DOWNTOWN DAVIS GREENING PROJECT
SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY MEETING COMMENTS
March 2, 2013

GENERAL COMMENTS
• If and when the Putah Creek Parkway becomes a destination, review the design issues. Adjustments may need to be made.
• Are we planning for future increased population and usage when Nishi property is developed and Solano Park redeveloped?
• What is appropriate use of electric vehicles and electric bikes in Arboretum and bike paths?
• How is long term site maintenance being handled?
  ➢ A: Agreements have been reached with volunteer groups (e.g. Tree Davis), city and University. Basic City and University maintenance will continue. We aim to supplement this with long-term volunteer groups that will commit to regular work days on the site.
• What space has been set aside for informal teaching opportunities? Would like to see a walking path, and a gathering space for a small group, somewhere in the creek way.
  ➢ A: The California Native Plant Garden has been designed for teaching and will feature secondary paths, interpretive signs, and three teaching patios. We are exploring the possibility of also adding a secondary path and gathering area to the Putah Creek Parkway.
• What is the implementation timeline?
  ➢ A: Weed abatement to start April 2013; PGE gas line installation early summer 2013; project construction summer 2013, first phase of planting fall 2013, second phase of planting fall 2014, grant-funded establishment care through spring 2016.
• What is the percentage of grant funds going to contractors vs. local groups like Tree Davis and supporting volunteerism?
  ➢ A: Approximately 39% of grant funds will go to contractors for hardscape construction; 14% to professional consultants; 47% to project partners City of Davis, Yolo Resource Conservation District, UCD Arboretum, Tree Davis, and Putah Creek Council for project implementation costs, including volunteer management.
  ➢ I was disappointed to hear that 4 parking spaces will be lost from the Davis Commons parking lot. This lot is already severely impacted and parking is a big issue for downtown Davis.

BIKES
• What can be done to improve bike etiquette? Bells don’t work. Education at schools and UCD, signage are needed.
• Provide ‘sharrow’ (shared arrow) markings on D and E Streets and the Davis Commons drive aisle pavements.

Sharrow symbol on pavement
• Encourage bikes to use D St. as entry into Arboretum and Davis Commons.
• Currently bikes do not like to go into the drive aisle; it’s too dangerous due to cars backing out.
• Currently bikes use the sidewalk along the cottages to get to D St and Arboretum path- how can this be discouraged?
• Will bollards at the ends of the north-south sidewalk discourage bikes from using the sidewalk instead of the drive aisle?
  ➢ A: We will investigate the feasibility and safety issues of bollards at the sidewalk entries.
• Speed limit signs needed for electric bikes, vehicles.
• Need more bike parking in town.
• Add bike parking along the path.
• What about bikes stopping to park and interrupting other traffic? Can the bike parking as shown be moved back a bit from the path?
• Keep pedestrians off the bike paths.
• Change Davis Bike Loop trail map from campus to downtown to include these improvements and reroute bikes to Arboretum Drive.
• Need a bike lane or striping to show how to get from 1st/E streets to Arboretum
• Provide cuts in the speed bumps in the Davis Commons parking lot to allow for easier bike travel.
• Look at the values/priorities of different traffic paths.
• Concerned about bikes on the drive aisle in the parking lot.
• Concerned about bike / pedestrian conflicts.
• How can bike speeds be reduced at pedestrian intersections?
• Add pedestrian symbol to Arboretum bike lanes, as they will use the path too.
• Keep bike routes/lanes solid concrete and reserve pavers for pedestrian areas. Bikes prefer smooth surfaces over uneven pavers.
• D Street works better than E Street as a bike entry to Davis Commons

PLAZA
• Like the shared use plaza space.
• Concerned about bikes entering directly into parking lot drive aisle.
• Concerned about safety of pedestrians in the plaza
• Allow bikes to ride on the existing center aisle pedestrian walk into shopping center
• Use shared path symbol (‘sharrow’) on drive aisle.
• Keep crenulated planter pattern in sidewalk leading to Whole Foods.
  ➢ A: Yes, the sidewalk will remain as is.
• Need way finding signs/maps at every intersection.
• Use icons for shared path signage.
• Need good lighting at bike-ped intersections.
• Bike speeds need to be reduced at intersections.
• It would be helpful to have a traffic plan map to describe the interaction between bikes and pedestrians in the plaza.
• Crosswalk through the driveway should include bike use as well as pedestrians. If not, then another route is needed for bikes to travel through the parking lot to Whole Foods and downtown.
• Is the crosswalk also a speed table?
A: No, the crosswalk will be level with the asphalt pavement.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT GARDEN (CNPG)
- Arboretum is reclaiming the area between the sidewalk and the asphalt path. This will be planted with screening trees and low shrubs and grasses.
- I really like the straight path from Solano Park to Davis Commons and downtown.
- I would like to see Solano Park pedestrian path made wider, to include a section for bikes.
- Bikes should not be on lower Arboretum paths.
  - A: The University’s plan is to direct bike traffic to the upper path system, and leave the lower paths for pedestrians. They are gradually transitioning from asphalt to pavers along the lower paths to emphasize this shift.
- Would like to see the curved bike path from the plaza to the south be flattened, to make a straighter bike lane.
- Need trash cans in CNPG
- Would like safe viewing area for railroad and interpretation (history)

PUTAH CREEK PARKWAY
- What design features will be used to keep individuals from occupying the site?
  - A: The view line into the creek will be cleaned up - tree canopies will be raised, rubble, debris and large shrubs in creek way will be removed.
- Is any additional infrastructure being installed to support wildlife diversity –nest boxes, bee boxes, etc?
  - A: There is opportunity for these to be provided as part of volunteer programs. They are not included in the grant funding.
- Reduce hiding opportunities along bike path.
- Remove rock and sitting opportunities near bike tunnel.
- Make the area near the bike tunnel safer for people alone and/or walking at night.
- Add a sidewalk along the edge of the bike bath (to reduce bike-ped conflicts).
- Consider behavioral approaches to get bikes to slow down through the blind curves.
- Make sure long term maintenance includes measures to ensure eradication of Tree of Heaven.
- The bike-ped sharing issues and security and visibility issues of this site are challenging and must be addressed properly. Perhaps it would be better to delay or defer some of the planting until these issues are resolved.

SIGNAGE
- Where appropriate, use icons to convey message.
- Consider interpretive signage in bollards- as swing out arm
- Provide wayfinding signs at every path intersection and entry. People get lost. Include destinations beyond the path system (e.g the Hyatt hotel on campus).
- Add bike courtesy signs – bikes keep right, pedestrians left; use icons to convey the information.
- Include wayfinding signs along 1st Street.
- City signage directing people to open space areas should direct pedestrians and bikes to this new area.
- Will signage be consistent between Arboretum and Putah Creek?
  - A: Signage will be designed in an integrated way to be complimentary between the Arboretum and the Putah Creek Parkway – this will include interpretive signs, wayfinding signs, and kiosks.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
• How do you plan to build community development for the longevity of the site?
  ➢ A: Volunteer engagement over the short and long term will be essential.
• Idea for ongoing maintenance: develop an Adopt-a-Path program to leverage willing Aggie Village residents for bi-monthly (6x/yr) clean-up of trash.
• How do volunteers get involved with the project?
  ➢ A: Tree Davis, Putah Creek Council, and the UC Davis Arboretum will be recruiting for volunteers over the term of the project. Please contact Emily Griswold at ebgriswold@ucdavis.edu if you are interested in volunteering or setting up a volunteer project for a group.
• Will there be outreach to student groups, schools, various community groups to participate in volunteer activities?
  ➢ A: Yes. This has already started.

SAFETY
• Trim up tree canopies to improve safety and lighting along the path and to open view the into the creek channel.
• Review existing lighting levels along channel path to make sure it meets requirements.
• Are short, solar path lights an option?
  ➢ A: These are appropriate for a residential setting, but are too easily vandalized and stolen when located in a public space.
• Keep shrubbery low at intersections – for visibility.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES
• Is there consideration of small electric vehicle (golf cart size) use on bike paths?
• Is there electric vehicle parking?
• Do electric bikes have access?
• Speed limit signs needed for electric bikes, vehicles.

ART
• Will there be more artwork?
  ➢ A: A city-funded sculpture has been commissioned for the east end of the Arboretum near the parking lot. We are exploring possibilities for creating a mural in the tunnel under the railroad tracks and an art bench along the Putah Creek Parkway. We welcome ideas for enlivening the space further with art.
• Do murals discourage graffiti [Mural is planned for the tunnel under the railroad tracks]?
  ➢ A: Many cities use mural programs as a positive way to discourage graffiti. San Francisco and Philadelphia have had particularly successful mural programs.