



# Opening Presentation Table Map Exercise

Downtown San Rafael  
Precise Plan

Design Charrette  
**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**



# Opening Presentation – Map Exercise

## Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>

- After the formal presentation at the Opening Presentation, a visioning exercise was conducted.
- 65+ participants in 8 table groups shared their ideas for Downtown.
- A summary of ideas from each table has been included in the following pages.





# Map Exercise: Big Ideas for Downtown

## Table 1

- Mixed income housing
- Commercial spaces need easy access by seniors and handicapped
- Focus on center; need for a town square, update look of 4th St, use Whistlestop as a gateway
- Use shuttle to connect downtown to neighborhoods further out
- 2nd and 3rd as mixed-use streets - can go tall as 6 stories + look at traffic lights
- Parking can move outside of the downtown; use a shuttle to connect

## Table 2

- Homelessness is a problem
- Parking + underutilized lots; looked at 4th Street (west side)
- Connect to the other side of the highway; make pedestrian-friendly
- Canal; use it as a public area. Activate - future ferry service
- Mission; there is nothing along that street
- Library; opportunity to corporate civic with retail space

## Table 3

- Improve the corridor to the Mission and Albert Park; put baseball court or outdoor concert space
- Montecito; Develop the waterfront
- Creek; Utilize the path along
- Put new development above Downtown parking garages, Montecito and in new transit station



# Map Exercise: Big Ideas for Downtown

## Table 4

- Take advantage of nature area + greenways + creeks
- Not uses in the rooftops/beer gardens - make noise
- Retrofit existing levees
- Farmer's market can move on the west
- 4th is a human scale/ 2nd and 3rd can go up
- Retain historic style
- Good examples of 4th St building; H & 4th; add more like that
- Plaza areas; European and South American examples; should be family-friendly
- Put housing closer to transit
- Enhance bicycle infrastructure

## Table 5

- Triptych: Connectivity, Walkability, Safety
- Small scale infill that is compatible with the existing fabric
- Height as on 4th St. or higher in certain areas
- Make 4th St. a Complete/ Green street
- Have enough parks and plazas
- Safe route to high school for students
- Create a park along the canal
- 3rd and 2nd; make intersections safer for pedestrians
- Enhance the Mission corridor
- Where is the heart of the Downtown?
- Add community gardens
- Transit; placemaking; use Whistlestop as a welcoming space



# Map Exercise: Big Ideas for Downtown

## **Table 6**

- Highway is a visual barrier
- Highlight the creek under the highway
- Transit center should not be a building but a landscaped square
- Look at the west entrance to the Downtown
- Look at the historic buildings

## **Table 7**

- Keep transit center on the west side of the highway; reuse the historic building
- Convert current bus station to parking
- Boyd Park – needs improvement. Not well used, not much to do there
- Maintain the existing character of 5th street

## **Table 8**

- Two main topics – the need for public spaces + transit
- Pedestrian mall on 4th St (part-time)
- Recreational activities
- Find opportunity sites for new housing