

City of Sacramento

This is the eleventh in a series of articles featuring local governments using Blueprint Project principles in built projects, plans or general plans.



GROWTH FOR THE SACRAMENTO REGION'S CENTRAL CITY HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN DEFINED as expanding outward. A new general plan being drafted focuses on taking growth both inward and upward.

In June, the city council endorsed a plan that sees a more urban city, where people not only work, but also live and recreate. More tall buildings would populate the city's skyline in 2030 and not just in downtown. Sub-regional centers would enable distribution of jobs throughout the city and create shorter commutes. Focused around light rail stations these areas would act as miniature downtowns with mixed-use developments.

The draft General Plan 2030 is a bold gesture for

the city to grow into a mature urban area that will add 200,000 people and 140,000 jobs by 2030;

The city has gathered significant input through the General Plan Advisory Committee, two rounds of town hall forums, and a public opinion survey. This fall, residents are offering input on draft general plan policies. The city council adopted a resolution demonstrating the city's commitment to Blueprint implementation. The resolution included a list of policy implementation steps associated with the general plan update, as well as a population and employment allocation supporting the MTP2035.

Downtown Development

Within the urban core, new developments are

blending housing and offices with ground-level shops and eateries, opening up more choices for local trips, on foot or by bike. Recent developments offer housing for lease and sale.

Transit Oriented Development

Recently, several projects have been specifically planned to make best use of the space around light rail stations. Three new residential and mixed-use projects have been constructed within walking distance of the CSUS campus and the 65th Street light rail station.

Pedestrian Improvement Projects

Sacramento seeks to become the "Walking Capital" by investing in pedestrian infrastructure. Routine projects such as providing needed sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, street lighting and traffic calming continue to be implemented citywide. Several streets in the Central City will be reconfigured to be two-way streets with bicycle lanes in both directions.

Developments in the Railyards and along the River

The city's current vision for growth includes the Railyards, a large under-utilized area just north of downtown that once was the largest railyard in the west. A current application for redevelopment includes 1.3 million square feet in retail and almost 4 million square feet in office space and thousands of housing units.

Developments in the Railyards and along the River

Sacramento is also working with West Sacramento on a comprehensive plan for development on both sides of the Sacramento River. This includes planning for urban mixed-use development with a strong connection to the Sacramento River.

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Top: Railyards project; above: mixed-use buildings 800J (left) and O' Lofts (right)