

Kearny Alternatives Workshop Summary Report

Date: February 28, 2008
 Time: 6 – 8 pm
 Location: Church of the Good Shepherd
 508 Senator Chastain St



Handouts

Vision Alternative Handout
 Alternative Maps

Attendees (12):

Cameron Carter; Mary-Ann Doi; Gary Eide; Margaret Gaston; Franklin Jones; Dana Nance; Maryann Nance; Rosalind Padilla; Ronald Servant; Sheila Stephenson; Peggy Wilson; and Walter Wilson

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of the Alternatives Workshop was to bring together residents and stakeholders from around Pinal County to receive input on three land use and transportation alternatives built through the input of previous public involvement activities, work group input, and Comprehensive Plan Team effort. Prior to the start of the event, participants browsed exhibits which depicted the land use and transportation alternatives: trends, dispersed growth, and corridor focused.

The event was guided by a detailed PowerPoint presentation that described the Comprehensive Plan process and project status, addressed some of the planning realities facing Pinal County, reviewed the Pinal County Vision, and described the land use and transportation alternatives in detail. The presentation guided participants through a dynamic feedback instrument that solicited input on several alternative aspects: land use pattern, open space, transit opportunities, and potential land use and transportation features. The Alternatives Workshop PowerPoint is available in the project website Library at: www.PinalCountyPlan.com.

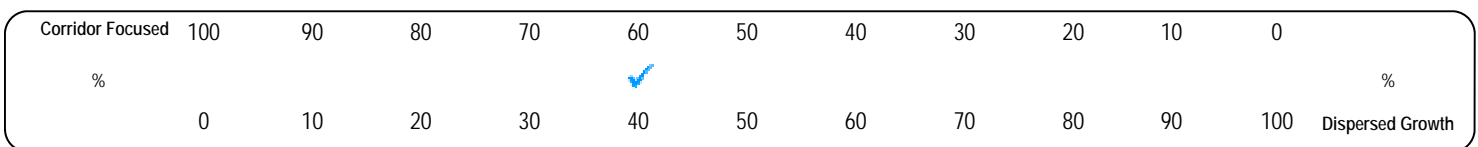
FEEDBACK FORM SUMMARY

Forms received: 11

Note: Feedback as found in this report is recorded as it was received and is not edited for content or grammar.

The average response of event participants to the philosophy questions, the approval totals for the land use and transportation features, and participant comments are provided below:

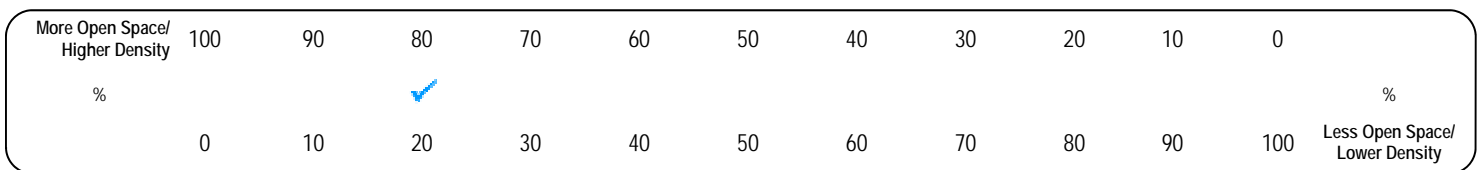
Land Use:



Comments on Land Use:

- We need more services, i.e., health in these rural areas. Include hard-top road Kearny to Florence.
- I would have to see the Barkerville Road become housing, business and good roads. Great for recreation.
- Dispersion plan is more flexible, i.e., can go from dispersed to corridor. Also, don't continue to leave east county as stepchild. Beef up existing towns and cities. More broadly dispersed tax basis.
- Availability of land for development. Corridor and some dispersed growth along I-77 at existing communities. Should be some tourism in east area.
- Just like a little more activity and things to go to. Would be nice to have a good shopping center. Would be a few more jobs for the needy.
- I like it that way. Rural to the east, and all business to the west.
- Maintaining the rural lifestyle. Becoming more popular to have a rural environment to live in and raise a family. Know your neighbors and community. Develop existing towns.
- Would like to see some of the centers moved to the corridor focused area. Job centers in Kearny, San Manuel and Oracle. Would prefer traveling a few miles vs. 80-100 for economic centers (health, Wal-Mart, etc.). I like the corridor focused plan better as we don't want Kearny to look like Chandler, Queen Creek and etc. Kearny needs more industry to survive and not become a bedroom community.
- Keep the heavy development toward the west. Lighter on the eastern side. If both eastern and western sides grow into dispersed growth, the middle may fill in to dense.
- Keeping the east side rural yet providing some small local commercial available for the east mile. Corridor-focused keeps the commercial hub centralized allowing other portions of the County to stay "clean". Also, development of mass transit. Dispersed growth I dislike. It disrupts rural lifestyle. Dispersed activity in or near areas that can focus on Arizona history, i.e., mining, cotton, native walks, etc.

Open Space:

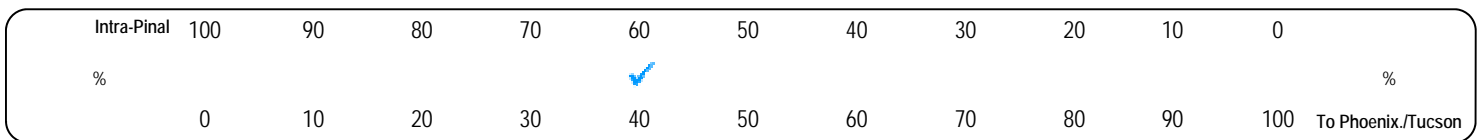


Comments on Open Space:

- We need a reasonable quantity of open space. Stop giving away Trust land to developers.
- We do need jobs and medical care. However, I hate to see our open spaces disappear, just as I hate to see houses built on the upper sides of the Superstitions, Catalinas and Camelback.
- Once designated/decided/used. Lower density can't convert to higher density. But higher density can convert to lower density. N.O. slightly cheaper to install. Tax dollars should be used to purchase, then NO disagreement later. Control county zone laws on where/where not to build.

- Higher density should be used to preserve open space in east county because of beauty. Tax money should be used. Growth boundaries should be instituted. Preserve space, protect areas, but raises cost of land.
- Like the open space to a point. No other comments.
- I like open space. There are too many people coming here. It is getting too crowded. We need to solve it.
- Higher density in development to keep open space is good. Also, allow larger lots to keep rural lifestyle. Yes, would consider a tax to secure property to preserve open space.
- Need higher density for open space. Our terrain is self-explanatory. Reasons to like our area because of the natural habitat. If it takes tax dollars to purchase open space to keep it open, do so!
- If a large amount of land is left open, there is a potential for it to get built upon. I personally like lower-density living.
- It would be great if open space can remain open but not to stop growth. Preserve open land but to allow the citizens to use the land as recreation.

Transit (public transportation) Opportunities:



Transit Opportunities Comments:

- Inter-Pinal transit to County seat is needed. Hard-top road (Florence-Kelvin Highway) to Florence from Kearny.
- The tourist train from Florence to Kearny has always intrigued me. We are in need of transportation for senior citizens for medical care, shopping, to get to airport or other general business. I would use public transportation.
- Blend public/private transportation depending on dispersed U.S. corridor idea.
- Need jobs in Pinal County but will always be a need to have work in the Valley.
- For the people that need it. Might use it rarely. If you need it, would be there.
- I don't think I would use it but the way the gas prices are now, what would they be then? I think I would use it.
- Need to really study the use and cost and the real need! Do not see the people using this unless the cost of private use becomes out of line.
- Both philosophies. Intra-county would be great for the non-drivers and the communities. Phoenix and Tucson, look at the percentage that commute.
- NY/NJ transit system. Trains need to be close enough for intra-Pinal transit. Transit to Phoenix/Tucson good for commuter. Near bus or taxi and parking.
- To go to the airport, to go to downtown for events. My experience of a good public system is the metro system of Washington, D.C., the transportation system of Santa Clara/Alameda County of the San Francisco Bay area, Cal Tran with bus systems, inter-transfers.

Commercial Airport: 9 of 11 approved

Commercial Airport Comments:

- Yes. Is needed in near future. Great idea.
- Definitely needed.
- Very, very good idea. Long overdue. Sky Harbor is a zoo; crowded and confused. Tucson inaccessible from this side.
- Absolutely! Will be like L.A. Basin Airport at the areas connection to the world.
- Closer planes.
- Can see future possibilities.
- I figure there will be a mini-airport in the Casa Grande/Coolidge area. Small aircrafts only! NOT large commercial planes.
- No. Realistic. Build it far enough away from residential areas! Denver's airport.
- Have an airport outside of the population in very open land and provide bus service to airport.

Commuter Rail: 6 of 11 approved

Commuter Rail Comments:

- Forget it! Dumb if I have to drive to Casa Grande first.
- Isn't something I would use.
- Excellent idea. High speed must be designed for expandability to wildlife. Flagstaff to Benson corridor. Connections to Phoenix rail system.
- Will be heavily used. Will get people off roads. Like Skinlicensein (sp?) in Japan.
- Would be good to have a train.
- Major study!!
- Will never happen in the Kearny area. If you have to drive to Casa Grande, why not drive yourself all the way to your destination?
- Yes. Travel time is shorter. Less pollution and road maintenance.
- Yes.

Tourist Train: 11 of 11 approved

Tourist Train Comments:

- Yes, yes, yes. Much needed. Would be great attraction.
- I have always been in favor of a tourist train and all the jobs it would make possible such as restaurants, souvenir shops, etc.
- Why not? Good for business development. Goes well with Kearny rock climbing park which is also good potential for east county.
- ED/Tourism. Great spin-off. Kearny will benefit. Could be a mid- or low-income job.
- Maybe more people to look and spend money, helping economy.
- It would bring in jobs.
- Tourists would come and use and would bring additional jobs.
- Let people see our beautiful area!
- Yes.

Ecotourism: 10 of 11 approved

Ecotourism Comments:

- I'm warm on this, but not hot.
- Hiking and Jeep excursions are already planned. Ore cart trail is a great idea.

- It's a natural opportunity; mountains, valleys, rivers and streams. Ties in with rail and rock opportunities.
- Has already started in Kearny area. Lake, mountains, and birds.
- Would be good for the economy.
- Would be a good idea to protect this environment and system.
- Good strategy. Develop policies to keep ecotourism from going into our part of Pinal County.

Gateways: 8 of 11 approved

Gateway Comments:

- Great idea. Appropriate, well-designed signs.
- Ore cart trail is a great for the Copper Corridor.
- NO! They usually don't work and are tax pits with low productivity.
- Some of the sign should be the name (maybe lettering), but such an entrance should represent that region, i.e., historical, mining, high tech.
- Sorry, cannot answer.
- Statue of horse and rider.
- Horse and rider.
- Use something to make people realize what county they are in. Each area could have something that identifies their main economic business. Example: Copper Corridor.
- Whatever represents the County. Have a contest. That's how the wall was developed in D.C.
- Identify an identity or buzz word for the County and use that "logo" in the gateway. Have a contrast per my friends' suggestion.

Other Comments:

- Rural Kearny.
- Good alternatives, great insight. Need to build flexibility into plan.
- Please include land for rural development. This is fast becoming a way of desired life.
- You do a good job! Enjoy participating in this.
- More people need to attend these meetings!
- I hope that the political leaders of tomorrow will respect your work of today. Put teeth on your plan!