

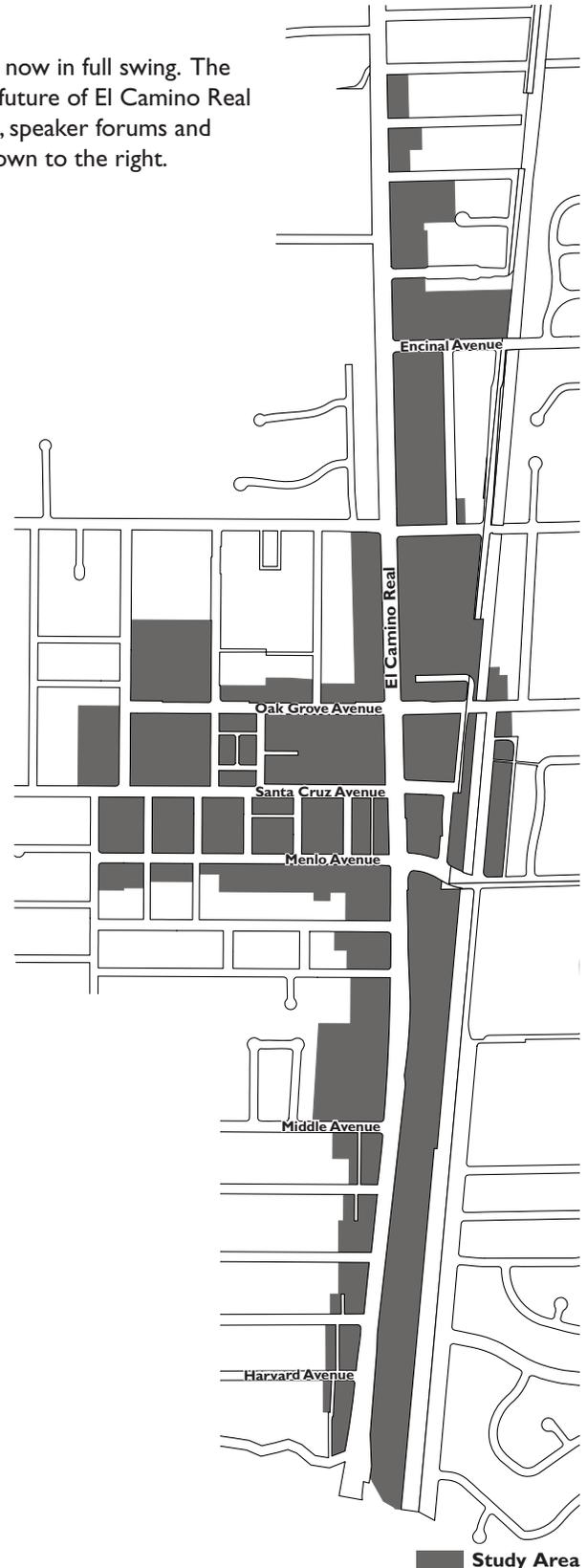
Help Imagine Menlo Park's Future

VISION PLAN BACKGROUND

The El Camino Real/Downtown Vision Plan process began in late 2007 and is now in full swing. The Menlo Park community will be directly involved in forming the vision for the future of El Camino Real and the Downtown through a series of community workshops, walking tours, speaker forums and surveys (including the one attached to this newsletter). The Study Area is shown to the right.



A range of alternative ideas will be developed for the future of El Camino Real and Downtown through discussions at the community workshops. Topics to be discussed include land uses, circulation and mobility, streetscapes, housing, and civic space/parks. The Vision Plan process will ultimately result in a comprehensive vision for El Camino and the Downtown area. The plan will describe the steps required to achieve this vision.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Your input is crucial to the success of this project. Several public events are scheduled for the future, all of which will provide the Menlo Park community with the opportunity to participate in the Vision Plan process. The exact times and locations of events are shown to the right.



PAST SPEAKERS

The Speaker Series has covered some exciting topics since it began in October. Things kicked off with a presentation by Michael Dyett of *Dyett and Bhatia*, which provided a recap of past planning efforts for Downtown and El Camino Real in Menlo Park. He also discussed visioning processes that have taken place in other communities. In November Dena Belzer of *Strategic Economics* discussed transit oriented development in the context of the Peninsula. In December Denise Conley of *Conley Consulting Group* discussed the economic feasibility of mixed-use development. Frederic Knapp, who specializes in historic preservation, discussed preservation issues relevant to downtowns similar to Menlo Park in early February.



Downtown Walking Tour

A walking tour focusing on the Downtown portions of the Study Area is scheduled for February 23rd. The tour will stop at key locations to collect input and opinions from participants. Participants will also discuss the character of development, transportation issues, public space and other issues at each site. This tour will build on the El Camino Real walking tour, which took place on February 9th. Photos from all tours and public events will be available on the project web site (see below).

Saturday, February 23rd, 2008, 10 a.m.-12 noon

Meet at the Caltrain Station, 1120 Merrill Street, Menlo Park

Community Workshop

The first Community Workshop is scheduled for March 6th. This workshop will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the Vision Plan process and to provide initial input. Opportunities and constraints in the Study Area will be discussed, including results of the public walking tours and community surveys.

Thursday, March 6th, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Center Ballroom

701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park

Speaker Series

The speaker series will continue on March 12th with the fifth planning-related forum, which will focus on transportation. Jeffrey Tumlin of Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates will discuss traffic on the El Camino Real corridor and integrating transit into downtown areas.

Wednesday, March 12th, 2008, 6 p.m.

Menlo Park City Council Chambers

701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park

Project Web Site:

http://www.menlopark.org/projects/comdev_ecrdowntown.htm

Project Email List:

Sign up via the project web site, or by emailing the project planner.

For more information:

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