



2/9/2015

VIA EMAIL

Remi Mendoza, Associate Planner  
City of Sacramento Community Development Department  
300 Richards Blvd, 3rd Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811

**RE: Draft 2035 General Plan**

Dear Mr. Mendoza:

WALKSacramento commends planning staff for their excellent work drafting the 2035 General Plan.

We are pleased to see the latest revision to *ERC 2.2.4 Park Acreage Service Goal* that will guide the City to develop and maintain neighborhood and community parks at a level of 5 acres per 1,000 population. The presence of parks encourage and support physical activity and they can also provide pedestrian linkages between neighborhoods and better access to destinations.

The draft 2035 General Plan *Mobility Element* proposes changes to Traffic Level of Service that may be necessary to avoid undesirable or infeasible roadway expansion. However, it is important for the City to provide for safe and convenient pedestrian travel along and across the roadways expected to experience LOS F and nearby roadways that may carry additional traffic due to congested roadways. Further, the elimination of *Mobility Implementation Program 3* for neighborhood level of service and *Program 25* for neighborhood traffic management programs in the 2030 General Plan may make it more difficult for community members to understand and monitor actions the City takes to resolve neighborhood traffic issues. Are the mobility policies adequate to ensure that neighborhood multi-modal travel, especially walking, is improved in response to increased traffic congestion?

Finally, "Eyes on the street" is an important element of walkable urban and suburban walkable environments. People feel safer and enjoy walking more when there are other people around, whether it's through direct interaction on the sidewalk or being within view of other people on the street or in adjacent spaces. Recently, there have been several development proposals that have been approved by the City where the backs of the buildings face the street corner and the "pedestrian-oriented" fronts and entrances face the off-street parking lots. This occurred even though urban form guidelines in the 2030 General Plan *Land Use and Urban Design Element* includes language such as "Building façades and entrances with a high degree of transparency and on-street and internal street fronting façades."

The draft 2035 General Plan retains the language regarding building façades and entrances found in the 2030 General Plan. WALKSacramento recommends “building façades and entrances” guidelines for Urban Neighborhoods and Centers of the types Suburban, Regional Commercial, Urban Center High, Central Business District, Suburban Corridor, Urban Corridor Low, Urban Corridor High and Employment Center Mid Rise, and others as appropriate, be replaced with the following language: **Building façades and entrances directly addressing the street and having a high degree of transparency (e.g., numerous windows and doors that visually connect the pedestrian and street spaces with the building interior space) on street-fronting façades.**

WALKSacramento is working to support increased physical activity such as walking and bicycling in local neighborhoods as well as helping to create community environments that support walking and bicycling. The benefits include improved physical fitness, less motor vehicle traffic congestion, better air quality, and a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in local neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Chris Holm  
Project Analyst