



# Meeting Minutes

**Project Title:** San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan

**Meeting Title:** September 2023 Steering Committee Meeting

**Purpose of Meeting:** Present schedule update, plan update, InDesign plan layout, plan sections, 3D renderings update, community engagement effort for the public release of the plan, group discussion, asks of the Steering Committee, and next steps.

**Meeting Location:** Virtual via Microsoft Teams

**Date:** September 13, 2023

**Time:** 2:00 PM

## Attendees:

### Steering Committee Members:

Carolina Hernandez, LACFCD  
Ramy Gindi, LACFCD  
Benjamin Feldman, LAC B.O.S. SD1  
Karina Macias, LAC B.O.S. SD1  
Wes Reutimann, Active SGV  
Arturo Gonzalez, RMC  
Edna Robidas, Trust for Public Land  
Nola Talmage, WCA  
Bryan Matsumoto, Nature for All  
Katie Ward, SGVCOG

### Project Team:

Julian Juarez, LACPW  
Jennifer Aborida, LACPW  
Robert Gomez, LACPW  
Soledad Tlamasico, LACPW  
Mateusz (Matt) Suska, LACPW  
Natasha Krakowiak, DPR  
Sheela Mathai, DPR  
Loretta Quach, DPR  
Michelle O'Conner, DPR  
Laureen Abustan, Brown and Caldwell  
Steve Hirai, Brown and Caldwell  
Jeff Herr, Brown and Caldwell  
Kevin Johnson, Studio-MLA  
Jan Dyer, Studio-MLA

## Summary

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### Meeting Format

The September 2023 Steering Committee Meeting was held virtually over Microsoft Teams. The meeting consisted of a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the schedule update, followed by updates on the plan, InDesign plan layout, plan sections, 3D renderings, and the community engagement effort for the public release of the plan. This was followed by a group discussion. Additionally, there was an overview of the asks of the Steering Committee members and next steps. The presentation concluded with closing remarks.

### 1. Introduction

- a. Welcome Remarks from LACPW
- b. Roll Call

### 2. PowerPoint Presentation

#### a. Schedule Update

- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) shared the schedule updates on the Plan development and the status of the tasks and deliverables.
- Continuing to complete the deliverables for the Plan, including the Final Conceptual Designs, Opportunities and Constraints Maps, and Design Guidelines and Standards.
- Draft Greenway Network Plan was submitted on September 12, 2023, to the Steering Committee for review.
- Environmental documentation is in progress, with the Final Project Description and Alternatives and the Draft PEIR in development.
- SGV Greenway website continues to be ongoing and live.
- The Community Engagement Plan for the Public Release of the Plan is in development, prepared by WCA and LACPW.

#### b. Draft SGVGN Plan Update

- **Plan Timeline**
  - September 2023: Steering Committee Review of Draft Plan (Word format)
  - Winter 2024: Public Release of Draft Plan (InDesign Format)
  - Spring 2024: Public Release of Final Plan (InDesign Format)
- **InDesign Plan Layout**
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) provided a preview of the InDesign layout of the SGV Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan, showing the example Introduction, Sections, and Conceptual Designs, with the example color schemes, fonts, figures, photos, and page layouts.
- **SGVGN Plan Sections**
  - Jeff Herr (Brown and Caldwell) outlined the SGV Plan sections.
    - Tribal Land Acknowledgment
    - Director's Message
    - Executive Summary
      1. Introduction to SGVGN Plan
      2. Existing Conditions Summary

3. Engagement Strategy and Results
  4. Project Opportunities Analysis
  5. Greenway Opportunities and Example Conceptual Designs
  6. Implementation Strategies
  7. Resources
  8. Appendices
- Jeff Herr (Brown and Caldwell) continued with a summary of **Section 1. Introduction to SGVGN Plan.**
    - 1.1 Plan Goals
    - 1.2 Plan Area
    - 1.3 Plan Description
    - 1.4 Background and History of the Plan Area
    - 1.5 Plan Partners and Plan Team
    - 1.6 Approach to Plan Development
    - 1.7 How to Use this Document
  - Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) gave an overview of **Section 3. Engagement Strategy and Results.** She shared the content that the different subsections would entail:
    - 3.1: Community Engagement Plan
    - 3.2: Engagement with Steering Committee
    - 3.3: Engagement with Municipal Stakeholders
    - 3.4: County Collaboration
    - 3.5: Community Engagement Report and Incorporation
    - 3.6: Engagement for the Public Release of the Plan
  - Jeff Herr (Brown and Caldwell) then went over **Section 6: Implementation Strategies.** It's about the details of how to implement the plan.
    - 6.1: Plan Implementation – how do project proponents engage with the Plan?
    - 6.2: SGV Greenway Project Description
    - 6.3: Project Implementation
    - 6.4: Plan Resources for Project Implementation
    - 6.5: Permitting and Approvals
    - 6.6: Advancing Partnerships
    - 6.7: Community Engagement Mechanisms
    - 6.8: Funding Sources
  - The **Summary of Project Implementation Phases** table was shown, and the **Funding Sources** table with the local, state, and federal funding sources was shown as well.
  - Mateusz (Matt) Suska: In the permitting and plan phase, would recommend adding right-of-way (ROW) and easement as bullet points. Didn't see much about the greenway easement in the rest of the document, so expanding on that would be helpful.

### c. 3D Renderings Update

- Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) provided an update on the progress of the 3D renderings with a brief description of the selected project sites, the rendering process, draft aerial renderings, and axonal renderings.
- Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) stated that these renderings and axons would really help bring that project component and subcomponent section to life.
- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) asked if there were any questions.
- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) commented that a common challenge was that often it was very difficult to plant trees along the Greenway and did not see much of that in the renderings. He wanted to know the proactive solutions in the Plan for planting trees along these washes.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) explained there was quite a bit in the Plan related to the limited landscape management zone. In addition, Studio-MLA has been working on a planting list. Through these diagrams and those landscape guidelines, the hope was to give designers the tools they need.
  - Julian Juarez (LACPW) stated the biggest challenge was whether there was enough ROW to maintain clearance requirements, and it was important to make sure that we have an accurate depiction of that throughout these diagrams and renderings.
  - Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) commented that if there are hard limitations that are preventing aggressive tree planting, the Plan could potentially provide a recommendation that we need to reconsider some of these requirements to provide more canopy coverage.
  - Julian Juarez (LACPW) stated that a challenge is the varying ROW throughout, but we can look into this.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) added that we do know how strict the guidelines are, but we can look into whether there are other design considerations that would provide canopy and shade.
  - Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) thanked Carolina Hernandez (LACPW) and asked if a specific goal is to provide canopy, are all these restrictions something we can revisit. He pointed out Kevin Johnson's (Studio-MLA) mentioning of shade structures sounded good.
  - Carolina Hernandez (LACFCD) answered that though we as a district can look into whether the estimates are too conservative, the best thing to do is lobby with our federal partners. The USACE has jurisdiction over many SGV Flood Control Channels and has its own set of requirements. Also, the District has the responsibility to protect life and property due to flooding, though we can evaluate whether those restrictions are appropriately set. The Flood Control District is always happy to collaborate to allow habitat improvements within its right-of-way that are not detrimental to the Flood Control System.
  - Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) stated that it's important to communicate these restrictions to the public and community.
- Wes Reutimann (Active SGV) asked whether the plant list was available.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) confirmed that would be available in the Appendix.
- Wes Reutimann (Active SGV) also asked whether there was something else we could do to provide shade throughout the corridors even if there is constricted ROW. A comment that

can be expected to be received is how hot these play structures can get, and how that can be an issue. Children are especially susceptible to heat.

- Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) stated that if tree planting is not available, we can provide alternative design solutions might look like.

**d. Community Engagement Effort for Public Release of Plan**

- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) then asked whether there were more questions and turned it over to Jennifer Aborida (LACPW) to discuss the community engagement effort for the Public Release of the Plan.

- **Community Engagement for Public Release of DRAFT Plan**

- **Prior to Draft Plan Release**

- Social Media and Email Communications
  - September – December 2023
  - estimated 200,000 impressions.
- Public Project Website Updates
  - October – December 2023
- Media Kit
  - September – December 2023
- Flyer Postings within SGV Plan area
  - October – November 2023
  - minimum of 50 locations.

- **During Public Comment Period**

- Presentations to Local Community Groups
  - January – March 2024
  - minimum of 15 meetings.
- Pop-up Events/Tabling Events
  - January – March 2024
  - minimum of 30 events.
- Community Meetings for Q&A
  - estimated 2 meetings.
- Community Bike Rides
  - estimated 3 bike rides.
- Presentation to City Stakeholders within Plan Area (as needed)
  - January – March 2024
  - maximum of 15 meetings.
- Optional Community Survey

- **Community Engagement for Public Release of FINAL Plan**

- Social Media and Email Communications
  - March – April 2024
  - estimated 200,000 impressions.
- Public Project Website Updates
  - March – April 2024

- Optional Community Meetings for Q&A
  - estimated 2 meetings.

**e. Group Discussion**

- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) opened the discussion by inviting the Steering Committee to provide recommendations and feedback on the following questions:
  - What feedback is there on the following?
    - InDesign Plan Layout
    - Plan Sections Content
    - 3D Rendering Layouts
    - Community Engagement Effort for Public Release of Plan
- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) opened the discussion by stating that a common question he can foresee is people asking what the timeline would be for their specific section of the Greenway Network. The public is often asking how they can get involved, as well, and how they can help. How can the average person track what is happening and get involved?
  - Jennifer Aborida (LACPW) said that this is the Master Plan, so this is just laying the foundation. A lot of the network is in early implementation stages, so we can point the community to those.
  - Julian Juarez (LACPW) agreed with Jennifer Aborida (LACPW). There was a groundbreaking ceremony in Covina the past weekend, and there might be a grand opening ceremony for that. Eaton Wash is another location where funding has been secured. It is all on the list; it just may not be as fast as people like.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) added that this plan provides a lot of resources, such as the analysis of the ROW. The Programmatic EIR is a huge boost for proponents trying to move these projects forward.
  - Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) added that as a local resident and community member, it could help move along projects if the community can advocate for themselves. Whether they contact through the SGV website or contact the local municipality, or other ways of contacting people, it can really help move things along. Working with member organizations is also another great way to help.
  - Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) said that this is great guidance, and having all this as something explicitly stated in the plan would be good.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) added that there is a section about early implementation projects, and it would be clear when that's happening and who's in charge.
- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) read off Bryan Matsumoto's (Nature for All) comment in the chat which stated that it would be nice to see other shade structures as part of the renderings so people can visualize what that would look like.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) replied that though the axons are supposed to represent what is in the plan and guidelines, the team can discuss where something could be added.
- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) read off Edna Robidas' (Trust for Public Land) comment that assuming the planting list would be in the Appendix, it didn't make it into this draft.
  - Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) said that was something that could definitely be shared.

- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) read Wes Reutimann's (Active SGV) comment that discussed shade stops would increase the utility.
  - Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) agreed with Wes Reutimann's (Active SGV) comment and gave an example of right before Santa Fe Dam. Arturo Gonzalez (RMC) agreed as well.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) said that there was one drawing with shade structures, but that was taken out because they wanted to show shade structures at gateway points.
- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) read off Katie Ward's (SGVCOG) comment, which asked whether the SGVCOG could be included in the engagement efforts.
  - Julian Juarez (LACPW) thanked Katie Ward (SGVCOG) for the comment and that it would be a great way to share.
  - Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) said that if there haven't been regular updates, there should be.
  - Julian Juarez (LACPW) agreed with Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) and commented that they've been instrumental in funding efforts.
- Robert Gomez (LACPW) wanted to mention that there's a large amount of the budget saved for landscaping efforts, in reference to the shade spots. He wanted to make that clear.
- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) read off Karina Macias' (LAC B.O.S. SD1) comment which stated that this presentation could be reframed project development work that has been completed. SGVCOG recently released a call for projects and cities would want COG technical assistance for that.
  - Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) asked whether Karina Macias (LAC B.O.S. SD1) was discussing the early implementation projects.
  - Karina Macias (LAC B.O.S. SD1) stated that she was referring to the highlights that Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) was referencing – all the parts of the plan that are ready to go to the next phase, so the presentation is framed for authorities with the power to go forward. Reframe it so that the presentation answers why local jurisdictions etc. should care about this plan and look at this plan.
  - Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) mentioned Section 6 does go over some of this.
  - Julian Juarez (LACPW) thanked Karina Macias (LAC B.O.S. SD1) for the feedback and added that outreach is coming up with cities.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) wanted to add that the discussion around the COG is very interesting, and that this should be presented at the transportation meetings. Should the COG be mentioned in the implementation section?
    - Jennifer Aborida (LACPW) and Katie Ward (SGVCOG) agreed with Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA).
  - Arturo Gonzalez (RMC) appreciated the design schematics, and just to further what Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) and Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) were discussing, creating mindful spaces where people can rest is important. A lot of abandoned areas can be utilized and activated with shade spots etc.
    - Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) seconded Arturo Gonzalez's (RMC) comment and asked whether there was a way for people to get these recommendations.

- Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) stated that those were both great comments. Looking to focus on gateways, privacy concerns, etc. is important, and providing design solutions for these concerns is possible.
- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) added that those elements and details are included in Design Guidelines and Standards, Appendix H.
- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) is interested in knowing what the pathway is to actually implement these plans. With this plan, how do we get to the actual network being built and are there specific people that can be assigned to shepherd this along.
  - Katie Ward (SGVCOG) said those were great comments, and as the call for projects happens, this is something that can be kept in mind.
  - Julian Juarez (LACPW) added that we're committed to partnering and streamlining the process. The plan is just the how-to, and Julian Juarez (LACPW) and his team are available to the public and cities.
  - Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) added that the public works team will be the implementation team and is the lead agency.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) added that DPR is also a major partner on this project, using this plan as an opportunity to expand on their existing regional multi-use trail network.
- Michelle O'Connor (DPR) said that Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) was correct, and that was why they were keeping a close eye on fine-tuning various sections and the visuals. The regional multi-use trail network was different from the paved bikeway and accommodates equestrian use in addition to pedestrians. DPR saw themselves as implementers and wanted to enhance east-west connectivity.
- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) commented that there are not a lot of pictures about existing greenways, and it would be great to show what an existing greenway looks like.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) added that as we move into Word for this plan, there will be much more space for photos and it's something that has been considered.
  - Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) added that there are some photos in the Plan, but bringing those to the forefront would be great.
    - Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) commented that a call for photos would be a great public engagement opportunity.
    - Julian Juarez (LACPW) said that Bryan Matsumoto's (Nature for All) idea is something to consider.
- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) read off Bryan Matsumoto's (Nature for All) comment, which stated: For tracking progress, will public works be reporting regularly to the Board of Supervisors on implementation of the network?
  - Julian Juarez (LACPW) answered that right now the focus is on the development of the plan, and the board of supervisors is notified through the project delivery process. A more robust reporting program is something we can consider.
  - Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) said that if we want to see this network built out, we need to ensure that there is someone making it happen. Karina Macias (LAC B.O.S. SD1) agreed.
- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) stated that for community engagement, it's possible to blow up these renderings and diagrams on banners and physically place them in the location.



- Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) stated that it was a great suggestion, and this is a huge reason why the renderings exist – to help create momentum and capture public interest.
- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) stated that this is something the public works team can also put on the website.
- Laureen Abustan (Brown and Caldwell) read off Karina Macias' (LAC B.O.S. SD1) comment, which stated: Can you prepare some social media graphics we can push out and an email address they can submit to?
- Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) asked what the blue tick marks meant on the document, and Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) answered that those were only relevant for the prioritization process. It was analysis based on major physical characteristic changes.
  - Julian Juarez (LACPW) asked whether it's part of the hatching, and Bryan Matsumoto (Nature for All) stated that it's related to the specific wash.
  - Kevin Johnson (Studio-MLA) mentioned that it's something they can add to the legend, or something that can be taken out.

**f. Asks of the Steering Committee**

- Provide feedback for the Draft SGV Greenway Network Plan.
- Aid in the promotion of the SGV Greenway Network Plan.

**g. Next Steps**

- Meeting minutes summary to be sent after the meeting.
- Continue to develop the Draft SGV Greenway Network Plan in InDesign format.
- Update the Draft SGVGN Plan with Steering Committee comments.

**3. Action Items**

- a. Provide planting list.
- b. Looking into shade structures.
- c. More interface with SGVCOG.

Refer to the PowerPoint presentation slides, video recording, transcript, and Teams chat for more details.