

**Summary of Community Meeting**  
**Hosted by University Circle and City of East Palo Alto**  
**Regarding the proposed new office building at University Circle**

**Logistics**

Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019  
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
Location: East Palo Alto City Hall  
Services: Childcare, Spanish translation, Refreshments  
Notification: Direct mail in English and Spanish was sent to all properties within a 300 foot radius of the site. Emails were sent widely by both the UC and EPA staff team to community contacts and organizations.  
Attendance: 17 members of the community signed in. (Sign-in list attached). University Circle had 6 representatives including two from the development team, three from site management, and the building architect. Two city staff attended.  
*Breakdown of sign-ins not including event team and city staff:*

- 12 EPA Residents
- 1 from Four Seasons
- 3 from Palo Alto
- 1 from Menlo Park

Format: 1. City welcome and process overview  
2. Project presentation by applicant, with Q & A  
3. Breakout groups to get feedback

Resources included:

- Powerpoint presentation on project
- 3-D scale model of University Circle
- Images of the project displayed
- Fact sheets in English/Spanish
- Comment cards in English/Spanish
- Flip chart where notes were taken based on conversations

**Input Received and Documented**

**SUMMARY OF INPUT**

- Traffic is major concern
- Benefits that UC could provide for neighborhood: parking, bike/ped improvements, meeting space, funding for open space, access to commute services, help with affordable housing

- Impact on neighbors
- Gentrification
- Settlement agreement compliance

## **INPUT DETAILS:**

### Q & A:

- How many employees will be in the new building? (Answer: Using current employee ratio to square feet, around 450)
- What are plans to mitigate access from University Avenue onto 101? (Answer: Traffic consultant will be analyzing mitigations and needed infrastructure)
- Will you let neighbors use your parking lot? There is not enough parking in the neighborhood near Woodland. (Answer: Working on a shared parking solution)

### One Comment Card:

- Unsigned. “Respect the setbacks from the adjacent single-family residential areas in East Palo Alto. The development agreement from the initial project has never been adequately complied with—Landscaping, post-construction of bus stops. The traffic plan should reconfigure the roadways to provide direct access. Use of the ???(illegible)

### Flip Chart Comments

#### ***Traffic:***

- Traffic is bad near Embarcadero Road in the evening, especially
- Exit on Woodland jammed at rush hour. University Circle traffic blocking intersection at Woodland and University.
- Re-route traffic to University Avenue
- No net new trips!
- Worried about emergency access with added traffic from this project
- Circulation pattern on University and Woodland is a problem
- Concern about number of employees for the project
- Traffic is bad
- Original project circulation was not enforced, and this project makes it worse

#### ***Other potential impacts of project on neighbors:***

- Loss of sunlight due to shadows
- Landscaping should have reduced impacts on the neighborhood.
- Concern about shadows extending across University Avenue impacting apartments
- Project does not respect single family homes. Building too tall. Worries about privacy
- More trees to screen housing from exhaust on University Avenue

#### ***Construction-related:***

- Construction traffic and construction impact mitigation
- Where will construction workers park?
- Impact of project construction on pedestrians
- Hire local laborers

***Suggestions for project:***

- Want nice sidewalks and landscape
- Likes sustainable elements
- Likes emphasis on TDM, how it relates to city's goals for mobility
- Carpooling options or shuttle to Caltrain and back
- Likes our ideas on pedestrian infrastructure
- Solar—go above and beyond
- Rooftop garden
- University Circle complex is closed off, alienating. Need restaurant that would be inviting to the community.

***Community Needs and Potential Community Benefits from Project***

*Parking*

- Parking is limited near Woodland after 1:00 p.m. Many people park in Menlo Park when street sweeping occurs
- Need better parking for residents
- Need parking in neighborhood

*Community use of UC shuttle*

- Better shuttle times to meeting community work schedules
- The UC shuttle should be open to community members

*Bike and Pedestrian Needs*

- Two-direction bike bridge
- Pedestrian solutions to cross University Avenue

*Open Space*

- Open space lot Sandhill owns could be used as public park
- ½ acre community park with gazebo, BBQs, tables, play area. Not sterile.
- House taken out on and 35 parking spaces created. Turn into a park

*Community meeting space*

- Public Space like Cooley Landing needed on west side. Inviting community space.
- Community meeting space needs to be self-contained
- Meeting space for residents is needed
- There is no community meeting space on the west side. Needs to be dedicated space and have amenities such as a kitchenette

*Other thoughts*

- Lots of garbage on Woodland
- Hire EPA residents
- Likes idea of partnership with local affordable housing non-profits

***Housing Issues:***

- Affordable housing is important
- Concerns about gentrification

***Settlement Agreement Comments:***

- Is the project consistent with existing settlement agreement?
- The use of the facility for the Gran Fondo and other events is not consistent with settlement agreement.

***Other:***

- Project makes sense