

HEMET GENERAL PLAN ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY GENERAL PLAN ROAD SHOW

EVENT SUMMARY

SETTING

On November 19 and December 3, 2005, the Hemet General Plan team conducted a General Plan "Road Show". The Road Show represented the first General Plan event designed to engage the Hemet community at large to define the City's future. Interactive exhibits were used to:

1. Provide background information regarding the General Plan update process.
2. Identify potential issues of concern to residents.
3. Assess the level of interest in the General Plan update process.
4. Encourage participants to stay involved in the General Plan program.



The first Road Show session, held on November 19, 2005 at the Hemet Valley Mall, had approximately 120 participants. The General Plan team set up and staffed a booth with displays, and invited passing shoppers to share their thoughts and ideas about meeting Hemet's long-range planning needs. The December 3 event, held at Gibbel Park, occurred as part of the Hemet Christmas parade and Christmas in the Park Fair. Approximately 60 people participated in the General Plan activities at this event.

Participants reviewed information relating to the General Plan process and conditions in Hemet today, and they learned how long-range planning can help make Hemet the community they would like it to be. People were able to participate in the following activities designed to inform the General Plan team about issues important to Hemet residents and the business community.

ACTIVITIES

WHERE DO YOU WORK, LIVE AND PLAY?

The first activity encouraged participants to identify where they work, live, and play (recreation, entertainment, shopping, etc). A majority of participants lived in Hemet, and a sizable portion of respondents indicated that they work outside of Hemet. Many participants live in San Jacinto but do most of their shopping within Hemet. Most of the people who indicated that they work outside of the area had moved to Hemet within the past five years for the affordable housing (see exhibits at the end of this summary).



HEMET NEEDS A... The second activity asked participants to identify the types of economic development they would like to see in Hemet. Participants were able to choose from a list of 12 activities:

- Live theater
- Movies
- Sports fields
- Indoor sports fields
- Nightlife
- Late night dining
- Gym/health club
- Retail Chain
- Grocery Store
- Other commercial
- Housing
- Other

They placed icons on a map indicating where these should be located (see exhibits at the end of this summary).

HEMET'S HOUSING NEEDS. For the third activity, participants were asked to review pictures of various types of housing developments and indicate whether they thought that specific types of housing development are appropriate for Hemet. Many participants liked the lowest-density single-family house shown, and participants concerned with lower-cost housing liked the higher density housing.

IDEA CARDS. The final activity allowed participants to record key thoughts and ideas on three "Idea Cards". The first card asked where the participant lived and what made his or her neighborhood unique. The second card asked the participant to define the two most important issues the City of Hemet currently faces. The last card asked each person what he or she is most optimistic and pessimistic about regarding the City's future.



The comments from the idea cards and from the economic development activity are presented in the following section of this summary.

In addition, people had the opportunity to review various available maps that showed the kind of information covered by the General Plan elements, or chapters

As the participants left the Road Show, they were provided a copy of the General Plan newsletter and a commemorative General Plan magnet.

IMPRESSIONS

The General Plan Road Show was well received. Participants were eager to share their opinions about the City of Hemet and were grateful for the opportunity to do so. Most participants appeared to be passionate about Hemet, and they want to see the City achieve its maximum potential. Through interaction with the attendees at both events, the General Plan team noted the following key themes, which stood out because they were mentioned repeatedly.



MORE RETAIL AND ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES: The topic most participants mentioned was the lack of retail, dining, and entertainment services in the City. In particular, participants noted that Hemet needs:



- More diversified grocery stores
- A larger shopping mall
- More nightlife: live music, and theatre
- More major retailers such as Costco, Best Buy, Circuit City, Macy's, etc.
- Better restaurants such as Red Lobster, Outback Steakhouse, etc.
- More shopping and services east of downtown Hemet in the Valle Vista area

A good number of people also indicated that to shop at major retailers, they have to go to Temecula or Moreno Valley. Many participants indicated that they would like to be able to spend their money within Hemet and that a wider variety of retailers

and dining establishments would enable them to do so.

TRAFFIC: The impression that traffic in Hemet is becoming worse was also a prevalent theme. Specifically, traffic along major thoroughfares and at shopping centers was cited as being particularly bad. Many participants felt that rapid growth in the City is the primary cause for deteriorating traffic conditions. Many participants also felt that the City needs to improve traffic conditions before allowing further development. The mention of traffic issues by the participants many times led to a more general theme of providing adequate infrastructure for new development. One solution many participants offered to address workday traffic issues was the addition of one or two Metrolink stations.

GROWTH: Many of the concerns such as traffic, housing, and beautification were linked with the concern that the City is growing too rapidly and that the City's amenities need to "catch up" to the rate of development.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Many participants indicated that Hemet does not have enough youth and family activities. Examples of needed amenities included parks, recreation programs, indoor activities (both athletic and otherwise), and commercial recreation such as miniature golf or waterslides.

HEALTH SERVICES: The need for expanded medical facilities was cited several times. Specifically, participants felt a need for increased emergency room capacity, urgent care programs, and better access.

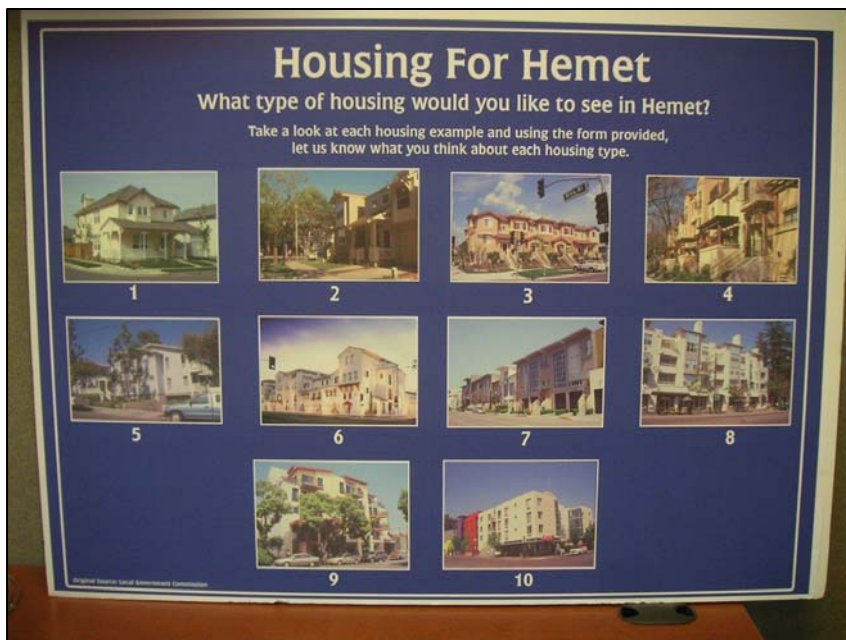
BEAUTIFICATION: “Cleaning up” the City was another frequently mentioned subject. People felt that overall, Hemet has many poorly maintained properties and empty lots.

DOWNTOWN HEMET: Making Downtown Hemet a “real center of town” was important to many participants. In particular, participants mentioned the need for family-oriented amenities such as shops and restaurants and City-sponsored activities. Many felt that traffic and safety issues should be addressed to make Downtown more appealing.

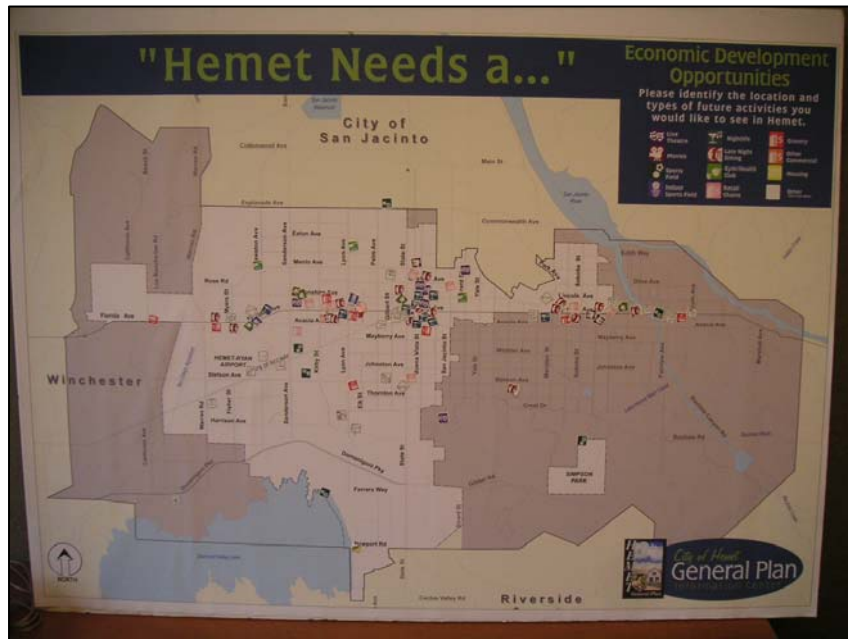
HEMET’S HISTORY: A few participants mentioned the need to preserve historic buildings and the cultural richness of the City. Several indicated that they wanted to see the City preserve its agricultural heritage and small town atmosphere.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Participants indicated that they had concerns about public safety in apartment complexes, and felt that the gang and drug issues need to be addressed.

ROAD SHOW DISPLAYS



Displays for the November 19, 2005 Road Show:



Displays for the December 3, 2005 Road Show:

