

Public Input Maps Summary
Public Meetings held May 12-15, 2008
Various locations

Summary of Priorities

Level of Priority	Top Priority Areas and Issues			
	Map A: New Development	Map B: Industry	Map C: Open Space and Trails	Map D: Tourism
1	East Las Cruces	Solar Energy (west of Las Cruces)	Protected: Agricultural land along the Río Grande	Historic Mesilla
2	West Las Cruces	Agriculture / Industry in Santa Teresa	Trail: Along the Río Grande	Central Urban Area
3	Santa Teresa	Agriculture / Industry West Las Cruces	Protected Open Space: San Andrés-Organ Mountains	Hatch Valley Agricultural Corridor

Summary of Comments

Location: Anthony

Table 1

Map A

No development should occur in Mesquite because there are limitations in water resources

Map B

Chaparral has high potential for industry

Map C

Regarding “Tourism Potential: Sierra de las Uvas / Robledo Mountains”- this area should not be wilderness but motorized recreation; Agricultural lands along the Río Grande should not be zoned; Regarding “Tourism Potential: West-East Potrillo Mountains / Aden Lava Flow / Mount Riley / Kilbourne Hole”- this should not be wilderness, it does not fit the National Act. There should be less roads and open access

Map D

Tourism in the central urban area of Las Cruces is a joke; University has more potential as a tourist destination than Las Cruces

Table 2

Map A

All agreed that infill in Las Cruces proper is the first priority; Regarding the Santa Teresa bubble- Concern about TIDDs by some (3/4). Good for economic development of County. Believe that development of this area is crucial to economic development of southern part of county; Regarding the bubble to the northeast of Las Cruces- Why leapfrog? Would like to see this [new development] occur in a controlled way, not leapfrogging out to the edge; Regarding the bubble to the West of Las Cruces- I like West Mesa development if there is adequate attention to transport. There are only 2 bridges. Also transportation can be expensive for poor people; Discourage development in agricultural areas of Rincón and Hatch.

Map B

Organic, local and intensive agriculture; Agriculture / Industry bubble over Santa Teresa should include Mexico; Wind energy as well as solar to the West of Las Cruces

Map C

#1- The entire trail along the Río Grande should be first priority; #2- Wilderness proposal areas are second priorities; Picacho Peak should be included in preservation; Bike and walkways between rural communities

Map D

Eco-tourism= trails; Include Sunland Entertainment Corridor within bubble for “Tourism Potential: Southern Doña Ana County Agricultural Corridor”

Location: Hatch

Table 1

Map A

Priorities 1 and 2 refer to planned communities. These should be small, integrated development, inclusive of domestic homes with local stores available to inhabitants so the automobile may not be absolutely necessary; Preservation of agricultural land- encourage development in desert above valley lands; Hatch and north from Doña Ana- changes in agricultural methods leaving workers and villages in a lurch and need development that uses existing skills to sustain village needs and viability and that will encourage next “creative” responses; Caveat: Flood protection is a precursor need to

facilitate development in certain parts of the Hatch / Rincón Valley (including the Village of Hatch which is in the floodplain)

Map B

Agricultural corridor needs to process the produce we do have, adding value and employment for agricultural activity, as well as maintaining agriculture as part of the landscape (open space); Spaceport as boon to diversify economy, generate employment, spawn regional tourism; The real economic and green solution for generating energy from renewables; Taking advantage of the desert (wind and solar)

Map C

Trail to connect with other open space areas and linkage with tourism; Richness of geology, paleontology and historic / prehistoric cultures (petroglyphs, pictographs)

Map D

To develop natural resources for tourism use in a regional setting; Development of Hatch as service center for tourism in North Valley (hotels, restaurants, etc.) and as gateway to the Spaceport; Promotion of this area for regional tourism connected to the Spaceport and Hatch as a service center (Northern Section); Proposed welcome center for the Spaceport to be located in Hatch

Table 2

Map A

Concentrate future housing close to Hatch, where services are located.

Map B

Solar/wind farms

Map C

Scenic Route, bike path from Arrey to North Valley

Map D

Railroad= commuter train from Belén to El Paso

Location: Las Cruces

Table 1

No comments

Table 2

Map A

C3 Commercial

Map C

Chose based upon proximity to population

Table 3

Map A

1) Closest to White Sands Missile Range; 3) Closest to border; 5 and 6) Closest to Spaceport; 2) Has potential but several proposed energy and agriculture mixed use projects constrain residential development; 1 and 2 would reduce traffic in and out to central shopping areas

Map B

New WSMR growth

Map C

#1, 2 and 3 are fragile ecosystems. Need to implement strict and appropriate access controls and usages; Protect agricultural land from development; Uvas / Robledos- new Trackways park being developed; New Bosque Park is opening along the Río

Map D

Downtown- After going to newly restored Río Grande Theater, there is no place open at night for coffee or dessert! Do you believe it? Nothing happens downtown! Something is wrong when there is nothing to do downtown LC, except Wed. and Fri. during Farmer's Market. What a shame; New Bosque Park; 2) Strict controls due to fragile natural ecosystems; Mesilla is already developed for tourism.

Other comments

We don't have sustainability without recycling. We'll just have lots of landfills. We need to develop a market for our recyclables so we can have curbside recycling. People are ready to take care of our little place on earth.

Table 4

Map A

1) Light industry; 2) Manufacturing and import/export; 3) Commercial

Map B

Geothermal energy shut down by NMSU because too expensive to operate and maintain- What kind of industry would this be used for?

Maps C and D

No comments

Table 5

Map A

We would like to see the downtown area revitalized and infilled; Add services to the East Mesa area to support new development- if green growth is going on, people should not have to drive long distances for their needs; Picacho Hills area- again there are few services available in this area requiring people to drive and waste resources

Maps B, C and D

No comments

Location: Las Cruces- County Chambers

Table 1

Map A

Assessment before development- Residential and commercial, water issues, topographical, quality / industry, protection fauna and flora. We do not know enough about the area as ref. above. Urgent. Assuming the above and community approval. Hatch- annexation, uncomfortable determining plans for other communities; NO WALMART; Areas identified on map; Provisions for people with disabilities; Leave smaller towns alone unless they request development- find infrastructure funds; No water bottles!

Map B

1 and 3) Environmental issues are prime- hence solar, geothermal (and wind, if feasible) are #1; Agriculture is the heart of this area, it must be preserved; 2) WSMR is really the financial background of the community and should always be supported; We think agriculture is part of, related to the environment. Agriculture serves a dual purpose, providing crops and open space, in addition to providing livelihood; Agriculture all important

Map C

We're losing open space, not just here, nationwide- let's take chance to protect it

Map D

People came for mountain scenery and agricultural products like chili, pecans, cotton (not seen in many other states), and the river; We oppose development encroaching on nature

Table 2

Map A

1) Workforce housing for industrial park, RR access, airport; 2) Housing needs for workforce; Need commercial development / shopping for them; Plan should address border issues with immigrants; East Mesa already ruined; [Regarding “New housing and commercial/retail development needed” in legend] Assumption of growth as “needed” is not accepted by all

Map B

Apples and oranges are being compared; 1) Agriculture in Hatch- baker shops, better opportunities for conservation (river and wildlife); 2) Industry: the area is desperate for jobs; 3) Solar energy has much greater potential. It will come to NM. Add support for rooftop PV / hot water

Map C

1, 2, 3... these are all different categories; More E-W trails needed and arroyos are better than roads for safety; Open space should be protected as much as possible and it should stay as public land; Agricultural land- keep it all; All open space is desired.

Map D

Greatest potential vs. historic district as strictly residential; Need shuttles from downtown; Downtown- theatres, galleries, restaurants have presence and potential; Organs- need natural area for tourism, CVB should promote natural areas – maps

Table 3

Map A

Need to bring neighborhood commercial to primarily residential areas; Make sure zoning allows for MIXED USE!; Look at infill development and high density urban clusters

Map B

Priorities are based on industry, not location: 1) Agriculture- find ways to support local farming; 2) Solar energy; 3) Light industry and employment (better pay)

Map C

1) Bosques, etc. should be preserved; 2) Green infrastructure more important than trail; 3) Preserve the mountains

Map D

2) River and Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park; 3) [Regarding Tourism Potential: Sierra de las Uvas / Robledos and Aden Crater / Kilbourne Hole] Visitor tourism not developed; Retail tourism; Mountains are valuable in their preserved state

Table 4

Map A

We'd like to build more in non-agricultural land areas

Map B

We presume agricultural corridors are meant for crops and livestock production; We had a long debate about agriculture as economic development

Map C

Move the San Andrés Mountains westward due to military uses; Agricultural land should not compete with recreation for prioritization. It is a totally separate issue; More connected trails in city to get to city locations

Map D

Move Organ Mountain lines west

Table 5

Map A

Combine Hatch and Rincón because of location to Spaceport and agricultural corridor; 1 and 3 both refer to retaining agricultural land; Flooding issues in Mesquite [village]; TIDDs / developer issues; Affordable housing; Human rights and border issues in Santa Teresa

Map B

Redrawn boundaries shown in green, not blue. This shows suggested new location to avoid I-10 and respect the "corralitos"; #3 is to preserve the agricultural corridor and industry associated with agriculture

Map C

Our consensus was that all areas need top priority; Include Fillmore Arroyo for connectivity and natural drainage and wildlife corridors

Map D

Year-round golfing= a tourist attraction. 4+ golf courses; Grouped together because = urban tourist areas

Table 6

Map A

We want a new urbanism where people can live, work and play. Some areas need to be supported with basic needs (Hatch, Rincón, Mesquite and Sunland Park); Other areas need to be improved (LC east) and others need to be proactively planned (WLC)

Map B

Utilize our alternative energy sources; Manage the Spaceport development; Protect agricultural corridor

Map C

Immediate concern is the river and Organs. We want to protect the mountains and are less worried about military lands; Create a corridor, not just a trail!

Map D

Enhance cultural history; Protect natural areas

Location: Las Cruces- Munson

Table 1

Map A

1) Mesquite; 2) Sunland Park; 3) New development on the West Mesa

Map B

We don't want to encourage more agriculture- not enough water; Pecan farmers could change from flood to drip irrigation to save water

Map C

1) Protect agricultural land along river; 2) Protect Organ Mountains; 3) Protect the Robledo Trackways trail along Río Grande

Map D

1) Historic Mesilla; 2) Organ Mountains must be protected from development in the foothills; 3) Protect the Trackways in the Robledos; 4) South DAC agricultural corridor; Central urban area is most important to encourage development

Table 2

Map A

Promote 2-story development to save land; Fill in brownfields and empty sites in L.C. City Center; Allow more building downtown, multi-story development / mixed uses, adding apartments above existing downtown retail establishments; Ensure all developments have retail / social centers

Map B

Hydroponic agriculture and fish farms; No more flood irrigation; Fund drip systems for farmers- tax rebates; Get agriculture new technology; Encourage food production for local markets; Solar in residences tax rebates, etc.; Add wind farming

Map C

Open space- wildlife corridors between areas, also to Mexico; Trails- preserve Camino Real Trail

Map D

Develop retail and social centers, etc. in the downtown; Open museums more, ie. the Railroad Museum, coffee shops, restaurants; Public transport to tourist destinations

Table 3

Map A

Plenty of area to develop and plenty of people ready for it

Map B

Spaceport- because it is really awesome and will bring in a lot of new jobs and a lot of young, smart people to Las Cruces; Solar energy- because in this day and age renewable resources are super important; WSMR- a brand new brigade would bring in thousands of families in between the base, Chaparral and Las Cruces.

Maps C and D

No comments

Other comments

Sea World, please!; Improve Western Playland; A Six Flags, please!

Table 4

Map A

West Mesa- industrial development complemented by residential? But airport noise is an issue

Map B

Local food sources. Agriculture in Southern DAC Corridor. Preserve agricultural history and culture; Solar and wind energy

Map C

Feds already protect wilderness areas; County can protect Ag land; Trails from mountains to river and connection to Río Grande Trail are very important and are do-able.

Map D

Cluster around City; Historical value.

Table 5

Map A

See Governor Richardson's E.O. on public buildings: for 5,000 sq. ft. Silver LEEDS is mandated.

Map B

All our #2s refer to the border in general

Map C

Protecting the agricultural resource with require strong, fair and equitable government action, ie. preventing the development to the most strategic of the acreage; Downtown revitalization should include the idea to acquire park

Map D

Camino Real

Other comments

* = given; good infrastructure present, valuable

Table 6

Map A

West Mesa Escarpment excluded from development; Consult MPO map for transportation

Map B

Agriculture will be diversified, local food source; Food security; Solar and wind energy

Map C

EBID ditch used for bike / walking trails; Include West Mesa Escarpment as open space; Rectify areas with *Vision for Open Space and Trail Plan*; Include all arroyo corridors

Map D

Cultural, agricultural, mountain and desert may have different levels of “development” for tourism; San Andrés- need permission and can’t go into White Sands

Location: Chaparral

Table 1

Map A

Chaparral’s basic needs are not reflected in any of these maps. Public transportation is needed to access industry, recreation, etc.; All these new developments; Water distribution needs distributed equally, so that rural areas are not left needing while golf courses and other high end development takes priority; Street lighting, sidewalks, and basic infrastructure are important to the people of Chaparral in order to maintain a standard of living and level of comfort that Vision 2040 and its surrounding cities hope to achieve.

Map B

The unique situation of Chaparral in two counties makes it difficult to participate in planning exercises that are disconnected. The community has worked hard developing a Strategic Development Plan for Chaparral, which is not reflected in this one; How does this plan expect to deal with the landfill on Rt. 54? We have been fighting against this since 2001. Some people don’t know about this when they are buying land.

Map C

No comments

Map D

Careful with the artificial needs created in states with lots of greens. This should not be repeated in our desert; Chaparral NEEDS the coordination of the 2 counties. These projects create a false sense of the SINGLE community of Chaparral

Table 2

Map A

Development issues regarding Chaparral due to its location to Fort Bliss and its growth; Development seems to be moving away from Chaparral- need to plan for new growth, which will occur; Highway

Map B

Solar and wind energy for Chaparral

Location: Vado

Table 1

Map A

It's hard to comment on the far north and far south parts of the county because we stay around Vado, Las Cruces and Anthony; Think about what is the optimum size for the city; Separate communities with separate identities are a neat part of New Mexico; Proper planning on development.

Map B

No comments

Map C

Butterfield Trail should be considered in this Plan; Regional recreational park needed in San Miguel, La Mesa, Mesquite, Vado, Del Cerro

Map D

Trackways cultural center near Shalem Colony Trail and Río Grande (at the site of the State Park office); El Camino Real; the Mesilla Bosque Park; Highway 28 Tour of missions, bars, dance halls, churches, etc. in Hatch, Radium Springs, Mesilla, La Mesa, etc.

Other comments

Highway 28- "Old Road" restaurants, dancing, farms, churches/missions from Doña Ana to Mesilla all the way south; Agrotourism- Stahmann Farms' ice creams, pecans.

Location: DAC- Steering Committee Meeting

Table 1

Map A

Two 3s in the north area [Hatch and Rincón] should be combined; Chaparral stands to see heavy development from military base growth; Impact from BRAC

Map B

No comments

Map C

2) Whole corridor of the Río Grande

Map D

3) Include all the RiverWalk between rural communities, ex. Vado-La Mesa, San Miguel-Mesilla, Anthony-Mesilla

Table 2

Map A

Infill development and redevelopment of existing should occur in Las Cruces City Center

Map B

Instead of “Agriculture / Industry” on Santa Teresa box, it should be “Cross-border Industry”

Map C

Instead of a “Trail along the Río Grande”, the “Floodplain along the Río Grande” is what should be protected from development; Trails are more specific, while floodplain protection is broader; WSA designation offers protection from housing development now and are adequately protected for now

Map D

Our priorities are thematic, not site-based: 1) Mountains-rivers-desert, 2) Historic urban centers of Mesilla, Downtown Las Cruces, Doña Ana, 3) Agri-related tourism