



Summary of GPAC Feedback on the Community Identity Policy Options

At the August 14, 2024, General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meeting, the project team gave an overview of policy options for some topics that will be addressed in the Community Identity Element. The policy options do not represent the complete set of topics that will be covered in the Community Identity Element but focus on topics that the GPAC has previously discussed and indicated interest in. The community and GPAC will have the opportunity to review and comment on the complete draft Community Identity Element as part of the Draft General Plan, which is anticipated to be published in Summer 2025.

A summary of the GPAC feedback on the Community Identity Element policy options is below. The policy option topics included:

- Healthy Communities
- Social Resilience
- Gateways
- Land Use and Neighborhood Transitions
- Science and Innovation
- Agriculture and Tourism
- Scenic Corridors

Healthy Communities

- Plan for more shade, bathrooms, and playgrounds in parks and public spaces.
- Focus on wildfire impacts associated with open space. Vineyards can reduce wildfire risks as they provide a natural fire break.
- Ensure adequate emergency vehicle access in new neighborhoods and ingress/egress.
- Healthy communities will require access to a variety of resources.
- Prioritize landscape and streetscape improvements in low-income neighborhoods.
- Encourage healthcare and medical providers to be located throughout the city.
- Encourage integration and social connectivity to help people feel less isolated. Mental and physical health are important.
- Promote arts and cultural events to support mental health.
- Pursue many different outreach channels to connect to the community.

- Take full advantage of community resources currently available like the library, LARPD, etc.

Social Resilience

- Make people aware of community events, using a variety of outreach channels including social media.
- Set aside funding for community events.
- Promote the creation of gathering spaces, both small and large public spaces, especially in multi-family housing settings.
- Social resilience goals and policies should help address variety of challenges other than natural disasters and climate hazards.
- Emphasize that Livermore should be a safe and welcoming community.
- Create spaces where people of different backgrounds can be in the same place and share experiences to encourage social cohesion.

Gateways

- Incorporate gateways throughout the city.
- Integrate aspects of Livermore's community identity in the urban design of all new development.
- Recognize arts and science in gateways, especially on the east side of Livermore nearest the laboratories.
- Reflect the history of the railroad.
- Consider utility undergrounding as one way to "beautify" city gateways.

Land Use and Neighborhood Transitions

- Encourage landscaping buffers to help with land use transitions.
- Improve neighborhood delineation through design features.
- Provide guidance on how to integrate density and different building scales together.
- The topic of land use and neighborhood transitions should address both improving community identity and preventing negative impacts.

Science and Innovation

- Integrate our heritage citywide like Livermorium downtown; murals that include our history; displays that share information about the city's history and/or educational information about science.
- Integrate arts and science throughout the city such as in murals and in parks (e.g. Lawrence Hall of Science has a play structure that is a double helix).
- Connections to history help the next generation be future ready and encourage future innovation.
- Innovation is not only about science. It can also be expressed in all kinds of fields: arts, agriculture, transportation.

Agriculture and Tourism

- Include support for biodiversity to sustain future agricultural production in 40 years.
- Acknowledge other things outside of wine like breweries, farmers markets, and ranching to build Livermore's brand as a food and beverage destination.
- Livermore's identity and tourism economy should highlight: agriculture, technology, maker spaces, craft industries, outdoor recreation, food, and downtown.
- Topography in Livermore is beautiful; especially where the wineries are located.

Scenic Corridors

- The I-580 context has changed, and the Scenic Corridor Policies should be updated to reflect those changes and the community's values.
- Explore scenic corridor policy adjustments to include other areas and not focus solely on views for travelers from I-580 but also the people who live in Livermore.
- Midtown Focus Area will require adjustments to the scenic corridor policy to facilitate the desired outcomes for the area.
- Exceptions to the policies should be offset with high quality architecture and other improvements, such as trees and landscaping treatments, and should only be granted if a project provides specific benefits (ex. job creation, tax revenue, etc.).
- Scenic corridor policies should make Livermore inviting to outside visitors and be integrated with transitions or gateways that market the city.
- Unobstructed views of the hillsides are an asset that makes Livermore distinct from other communities.
- Consider a greenbelt policy that would buffer Livermore from Pleasanton and Dublin.