



LAX Northside Planning Public Workshop No. 1

February 13, 2008

On the evening of Wednesday, February 13, 2008, Los Angeles Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) jointly sponsored an initial public workshop on a planning process initiated to undertake the creation of the LAX Northside Area Plan that includes the airport-owned property to the North of LAX. All activities took place at Roberts Hall on the campus of Loyola Marymount University. The public workshop was the first in a series of public meetings to update the LAX Northside Area Plan which was approved by the City of Los Angeles in 1988. The purpose of the workshop was to gather community comments and attitudes as to the future of the Northside Planning Area. This workshop summary includes a description of workshop activities and results as well as anticipated next steps.

Based on the sign-in sheet, approximately 150 individuals participated in the workshop with approximately 30% from Playa Del Rey, 20% from Westchester, and 50% from the greater Los Angeles area. Participants were notified with mailers and emails and the Neighborhood Councils (such as Council Districts 8, 9, 10, 11 and 15) were notified.

To support the workshop activities, personnel from RRM Design Group, LAWA and City of Los Angeles were in attendance:

RRM Design Group: Keith Gurnee, Meri Kay Gurnee, and Jami Williams

LAWA: Gina Marie Lindsey, Roger Johnson, Richard Wells, Michael Collins, Herb Glasgow, Evelyn Quintanilla, Brenda Martinez-Sidhom

City of Los Angeles: Councilmember Rosendahl, Chad Molnar, Grieg Asher, Jim Kennedy, Jim Bickhart

Welcome and Project Overview

Keith Gurnee welcomed everyone to the workshop and introduced the project team. Councilmember Rosendahl and Gina Marie Lindsey led a brief presentation describing the purpose of the planning effort and project background. Keith Gurnee then reviewed the workshop agenda, highlighted the context of the project and presented an overview of the workshop activities. A map of the plan area provided by LAWA staff is shown below.



north

—— LAX NORTHSIDE PLAN AREA

*map provided courtesy of LAWA staff

Workshop Activities

Following the presentations, workshop participants were asked to comment on several topics related to the project and surrounding area. Nine banners covering different issue topics were posted along the side of the room and all public comments were recorded on the appropriate banner. Once all the comments were recorded, participants were handed an envelope filled with 2 large green dots, 1 large red dot, 12 small green dots, and 6 small red dots. They were then asked to place a large green dot on the topic that they felt was most important and the other large green dot on the comment that they agreed with most. Participants were asked to place the small green dots on items that they agreed with most and the small red dots on the comments that they disagreed with. The large red dot was to be placed on the comment that they agreed with least. This exercise allowed for a nearly instantaneous review of most and least supported comments. Keith Gurnee summarized key comments at the end of the exercise.

Two topics clearly stood out as issues of great importance to workshop participants - *Open Space, Environmental Restoration, Active Recreation* and *Traffic and Circulation*. Based on the use of large dots, the nine workshop topics were ranked on the general level of interest and perceived importance as follows:

- *Open Space, Environmental Restoration, Active Recreation*
- *Traffic and Circulation*



- *Northside Land Use*
- *Golf Course*
- *Public Outreach Process*
- *Westchester Business District*
- *Neighborhood Interface*
- *Community Amenities*
- *Addressing Potential Impacts, Other issues, and Ideas*

The following sections provide a brief summary of workshop findings based on a complete tally of public comments and votes (see attachment for complete tally).

Open Space, Environmental Restoration, Active Recreation

This topic ranked the highest of all nine topics regarding its importance as it clearly received the most large green dots. Top issues under this topic included saving the trees (including the large group of trees on Westchester Parkway), implementation of a multi-use trail, need for a wildlife corridor, and opportunity for solar power. Other issues that received general support included native habitat restoration, a nature center, Westchester/Playa del Rey Youth Foundation to manage fields, use of native plants, sustainable/design, and resurrection of the proposal parks plan to establish additional fields. Concepts that did not receive support included the Tongva Community Cultural Center, a large children’s playground and an urban farming organization / community garden.

Traffic and Circulation

Traffic and Circulation ranked as the second most important issue for the Northside Planning Area as shown by the number of large green dots. No expansion of LAX was strongly supported as well as extension of the Metro Green Line to the airport. Commenters felt that Westchester is definitely impacted by traffic and gridlock. The concepts of bike paths, finishing Lincoln Boulevard, and adding high speed rail connection from Palmdale to downtown were supported, as well as reduced airport access and preparation of an environmental impact report on traffic conditions and impacts.

Commenters disagreed with the construction of a multi-story parking structure, removal of gates on Emerson, and the installation of speed bumps.

Northside Land Use



Potential land uses for the Northside Planning Area ranked as the third most important issue topic for workshop participants. There was a strong interest in no more development and no more commercial uses, as well as completing the golf course.

Some of the specific land uses that received support included a dog park, parks and soccer fields, a local hardware store, a police substation, native habitat restoration, senior multipurpose center/housing, and the plan developed by the UCLA Landscape Architecture Program titled *In the Shadow of LAX: Balancing an Airport Environment with Community and Habitat*.

Commenters did not support the potential for a hotel, cell towers, horse stables, residential development, a teen center and assisted living center.

Golf Course

The golf course ranked fourth in the level of importance to workshop participants, based on the number of large dots placed on a topic heading. Voting instructions indicated that the large red dot was intended to be used on the comment that the attendee most disagreed with, however it may have been used to indicate a low rating of importance in this case since it was placed on the banner heading.

Commenters strongly supported completing the golf course to provide 18 holes. Votes were split on the desirability of a new clubhouse with restrooms and parking. Commenters supported the use of recycled water and that the golf course plan proposed in the UCLA Landscape Architecture Program document titled *In the Shadow of LAX: Balancing an Airport Environment with Community and Habitat* was a good idea. Commenters did not support the concept of free golf lessons.

Public Outreach Process

A key concept commenters supported for the Public Outreach Process was the need to understand the plans for expansion. Other main concerns included the desire for the Alliance for Regional Solutions for Airport Congestion (ARSAC) organization's review of consultant selection, identifying funding sources, need for meetings with residents, not tying improvements to the airport expansion, soliciting more media coverage from the LA Times providing a process with multiple steps and feedback, and sending reports to everyone with reply postcards.



In general, there was interest in providing a number of ways for public participation including a website and interactive blog, news coverage, walking tours of the site, involvement of the business community, environmental documentation at the federal and state level, newsletters and emails, publish meeting results, and provide topographic maps.

Westchester Business District

The strongest comment provided under this topic was the desire for no condemnation. In addition, the request for no more big box stores was supported. Commenters strongly disagreed with the concept of providing additional free parking.

Commenters showed strong support for revitalizing the business district, as well as providing a public bus transfer station.

Neighborhood Interface

Commenters strongly supported the concept of a greenbelt and berming with landscaping on the perimeter of the project area. Additional ideas that received support included trees and gardens, sloped sand dunes, picnic areas and security stations at the airport edge. Additional

advice was provided to review and consider the previous the A.C. Martin *Northside Design Plan and Development Guidelines* study on interface.

Conflicting opinions were shared regarding the desire for a soundwall along 91st Street. Red dots showed that commenters did not support retail development in the Westchester Business District, “no walls” or public restrooms.

Community Amenities

A key issue supported under Community Amenities is to expand sound proofing of homes. Additional concepts supported included fixing sidewalks, providing athletic fields, preserving the current lifestyle, trimming trees, improving street maintenance and not increasing multi-family housing.

Expansion of St. Bernards High School and provision of large scale public art received conflicting opinions.



Addressing Potential Impacts, Other Issues & Ideas

This topic banner provided the opportunity to address issues and ideas not covered on other banners. Commenters strongly supported control of airplane take off and landing at night and preparation of a health impact study. Support for no Airbus or LNG terminal was expressed. A desire to decrease airplane fuel dumping was also noted.

Next Steps

A second workshop will be held in July, 2008, and will likely cover the results of the first workshop, feedback from the public on those results, as well as an opportunity to collect additional input, and a discussion of planning and site restrictions. The planning process may ultimately involve a total of four or five formative public workshops including the community design brainstorming session, a meeting to consider alternative concepts, and one to discuss a refined concept plan. Once a plan is developed, it will then be examined through the Environmental Review process and be subject to further community review and feedback before being acted upon by the city of Los Angeles.

LAX Northside Public Workshop # 1 – Tally of Exercise Results

Exercise Structure

Six banners were provided which were filled with comments solicited from the audience. Banner topics included the following:

- Northside Land Use
- Neighborhood Interface
- Community Amenities
- Traffic and Circulation
- Golf Course
- Public Outreach Process
- Westchester Business District
- Addressing Potential Impacts, Other issues, and Ideas
- Open Space, Environmental Restoration, Active Recreation

Each participant received an envelope with the following:

- 2 large green dots – one to place on most important topic and one to indicate comment most agreed with
- 1 large red dot – to indicate comment agreed with the least
- 12 small green dots – to indicate agreement with comment
- 6 small red dots – to indicate disagreement with comment

	Large Green	Small Green	Large Red	Small Red
Topic: Northside Land Use	28			
• Retail Development - West				4
• Run-up Sheds	2	2		
• More parks, soccer fields	4	25		
• Golf course – complete	3	10		1
• Dog park	1	30		5
• Native habitat restoration	1	16		
• Chicago lake front	1	5		3
• Senior multipurpose center/housing		16	1	3
• No more development	4	20		
• Westchester community center		7		3
• Community garden	1	6		

• No Hotel	1	10	5	2
• Local hardware store		19		
• Chaparral park - Scottsdale		2		
• Residential			6	21
• Community med center		2		7
• Assisted living center		1		11
• Cell towers		4	6	9
• Kenneth Park	1	1		
• Horse Stables	1	1		27
• Teen center		1	1	19
• Skate park		8	1	14
• Tennis courts		2		9
• UCLA plan		14		
• No commercial	4	14		
• No residential				1
• Police sub station		18		3
• No zone change to R-1		3		

	Large Green	Small Green	Large Red	Small Red
Topic: Neighborhood Interface	4			
• Berm on perimeter w/landscaping	3	18		
• Greenbelt	4	24		
• Soundwall 91 st St.	1	8		5
• Trees & garden		30		
• Night sky lighting		3		3
• Berms on south side	1	10		
• No walls		1	11	9

• Sloped sand dunes		13		2
• Picnic areas		6		4
• Public restrooms		6		19
• Security stations on edge of airport		10		
• Proper maintenance of interface		4		
• Security fencing So. Of 91 st		5		
• No billboards		20		
• Review martin study on interface		8		
• Min. access connections		1		2
• Retail development WBD		4	5	23

	Large Green	Small Green	Large Red	Small Red
Topic: Community Amenities	2			
• Large scale Public art		3	3	4
• Recycling for Apt.		3		
• Expansion of St. Bernards High School		7		4
• Athletic fields		10		2
• Fix sidewalks		18		
• Expand housing sound proofing	3	8	1	
• More pedestrian friendly lighting		4		
• More police protection		4	1	
• Preserve lifestyle		6		
• Cleanup/light up tunnel		3		
• Street maintenance		5		1
• Moratorium on multi-family		7		3
• Trim trees		6		

	Large Green	Small Green	Large Red	Small Red
Topic: Traffic and Circulation	35			
• No expansion of LAX	14	38		
• Multiple story parking structure			7	19
• No airport parking		4		3
• Bike paths	1	19	1	
• 88 th has become freeway				
• No access connections to north		2	1	
• No airport access		8		1
• Public walkways connecting Westchester thru golf course		3	2	
• Bike paths away from residential				
• Parking for rec. spaces		2		
• New access to “parking spot”				1
• Speed bumps		2	1	13
• Westchester is impacted/gridlock	4	22		
• Don’t believe what airport says		3		
• 2 nd bridge		6		1
• Block through traffic on wiley post		2		1
• EIR on traffic		8		
• Keep WCP open	1	5		
• Greenline to airport	4	33		
• Construction notice schedules		1		
• Finish Lincoln Blvd.		10		
• Residential parking permits			1	2
• Redirect W. high school traffic out				
• Finish projects		3		

• Remove gates on Emerson	2	6	6	14
• Keep gates on Emerson				1
• High speed rail to Palmdale to DT	3	9		
• Notice about filming		2		
• Don't close freeway to filming		1		

	Large Green	Small Green	Large Red	Small Red
Topic: Golf Course	6		11	2
• Make 1T 18 holes	1	13		
• Follow through on golf course		7		
• Keep promises		3		
• Review management lease	1	7		
• New clubhouse w/rest & parking		6		6
• UCLA golf course plan		6		
• More community interface		2		
• Speed up play	1	1		
• Free golf lessons		1		9
• Use 1991 plan		4		
• Just do it				
• Xeroscape the golf course		4		
• Recycle water		9		

	Large Green	Small Green	Large Red	Small Red
Topic: Public Process	8			
• Newsletters and emails		3		
• Meeting at night		1		

• Website and interactive blog		9		
• Involve business community		4		
• Send report to everyone w/reply postcards	1			
• Focus groups		3		
• Weekend meetings		4		
• Westchester park and workshop				
• Tell the truth		4		
• Understand plans for expansion	5	19		
• Meetings on Utube/webcast				
• Committee to pick consultants		1		2
• ARSAC review consultant selection	2	6		
• Publish results of Meetings		3		2
• Topographic map		3		
• Walking tours of site		5		
• Establish timeframe		2		
• BOAC invite public to meetings		1		
• Quit now			1	8
• Where's the money	2	5		
• Meet w/ residents	2	8		
• Give back to Westchester		4		
• Don't tie improvements to expansion of airport	2	5		
• Push the LA Times	2	17		1
• Federal and State EIT for improvements		7		
• Multi-step w/feedback	1	3		
• Seek input from experts		1		
• More cookies and water		1		1

	Large Green	Small Green	Large Red	Small Red
Topic: Westchester Business District	5		2	
• Public business transfer station		6		
• No condemnation	7	9	1	
• Avid negative impact on business w/runway		2		
• Revitalize business district	3	17		
• Read article on WDB				1
• Limit increase on franchises		2		2
• Contact Drolinger	1	4		
• Free add. Parking		3	2	15
• No more big box stores		5		3

	Large Green	Small Green	Large Red	Small Red
Topic: Addressing Potential Impacts, Other Issues, & Ideas	2			
• Airport contact info		2		
• Decrease airplane fuel dumping	2	13		
• Control of airplanes at night	1	21		
• No LNG terminal	1	10		2
• No Air Bus	6	23		1
• Health impact study	3	17		1

	Large Green	Small Green	Large Red	Small Red
Topic: Open Space, Environmental Restoration, Active Recreation	42			
• Save the trees	3	22		
• Native habitat restoration		17	1	
• Multi-use trail	1	20		
• Community garden		8		1
• Large children's playground		3	1	7
• Wildlife corridor		19		
• Large group of trees on Westchester	2	16		
• Use Kenneth Hahn park as model		2		1
• Parks safe at night		6		
• Garden at Loyola & Westchester Pkwy		2		
• Westchester/Playa Del Rey to manage fields		17		
• AIT energy		6		
• Solar power		18		
• Native plants		12		
• Sustainable green design - all the way	1	10		
• Capture systemization of water		8		
• Nature center		12		
• Tongva Community Cultural Center		3		9
• Resurrect parks agreement		9		
• Conserve bio science		6		
• Urban farming org.	2	6	1	6