



# Loomis General Plan Update

## 2020 Open House Summary

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The Town of Loomis held two Open House events in November 2020. The first Open House event was held on Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM outside the Loomis Train Depot. The second Open House event was held in the evening on Monday, November 9, 2020 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM outside the Loomis Train Depot. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the events were held outside, with social distancing and protective measures enforced. The events were noticed in the local paper (Loomis News) on October 30 and November 6, 2020 and invitations sent via mail and email prior to the event on October 21, 2020. Additional noticing occurred on Facebook prior to the Saturday event.

The purpose of the Open House events was to kick-off the General Plan Update public participation process. The General Plan Update is a maintenance update to reflect current regulations and conditions within the Town, but it is also a Town guide that should reflect the members of the Town and their thoughts, concerns, and wishes. Therefore, public input is a critical component of the update. The Open House events served to educate members of the Loomis community on the purpose and function of a General Plan, the State requirements for General Plan content, the current conditions or setting in the Town, and ways in which the community can participate throughout the process. These two events were an opportunity for the public to meet the team of staff conducting research and drafting the documents and ask the team questions directly regarding the various topic areas. In generating this dialogue, the public was able to draft comments, suggestions, and concerns that will be taken into consideration and will guide changes to policies, definitions, land uses, and other aspects of the General Plan. As the public becomes more engaged in the process, the General Plan Update can best reflect the Town and its community.

### Open House Layout and Facilitators

The Open House events were held outside the Loomis Train Depot, with a series of 9 stations spread outside the entrance to the Depot. The following table identifies each station and the facilitator for that station. Most of the assignees are authoring components of the General Plan Update related to the station topic area; however, Town Finance, Engineering, and Public Works staff, and members of the the Placer County Water Agency, South Placer Municipal Utility District, the Loomis Basin Chamber of Commerce, and the County Sheriff's Office also staffed and facilitated various stations. These staff and facilitators provided information on the various topic areas of each station and were able to listen to public concerns and encourage public comment writing.

These stations occupied the area in front of and around the Depot. The following map illustrates the station layout. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the open house events were required to be held outdoors in an area in which there was adequate space for social distancing. The Loomis Train Depot offered a central location with adequate space to separate the stations and allow for public flow without crowding or concentrating people together at and around the stations. This layout was modified for the event on the 9<sup>th</sup> so that each station made a horseshoe around the comment tables while still maintaining significant station separation for social distancing.

L O O M I S G E N E R A L P L A N U P D A T E

Station	Station Topic	Assignment
1	(double station)	
a	Sign-in and Welcome	Town - Sarah
b	How to Participate	Town - Carol
2	(double station)	
a	GPU and CEQA Process	HBA - Christy
b	Land Use and Recreation/ Environmental Justice	Placeworks - Mark
3	Housing	Placeworks - Jenny
4	(double station)	
a	Conservation of Natural Resources (Biological Resources)	Helix – David and Meredith
b	CEQA Topics (Air, Water, Cultural)	AECOM - Matthew
5	Circulation and Transportation	Wood Rodgers - Mario/Town - Tom (Sat) Town - Brad (Mon)
6	Economics/Funding	Town - Roger / Chamber - Ryan
7	(double station)	
a	Public Services	Town - Tom (Sat) Brad (Mon)/ PCWA-Tony Firenzi/ SPMUD-Carie Huff and Eric Nielsen
b	Safety/Noise	Luke Saxelby /PCSO - Lt. Brian Silva
8	Comment Tables	Facilitators (Anders via zoom, Mary Beth)
9	Water and Snacks	Town – Carol and Mary Beth



Town of Loomis General Plan Update Open House Workshop Station Map



**Town of Loomis  
General Plan Update**

**Open House  
Workshop**

**Station Key**

*Please Start at  
Station 1*



- 1a - Sign-in and Welcome Station
- 1b - How to Participate
- 2a - The General Plan Update and CEQA Process
- 2b - Land Use, Recreation, and Environmental Justice
- 3 - Housing
- 4a - Conservation of Natural Resources
- 4b - Environmental Resources CEQA Topics
- 5 - Transportation and Circulation
- 6 - Economics and Finance
- 7a - Public Services
- 7b - Safety and Noise
- 8 - Discussion and Comment Tables
- 9 - Refreshments

## Open House Materials, Process, and Participants

Each station presented materials related to the topic area for that station. Open House station materials can be found on the Town's General Plan Update website: <https://loomis.ca.gov/2020-general-plan-update/>. These materials consisted of a copy of the existing General Plan Element and Setting for that topic, updated setting data as drafted to date, regulatory information, maps, charts, and, at some stations, digital data and measurement devices. Topic station materials included a series of prompts or questions for participants to consider and to help them develop questions or draft comments. As participants signed in with their name and contact information at the Open House, they were provided with a name tag and a brochure containing a map of the Town, map of the event, information on how to participate and effectively comment, and a schedule. Participants also received information on the General Plan Update process, a General Plan committee application form, and a comment form.

As participants moved from station to station, staff explained the materials at the station and participants were able to ask questions and express concerns. Staff encouraged participants to write their comments on the comment forms so that the comment is made in the public participants own words and not the staff's interpretation of their comment. A comment box was provided at the comment tables to collect comments made during the event, but participants could also take the forms and submit them via mail, hand delivery, or email. Facilitators were on hand to guide participants through the Open House process, answer questions, and generate discussion. Town Council members and Planning Commissioners also participated in the events and were available to talk with public participants.

Although roughly 25 participants signed in at the Saturday event, many were married couples who signed in together. There were participants who did not sign in. Based on visual observation, the attendance at the Saturday Open House was approximately 50 public participants. The Monday night Open House was less attended and approximately 10 public participants came to the event. At both Open House events, participants consisted primarily of residents within the Town of Loomis; however, there were also participants from areas just outside the Town limits who affiliate with the Town despite their residence location just outside Town limits. There were participants from areas outside the region who happened to be visiting restaurants on Taylor Road and were curious about the Open House.

## General Comments Made During the Events

Participants were encouraged to write their comments on their comment forms and submit them to the Town so that comments were made in the commenters own words. A few comments were dropped into the comment boxes and additional comments were submitted via mail or email following the Open House events. These written comments are summarized below.

- Concerned about lack of traffic circulation on Pacific/ Taylor and King. Safety concern.
- Need a bike parade for fun. Need a better skate park.
- Remove light @ King and Swetzer, put back turning lane and remove island. School traffic issues. Train lights aren't in sync and cause traffic issues.
- Would like multi use trails with parking for horse trailers
- Better internet access



- Would like to change a General Commercial property to Industrial to accommodate an existing business that has outgrown the available space to operate. There is a demand for more industrially designated land that is not currently available.

Additional comments were verbally expressed to the staff and facilitators during the Open House events. These comments are summarized below by topic.

### **Open Space, Aesthetics, and Character of Development**

- Avoid the approach to development taken elsewhere, such as in Rocklin, where areas are mass graded, removing trees and topography
- With development, keep the trees and hills
- Development will need to happen, but it should be set apart on its character from surrounding areas
- Should keep small-town character
- Homes should have character and not appear as “McMansions”
- Should encourage clustering in areas of development with larger lots to preserve actual useful open space for habitat, production, etc.
- Support for expanding the tree canopy locally
- Maintain the small-town and rural feel, no big box developments, add trails

### **Air Quality/Greenhouse Gases/Energy**

- Preserve trees with new development in order to help keep the Town cool in the summertime and reduce the need for air conditioning
- Support for electric cars, anticipate additional demand once the range is increased
- Town should purchase electric vehicles
- Town should promote additional installation of solar

### **Transportation**

- There are routes along which school children are able to walk, bike, and take scooters in areas within a mile of schools
- Interest in better bike/pedestrian paths to all elementary schools
- Kids need safe places to walk to
- King Road needs safer and more comfortable areas for walking and biking to reach destinations
- Support approach of identifying key destinations and then identifying the safe and comfortable biking and walking routes from those destinations to homes, identifying gaps and how to fill those gaps in the bike and pedestrian network

## LOOMIS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

- Young people need wider and safer pathways of pedestrian and bicycle travel, and there should be improvements in particular around key destinations
- One thing people like about Loomis is the ability to get to places without getting on the highway
- Dedicated bike lanes are needed, protected bike lanes are also needed, especially in the downtown area along Taylor Road and along Horseshoe Bar Road
- If there were better cycling facilities, bicycle groups coming from other areas would frequent Loomis restaurants and other businesses
- Concern about the speed of vehicular travel along Sierra College Boulevard
- Town should promote bicycle routes that feel safe, safe roads and paths, for increasing cycling, identify and improve gaps around Town, such as along Horseshoe Bar Road and toward destinations, look at alternate routes along Walnut to the Raley's area, ensure signage that makes the routes obvious to cyclists and motorists
- More bike parking needed downtown
- Multiple people expressed interest in more bike paths throughout the Town
- Uncertainty on whether the existing Off-Street Multi-Use Soft Surface Path shown along Rutherford Canyon Road on the Trails Master Plan actually exists
- Interest in pedestrian/bicycle paths along Secret Ravine
- Questions about possibility of realignment of the Secret Ravine Trail conceptual alignment south of Brace Road. Would like to see the trail follow Dias Lane and Brace Road along this segment to have less impacts on private parcels in the area
- Interest in providing more space for pedestrians and bicyclists along King Road, Brace Road, Sierra College Boulevard, Horseshoe Bar Road, and others, as portions currently feel unsafe to walk or cycle on
- Complaints about congestion near the Taylor Road / King Road, Taylor Road / Horseshoe Bar Road, and Horseshoe Bar Road / I-80 Ramps intersections. Requests for improvements, such as better signal coordination, so drivers can get through those areas faster
- Interest in raised bike lane delineators or dividers to make vehicles more aware of entering bike lanes
- Need for better pedestrian and bicycle crossings at the Horseshoe Bar Road / I-80 Ramps intersections
- Interest in bike/pedestrian paths between south Loomis and the Raley's at Horseshoe Bar Road
- Support for more bike lanes on Taylor Road and Horseshoe Bar Road so people can access the stores and restaurants there
- Interest in a new I-80 interchange at King Road
- Concerns about freeway interchange congestion and the need for improvements.
- Opposition to the roundabouts proposed along Horseshoe Bar Road. Would rather see different types of improvements
- Questions about how VMT is calculated and if new VMT regulations are already in effect



- Questions about if the Swetzer Road Extension and Boyington Road Extension were still happening
- Questions about where roadway widening would occur in the future

## **Economic Development**

- Understand that need fiscal benefits associated with development
- Support for small businesses in Loomis, but many people visit places like Roseville for entertainment, restaurants, coffee shops, etc. – used to go to the Conservatory and nursery shops, but not any longer – seeking additional destinations in Loomis
- Expression of support for shops downtown
- Make sure that uses at the Village area do not compete with downtown and instead create synergy with downtown uses
- No restaurants should be located at the outskirts of the community
- In the fringes of the planning area, there should be less focus on retail/restaurants and other uses that should be downtown and instead look at other employment generating uses in these locations, including, potentially senior care facilities and a sports complex that could be a regional draw
- Support for a hotel locally
- Town should seek grant funding to assist with newly establishing businesses to help in the most risky time for them, offset rent for the first six months, for example while the business is focused on marketing, insurance, and other matters, have an internal Town liaison for the businesses receiving grant support
- Support for agricultural/historic tourism – there is an interesting story of local historic agricultural products, such as mandarins; Town should seek grant funding to promote agricultural and historic tourism
- Support for more diversity in commercial, restaurant, entertainment, and other options locally
- Support for local businesses

## **Recreation**

- Interest in recreational equestrian trails along Secret Ravine
- There is local demand for a dog park
- Support for connecting the Secret Ravine trail from Rocklin to the vicinity of downtown Loomis
- Encourage additional programming of recreational spaces and additional events at public spaces, suggesting the area around the library as a good space
- Support for connecting trails from the area in Rocklin around Wal-mart, connecting with Placer County trail planning
- Support for additional programming that would bring people out

## LOOMIS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

- Support for additional parks
- Support for additional outdoor activities for children

### **Public Health and Safety**

- Worry about fire safety, need to ensure management of vegetation, and to maintain areas around powerlines
- Concern about protecting water quality, citing the example that there used to be salmon in Secret Ravine
- Concern about train derailment and hazards, along with the need to maintain emergency routes for response
- The industrial uses on Swetzer generate excessive noise that affects nearby residents.

### **Land Use and Housing**

- Okay with adding apartments
- Concern over high density housing.