



**City of South Gate
TWEEDY BOULEVARD SPECIFIC PLAN**

**COMMUNITY WORKSHOP #1
VISION, OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS**

Saturday, September 6, 2014, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION - NOTES

At the community workshop, the participants broke out into two groups and discussed the issues, opportunities and constraints for the Tweedy corridor. The discussion was guided by several questions (noted in bold below). The comments received by the two groups were generally in agreement and are noted below.

1. How often do you shop/dine/visit Tweedy Mile?

- 2 – once a week
- 1 – Everyday
- 1 – once a month
- Park use: 4 - once a week

2. What are the biggest issues along Tweedy Blvd.?

- Traffic (no left turns)
- Difficult to bike
- Crime and safety
- Needs stronger police presence
- Types of businesses, better stores and restaurants (variety) (2)
- Closes too early
- West end of Tweedy Boulevard seems separate. Focus on the West end to unify South Gate
- Farmers market open on weekday during work hours
- Lack of eating/drinking for younger population
- Parking: lack of time limit, use of parking by employees and not enough for shopping
- Lack of entertainment/recreation for young people/children
- No banquet hall
- Employees also take on-street parking
- Street maintenance needs improvement

3. What is your vision for Tweedy Blvd.?

- Revitalize: entertainment (bowling and ice rinks) (2), younger demographic, Allen theater shows, and live events
- More plazas and restaurants (2)
- Street closure for events
- More trees, California native flora, better landscaping
- More attractive building façades
- Keep shops open longer
- Local and smaller uses
- Themed
- Connection to the Los Angeles River
- NOT big box
- Better transportation/mobility (2)
- Free tram along Tweedy
- More bike lanes (2)
- Unique stores
- Outdoor dining/dining
- Brand name/franchise stores
- Close down Tweedy Boulevard to vehicles except for bus and shuttles
- Clean streets with good lighting
- Improved image of South Gate
- More art galleries

4. Do you have examples of other successful places that you find appealing? Why (what characteristics)?

- Plaza Mexico
- 3rd street Promenade, Santa Monica
- Brand Blvd, Glendale
- Sunset Blvd, Silverlake
- Bixby Knolls
- Westfield
- Citadel
- Long Beach (dining – evening)
- Downtown Los Angeles (dining – evening)
- Downey (dining – evening)
- Target in South Gate

5. Do you see Tweedy Mile primarily drawing visitors from the city of South Gate or from the larger region around or both?

- Both
- Primarily local for the city of South Gate
- Tweedy as cultural center

6. What are your thoughts on:

a. The 'road diet' concept?

- Support for road diet and bike lanes so that you can bike to and through Tweedy Mile
- Will slow down traffic
- Has it been successful in other areas?
- Some smaller merchants may feel they lose customers
- Bring back a road diet concept for evaluation and comparison

b. Mixed use along the corridor?

- Not everywhere
- Assisted living
- Limited; retain existing buildings in some places
- Need adequate parking for new residential
- Worried about displacement of existing uses
- Need affordable housing
- Will more residential attract a younger population?
- Need more activities to go to
- Years ago. Tweedy Blvd. had everything - it was the main shopping street
- Maybe mixed use might work: retail on bottom and residential above/parking structure
- Needs more discussion
- Possible office and residential use above retail

Other Comments:

- Importance of Allen Theater – younger demographic, safety, for ALL of the community
- City should invest in/support Allen Theater
- Allen Theater into: banquet hall, entertainment/cultural activities
- Need more social media communication/marketing
- Street fair is very popular – model for new/different uses
- Ciclavia – close street for bikes
- Close street – move farmers market to a weekend day (currently Monday mornings)
- Other entertainment in South Gate – El Paseo not extremely attractive. Too remote
- Look holistically at parking
- Park once and shop along the Boulevard
- Discourage problem businesses such as dollar stores and those that are not family-oriented