these needs – both facilities, programs, and policies

2. Are there any policy ideas that we should consider?

Notes

- Ave Q for Ciclovía, street festivals
 - Allow for easier permitting and use of streets for temporary events
- Need to improve lighting across the city for safety
- (From GPAC - noted below) – need to define Vision Zero
- Is there a plan to include a solar corridor in Palmdale?
 - The GPU will address natural resources that will consider solar, there are requests from specific home owners, but no specific plans at this time
- Coordinate with AVTA to identify more bus stop locations – note that this also depends on our population but the is constantly in coordination
- Ensure emergency response times
- Improve wayfinding and signage – especially for placemaking and gateways
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3. Of the policy ideas, which resonate the most?

Notes

- Focus on safety. If multimodal facilities like bike lanes are built, design them well so that they are used.

4. Is there anything else you'd like to share about these topics?

Notes

- Consider the privacy implications of existing neighborhoods near higher density housing
- Really seriously consider the delivery of bike lanes in Lancaster – need to design bicycle facilities that are actually safe and comfortable not just painting lines on the street – prioritize off street locations or providing a degree of separation
- Make sure that bicycle facilities actually form a network to access key facilities
- Provide multimodal facilities without taking away vehicle travel lanes and communicate that too the public.