

Legacy Lafayette Comprehensive Plan

Second Community Meeting, November 18, 2019

Summary of Takeaways from Discussions: Open House Stations

The Second Community Meeting for Legacy Lafayette, held on Monday, November 18th at the Lafayette Public Library, presented a series of three Illustrative Concepts, outlining potential concepts for the evolution of different parts of Lafayette over the next 20 years, along with other ideas for consideration. The following represents some takeaways from discussions that members of the project team had with community members, at the five stations around the room (including the **Connected Community**, **Community Character**, **Strong Economy**, **Environmental Stewardship**, and **Comparison of Illustrative Concepts** stations).

Connected Community Station:

- In general, attendees liked the transportation ideas presented and appreciated all of the hard work of the project team
- Many people indicated that biking in Lafayette is a challenge
 - Many attendees would like to see better regional trail connections, specifically linking major trails like the Coal Creek Trail and the Rock Creek Trail to each another, using a connection along 120th Street
 - The bike lanes on South Boulder Road are stressful for bike riders
 - A detached, shared-use path along either South Boulder Road or Baseline Road (or even Arapahoe Road) would be ideal to allow people to bike into Boulder more easily
 - Grade-separated connections (for biking and walking) are needed over or under US 287, specifically at the following intersections: Arapahoe Road, Baseline Road, and South Boulder Road

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- The bike lane that runs along Emma is difficult for people riding road bikes, given the concrete joints on this stretch of the street.
- The community has a desire for more transit
 - Many people really liked the idea of a local shuttle
 - Multiple people expressed an interest in using the local shuttles for local events (to transport people from local neighborhoods to Old Town)
 - There is still a desire to see a Light Rail line completed (with a stop at Downtown Louisville)
 - If this light rail line is ever built, a local connection or service would need to connect Lafayette to the station in Louisville.
 - Attendees would like to see a transit connection, running along US 287, from the Park-n-Ride location in Old Town to the Flatiron Flyer/US 36 stations.
 - Attendees would be open to Lafayette exploring options to partner with adjacent communities like Louisville, Boulder, and Boulder County to provide local transit service.
- There was limited discussion on ideas to relieve congestion, or the ideas presented on the boards to enhance multi-modal movement (including roundabouts and the hovering concept)
- There were concerns about making sure that transit facilities accommodate people with limited mobility. The attendees wanted to ensure that any facilities would be designed for all and would be ADA accessible (for example, many people asked what defines a '10-minute walk' as it varies by a person's ability to walk).

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Community Character Station:

- Community members, at the open house, indicated that they enjoy the current character of Lafayette.
- There is too much congestion on Public Road, which makes it a less desirable destination.
- Attendees expressed a desire to disperse congestion and create more alternative places for community members to gather.
- The ideas of utilizing unique landscapes and locations to create Community Activity Centers (CACs) would help add to the unique character of Lafayette.
- Creating an Urban Center would be beneficial for the community and bring in more revenue.
- Many people liked the idea of growth, adding CAC's, Neighborhood Destinations and Urban Centers. However, there were concerns expressed about how to implement these ideas and whether any of the ideas would ever be implemented.

Strong Economy Station:

From the “dot exercise” conducted at this station, there was a significant level of positive interest in the options presented to attendees for focused, incentive-based economic development choices, accessory dwelling units, tiny homes and multi-generational housing.

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A few additional takeaways from discussions w/ participants at the Strong Economy station:

- In general, people liked the ideas presented.
- It was important to explain that the economic development choices listed, e.g., business incubators, sustainable types of development, amenity-based projects, etc., should only receive their vote (via the dot exercise) if they agreed with the idea of providing incentives to attract that type of development activity. This discussion resulted in people not selecting everything, although many felt that most forms of economic development activities listed on the presentation boards would be good ideas. In the end, the dot exercise served as a good way for participants to prioritize choices, knowing that their taxpayer dollars could be involved.
- Many people took the opportunity to express their views on the viability of the affordable housing choices presented, especially tiny homes and accessory dwelling units, and there were several questions regarding the pros and cons of each housing idea. Conversely, there was very little discussion or opinion on the idea of having more multi-generational housing.
- One participant wanted to know why schools were not shown on any of the concepts. The consultant explained the lead role of the school district, in determining school locations, and the City's code requirements for land dedication or cash-in-lieu, to satisfy school requirements. However, the point was made that engagement with the school district is a point worth considering in the development of the preferred alternative for Legacy Lafayette.

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- The CAC description at the Community Character station was a good resource for explaining/defining CAC's to participants who had questions. It may be helpful to further explain this term with additional illustrations and details, along with local and regional examples, e.g., Belmar in Lakewood. Providing more examples of neighborhood activity centers would also be useful.

Station Comparing Illustrative Concepts A, B, and C

- Most people spent time discussing Concept B and Concept C, with most conversations gravitating toward the idea of creating a hybrid between these two concepts.
- Some people questioned why some of the “pink dots” representing the locations for CACs were larger than others. The consultant explained that larger CAC dots meant that these particular locations have greater areas (in terms of acres) available for re-imagining or transformation. Some attendees had a hard time imagining certain locations with CAC “dots” changing.
- Some attendees indicated that if the community pursued only Concept B it would be too one-sided toward construction, but that Concept C would be too one-sided toward the creation of additional greenways and open space.
- One gentleman added a sticky note requesting the addition of add bike lanes along Baseline Road, between Lafayette and Boulder.
- One person suggested making Baseline Road one-way (west bound) and turning one of the adjacent side-streets to one-way (east bound), in order to reduce traffic through this area, from US 287 to 95th Street.
- Many people liked the idea of having multiple greenways and trails that would connect various parts of the City to Waneka Lake.

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- One attendee asked about opportunities to potentially work with neighboring cities (Erie, Louisville, Broomfield) to pursue joint funding opportunities or even joint development opportunities.
- People liked the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback concerning the concepts