

Meeting Minutes

Project Title: San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan

Purpose of Meeting: Gather Feedback Related to the June Meeting, Revisit the Draft Project Prioritization Criteria, Review Updated Channel Information and Discuss Story Maps

Date: July 8, 2020

Meeting Location: Virtual via Teams
See Microsoft Outlook Invite

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Steering Committee Members

Martin Reyes, LAC B.O.S. SD1
Daritza Gonzalez, LAC B.O.S. SD4
Rachel Roque, LAC B.O.S. SD4
Carolina Hernandez, LACFCD
Lee Alexanderson, LACPW
Sally Gee, RMC
Belinda Faustinos, Nature For All
Edna Robidas, Trust For Public Land

Project Team

Enrique Baul, LACPW
Jennifer Aborida, LACPW
Lyndon Tat, LACPW
Michelle O'Connor, LACDPR
Natasha Krakowiak, LACDPR
Sheela Mathai, LACDPR
Loretta Quach, LACDPR
Deborah Enos, WCA
Johnathan Perisho, WCA
Lisa Skutecki, Brown and Caldwell
Rosey Jencks, Brown and Caldwell
Jesse Scolavino, Brown and Caldwell
Kevin Johnson, Studio-MLA
Jean Yang, Studio-MLA
Tony Howze, PACE
Esmeralda Garcia, MIG
Noe Noyola, MIG
Megan Schwartz, Catalyst

Meeting Summary

1. Introductions and welcoming remarks from PW
2. PowerPoint Presentation
 - a. Schedule Status
 - i. Lisa Skutecki reviewed the current schedule.
 - b. Questions/Comments related to June meeting
 - i. No questions or comments were provided from the June meeting.

c. Example Story Map

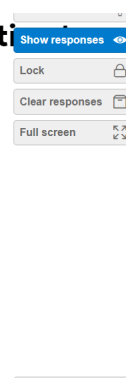
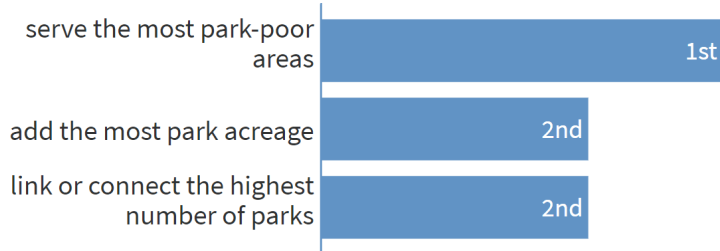
- i. Kevin Johnson introduced the story maps.
- ii. Belinda Faustinos asked if bike trails in the planning phase are being mapped. She explained that, many times there are underlying private ownerships where PW has an easement, will you be mapping the private land ownership.
- iii. Kevin Johnson clarified that bike trails in the planning phase are being mapped in the existing and planned projects story map.
- iv. Enrique Baul explained that PW is working with the mapping group to come up with a map to see where they currently have easements.

d. Draft Project Prioritization Poll - The project team asked the participants to assist the them in developing prioritization principles for the team to use in prioritizing projects.

e. Recreation poll results: 1) serve the most park-poor areas, (tied) 2) add the most park acreage, and 2) link or connect the highest number of parks.

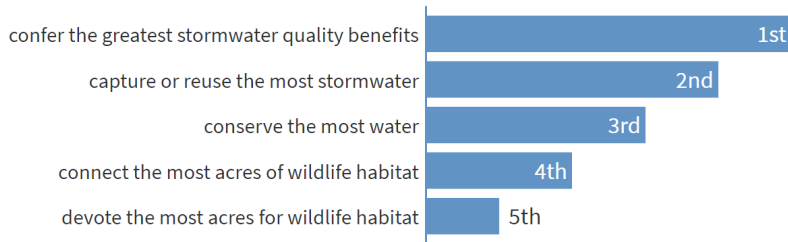
In terms of RECREATION, it would be vital for my organization to

identify projects or reaches that:



- i. Comment from Belinda Fautinos: Schools that have adjacent recreation opportunities can be considered and add to the prioritization. For recreation it is important to note the type of recreation that will be made available, i.e, walking, biking , equestrian uses are all important but equestrian as an example will be critical in areas that have adjacent corrals, etc.
 - ii. Comment from Michelle O’Conner: DAC communities are important from a state grant funding perspective.
 - iii. Comment from Martin Reyes: We should also keep in mind the WHAM initiative led by the County, which seeks to advance multi benefit projects that can leverage and be funded by Measures W, H, A and M.
 - iv. Comment from Edna Robidas: Increasing access to recreation and open space in areas that have no or limited access is also a priority for my organization, along with focusing on areas that are low-income and have other social vulnerabilities.
 - v. Comment from Carolina Hernandez: Would steering committee members feel differently regarding the size of the recreation area?
- f. Water poll results: 1) confer the greatest stormwater quality benefits, 2) capture or reuse the most stormwater, 3) conserve the most water, 4) connect the most acres of wildlife habitat, and 5) devote the most acres for wildlife habitat.

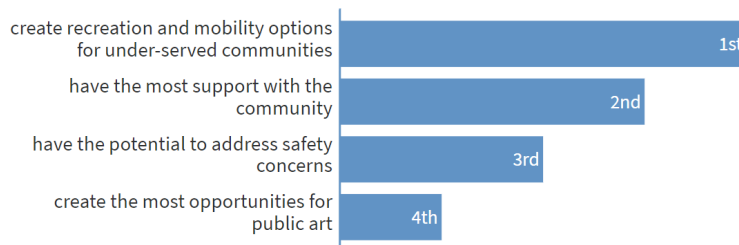
In terms of WATER, it would be vital for my organization to identify projects or reaches that:



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- i. Comment from Sally Gee: We would like to prioritize green infrastructure projects vs gray infrastructure.
 - ii. Comment from Carolina Hernandez: There was no questions regarding flood risk mitigation.
 - iii. Comment from Belinda Faustinos: I would have liked a ranking that would give the highest priority to nature-based solutions (solutions based on natural topography and natural/local vegetation).
- g. Community poll results: 1) create recreation and mobility options for under-served communities, 2) have the most support with the community, 3) have the potential to address safety concerns, and 4) create the most opportunities for public arts.

In terms of COMMUNITY, it would be vital for my organization to identify projects or reaches that:

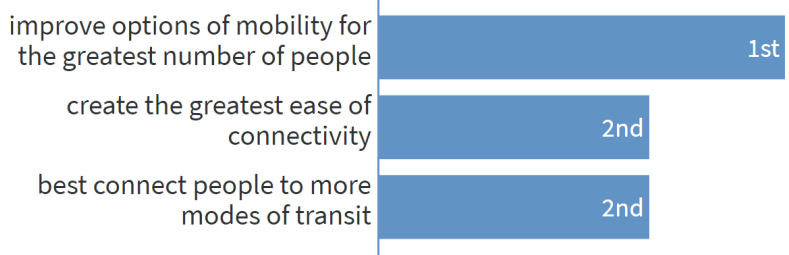


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- i. Comment from Belinda Faustinos: Community led design is critically important and must be incorporated in all project sites.
 - ii. Comment from Edna Robidas: I have found that projects that lack community support from the outset are not as successful as those that have strong initial community support. It is much harder to develop and sustain support after the project has been selected during project development.
 - iii. Comment from Carolina Hernandez: Gaging the community’s feelings regarding active transportation vs. recreation/open space.
- h. Circulation poll results: 1) improve options of mobility for the greatest number of people, (tied) 2) create the greatest ease of connectivity, and 2) best connect people to more modes of transit.

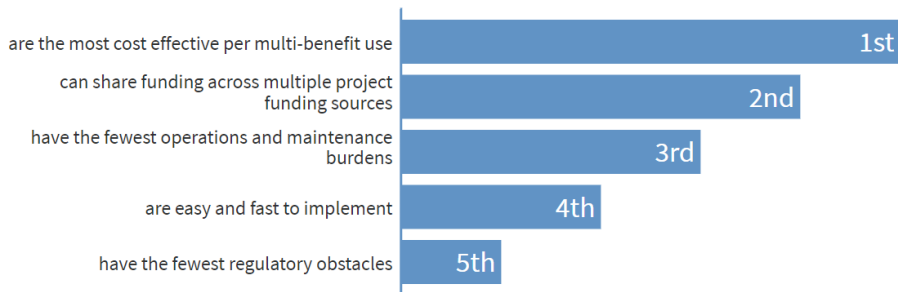
In terms of CIRCULATION, it would be vital for my organization to identify projects or reaches that:

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- i. Comment from Sally Gee: Loop designs also seem to be more popular than in and out designs. I think connection to existing trails/ access points and w/in walking distance of residential or school areas are important to consider.
- ii. Comment from Martin Reyes: Surrounding land use and destinations should be considered to identify greenway segments that may be used more.
- i. Planned Projects poll results: 1) are the most cost effective per multi-benefit use, 2) can share funding across multiple project funding sources, 3) have the fewest operations and maintenance burdens, 4) are easy and fast to implement, and 5) have the fewest regulatory obstacles.

In terms of EXISTING PROJECTS, it would be vital for my organization to identify projects of reaches that:



- i. Comment from Carolina Hernandez: The issue of PEH (people experiencing homelessness) should be addressed as well. It's difficult to address the burden of O&M when the responsible entities haven't been identified.
- j. General discussion on project prioritization:
 - i. Martin Reyes noted when homeless encampments and issues of safety would be of concern for the community when opening flood ways.
 - ii. Sally Gee would like to see categories about climate and climate adaptation.
 - iii. Belinda Faustinos would like to elevate the issue of equity throughout all the considerations. Water quality would also improve habitat and can be considered together.
 - iv. Carolina Hernandez would like to see more discussion of access. Maybe add this to circulation and consider it in terms of equity as well.
 - v. Daritza Gonzalez noted on community, she would like for certain communities near La Puente to be considered.

- vi. Johnathan Perisho noted that this plan can inform other plans and efforts. To the points on nature-based solutions, soil and vegetation are the drivers of planning and designing landscapes as functional systems and not just aesthetics, which have profound impacts on water quality, water conservation, and water supply, as well as air quality, carbon sequestration, habitat, and human restoration.
 - k. Update on Channel Information Study
 - i. Enrique Baul noted that the channel study is still ongoing.
3. Next Steps
- a. Project Team to send meeting summary
 - b. Committee feedback on the data summaries needed by August 3, 2020
 - c. Future meeting dates
 - September 9, 2020, 2PM to 5PM